

# The Sierra Pelonaogram



November 2016

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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,

This month at our meeting we will get to see a demonstration of flint knapping, so if you have any friends that would find that interesting, invite them along. It is that time of the year for the members to think about what they can do to help the club, we will be having elections next month at our holiday party and if more people will get involved, it will make it easier. If you are not sure that you can do something, we will help you and provide assistance. We are also going to sponsor a desert clean-up out near our claim on April 8, 2017 and will be looking for your help and support to make it a fun and beneficial activity. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting Tuesday.

Ron



**OK SPRC Members**, it is that time of year once again: choosing a new board.

I know you are all sick and tired of elections and campaigns but we are a pretty friendly, low-key bunch so it isn't that bad.

We really would like to see some new blood on the board, meaning new ideas to help make us great. In addition, maybe you are sick of seeing our faces. This is YOUR club and everyone needs to participate.

Our current board is fantastic, but maybe they would like to sit back and see what the rest of you can do. It isn't hard; you will always have someone at your back to give advice and guidance. So don't be afraid to jump in. You will be glad you did!

If you are at all interested, contact Tina White.

### Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all the November and December Babies.

#### November

Frank Humelbaugh Nov. 10  
Bob Peters Nov. 2

#### December

Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel Dec. 20  
Nancy Hilliard Dec. 1



### 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 – Julie Tinoco  
Historian -Open  
Hospitality – Tina White  
Membership – Heidi Webber  
On-Line Presence (website)-- Trina Aeen  
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber  
Programs –Open  
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)

**SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB**  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
10/1816

Club President Ron Rackliffe called the meeting to order at 7:42, and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Tonight's guests were introduced and welcomed; they included: Karen, Anne, Ashley, long-ago member Suzie, and returnee Josh. New member Debra Martin was introduced to the group, and given her welcome packet.

The month's Business Meeting was briefly summarized, as follows:

- No more workshops are scheduled for 2016
- Our field trips are usually open to all; this month's trip to Tick Canyon is an exception.
- SPRC's Holiday Party is scheduled for Dec. 17th
- The desert cleanup event has been rescheduled for April 8th, 2017; we will be forming a committee to coordinate that event.

If any of the night's guests were interested in becoming club members, it was requested that they see Trina.

The evening's speaker, College of the Canyons Geography Professor Mary Bates, spoke to the group on the topic of Borates. She covered the topics of borate formation, specifics on the mine in Boron, types of borates, the etymology of the word(s), history, distribution, and uses.

Mary also mentioned that she will be leading a field trip to Death Valley in January; all are invited to go along.

Sooner than that, Mary will be delivering a Scholarly Presentation at COC on November 11th on the topic "Ice Age". The talk begins at 6 p.m., but attendees are encouraged to arrive closer to 5:15 in order to view the new Augmented Reality Sandbox which will be on display in the lobby.

Meeting attendees were directed to take a look at the samples Mary had brought to show, as well as the Club's auction and "show and tell" tables.

Following the usual raffle, details of the following Saturday's field trip to Mint Canyon were announced: 8:30 a.m. at Mammoth Lane, ride-sharing was urged as parking at the site is limited. As of the time of the meeting, there were 14 spots left, members could sign up at then. Non-members were advised to give their names to Trina; if sufficient space exists, they will be contacted.



**SPRC Board Meeting**

November 1st, 2016

Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse

In attendance were Ron Rackliffe, Trina Aeen, and Tina White.

The meeting began at 7:00; the first order of business was the approval of the application of Josh Derenski as the Club's newest member. The necessity of an Elections Committee was discussed; Omid Aeen has served as said committee in recent years, but no one has ever contacted him regarding serving on the Board. It was decided that members will instead be asked to notify Tina White if they are interested in a position for 2017.

Our Desert Cleanup Event, now scheduled for April 8th, 2017 will be discussed in some depth at the next General Membership Meeting. Tina will draft a signup sheet for members interested in serving in the following capacities:

- Supplies (trash bags, etc.)
- Contacts/Communication
- Site logistics
- Potluck
- Disposal
- Publicity: Trina has volunteered to handle this

It has been confirmed that flint knapper Gary Pickett will be speaking at our November meeting.

The November field trip to collect Silverlace Onyx and other materials at Calico is scheduled for 11/19; the group will leave from Mammoth Lane at 7:30 a.m. Prospective attendees will be cautioned that there is a steep hike to the site with the best collecting material. Those who went to Mint Canyon last month will be invited to sign a Thank You card for Nate, the Rio Tinto employee who provided the tour. (Tina will buy the card and have it at the Nov. meeting.)

Tina will check to ensure that our Holiday Party is still on the calendar at Greenbrier, and Trina will check some sources for Boston Market coupons for the meat for that event.

No financial report was available in Treasurer Sandy White's absence.

The next trip to our Claim will include working on projects, including putting forms in the mailbox, painting, etc.

Julie Tinoco has volunteered to serve as Field Trip Chair for 2017; she will be invited to the December Board meeting so that plans for next year may be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The final decision on the DRECP was rolled out September 14, 2016. The final documents can be found at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage&currentPageId=95675>

It will take sometime to go through them to try to grasp how they will affect our hobby. I hope some of you will give them a look.

It is time to stop and celebrate a little accomplishment. It is time to take some pride in the efforts that have been put forth. This might have been all bad news for our hobby. However, many, many Rockhounds spoke up and made formal comments during the comment period. Our voices were heard and changes were made in the final EIS to the extent that they could be.

**A MAJOR VICTORY, THE FOCUS AREAS WERE REMOVED FROM GEM HILL AND LONELY BUTTE (Brown Butte)**

That was a straight forward problem and it was addressed. Other issues are much more complex. It remains to be seen how the rest of it will play out, with the conservation lands overlays and the ACEC's that were thrown in there, but Rockhounds can be proud and celebrate that we accomplished something. This plan was going to happen, one way or another. It is politics. But we took part and dealt with it, and got something from our efforts.

**YOUR PARTICIPATION DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! NOW LETS KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING AND MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO THE MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

Ruth



In this 16th-century painting, Moctezuma kneels before the Spanish conquistador Hernando Cortes. Moctezuma offered him gifts made of jadeite and turquoise, but Cortes refused them, considering them worthless.

### Jade

There are two different minerals that are commonly called “jade”: jadeite and nephrite. Jadeite is a mineral in its own right, a pyroxene; nephrite, and amphibole is a variety of tremolite or actinolite. Jadeite is made of interlocking, blocky, granular crystals, whereas nephrite crystals are fibrous. These two differing textures can sometimes help distinguish between them: nephrite often appears fibrous or silky; jadeite commonly has a more sugary or granular texture. Crystals of jadeite do occur, but they are rare. They are usually found in hollows within massive material, and are short prismatic in habit. Jadeite appears in a number of colors, whereas nephrite has a much more limited color range. Pure jadeite is white. Its other colors include green, colored by iron; lilac, colored by manganese and iron; and pink, brown, red, blue, black, orange and yellow, colored by inclusions of other minerals. Emerald-green jadeite, colored by chromium, is called imperial jade.

Jadeite generally occurs in metamorphic rocks with a higher-pressure origin than nephrite, although some has been found in lower pressure metamorphic rocks.

Although generally recovered as alluvial pebbles and boulders, it is also found in the rocks in which it originally formed. It is widespread in metamorphic rocks formed at subduction zones. Weathered jadeite typically develops a brown skin, which is often incorporated into carvings. It frequently has a dimpled “orange-peel” surface when polished.

Myanmar is a major source of jadeite and in particular imperial jade. Other sources of are in Japan and California.

### Mesoamerican Jade

For the Indians of Mexico, Central and South America, jadeite had a cultural value similar to nephrite in China. It was a symbol of water and the burgeoning of plant life. Known as chaichihultil, it was more precious than gold. The Olmecs were the first Mesoamericans to discover and carve jade—perhaps 3,000 years ago. Across Mexico and Central America it was used in the most precious objects: masks, depictions of the gods, and ritual items.

### Jadeite Reaches Europe

Until the late 16th century, virtually all European jade was nephrite. When the Spanish reached Mexico, they discovered that the Aztecs prized a green stone that was similar in appearance to, and believed to be the same stone, as European jade. They were told by the Aztecs that this stone cured internal ailments, especially those of the liver, spleen, and kidneys. This stone was brought back to Europe, along with the belief in its healing powers. The Spanish called the stone *pedra de ijada* (“loin stone”), which was mistranslated into French as *Pierre de jade*, from which the word “jade” is derived. The jade from South America was believed to be the same as the Old World jade until 1863, when a Chinese carving was analyzed and discovered to be a different stone. The new stone was given the name jadeite, meaning derived from “jade.”



Nephrite

Reference: DK Smithsonian



Maya Jadeite Plaque,  
600-900 CE,  
Brooklyn Museum



Jadeite