

# The Sierra Pelonagram



May 2018

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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.



### Hi Everybody,

I hope everyone that was able to make it out to Shark Tooth Hill had fun. I have heard that it got warm, we may schedule the trip again next year with a date earlier in the year to avoid the heat. We will be looking for Tourmalines this month and going to Moonstone Beach in June, then we will be having our summer break. We have a great opportunity this month to help the club as we will have a both at the Placerita Nature Center on Saturday May 12th at their annual open house, this not only makes some money for the club but is really fun, and we always have a lot of people that are interested in rocks and like our display. So plan to come on out for a few hours and share your love of rocks with willing participants.

Thanks, Ron R

### SPRC General Meeting Minutes

Greenbriar Estates

April 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. In attendance were 22 members and 2 guests.

Ron Rackliffe read the minutes from the board meeting and called for a vote of approval. They were approved as presented.

New members Joaquin and Gerardo Guzman, and the Hamilton Family—Sylvia, Adam and Alex were introduced to the membership and given their packets and name badges.

Ron Rackliffe said that it is important that we sign liability waivers at our events such as the workshop and field trips.

Ron said that the calendar for the year has a change. The End of Year club picnic date is now June 9 at the same place, Valencia Meadows Park.

Heidi Webber moved to adjourn and Ron Lawrence seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Tina White then gave a presentation on Tourmaline.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber for Shana Brunes-Ruiz

### Birthdays

#### May

Kory Lindner  
Mike Serino

#### June

Connie Flores-Reisbeck  
Tim Gunter  
Paul Hobbs  
Katie Stewart  
Akiko Strathmann  
Heidi Webber

Janelle Williams  
Dianne Wohlleben



### 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  
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](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

Visit the SPRC website [www.sierrapelona.com](http://www.sierrapelona.com)

### **Board Meeting Minutes for 05/01/2018**

Began at: 7:06pm

Ended at: 8:55pm

Ran longer than usual. We had a lot to discuss.

Meeting Attendees: Ron Rackliffe (President), Bill Webber (Vice President), Shana Ruiz (Secretary), Kay Denson (Treasurer), Evelyn Velie (Federation Director), Julie Tinoco (Field Trip Planner), Tina White (Programs), & Ron Lawrence (Lifetime Member)

Agenda as follows:

New Applications: Yes, Board Members voted in the following: Richard Carlson-Adult New Member, Katherine Webber-Junior, Alexandria Smith-Junior, & Owen Gunter-Pebble Pup. Congratulations and Welcome to the Club!

Finances: T-shirts have been ordered and will come in next week. Old t-shirts will be going for the new rates as well.

The Sign-Up for PNC-Placerita Nature Center: There will be 2 shifts. May 12th-set-up 8am to 12pm then takedown 12pm to 4pm. There will be a sign-up sheet emailed. Please sign-up to help. If you can not help-come out & support. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors, & friends.

Our plans for the Gilchrist Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser: Evelyn Velie will be getting the Club more information on getting a table there to do a fundraiser. The Gilchrist pumpkin patch runs every Sat. & Sun. in October.

We also discussed having to vote in a New President next year. Ron Rackliffe has done a fantastic job & has commitments to keep next year. Please keep in mind who you would like to nominate or if one of you would like a chance to lead us (don't be shy) nominate yourself.

Plans for our last field trip of the year: We are going to do some gold panning, metal detecting, & a picnic. We are still going over the location. Stayed tuned...

Our field trip coming up this month: we will be headed to Pala, CA to get tourmaline amongst other materials. We will be going to the Stewart Mine. The mine information will be available to all members shortly, as soon as there is confirmation.

Picnic has been changed from June to July since we have a big field trip in June. Picnic will be July 14th at Valencia Meadows Park, our normal site. The dinner will be in August on the 25th. We will not be going to Rattler's this year. The Board Members will be holding the dinner at a Mexican Restaurant. We are still figuring out which will work with us and meet the needs of our Club.

There are a few events going on this Summer if you are missing your Rock Club Home. While there will be no meetings in July-August, the Culver City Rock Club will be having their Rock Show June 23rd & 24th. Antelope Valley Fair will be going on from Aug. 17th through the 26th. Tehachapi has their Gem Show the 3rd week in Aug. on the 18th combined with their Mountain Festival.

General Meeting Topic: The Club was discussing on having more Geology topics along with our programs & having guest speakers on it at our General Meetings. Also, incorporating more activities/projects for the Children Members. The Board Members are still brainstorming on ideas.

Other Business discussions: The Board Members will be deleting Article 7 in the Bylaws regarding the dues. They will still be changing as of January 2019. For Adults New Members dues will be \$25 & if they are voted in going into half of the year already- it will be \$15.

Sincerely your Club Secretary,  
Shana Ruiz



## The Sharktooth Hill Adventure

By Julie Tinoco

On April 21, 2018 the Sierra Pelona Rock Club had its monthly field trip. Some in the group met at the Wal-Mart parking lot off of Newhall Ranch Road for a two-hour caravan drive to the Bakersfield area. We had guests from the Stone Femme Studio which included some folks from the Culver City and Pasadena Rock Clubs. A total of 33 Fossil seekers shared in the adventure.



Once at the Shark Hill meeting area, the SPRC sign and release sheet was passed out. The Ernst Quarry release forms were then turned in and payments accepted. Upon completion of paperwork we were off to an area about 15 minutes away, where we parked and received a short tour of the areas where we could dig, sift and collect. Students from two different collages were excavating in separate areas and these sites were off limit to us.

Before the group had a chance to stake out our own locations and get started Katherine W found the first shark tooth specimen of the day. Soon after Joaquin G had a very nice find as well.



Katherine W with friend Alex S

Some of the shark teeth that we were looking for were Big-tooth, Hook-tooth and Narrow-tooth from the Mako Shark. Other types consisted of Tiger, Lemon and Angel fossils.

A great time was had by all. Many of us would like to go back again next year!

### NOTE:

Katherine's Hook-tooth or Snaggletooth (don't see jagged sides but shape is there) is an upper tooth

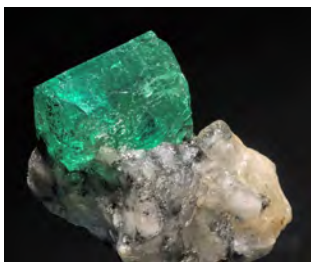
Joaquin's tooth is a Six-gill Cow Shark, lower, partial

Lastly - Sharktooth Hill is a city and one word according to the flyer and GPS/maps. Hopefully not too confusing since shark teeth or a sharks tooth is two words. Handle any way you want to!



Joaquin G

## The Precious Gemstone Emerald



Emerald, the green variety of Beryl, is the most famous and valuable green gemstone.

Its beautiful green color, combined with durability and rarity, make it one of the most expensive gemstones. Deep green is the most desired color in Emeralds. In general the paler the color of an Emerald, the lesser its value. Emeralds are notorious for their flaws. Flawless stones are very uncommon, and are noted for their great value. Some actually prefer Emeralds with minute flaws over flawless Emeralds, as this proves authenticity. Flaws are often hidden by treating the Emeralds with oil or synthetic lubricants, and this is a common practice in the industry. Though Colombian Emeralds have traditionally been the highest quality Emeralds with the finest green color, a new source of Emerald from the African coun-

try of Zambia has been producing deep green Emeralds with fewer flaws.

Many Emerald fakes and doublets are known. Two pale colored stones may be glued together with a deep green paste, creating a stone resembling Emerald. Faceted green glass also resembles Emerald, and it may be coated with a hard substance to mask its low hardness. Synthetic Emeralds are also sold to unwary buyers without them knowing the stone is synthetic. Experts can distinguish all these fakes, and it is especially important to only purchase Emeralds from reliable dealers. Experts can also determine if an Emerald was treated with oil or a lubricant to mask internal flaws.

A rare and unusual form of Emerald, known as "Trapiche Emerald", is characterized by star-shaped rays that emanate from the center of a stone in a hexagonal pattern. These rays appear much like asterism, but, unlike asterism, are not caused by light reflection from tiny parallel inclusions, but by black carbon impurities that form in a star-shaped pattern. These Trapiche Emeralds are only found in the Boyaca Emerald

mining district of Colombia, and are cut into cabochons.

Though Emerald has good hardness, it is a brittle stone. It may develop internal cracks if banged hard or if subject to extreme temperature change. Emeralds that were treated to mask internal flaws should never be cleaned with an ultrasonic jewelry cleaner, nor should they be washed with soap. These practices may remove the oiling treatment and expose the hidden internal flaws.

### Welcome New Members!

We hope that you feel like you have found another family in the SPRC.

Owen Gunter, Pebble Pup  
Alexandria Smith, Junior  
Katherine Webber, Junior  
Richard Carlson



### Chinese (Jade) Burial Suits

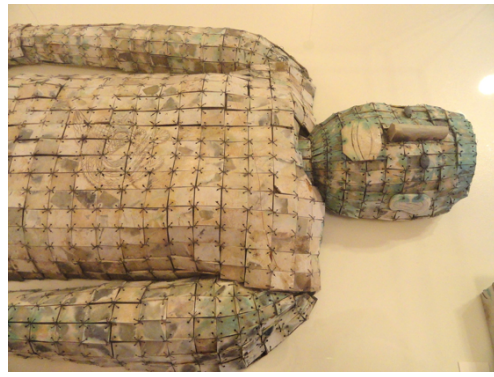
A jade burial suit is a ceremonial suit made of pieces of jade in which royal members in Han dynasty China were buried.

Ancient civilizations put tremendous effort and resources into preparing for the afterlife, particularly those of power and wealth. Anyone with cursory knowledge of ancient Egypt is aware that these people dedicated the greater portions of their lives to preparing for death.

The pyramids, the eternal homes of the great Egyptian pharaohs, took decades to build. The huge quantities of funerary items were often of considerable cost, from expensive coffins to jewelry, gold, and other offerings that would equip the tomb.

It was no different in other corners of the world. The Chinese, for example, made jade burial suits for the imperial family, elaborate afterlife armors created from pieces of jade that were held together by gold or silver wire thread. The ancient Chinese produced these lavish costumes because they believed that the great power held by the gem would guarantee immortality to the wearer as well as keep evil forces away.

Historical accounts and texts from as early as 320 AD describe the existence of the jade suits, but it took centuries before any were found. Of course, the bodies of the deceased diminished over time, and the jade suits protected nothing but bones inside. As



*Detail of a jade burial suit with replaced copper wire in the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum in Springfield, Massachusetts*

*Photo By Daderot – CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org>*

the production of jade suits ceased at some point during ancient Chinese history, people slowly started believing that such suits were mythological.

Finally, in 1968, researchers discovered the first two examples, and headlines were full of it all over China. Shortly after, the find was dubbed one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the century.

It was determined that the jade suits belonged to Prince Liu Sheng and his spouse, Princess Dou Won. They had once been part of China's most prolific dynasty, the Han family, who reigned between 206 BC and 220 AD. Their long-forgotten tomb was located in the Chinese province of Hebei, in a heavily secluded area, blocked by a wall made of iron. These two royal costumes are now exhibited at the Hebei Province museum.

Both were composed of more than 2,000 jade plates. The suit belonging to the prince was threaded with gold, while silver was used for that of the princess. Less than 20 other such jade suits have been discovered since the 1968 groundbreaking discovery.

Of the jade suits that have been found, the pieces of jade are mostly square or rectangular in shape, though triangular, trapezoid and rhomboid plaques have also been found. Plaques are often joined by means of wire, threaded through small holes drilled near the corners of each piece. The composition of the wire varies, and several suits have been found joined with either gold or silver. Other suits, such as that of King Zhao Mo, were joined using silk thread, or silk ribbon that overlapped the edges of the plaques. In some instances, additional pieces of jade have been found beneath the head covering, including shaped plaques to cover the eyes, and plugs to fit the ears and nose.

According to the Book of Later Han, the type of wire used was dependent on the status of the person buried. The jade burial suits of emperors used gold thread; princes, princesses, dukes, and marquises, silver thread; sons or daughters of those given silver thread or copper thread, and lesser aristocrats, silk thread, with all others being forbidden to be buried in jade burial suits.

Examination of the known suits, such as the two found in Mancheng, has revealed that these rules were not always followed. Considering the vast size of the country, and the relatively slow means of disseminating information, it is not surprising that the materials and techniques used in a jade burial suit occasionally differed from the official guidelines.

A jade burial suit was extremely expensive to create, and only wealthy aristocrats could afford to be buried in them. Additionally, the process of manufacturing a suit was labor-intensive and is estimated to have required several years to complete a single suit. It is estimated that the most gifted craftsman of jade would have needed at least a decade to create a single one. It is now believed that jade burial suits were actually relatively common among the wealthiest aristocrats of the Han Dynasty, but that over the years most have been lost due to the activities of grave robbers.

The ancient Chinese craftsmen employed specific techniques to attach the precious stones by wire and produce larger shapes with a single group of gems in order to manufacture these invaluable afterlife assets.

One of the most expensive suits ever found was that of Prince Huai, made of 1,203 pieces of jade with a striking amount of gold: 2,580 grams of golden thread embedded. In another, 2498 jade plates were counted. Both these suits were found during the 1980s.

No matter how sophisticated the suit was, it always made for a compelling piece. It was due to not only the way the gemstones were arranged together but also their shape—sometimes square, other times rectangular. It is fascinating, to say the least. Slightly less common were the suits that took trapezoid or rhomboid shapes of jade plates.



*Jade burial suit at the Capital Museum in Beijing*

*Reference: Wikipedia and VintageNews.com*