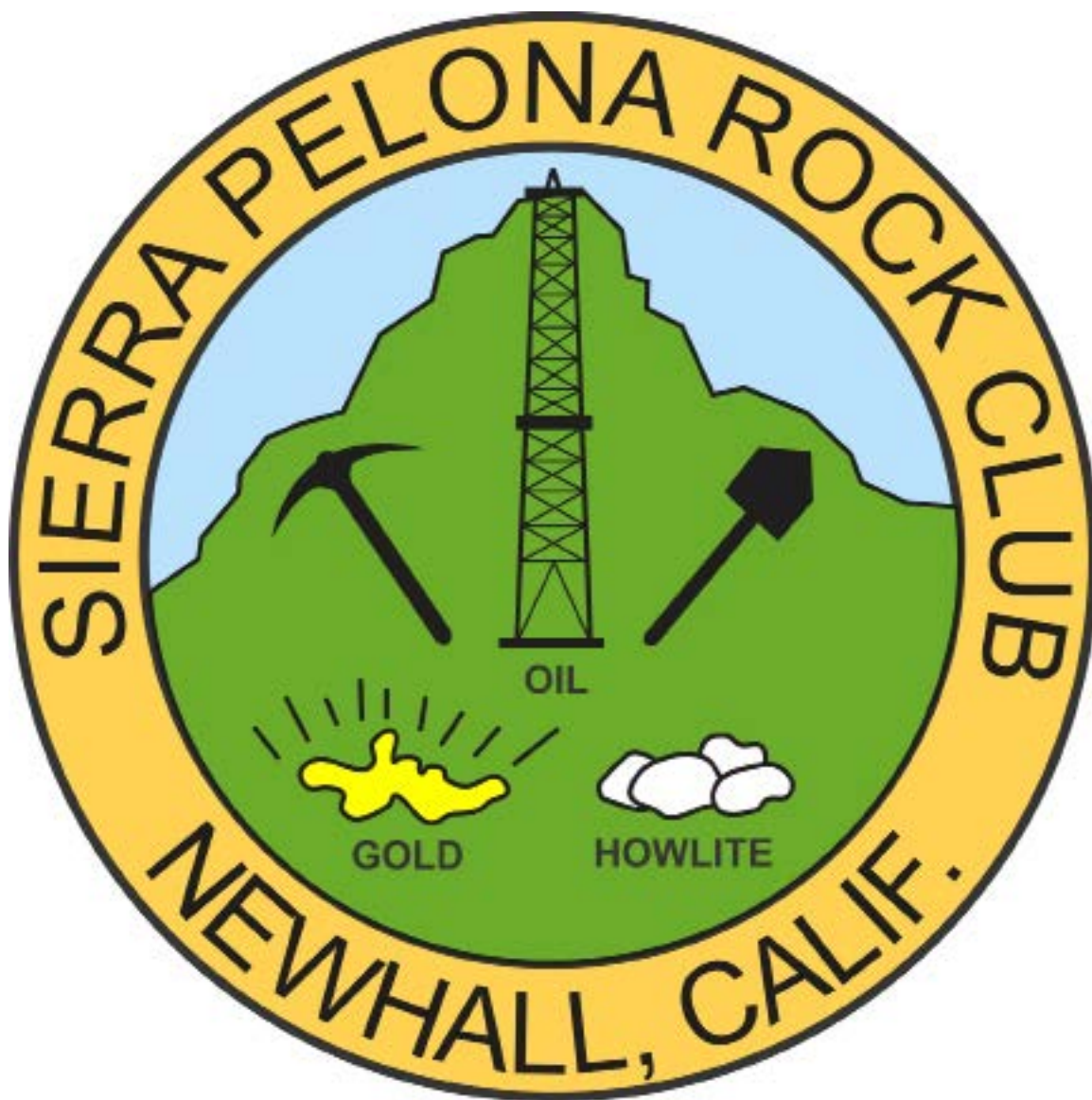


The Sierra Pelona



June 2016

... 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.



Birthdays

June:

Connie Flores-Reisbeck	June 2
Paul Hobbs	June 11
Akiko Strathmann	June 25
Heidi Webber	June 10
Janelle Williams	June 3
Dianne Wohlleben	June 14

July:

Trina Aeen	July 28
Dower Jai Gervais	July 5
Ron Rackliffe	July 28
Betsy Swallow	July 2

August:

Kay Denson	August 24
Jane Gates	August 6
Ralph Hyde	August 3
Ron Lawrence	August 12
Cody Patrich	August 14



Howdy fellow rock hounders,
 We are almost half way through the year. We have had a good time recently at the Placerita Nature Center's open house. We always have a lot of interest at our booth as people find our rocks to be fascinating, of course. We have also had some fun getting out to the desert and finding more rocks!
 Upcoming this summer we have our picnic & bingo/auction on the 18th of June. In July on the 9th we will have a workshop at the Webber's and on the 30th we will get together at Rattlers for some good company and good food. This Year we plan on taking on some of the summer's heat by going to the Beach at Palos Verde to see what treasures the seas have brought forth. I enjoy the time I am able to spend with you all and hope to see a lot of you participating during the next half of the year.
 Ron Rackliffe

Last Issue of the Season

The June issue of the Pelonagram is the final issue of our season, taking time off for the summer. For club members, the End of Year Potluck Picnic on June 18 is also the final General Meeting for the summer. So join us again in September. Have a wonderful, relaxing and safe summer.

Officers:

President – Ron Rackliffe
 Vice-President – Trina Aeen
 Secretary: Tina White
 Treasurer –Sandy White
 Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) --Open

Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino
 Donation Rock Table--Ron and Akiko Strathmann
 Equipment--Bill Webber
 Field Trips – Greg Langwisch
 Historian -Open
 Hospitality – Tina White
 Membership – Heidi Webber
 On-Line Presence (website)-- Larry Holt
 Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
 Programs –Open
 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

Visit the *SPRC website* www.sierrapelona.com

Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Meeting minutes 6/7/2016

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Attendees: Trina, Evelyn and Ron R

Evelyn reported on the rock hound support of the desert clean up and the meetings discussing the opportunities that we still have with the newly protected areas, Evelyn to provide a synopsis of the meeting to our club later.

Discussed by-laws and talked about minutes

Talked about PNC, good support from our club

Talked about having a yard sale in the future.

Discussed our picnic upcoming on the 18th of June.

Culver City rock club show June 25-26, we may have a information table at their show next year.

Work shop at the Webber's on July 9th. 10 to 3 potluck lunch

Discussed a calendar of events to send to members

Planned for club dinner at Rattlers July 30th @ 6

Discussed upcoming field trips

- August 20th Palos Verdes
- Sept. 24th Rose Quartz
- Oct. 22nd Howlite, Tick Canyon
- Nov. 19th Calico area

In December no trip planned so far, trying to get date set for holiday party in December.

CFMS will be having a raffle to make money, tickets to follow, they also are asking for donated items for raffling off, \$50 minimum

Meeting adjourned at 8:01

Submitted by Ron Rackliffe



*Two polished pebbles of carnelian/sard.
Scale is in millimeters*

Carnelian

A blood-red to reddish-orange translucent variety of chalcedony, carnelian is also occasionally called cornelian. Similar to carnelian is sard, which is generally harder and darker (the difference is not rigidly defined, and the two names are often used interchangeably). Both carnelian and sard are varieties of the silica mineral chalcedony colored by impurities of iron oxide. The color can vary greatly, ranging from pale orange to an intense almost-black coloration. It is most commonly found in Brazil, India, Siberia, Scotland, Washington State and Germany. Its coloration is due to the presence of iron oxide and it can be uniformly colored or banded. Strongly banded material is known as carnelian agate. Scotland, Brazil and Washington State are among the localities that produce finer-quality carnelian. Freshly mined carnelian, is often placed in the sun to change brown tints to red.

Carnelian was recovered from Bronze Age Minoan layers at Knossos on Crete in a form that demonstrated its use in decorative arts; this use dates to approximately 1800 BC. Carnelian was used widely during Roman times to make engraved gems for signet or seal rings for imprinting a seal with wax on correspondence or other important documents. Hot wax does not stick to carnelian. Sard was used for Assyrian cylinder seals, Egyptian and Phoenician scarabs, and early Greek and Etruscan gems. Carnelian was once thought to still the blood and calm the temper. Conversely, it was also said to give the owner courage in battle and help timid speakers to be eloquent.



Desert Advisory Committee Report

By Evelyn Velie

I traveled along highway 15 North, then onto highway 40 East and arrived in Newberry Springs at 10:30 am Friday morning 5/19/2016. After speaking to the “natives”, I was told that our government, in their attempt to preserve wilderness areas in Newberry Springs had:

- 1) Removed residents from the lands that they have lived on for 3 or 4 generations
- 2) Fenced off watering areas to the point that an entire herd of deer have been eradicated and volunteers have been forced to truck in water so that the indigenous longhorn sheep herd would not vanish and also become extinct
- 3) The town also had a roaming wild burro population similar to that of Oatman, but after the watering holes were sectioned off, their numbers died off and disappeared
- 4) Aside from what damage government regulations have damaged in regard to the animal population, residents feel that so many regulations have been imposed upon them that they are unable to afford building new structures both residentially and business wise

Getting back to the reason for my traveling to this area, I met up with Ruth Hidalgo and a group of fellow Rockhounds and we traveled to the Lavic site where the BLM field trip and was to take place. (Ruth had brought glass chalk markers and we all decorated our cars with rock hounding slogans to illuminate our presence for when the BLM Personnel and Desert Advisory Council arrived.) Janelle

Williams and D.J. Gervais made signs and brought cards to send for the BLM representative and also to Feinstein we signed for formally granting us the rock collection rights during the formation of the Mojave Trails Monument management plan. (That means we have written approval to collect rocks in the area over the next three years.)

Friday's field trip meeting was exciting. Quite a few fellow rockhounds throughout California joined us as well as a large group of BLM and Desert Advisory Council representatives. There were perhaps 75 people over all. Kim Campbell, our spokeswoman spoke regarding the importance of keeping this monument area open for recreational rock hounding for us and for future generations. She spoke with regard to what benefits rockhounds bring to the area as well as to the public in regard to:

- Desert Safety
- Conservation and protection of wild life
- Lapidary education
- Rock hounding--a carryover from prospecting days
- Scholarships--1.5 million toward earth science and geology
- Donations of specimens to museums
- Sharing the love of rocks to elementary students and middle school students
- Organizing field trips to host international exposures to our desert regions as well as boosting the economy to area residents
- If areas are closed to rock hounders, all of the above will no longer be made available

Kim was then presented a special award by Tom Zale, now acting District BLM Manager.

Several other rockhounds spoke regarding the abundance of material to be collected in Lavic and Cady area in the designated mountain monument area and how necessary it is for us to have easy road accessibility to the hundreds of collecting sites in the area. One gentleman spoke of the many collection areas that he has both mapped out and noted their GPS locations. Another spoke of the many field trips they have led into the area encompassing tourists from other countries such as France, Germany, and Switzerland.

At this time, another spokesman talked about Shep Koss, our fellow rock hound and CMFS member who had just passed away. He expressed how Shep had touched his life and been an inspiration to him as well as a man who always shared and chose to see that everyone had a positive experience. (There were photos of him at the field trip location) Another gentleman spoke passionately of rock hounding as an avenue to:

- 1) Promote good clean family fun
- 2) Help the economy-hotels, gas, food
- 3) Promote appreciation of the desert
- 4) Clean up the desert
- 5) Uphold the Federation Code of Conduct in line with the proclamation by our President

After viewing the specimens made available for viewing and collecting our share of rocks, Randy Banis of Recreation along with Kim Campbell invited all of us to attend tomorrow's DAC meeting (Desert Advisory Council) to be held at the Hampton Inn in Barstow at 8:00 am the following morning.

Saturday morning, many of us in attendance on Friday as well as others, met at the Hampton Inn in Barstow to sit in and perhaps participate in the DAC quarterly meeting.

The following people sat in on the advisory board:

- 1) Mark Algazy- Public at large
- 2) Nathan Francis- Non-renewable Resources
- 3) James Kenny- Public at large
- 4) Al Muth- Wildlife
- 5) Randy Banis- Recreation
- 6) Leslie Barrett- Renewable Resources
- 7) Tom Zale- Acting Director of BLM
- 8) John Benoit- Elected official
- 9) Robert Burke- Public at large
- 10) William "Billy" Mitchel- Renewable Resources
- 11) Robert Robinson-Tribal Interests



Kim Campbell receiving an award from BLM

As the meeting began, Katrina Simons, field manager of Barstow gave an opening statement and changes in personnel and old business was discussed. Various Desert interests were discussed in regard to water holes, solar development, use of off road motor vehicles, the revival of Route 66, wooden bridges in need of repair, and a big horn sheep presentation and how the desert animals are being provided watering holes by the council.

In our area of interests regarding the ability to continue rock hounding in the mandated Mojave Trails Monument area now and in the future, we the rock hounding public were invited to participate through a series of question and answer discussions. The following topics were brought up by rock hound proponents:

- 1) Clarification of the 2.0 plan and request for extending time for comments (DAC also felt they had little time to give their input on the topic)
- 2) Shirley Leeson discussed the new rock find in the Cady Mountains after the Monument plan was created and asked if it was separate or would be included in the monument boundaries
- 3) Liseth Thornson of San Diego discussed the social value of recreational rock collecting and our love of the desert and its natural resources
- 4) Jay Erb thanked the council for allowing us to demonstrate and explain our hobby and expressed concern over accessibility to rock site collection areas
- 5) Kim Campbell spoke on the wonderful collection sites and hoped that discretionary rock collecting be written into the Monument management plan. She again reiterated the importance rock hounding is to the community, economy, and to future generations
- 6) Andy Silver from San Bernardino stated he looked forward to working on the monument management plan
- 7) Ruth Hidalgo spoke to the council in regard to the importance of recreational rock hounding being incorporated into the Mojave Trail Monument management plan which would allow for us and future generations to continue our passion for rock collecting and love of the desert. She also requested clarification of the 2.0 plan.
- 8) Carl Martin and BLM signed a renewed memorandum for the continuation of rock collecting in the Houser geothermal beds

The Desert Advisory council also voted to set up a subcommittee to organize individual subgroups that would provide their expertise in providing input for the monument management plan. This will most likely include input from rock hounds which we hope will end up with recreational rock hounding written into the monument plan. If successful, California will be the first state to include rock collecting in the monument areas.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for September 9th and 10th. There was some discussion on its location, but the location is yet to be settled.

Overall, I felt that our representation at the DAC meeting was met with a positive impression and that our input was not only heard, but that our involvement in the monument planning process was welcomed.

