

The Sierra Pelonaagram



November 2015

... 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
Happy Birthday to the Winter Babies!

November
Frank Hummelbaugh Nov 10

December
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel Dec. 20
Nancy Hilliard Dec 1
Bob Krug Dec. 7
Morgan Langewisch Dec 14



Officers:

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

Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table--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 – 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:

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Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com



A great big welcome to new members Julie Tinoco and Dianne Wohlleben. They will be formally introduced at the November General Meeting.



SPRC Board Meeting

November 3, 2015
Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse

In attendance were Trina Aeen, Ron Rackliffe, Heidi Webber, Ron Lawrence, Omid Aeen, and Tina White



The meeting began at 7:10 p.m.; led by Trina in Greg Langewisch's absence.

- a) Regarding the upcoming election of officers:
 - It was suggested that the President be given "perks" such as an SPRC tee, free dues, etc.
 - The following nominations were delivered to Omid, as representative of the Nominating Commi
 - o President: Ron Rackliffe
 - o Vice President: Trina Aeen
 - o Secretary: Tina White
 - o Federation rep: Ruth Hidalgo (though she may decline the nomination, if she wishes)

It was noted that the latter position is entitled to mileage and lodging reimbursement for attending the biannual meetings. At this time, no one is available to attend the Nov. 14 meeting in Visalia.

This also leaves the group in need of nominations for Treasurer; that and additional nominations for the above positions will be solicited at the November 17th.

This leaves us in need of a Treasurer; volunteers/nominations for that and the other positions will be solicited at the November general membership meeting.

- b) This month's field trip is scheduled for Nov. 21st; the group will head out to a site near Trona to collect Banded Onyx, Cave Onyx, and cave formations (e.g. speliothems such as stalactites/stalagmites).
- c) The November general membership meeting will be held on 17th; the program will include a discussion of how speliothems are formed.
- d) The Club holiday part is scheduled for Dec. 19; additional details will be provided at the November general membership meeting.
- e) Someone asked if we had a current Quarterly Calendar; we do not, but will attempt to resume generating them next year.
- f) Ron L. asked about the possibility of checking on members who have not been seen or heard from in some time; Heidi shared that she has been in contact with a few such members, and they have simply been unable to attend recent events.
- g) Heidi shared with us that we had two (2) membership applications upon which to vote: Julie Tinoco and Dianne Wohlleben. Their memberships were unanimously approved.
- h) The November General Membership Meeting will include a talk by Tina White on cave features.
- i) After some thought of changing the distribution date of the Pelonagram, it was agreed that it will be sent out after the Board Meeting, and before the General Meeting.
- j) The Sierra Pelona Rock Club Holiday Party is set for December 19th, at the Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse. Additional details will be shared within the next couple of weeks, along with a sign-up list of what members will be bringing to share.
- k) Ron R. shared that the group is indeed still solvent, i.e. "we still have money".
- l) The board discussed having a Club Rock Sale some Saturday in early 2016; Trina A., Ron R., Ron J., and Bill W. have all been storing a significant amount of material for which we have no use identified. Some material will be saved and set aside for Akiko's use in the meeting raffles.
- m) The disposition of some Club equipment was discussed; one member has a saw, another has coolant and machine oil. Along those lines, the need for "kitty litter" - type absorbent was shared; Tina W. will donate some she has.
- n) Bill W. offered to host a workshop; provided the date works for Heidi, we're looking at the second weekend of January.
- o) A wire wrapping gathering will be scheduled for the weekend following the workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.
Tina White, Secretary, SPRC



Facet cut topaz gemstones in various colors
Photo by Michelle Jo

Topaz is a silicate mineral of aluminium and fluorine. Topaz crystallizes in the orthorhombic system, and its crystals are mostly prismatic terminated by pyramidal and other faces.

Pure topaz is colorless and transparent but is usually tinted by impurities; typical topaz is wine red, yellow, pale gray, reddish-orange, or blue brown. It can also be white, pale green, blue, gold, pink (rare), reddish-yellow or opaque to transparent/translucent.

Orange topaz, also known as precious topaz, is the traditional November birthstone, the symbol of friendship, and the state gemstone of the US state of Utah.

Imperial topaz is yellow, pink (rare, if natural) or pink-orange. Brazilian Imperial Topaz can often have a bright yellow to deep golden brown hue, sometimes even violet. Many brown or pale

topazes are treated to make them bright yellow, gold, pink or violet colored. Some imperial topaz stones can fade on exposure to sunlight for an extended period of time.

Blue topaz is the state gemstone of the US state of Texas. Naturally occurring blue topaz is quite rare. Typically, colorless, gray or pale yellow and blue material is heat treated and irradiated to produce a more desired darker blue.

Mystic topaz is colorless topaz which has been artificially coated giving it the desired rainbow effect.

Localities and Occurrence

Topaz is commonly associated with silicic igneous rocks of the granite and rhyolite type. It typically crystallizes in granitic pegmatites or in vapor cavities in rhyolite lava flows like those at Topaz Mountain in western Utah.

It can be found with fluorite and cassiterite in various areas including the Ural and Ilmen mountains of Russia, in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Pakistan, Italy, Sweden, Japan, Brazil, Mexico; Flinders Island, Australia; Nigeria and the United States.

Some clear topaz crystals from Brazilian pegmatites can reach boulder size and weigh hundreds of pounds. Crystals of this size may be seen in museum collections.

The Topaz of Aurangzeb, observed by Jean Baptiste Tavernier weighed 157.75 carats. The American Golden Topaz, a more recent gem, weighed a massive 22,892.5 carats.

Colorless and light-blue varieties of topaz are found in Precambrian granite in Mason County, Texas within the Llano Uplift. There is no commercial mining of topaz in that area.

Etymology

The name "topaz" is usually derived (via Old French: Topace and Latin: Topazus) from the Greek (Topázios) or (Topázion), the ancient name of St. John's Island in the Red Sea which was difficult to find and from which a yellow stone (now believed to be chrysolite: yellowish olivine) was mined in ancient times; topaz itself (rather than topazios) was not really known before the classical era. Alternatively, the word topaz may be related to the Sanskrit

word "tapas", meaning "heat" or "fire".

In the Middle Ages, the name topaz was used to refer to any yellow gemstone, but in modern times it denotes only the silicate described above.



Topaz Mountain, Utah
Photo by Phil Konstantin

Topaz has been known for at least 2000 years and is one of the gemstones which form the foundations of the twelve gates to the Holy City of the New Jerusalem. These so-called apocalyptic stones are intended to serve in protection against enemies and as a symbol of beauty and splendor. The Romans dedicated topaz to Jupiter.

Reference: Wikipedia and Gemstone.org



A group of topaz crystals on matrix
Photo by USGS.gov