

The Sierra Pelona nagram



January 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.



**President's Message
Happy New Year!**

We have had a good past year in the club and I am looking forward to another good one this year. We have a first draft of our field trips for the year and have a schedule for the first quarters' workshops. We have rescheduled for this month at our meeting a demonstration of flint knapping, so if you have any friends that would find that interesting, invite them along.

A reminder to all that dues for the New Year need to be collected; it would be easiest to come to the meeting with payment ready, just \$20.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting Tuesday, January 17.

Dues are Due for 2017

Just a friendly reminder that the 2017 dues are now due and will be considered past due as of the business meeting February 7.

Knapping

Our program for the General Meeting in January will be knapping.

Just what is knapping? A description follows. Thanks Dianne Wohlleben:

Knapping is the shaping of flint, chert, obsidian or other conchoidal fracturing stone through the process of lithic reduction to manufacture stone tools, strikers for flintlock firearms, or to produce flat-faced stones for building or facing walls, and flushwork decoration.

The original Germanic term "knopp" meant strike, shape, or work, so it could theoretically have referred equally well to making a statue or dice.

Modern usage is more specific, referring almost exclusively to the hand-tool pressure-flaking process.

Reference: Wikipedia

January/February Birthdays

January

Debra Martin Jan 19
Larry Holt Jan 29
Larry Patrich Jan 4
Martin Schreiner Jan 9
Bruce Velie Jan 3
Robin Shane Jan 15
Austin Williams Jan 5

February

Brigitte Mazourek Feb 1
Tina White Feb 17



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

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Visit the *SPRC* website www.sierrapelona.com

SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
12/17/16

This month's meeting was held as a part of the Annual Holiday Party, held at the Greenbrier Clubhouse from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. All were assembled and the food ready by about 11:45, and the feeding frenzy began. Turkey, ham, stuffings, and gravy were provided by Heidi Webber; other members provided appetizers, salads, hot sides, vegetables, bread, and other assorted delectables. And the desserts! Three (3) rounds of a silent auction for various rocks and minerals were held, with proceeds going to the Club's coffers.

President Ron Rackliffe called the group to order for a brief "official" meeting, in particular the election of Board Members for 2017. The various positions and their related responsibilities were reviewed, and the election ensued, with the following results:

- President: Ron Rackliffe
- Vice President: Trina Aeen
- Secretary: Diane Wohlleben
- Treasurer: Kay Denson
- CFMS Representative: Evelyn Velie

Chairpersons for functions such as hospitality and publicity, positions appointed by the President, will be addressed in the new year. The revelry then resumed, with the gathering finally breaking up at approximately 3:30 p.m.

NOTE: These minutes were approved as presented at the SPRC Board Meeting of January 3, 2016.

SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB
BOARD MEETING
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !!
Jan. 3, 2017

Attendance: Ron Rackliffe, Trina Aeen, Heidi Webber, Kay Denson, Evelyn Velie, Dianne Wohlleben, Tina White, and Julie Tinoco.

Meeting was called to order by the President at 7:07pm.

December general meeting minutes were read and approved by Trina and second by Ron, all approved.

New Business:

Evelyn volunteered to be Program Chair Person

Bruce may be interested in special Events Chair (Anything to do outside regular meetings)

Heidi brought up question "Do we need a Publicity Chair for Non Profit Status?" No Per Trina.

No New Membership Applications filed.

Desert Cleanup Meeting April 8, 2018, Near our claim for Cleanup.

January Program: Flint Knapping (making Arrowheads) demonstration 1/17/17: Ron Texted Sandy to confirm Gary Picketts. Evelyn suggested we should have a back up plan "incase"

Ron brought up our club Treasury is "Healthy and good" If any one wants further details they can always contact the treasurer.

Ron suggested that members might donate the snacks this year. Evelyn said we did that in past and all the Food rep would do is confirm donations prior to the meeting by calling the volunteers. Kay suggested we have a list at monthly meetings for signups. Evelyn said she will prepare for Tina White to use.

The field trip to the Cadies Mountains collecting site near Ludlow, CA is on Jan 28th. It is about 50 miles east of Barstow. Lavic is a 4-wheel drive area and has both red and green moss agate as well as Christmas Tree agate. Rain can cancel all!

Camp Zzyzx: go to CFMS website for information on camp and all great classes.

There will be a workshop on Sat, 4th of Feb, from 10 am to 3pm. Members only, all dues must be current to attend and are due by end of Jan. Come early to help Bill set up and stay later to help Bill clean up. Heidi offered to make her incredible home cooked luncheon for all.

There will be a 5.00 donation for this. And it is certainly worth it!

Wire Wrapping is February 8th yet to be confirmed.

Workshop again on May 27th

Wire wrapping on May 31st.

Other business:

Julie brought up that Presidents Day Weekend as to possible reason for the Afton canyon trip being on Feb. 18th

Volunteers needed for Fun.:

May 6th ,10am to :3pm. Placerita Canyon Nature Center. Fund Raiser time. The Kids are so interested in rocks any knowledge you can share! Plus, it is a great event for you to enjoy when stepping away from our booth.

Tina has a history box of the Clubs Secretarial letters she will had over to me, the new Secretary.

Ron asked if any more business then motioned to close the meeting. Trina 2nd, Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Dianne Wohlleben
Secretary, SPRC

Corundum: Sapphire and Ruby

Corundum is a rock-forming mineral that is found in igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. It is an aluminum oxide with a chemical composition of Al_2O_3 and a hexagonal crystal structure.

The mineral is widely known for its extreme hardness and for the fact that it is sometimes found as beautiful transparent crystals in many different colors. The extreme hardness makes corundum an excellent abrasive, and when that hardness is found in beautiful crystals, you have the perfect material for cutting gemstones.

Natural and synthetic corundum are used in a wide variety of industrial applications because of their toughness, hardness, and chemical stability. They are used to make industrial bearings, scratch-resistant windows for electronic instruments, wafers for circuit boards, and many other products.

Corundum made Famous by Rubies and Sapphires

Most people are familiar with corundum; however, very few people know it by its mineral name - instead they know it by the names "ruby" and "sapphire." It was not until the 18th century that it was clearly established that sapphires and rubies are, in fact, the same mineral. A gemstone-quality specimen of corundum with a deep red color is known as a "ruby." A gemstone-quality corundum with a blue color is called a "sapphire." Colorless corundum is known as "white sapphire."

The Colors of Sapphire

All sapphires apart from blue ones are identified by the term "sapphire" preceded by the color: "pink sapphire", "yellow sapphire", etc. All sapphires apart from blue or deep red are collectively known as fancy sapphires.

From medieval times until the end of the 19th century, green sapphire was referred to as "Oriental peridot" and yellow sapphire as "Oriental topaz." In ancient literature the term "sapphire" appears to have mostly referred to lapis lazuli, although blue corundum has itself been prized since at least 800 BC.

Rubies

Ruby is the red variety of corundum. It ranges in color from deep cochineal to pale rose-red, sometimes with a tinge of purple; the most valued is a blood-red. The coloration comes from traces of chromium. Ruby has been mined from the gem gravels of Sri Lanka since the 8th century BC.

Ruby crystals tend to be small (more than 10 carats are unusual) as the presence of chromium has an inhibiting effect on crystal growth—hence the high value of large rubies. They occur worldwide in igneous and metamorphic rocks or as water worn

Properties of Corundum

Corundum is an exceptionally hard and tough material. It is the third-hardest mineral, after diamond and moissanite. It serves as the index mineral for a hardness of nine on the Mohs Hardness Scale.

Geologic Occurrence of Corundum

Corundum is found as a primary mineral in igneous rocks such as syenite, nepheline syenite, and pegmatite. Some of the world's most important ruby and sapphire deposits are found where the gems have weathered from basalt flows and are now found in the downslope soils and sediments.

Corundum is also found in metamorphic rocks in locations where aluminous shales or bauxites have been exposed to contact metamorphism. Schist, gneiss, and marble produced by regional metamorphism will sometimes contain corundum. Some of the sapphires and rubies of highest quality, color, and clarity are formed in marble along the edges of subsurface magma bodies.

Corundum's toughness, high hardness, and chemical resistance enable it to persist in sediments long after other minerals have been destroyed. This is why it is often found concentrated in alluvial deposits. These deposits are the most important source of rubies and sapphires in several parts of the world. Traditional sources of alluvial rubies and sapphires include Burma, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Montana, and other areas. In the past few decades, several parts of Africa, including Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Malawi, have become important producers of ruby and sapphire.

Hardness and Use as an Abrasive

The extreme hardness of corundum makes it especially useful as an abrasive. Crushed corundum is processed to remove impurities and then screened to produce uniformly sized granules and powders. These are used for grinding media, polishing compounds, sand papers, grinding wheels, and other cutting applications.

Some problems with using natural corundum as an abrasive are that the deposits are usually small, irregular in shape, and the corundum is of variable quality. They are not reliable sources of consistent-quality material needed to run a manufacturing process. Synthetic corundum, produced using calcined bauxite, has become a more reliable source with more consistent properties. It has replaced natural corundum in most manufactured products.

Reference: Geology.com; DK Smithsonian



Corundum crystals: On the left is a common corundum. In the center is a gem-quality ruby corundum. On the right is a blue sapphire corundum. All three specimens and photos by Arkenstone / www.iRocks.com.



Emery wheels: An ad offering emery and corundum wheels, published in 1895 by The Springfield Manufacturing Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut. This was at a time when genuine emery and corundum were used to make the wheels.