

# The Sierra Pelona nagram



February 2017

---

*... Member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc. ...*

---

The Sierra Pelona Rock Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1959 with the objective to sponsor activities and promote interest and education in: mineralogy, lapidary, geology, paleontology and related subjects.

## Sunshine Chair

If you know anyone who is not feeling up to par, has been sick or lost a loved one? On the silver lining side of things, do you know who has achieved a goal, won a personal victory, or just something that deserves recognition? The Sierra Pelona Rock Club has a Sunshine Committee to send cards and words of comfort and support and congratulations to those members who are in need or are deserving of it. Notify our Sunshine Chairperson Brigitte Mazourek.



General Membership Meeting  
Jan. 17, 2017

Ron Called meeting to order at 7:31.  
Evelyn the Program Chair Person gave a power point presentation about agates and jasper.  
Dates were announced for important upcoming events:  
Sat. Feb. 4, the rock cutting workshop at Bill and Heidi's. Lunch included for donation of \$5.00  
Feb. 8th Wire wrapping at the Club house 7pm.  
February 21, 2017 General membership meeting.  
February 28th is trip to South Cadies Mountain Range (weather permitting) and Lavic Siding for agates and jasper. Also there was talk of possible additional nearby collecting of malachite and chrysocolla/azurite.  
April 8th Desert cleanup  
May 6th will be the Nature Center Open House.  
Adjourned at 8:30pm

Dianne Wohlleben Secretary

## Birthdays

### February

Brigitte Mazourek	February 14
Tina White	February 17

### March

Luis Busso	March 25
Ruth Hidalgo	March 10
Evelyn Velie	March 27
Bill Webber	March 19



## Officers:

President – Ron Rackliffe  
Vice-President – Trina Aeen  
Secretary: Dianne Wohlleben  
Treasurer – Kay Denson  
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) --Evelyn Velie

## Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino  
Donation Rock Table--Ron and Akiko Strathmann  
Equipment--Bill Webber  
Field Trips – Julie Tinoco  
Historian -Open  
Hospitality – Tina White  
Membership – Heidi Webber  
On-Line Presence (website)-- Trina Aeen  
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber  
Programs –Evelyn Velie  
Publicity –Bruce Velie  
Storage--Bill Webber  
Sunshine--Brigitte Mazourek

The Sierra Pelona Rock Club, is a member of the California and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (CFMS/AFMS). The general club meetings (Open to the public) are at 7:30 PM, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at:

**The Clubhouse of the Greenbrier  
Mobile Estates EAST  
21301 Soledad Canyon Rd  
Canyon Country, CA 91351**

Contact the Club or the Sierra Pelonagram Editor at:

**Sierra Pelona Rock Club  
P.O. Box 221256**

**Newhall, Ca. 91322**

Or e-mail: [hwebber@pacbell.net](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

Visit the *SPRC* website [www.sierrapelona.com](http://www.sierrapelona.com)



### Hi Everybody!

We have a good start on the year, we had a beautiful day for our trip to Gem hill and were able to collect some petrified wood and some agates and green opalite, we thought we would be having lots of wind and chilly, but the day was perfect and we got to meet some of the folks from the AV club. We followed up on that trip with a day a Heidi and Bill's cleaning up our finds and un-earthing the treasures behind the crust (also kept our bellies full with Heidi's culinary artistry) and had our first wire wrap of the year. Thanks to all those that came out and had some fun with us. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting Tuesday the 21st.

Ron R



*The CFMS asks that the Code of Ethics be printed in each club newsletter as a reminder of how we are stewards of the land we are lucky enough to be able to collect in. Please, don't ever be one of "those" people that we invariably have to clean up after.*

### LITHOPHYLLOSIS?

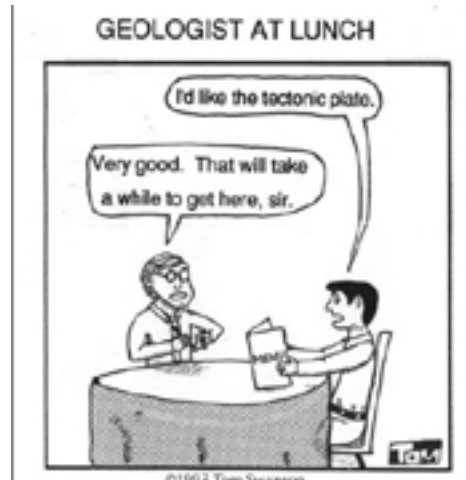
Do you have LITHOPHYLLOSIS? There is NO cure!!! The word comes from Latin: lithos meaning rock; phyl an attraction to; and osis meaning condition. Put them all together and you get a condition where the victim has an uncontrollable attraction to rocks. The disease can strike anyone, at any time, at any age and....IS EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS!!!!

Sounds like common old ROCK POX to me, we have had that for years anyway! It is often caught at, and symptoms may become aggravated by, but may also for some be relieved by: attending rock shows, club meetings, and field trips. Be sure to use caution as all these things are HIGHLY addictive!!! And are usually passed on to your children and friends, who will then be lifelong sufferers as well.



## "Code of Ethics"

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.



## Organic Gems—Coral

Coral is the skeletal material generated by sea-dwelling coral polyps. For most corals, this material is calcium carbonate, but in the case of black and golden corals, it is a hornlike substance called conchiolin. Coral has a dull luster when recovered, but can take a bright polish. It is sensitive to even mild acids, and can become dull with extensive wear. Red and pink precious corals are found in the warm seas around Japan and Malaysia, in the Mediterranean and in African coastal waters. Black coral comes from the West Indies, Australia and around the Pacific Islands.

Coral is used in carvings and beads, and cut as cabochons for use in jewelry. Red coral appeared as an ornament in Western European shields and helmets in the Iron Age, later to be replaced by red enamel.

### Formation

Most of the coral reefs we can see today were formed after the last glacial period when melting ice caused the sea level to rise and flood the continental shelves. This means that most modern coral reefs are less than 10,000 years old. As communities established themselves on the shelves, the reefs grew upwards, pacing rising sea levels. Reefs that rose too slowly could become drowned reefs. They were covered by so much water that there was insufficient light.



6-Strand Necklace,  
Navajo ca. 1920s,  
Brooklyn Museum

Coral reefs are found in the deep sea away from continental shelves, around oceanic islands and as atolls. The vast majority of these islands are volcanic in origin. The few exceptions have tectonic origins where plate movements have lifted the deep ocean floor on the surface.

Often called "rainforests of the sea", shallow coral reefs form some of the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. They occupy less than 0.1% of the world's ocean surface, about half the area of France, yet they provide a home for at least 25% of all marine species, including fish, mollusks, worms, crustaceans, echinoderms, sponges, tunicates and other cnidarians. Paradoxically, coral reefs flourish even though they are surrounded by ocean waters that provide few nutrients. They are most commonly found at shallow depths in tropical waters, but deep water and cold water corals also exist on smaller scales in other areas.

Coral reefs deliver ecosystem services to tourism, fisheries and shoreline protection. However, coral reefs are fragile ecosystems, partly because they are very sensitive to water temperature. They are under threat from climate change, oceanic acidification, blast fishing, cyanide fishing for aquarium fish, sunscreen use, overuse of reef resources, and harmful land-use practices, including urban and agricultural runoff and water pollution, which can harm reefs by encouraging excess algal growth.

### History of Trade in Coral

At the beginning of the 1st millennium, there was significant trade in coral between the Mediterranean and India, where it was highly prized as a substance believed to be endowed with mysterious sacred properties.

Among the Romans, branches of coral were hung around children's necks to preserve them from danger, and had many medicinal virtues attributed to it.

From the Middle Ages onwards, the securing of the right to the coral fisheries off the African coasts was the object of considerable rivalry among the Mediterranean communities of Europe. In 1790 the Royal Society of Coral was established in the town of Torre del Greco, with the idea of working and selling coral fish. For a short period (about 1806) the British government controlled the fisheries, but this later returned to the hands of the French authorities. Before the French Revolution much of the coral trade was centered in Marseille, but then largely moved to Italy, where the procuring of the raw material and the working of it was centered in Naples, Rome and Genoa.

### History of Coral Jewelry

Civilizations located near shallow water or those with established trade routes have utilized this gem to create their coral jewelry. In ancient times coral jewelry was particularly prized for its believed supernatural benefits, including as a ward against accidents and as a protective amulet against black magic. Coral is a soft gem, making it easy to shape and work with, attributes that allowed prehistoric peoples to utilize it for personal ornamentation in various forms of jewelry. The use of this gem in early jewelry evolved from mere adornment to charms with talisman properties. Coral jewelry was worn often as a talisman to ward off evil spirits, witchcraft, and the devil. Ancient peoples commonly used it for medicinal purposes to treat ailments of the blood and head, and to strengthen the immune system by supporting the lymph nodes

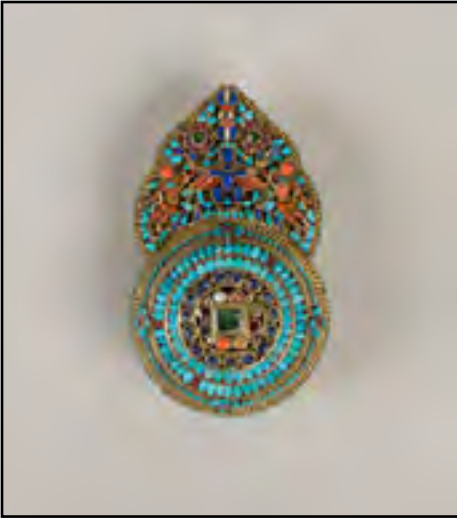
### Coral in Chinese History

Coral has been revered by the Chinese for millennia, not only for its naturally fanciful shapes, but also for its rarity. It is said that ordinary coral takes a thousand years to form, but red coral—the gemstone variety— takes ten thousand years.

This is hyperbole with a grain of truth. It takes about 300 years to grow one kilogram of it, thus making its price up to a dozen times that of gold.



Coral and Jade Bracelet  
1925



*Crown ornament 17-19th Century Tibet*

The best and rarest coral objects were produced during the Han dynasty, when noblemen favored decorating their living rooms with “trees” as the centerpiece, with coral as its branches and green jade as its leaves. In every following dynasty, coral remained a favorite among the elite.

In the Qing dynasty the emperor’s official belt was yellow and set with four round gold plaques set with coral, turquoise, and 25 pearls. Coral was also reserved for the empress dowager and higher ranking consorts. The privilege to wear coral beads was bestowed only to the top tiers of imperial officials.



## **SPRC BOARD MEETING**

February 7, 2017

Board meeting called to order at 6:58pm by President Ron

Attendees: Ron R, Evelyn, Trina, Kay, Dianne W, Heidi and Ron L.

AV club to stay overnight at North Edwards claim to hunt through tailings.

Our Meeting will be on February 21st and Evelyn will give a presentation about what to find at Afton Canyon. She will also discuss the clubs Code of Ethics.

Wire Wrap workshop will be on May 27th and/or 31st . Finances were discussed. Two requests for reimbursement were made: Heidi for \$36.25 for equipment stand, and Ron R for a new bank stamp.

2016 books were good through June.

Kay read the Treasures report and it was approved. President Ron will talk to Bank about getting copy of deposits from last year. January dues for the Federation due. State board of Equalization Due. The Directors and Officers policy is \$315.00. Trina handed Kay all available records. Kay is receiving checks at her home not the PO Box. Trina goes to The PO Box and will give Kay club mail.

Trina suggested for the Silent Auction Slips to add a “pay it now” line.

Kay will not be at General Membership Meeting and will drop off the Club shirts to Heidi who will bring them to the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Trina , Heidi 2nd . Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Transcribed and Written by Dianne Wohlleben Secretary Feb, 15, 2017