

# The Sierra Pelona



March 2017

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

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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.



**March 25, 2017 Field Trip**

The location will be Wiley Well which is approximately 250 miles from Santa Clarita near Blythe (a 4 hour drive).

Since this trip is farther than usual there are hotels and motels located in Blythe or dry camping in the Coon Hollow area for those who wish to stay overnight.

High profile or 4 wheel drive vehicles will be necessary for this trip. Members without 4 wheel drive can make arrangements to drive with someone who has 4 wheel drive or drive themselves to Wiley Well and meet up with a club member in Blythe that can drive them to the collecting areas.

Collecting in Wiley Well will consist of geodes, nodules, jasper, chalcedony, and agate.



*Photos from the web page "geode" collecting at Wiley Well*



**Birthdays**

**March**

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

**April**

Anne Glavin	April 3
Norma Holt	April 8
Sarita Hyde	April 9
Greg Mazourek	April 12
Yolanda Resnik	April 12
Michael Shane	April 5
Ron Strathmann	April 11



**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)



## General Membership Meeting

Minutes February 21, 2017  
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

President Ron Opened Meeting at 7:45  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Code of ethics : "What we are and what we represent" given by Evelyn.

### Old Business

New Bank Stamp Ordered  
P.O. Box discussed  
Club T shirts are here for sale tonight.

### Hi Everybody!

We had a great time collecting some fluorite and angel wing in the North Cady's, although the Sagenite seemed to be elusive for most of us. The weather was great! In our upcoming trip we will be traveling to Wiley's Well to try to pick up some geodes, we are hoping for some more of that great weather and also hoping that the rocks will be shining for us with their recent cleaning from the rains. When they are all cleaned up from the rain it is like they are saying "pick me, pick me!" I look forward to seeing you at the meeting Tuesday the 21st.

Ron R

### New Business

March 1st Camp Zyzxxx  
March 4th and 6th Ventura Gem show  
March 10th and 11th Stoddard Wells annual tailgate near Victorville  
February field trip is to Cadies Mountain Range past Barstow.  
Evelyn discussed CFMS meeting she attended.

Wiley's Well field trip will be March 25th. Some are planning overnights for this field trip that will have Thunderhead Agates.

We had 23 members attend and 2 guests: Jenifer and Russ Roberson.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:50pm.

Dianne Wohlleben  
Secretary

## Desert Advisory Committee Report

The Desert Advisory Council (DAC) met on February 25, 2017. The panel consisting of volunteer members met to discuss safety issues as well as management and development issues pertinent to our California Desert environment.

There were two major issues discussed that directly affect our present and future rock hound collection sites. One is the progress made by the development of subcommittees pertaining to the development of the Mojave Trails Monument Management Plan and the other the presentation on the Paleontological Resource Protection Act (PRPA).

Kyle Sullivan with the BLM spoke on the development of the subcommittee groups and openly welcomed the input of special interest groups. At present, off roading and rock collecting were part of one subgroup. Ruth Hidalgo was one of the spokespersons for rock-hounders. It was requested that rockhounding be listed as its own subgroup. There was quite a bit of discussion among the DAC members and they seemed to speak favorably of doing so, but then issues were brought up stating that it was not possible to have each specialty group have its own subcommittee. There was also a mention by Kyle Sullivan that they have an interest in umbrellaing all the national monument management plans as one unit opposed to treating each national monument area as an individual entity. Concern was then expressed by both rockhounders and off road vehicle representatives that each area has its own set of circumstances and that a mindset of one size fits all could be detrimental to rockhounding in the future and clarification for certain particulars in the working plans need to be clarified and clearly stated.

The other major issue we as rockhounders are faced with is the new regulations put forth by Phil Gensler of the BLM in presenting the Paleontological Resource Protection Act. Under this act, registered paleontologists must get a permit before digging for fossils and amateur-rockhounders can dig only in a space of 1 square meter and these digs must be spaced 10 square meters apart, that there be no noticeable disturbance of the earth that can be seen from the air.

A great deal of discussion was brought up by rock hounders and after numerous questions were asked and clarification was made of the terminology as far as we as rockhounders are concerned, it seems that we will be able to search out and collect the "usual" fossils, that our casual collecting shows no earth disturbance from the air and that whatever dirt we dig out, we must fill in the holes. There were request that the PRPA go back through the Paleontological Protection Act and clarify terms that specifically deal with our rockhounding concerns. Our requests were met in a positive tone by Phil Gensler of the BLM, but we shall see what happens in the future. Meanwhile, because of the amount of interest shown in the PRPA, a new position has been created. Andrew Hoekstra of the Del Air Rockhound Club has been appointed to and accepter the position of California Federation of Mineralogical Societies- Public Lands Advisory Committee Paleontologist Resource Specialist and will represent CFMS on fossil issues and fossil collecting.

**SPRC Board Meeting**  
March 7, 2017  
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

President Ron Rackliffe Called meeting to Order at 7:04pm

Attendance: Ron R., Evelyn, Trina, Dianne W., Julie, Heidi, Kay, Ron L.

Ron read CFMS Federation rules.

Evelyn asked if she can get reimbursed for staying overnight and travel expenses to and from the CFMS Convention in Ventura. (50 miles each way). The Dinner is Friday night and the meeting Sat AM. Discussion followed: regarding Ventura being so close to Santa Clarita. Ron R recommends \$50.00 for gas/travel expenses. Trina 2nd the motion. Motion Carries Evelyn decided to ride with President Ron and save the club money.

New Motion on floor \$.50 cents a mile for gas when traveling on club business for CFMS Director in the future.  
Ron shelved discussion until research on past bylaws regarding gas reimbursements are completed.

No Cleanup for April 8th, 2017. All agreed to take large trash bags along on all field trips and clean up when we are at these sites.

Treasurer Report by Kay

New checks were stolen from her mailbox and had to order new ones. Many robberies of boxes in Santa Clarita according to SCV Police.

Ron gave check copies from 2016 to Kay.

Discussion followed regarding last years treasury records.

General discussion regarding P.O. Box.

Stoddard Wells Tailgate will be March 10, 11,12, and will have a field trip leaving from the event on Sat. 9AM .  
Ron will send out emails.

AV show is April 29th and 30th at Lancaster High School.

Wiley Wells will be weekend of March 25th

Wiley Wells Campground is 11miles into the desert.

Julie will bring Maps to General Meeting March 21st and send emails.

Discussion on Rose Quartz trip is weather dependent

Ron will call Rangers for Permission.

Evelyn, our CFMS Rep. gave a report on the DAC meeting: (Designated Action Committee.) She and Ruth requested to have Rock hounders to be a separate group. Discussion of the Mohave management Plan.

Paleontology information: when a find is made, it must be passed on to the proper authority. The areas dug can only be 3ft x3ft and the next space must be at least10 ft. away.

Eight dollars of the \$20 dollars annual club membership dues goes toward CFMS.

A motion was made to raise the dues but not seconded. Tabled until April meeting.

Heidi motioned to adjourn.

2nd by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm

Dianne Wohlleben





## Garnets

Garnets are widespread minerals, abundant in metamorphic rocks. They form in many different colors and garnets are easy to recognize because they are normally found as well-developed crystals. Hardness runs 7-7.5 on the MOHS scale. There are 15 different garnet "species" depending on their conformity to the general mineral makeup of calcium, ferrous iron, magnesium or manganese, aluminum, ferric iron, chromium, , silicon, titanium, zirconium or vanadium. Next month I will introduce a couple more types of garnet, some you may never have thought of being in this group of gemstones.

Garnet crystals are all cubic, but can take many shapes such as trapezonedron or dodechedron or a combination of both, making a more spherical-looking shape.



**PYROPE** is from the Greek for "fire". Its color can be dark red, violet-red, rose-red or reddish-orange. Pyrope is found in metamorphic rocks along with stones such as peridot. While this garnet is relatively wide-spread, large gems are uncommon.

Despite being less common than most garnets, it is a widely used gemstone with numerous alternative names, some of which are misnomers. Chrome pyrope and Bohemian garnet are two alternative names, the usage of the latter being discouraged by the Gemological Institute of America. Misnomers include Colorado ruby, Arizona ruby, California ruby, Rocky Mountain ruby, Elie Ruby, Bohemian carbuncle, and Cape ruby.

**SPESSARTINE** The mineral spessartine should not be confused with a type of igneous rock (a lamprophyre) called spessartite. Spessartine, like the other garnets, always occurs as a blend with other species. Gems with high spessartine content tend toward a light orange hue, while almandine prevalence induces red or brownish hues. Gem quality spessartine is rare; these stones tend to be mostly kept by collectors. The Rutherford Mine in Virginia produces some of the largest stones.



**ALMANDINE** is the most common garnet. The color tends to be a pinker red than other garnets. Rutile needles are sometimes present and when cut as a cabochon, it often shows a four-rayed star.



Almandine is found worldwide. It is found in both metamorphic and igneous rocks and is occasionally found as inclusions in diamonds. It is often mined for abrasives and cut extensively for gems. It is somewhat brittle and cut stones often chip at the edges.

*Reference: DK Smithsonian Gem and Minerals and Wikipedia*



# HUGE SHOUT OUT

**To Evelyn Velie for attending the 2/24/17 DAC meeting in Barstow. She was given little notice due to a venue change by the BLM and didn't get to attend the club field trip to the Cady Mountains to represent rockhounds. She had lunch with Lisbet (CFMS PLAC ) myself and THE BLM REGIONAL PALEONTOLOGISTS and represented the club well. Thank you Evelyn. You did SPRC proud. Ruth Hidalgo**