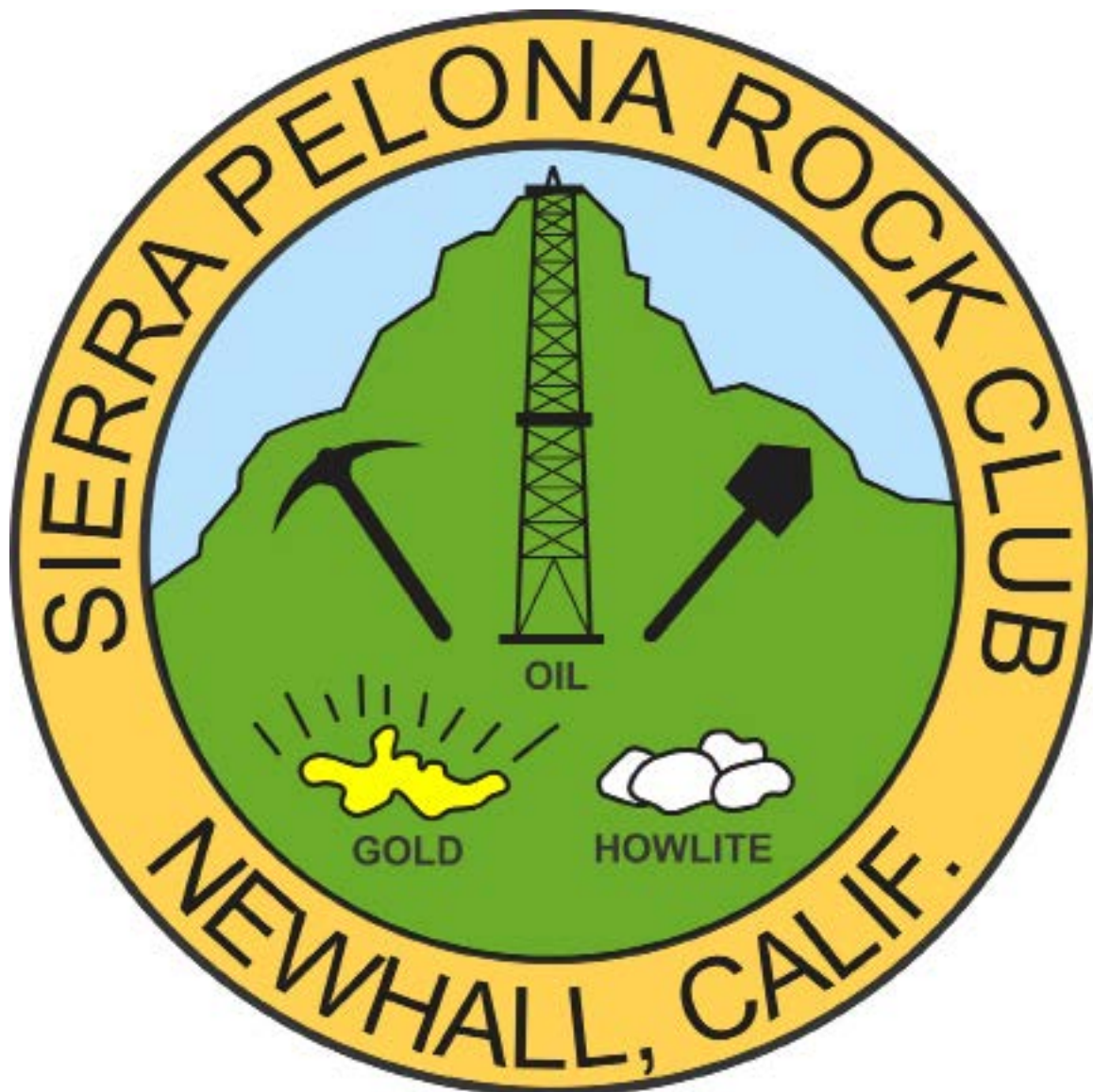


The Sierra Pelonagram



March 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.

Fossils



Fossils are the preserved remains of plants or animals. For such remains to be considered fossils, scientists have decided they have to be over 10,000 years old. There are two main types of fossils, body fossils and trace fossils. Body fossils are the preserved remains of a plant or animal's body. Trace fossils are the remains of the activity of an animal, such as preserved trackways, footprints, fossilized egg shells, and nests.

When asked what a fossil is, most people think of petrified bones or petrified wood. Permineralization is a process. For bone to be permineralized, the body must first be quickly buried. Second, ground water fills up all the empty spaces in body, even the cells get filled with water. Third, the water slowly dissolves the organic material

and leaves minerals behind. By the time permineralization is done, what was once bone is now a rock in the shape of a bone. Unlike what you see in cartoons, dogs wouldn't be interested in these bones.

When an animal or plant dies, it may fall into mud or soft sand and make an impression or mark in the dirt. The body is then covered by another layer of mud or sand. Over time, the body falls apart and is dissolved. The mud or sand can harden into rock preserving the impression of the body, leaving an animal or plant shaped hole in the rock. This hole is called a mold fossil. If the mold becomes filled over time with other minerals the rock is called a cast fossil.



Another type of fossil is a resin fossil. Resin is sometimes called amber. Plants, mostly trees, secrete sticky stuff called resin. Sometimes insects, other small animals, or bits of plants get stuck in the sticky resin. The resin hardens overtime and is preserved in rock making a fossil.

Reference: Kidsdinos.com



Birthdays

Spring is just around the corner! Happy Birthday to all you spring babies!

March

Luis Busso	March 25
Ruth Hidalgo	March 10
Shannon Peters	March 8
Evelyn Velie	March 27
Bill Webber	March 19

April

Lynne Alexander	April 23
Norma Holt	April 8
Sarita Hyde	April 9
Greg Mazourek	April 12
Jaime Pulido	April 13
Yolanda Resnick	April 12
Ron Strathmann	April 11

Congratulations to our newest members Cody and Larry Patrich. They will be presented at the March General Meeting.

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

Officers:

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

Chairpersons:

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

SPRC Board Meeting
March 2016
Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse

In attendance were Trina Aeen, Omid Aeen, Ron Lawrence, Ron Rackliffe, Bill Webber, Sandy White, and Tina White.

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

New member applications for Markota and Larry Patrich were approved; a third application was deferred until the applicant attends a Club meeting and/or event.

All officers present signed a form necessary to register Evelyn Velie as our representation to the Federation.

Sandy advised that the form due to the Secretary of State re: our tax status is not due until 2177.

The previously discussed Garage Sale, at which we will sell the flat lap machine and surplus rocks, has been postponed until May 7th. The event will take place at Ron Rackliffe's house, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; additional details will be shared closer to that date.

Future club events include:

- April 2nd: Bingo and Pizza; Noon – 4:00 p.m. at Greenbrier Clubhouse
- April 5th: Board Meeting
- April 19th: General Membership meeting
- April 23rd: Field Trip
- May 14th: Placerita Nature Center Open House; 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ron R. asked about interest in field trips held on Sundays; all agreed with the idea, and a future such event will be scheduled. Also, Ron L. will share information on about any "side trips" (i.e. unofficial field trips) planned in the future.

The March 19th field trip destination has been changed; we will be going to the Kramer Junction/Four Corners area, with a possible visit to the Visitor Center at Boron.

Future trips are planned as follows:

- April Stoddard Wells
- May Sharktooth Hill
- June Clear Creek
- September Rose Quartz
- October Diablo and Cave Onyx
- November Claim area
- December Calico

We do not meet during July and August, but a group dinner, and possibly an "unofficial" trip to Davis Creek, will likely be planned.

The board voted (3 yes votes, 1 abstention) to join the American Lands Access Association, a cost of \$50/year.

Names of members from whom dues payments had not yet been received were reviewed and discussed; Heidi Webber will be following up on them.

Other membership-related topics discussed included:

- The requirement that dues be paid before one attends a workshop, due to liability concerns.
- Paid group membership now totals 46.
- The possibility of using a Liability Rerelease form, but it was agreed that such forms, which are not only time-consuming and relatively ineffective, are not necessary as our members are already covered while attending Club events.

The Club's 6-wheel Genie (sp?) cabbng machine is in need of refurbishment; Ron L. volunteered to take it to Diamond Pacific for work.

Heidi W. has asked for dates for future Club Workshops; post-field trip Saturdays in May, August and November were generally agreed upon. The fact that only members may attend workshops was reviewed, and equipment use – both during workshops and when signed out by qualified members for home use – was also discussed; Ron R. will send out an email on that latter topic.

It was decided that a talk on identification of imitation stones is not appropriate for a meeting topic at this time; rather, the March meeting will include a presentation on Jasper, Agate, Palm Root, and Green & White Opalites – all of which may be found on the March field trip.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB
General Membership Meeting 2/16/16

Club President Ron Rackliffe called the meeting to order at 7:35, and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Our first order of business was the introduction of Kay and Frank Denson as new members; only Kay was present and she was warmly welcomed and provided her membership packet.

Attendance at the meeting included 25 members and 5 guests, the latter including Markota and Larry Patrich, Ian and Brian Freel, and Jeanne Muro.

Club member Martin Schreiner delivered a most interesting presentation on materials he has found in the Crowley Lake area. He had created an informative poster, with photos of tuff columns found along the lake shore, a location many in attendance wish to visit.

He also discussed the resurgent dome near the Mammoth Airport, which contains obsidian at the center, and where a number of obsidian bombs have been found at the summit. (Samples were provided for viewing and for our auction.) He also covered other points of interest in that area, including the rhyolite plug/flow, a fumarole valley with kaolinite and geysirite, Hot Creek and its tufa deposits, and the tufa deposits high on the hill above Walker Lake. (Brief directions to the Crowley Lake site were provided, but your note-taking Secretary was unable to get them written clearly and concisely.)

Ron R. then introduced the auction table, and encouraged all present to bid on items of interest.

Next, Ruth Hidalgo spoke on the recent (2/2/16) Presidential Proclamation designating as protected an 1.6 – 1.8 million acres of additional desert land. While the rules which will govern use and access to these areas have yet to be developed, there are concerns that rock collecting will be prohibited. Some details of Ruth's presentation follow:

- The area designated includes areas between highways 15 & 150, including the Cady Mountains, Lavic power line roads.
- Senator Feinstein had introduced a bill for NM protection which would have allowed collecting and OHV use; the Proclamation is not clear on these topics. However, the definition of prohibited "harm" to these lands may allow for non-intrusive collecting.
- No official map has yet been seen
- As there is no Management Plan as of this date, previously open roads are still open
- A BLM Official has stated that if a road is not signed with a number, it is not a road. Roads already closed will be re-signed as such.

Ruth also urged that the SPRC join the American Lands Access Association, and shared that individuals may join for \$25/year.

Along the lines of our group's involvement with others, Ron nominated Evelyn Velie as Federation Director; she was so elected by the membership.

Ron R. and Trina A. then shared a brief presentation on the locations of our field trip scheduled for 2/20/16: Ballarat Marble:

- No high clearance/4WD needed
- Easy to pick up materials
- A bit of history of the town of Ballarat
- Some info on marble: Mohs Hardness of 3.0; this material is salmon & black in color

Sheep Springs

- High clearance required, though 4WD optional
- www.findaspring.com for more in the location
- Petroglyphs nearby
- Materials to be collected include white opal with dendrites and pinks
- Clear to blue agate, some with moss

Suggested equipment and supplies include: bucket, hand shovel, small rake, water, lunch, chair, and sturdy shoes. At this time, it is planned that the group will meet at Mammoth Lane at 7:00 a.m. on the 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

