

The Sierra Pelonaogram



March 2018

... 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.

Board Meeting Minutes 3/6/2018

Meeting Began: 7:03pm

Meeting Ended: 8:02pm

Attendees: Ron Rackliffe President, Bill Webber Vice-President, Shana Ruiz Secretary, Julie Tinoco Field Trip Planner, Heidi Webber Membership/Pelonagram Publisher, Editor, and Tina White Programs.

New Member Applications: We have 3 new members who were voted in. Steve Thomas, Karen and Kory Linder.

Finances: Heidi mentioned that there are a few members that still owe dues. The club has made their payment to the CMFS. Also, Procedures are changing on how we accept new member applications. Dues are to be paid at the time of when the application is turned in for new membership interest. For whatever reason the new member is not voting in or accepted into the Club. All monies will be returned.

Workshop Schedule:

Dates will be as follows for this year- March 31st, June 30th, & October 13th.

Dates reserved for our Meetings and Christmas Party. We are still working on getting that coordinated.

Planning the last part of the year's field trips; The Board voted on the Sept. 22nd field trip.

We will be going to the Club's Claim North Edwards in Mojave Desert just past Jawbone Canyon. We will be having a BBQ Weenie Roast there as well as the field trip. Collecting our famous Travertine. We are still working on Oct. & Nov. Field trips.

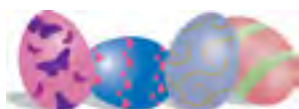
We talked briefly about the Victorville Tailgate coming up on March 10th. Fieldtrip. Emails and Facebook notifications went out to Members.

T-Shirts orders: We will be ordering/getting more inventory of the grey, teal, and turquoise shirts.

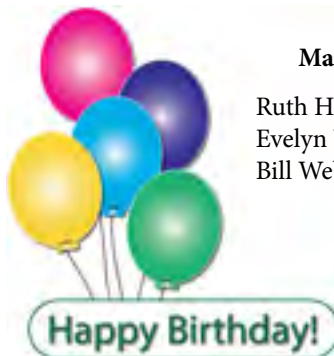
This concluded our Meeting.

Sincerely your Club Secretary,

Shana Ruiz



Birthdays



March

Ruth Hidalgo
Evelyn Velie
Bill Webber

Lynne Alexander
Norma Holt
Sarita Hyde
Greg Mazourek
Tristan Marsala

April

Yolanda Resnick
Michael Shane
Ron Strathmann
Steve Thomas
Michael Wertz

Officers:

President – Ron Rackliffe

Vice-President – Bill Webber

Secretary: Shana Brunes-Ruiz

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 – Evelyn Velie

Membership – Heidi Webber

On-Line Presence (website)-- Larry Holt

Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber

Programs –Tina White

Publicity –Bruce Velie

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



Hi Everybody!

We had a great trip March 10th as we helped support one of our neighboring clubs. We went to the Stoddard Wells tailgate with a field trip to collect tri-colored marble in the nearby hills. The weather was not perfect, as we had some light rain, it still was a good day as the rain did not make for any uncomfotableness (not sure if that is a correct word, but it passed spellcheck) and we could collect all that we could carry.

Our next trip is tentatively scheduled to be Sharks Tooth Hill, regular admission is \$40 for adults, but if we have enough people going (6) we would qualify for a discount of \$10 per person. Please let us know at our meeting if you plan to go, so we can make arrangements with the site for our group.

Thanks,
Ron R

Club Meeting 02/20/2018

Meeting Began: 7:40pm

Meeting Ended: 8:12pm

Started off the meeting, greeting the guests. We had a visitor all the way from Alabama. Thank you for joining us. Then Ron Rackliffe our President, gave out the New Membership packets. Welcome all, I hope you all will enjoy the rock club and continue to stay with us for years to come.

There was a overview of what went on at the last Board Meeting. Regarding our finances, there are still some outstanding dues that needs to get paid. Much appreciation to the members that have paid already. There were t-shirts & hats for sale. If you didn't get a chance to purchase one, please see Kay Denson at the next meeting. She can also put in a order for a certain color or size if she doesn't have it with her . Special thanks to the members that pitched in to bring snacks and drinks. There was so many to choose from. Please see Evelyn Velie if you are able to contribute to bring snacks or drinks. She has the sign-up sheet. Thank you everyone for your participation in the raffle and silent auction tables.

Talked briefly about the February field trip, which was a great turn out. We joined the CFMS Lavic Siding event. Then the Club did their own field trip afterwards that ending in a turned-about kind of way.

Up next was Tina White who handles our programs. She gave a great presentation about our up-coming field trip on March 10th. Once again we are doing a trip before our club meeting, then we will get back to our regular schedule. We will be going to the 42nd annual Stoddard Wells ROCK HOUND "Tailgate" in Victorville, CA. March 9th,10th and 11th, 2018 9 — 5:00 p.m. daily. FREE Event Gem Show. The club will be going on Saturday March 10th and field trip starts at 9am. Club meets at Mammoth Lane at 6:30am. We will be collecting tri-colored marble & antique verde (old volcanic material). Also, there is hematite. There will be carpooling or you will need a high-clearance vehicle going in 8 miles then 4 wheel drive for the last 1½ miles in. Bring goggles/eye protection, gloves, rock picks/buckets, & good hiking boots. The show will have all sorts of goodies- rough material, cabs, slabs, food, drinks, & prizes.

March 3rd & 4th is Ventura's Gem Show at Ventura Fairgrounds. Free admission for those who are interested.

Hope to see you all!

Sincerely your Club Secretary,



A Great Big Welcome
To our newest members
Steve Thomas and Karen
and Kory Lindner!



The Giant's Causeway

The Giant's Causeway is an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient volcanic eruption. It is located in County Antrim on the north coast of Northern Ireland, about three miles (4.8 km) northeast of the town of Bushmills.

It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986, and a national nature reserve in 1987 by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland. In a 2005 poll of Radio Times readers, the Giant's Causeway was named as the fourth greatest natural wonder in the United Kingdom. The tops of the columns form stepping stones that lead from the cliff foot and disappear under the sea. Most of the columns are hexagonal, although there are also some with four, five, seven or eight sides. The tallest are about 12 metres (39 ft) high, and the solidified lava in the cliffs is 28 metres (92 ft) thick in places.

Much of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site is today owned and managed by the National Trust and it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Northern Ireland. The remainder of the site is owned by the Crown Estate and a number of private landowners.

Geology

Around 50 to 60 million years ago, during the Paleocene Epoch, Antrim was subject to intense volcanic activity, when highly fluid molten basalt intruded through chalk beds to form an extensive lava plateau. As the lava cooled, contraction occurred. Horizontal contraction fractured in a similar way to drying mud, with the cracks propagating down as the mass cooled, leaving pillar-like structures, which are also fractured horizontally into "biscuits". In many cases the horizontal fracture has resulted in a bottom face that is convex while the upper face of the lower segment is concave, producing what are called "ball and socket" joints. The size of the columns is primarily determined by the speed at which lava from a volcanic eruption cools. The extensive fracture network produced the distinctive columns seen today. The basalts were originally part of a great volcanic plateau called the Thulean Plateau which formed during the Paleocene.



Red basaltic prisms



Legend

According to legend, the columns are the remains of a causeway built by a giant. The story goes that the Irish giant Fionn mac Cumhaill (Finn MacCool), from the Fenian Cycle of Gaelic mythology, was challenged to a fight by the Scottish giant Benandonner. Fionn accepted the challenge and built the causeway across the North Channel so that the two giants could meet. In one version of the story, Fionn defeats Benandonner. In another, Fionn hides from Benandonner when he realises that his foe is much bigger than he is. Fionn's wife, Oonagh, disguises Fionn as a baby and tucks him in a cradle. When Benandonner sees the size of the 'baby', he reckons that its father, Fionn, must be a giant among giants. He flees back to Scotland in fright, destroying the causeway behind him so that Fionn would be unable to chase him down. Across the sea, there are identical basalt columns (a part of the same ancient lava flow) at Fingal's Cave on the Scottish isle of Staffa, and it is possible that

the story was influenced by this.

In overall Irish mythology, Fionn mac Cumhaill is not a giant but a hero with supernatural abilities. In *Fairy and Folk Tales of the Irish Peasantry* (1888) it is noted that, over time, "the pagan gods of Ireland grew smaller and smaller in the popular imagination, until they turned into the fairies; the pagan heroes grew bigger and bigger, until they turned into the giants". There are no surviving pre-Christian stories about the Giant's Causeway, but it may have originally been associated with the Fomorians (Fomhóraigh); the Irish name *Clochán na bhFomhóraigh* or *Clochán na bhFomhórach* means "stepping stones of the Fomhóraigh". The Fomhóraigh are a race of supernatural beings in Irish mythology who were sometimes described as giants and who may have originally been part of a pre-Christian pantheon.

Tourism

The discovery of the Giant's Causeway is attributed to the Bishop of Derry who had visited the site in 1692. The existence of the site was announced to the wider world the following year by the presentation of a paper to the Royal Society from Sir Richard Bulkeley, a fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. The Giant's Causeway received international attention when Dublin artist Susanna Drury made watercolor paintings of it in 1739; they won Drury the first award presented by the Royal Dublin Society in 1740 and were engraved in 1743. In 1765 an entry on the Causeway appeared in volume 12 of the French *Encyclopédie*, which was informed by the engravings of Drury's work; the engraving of the "East Prospect" itself appeared in a 1768 volume of plates published for the *Encyclopédie*. In the caption to the plates French geologist Nicolas Desmarest suggested, for the first time in print, that such structures were volcanic in origin.

The site first became popular with tourists during the nineteenth century, particularly after the opening of the Giant's Causeway Tramway, and only after the National Trust took over its care in the 1960s were some of the vestiges of commercialism removed. Visitors can walk over the basalt columns which are at the edge of the sea, a half-mile walk from the entrance to the site.

Similar Structures

Although the basaltic columns of the Giant's Causeway are impressive, they are not unique. Basalt columns are a common volcanic feature, and they occur on many scales (because faster cooling produces smaller columns).

