

The Sierra Pelona Rock Club



November 2017

... 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.



President's Message

Hi Everybody,

I hope all is well with you as we enter the holiday season and the end of 2017.

We have had a good year with plenty of opportunities to collect, transform and showoff our treasures.

We still have one more field trip scheduled on December 2nd for the Trona area were we could collect Ballarat Marble, Diablo Onyx, Honey Onyx, and possibly some cave onyx/stalactites.

We also have our holiday party coming up on December 9th at the Club House, it is always a great time and I hope to see all of you there. The board elections will be at the party and I look forward to having some new people helping the club to grow and making plans for the next year.

Thanks, Ron R

Membership

I would like to issue a Great Big Welcome to our newest members Shana Brunese-Ruiz, Katie Stewart and her son Tristan Marsalas (our new Pebble Pup), and Bill and Joyce Wertz. May we all collect for many years!

Dues Are Due

It is already November! So that means it is also time to start thinking about our annual dues. They are due as of January 1, but we start reminding you now. Your dues are considered late as of the business meeting February 6th.

For me, the best and easiest way to pay is during the Holiday Party. Kay will be there all ready with receipts.

Those of you who have been with the club for awhile know that I am not really shy to remind you if you are late. This is for a very important reason: we have to pay the CFMS for club insurance and it is vital that we get all the membership paid up and accounted for in a timely manner.

Birthdays

November

Shana Brunese-Ruiz
Karen Glavin
Frank Humelbaugh
Diane Southwell

December

Nancy Hilliard



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
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

Board Meeting for SPRC

11/7/17

Submitted by Dianne Wohlleben Secretary

Attending: Ron, Trina, Kay, Julie, Dianne, Evelyn and Bruce

We have five new applications for membership in SPRC Shanna Brunen-Ruiz, Tristin Morales , Katy Stewart, Joyce and Bill Wentz. Voted and Approved

Kay gave financial report. Dianne brought up raising of the annual dues by \$5.00 to help pay the National CMFS association fees. This was tabled.

ELECTIONS ARE COMING! Our President Ron and all board members are hoping we will get some "new energy" to run for available positions. All members please keep this in mind.

Wire workshop, Nov. 13, 2017 is canceled. Trina will no longer be doing these workshops. Thank you Trina for all of your past and present assistance.

Next stone cutting workshop is at Bill and Heidi's on Nov. 18th.

Dianne Wohlleben will give a demonstration on how to set faceted gems and cabochons in pre-manufactured mountings.

Our last field trip of 2017 will be on Saturday, December 2, 2017. We will be collecting Ballarat Marble and Diablo Onyx.

Evelyn will discuss CMFS programs at our next general membership meeting. She attended the Gilcrest Pumpkin Farm fall festival and said it will be a great replacement fund raiser for next year. Our annual fundraiser at Lombardi's Farm is no longer held.

Holiday Party is December 9, at 11:00am at the club house. The List of foods and drinks for the party will be circulated at next meeting.

The March 2018, Camp Zzyxx flyer will be available at the general membership meeting.

Motion to close the meeting at 7:58pm and seconded by Trina. Meeting adjourned.

October General Meeting

Greenbriar Mobile Estates

October 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Trina Aeen at 7:35pm. 23 members and 9 guests were in attendance.

The December 9th Holiday Party signup sheet was on the membership table for. It will also be distributed via email so that members who wish to come will know what side dishes to bring. As always, the SPRC will provide a turkey and ham, plus all paper and plastic goods. Membership will provide a delicious potluck with side dishes. The party will run from 11 until 4pm at the Greenbriar clubhouse. There will also be a silent auction.

The officer elections also will be held at the Holiday Party. Trina asked for membership to think about stepping up and participating in the running of the club. All officer positions are open, plus there are some chairman positions open too—all that needs is for you to raise your hand!

December 2 will be a field trip to Trona and Ballarat in lieu of the November trip.

November 18 is the last workshop for 2017 at Bill and Heidi Webbers' home. Lunch will be provided for \$5.

October 21 field trip is to Clear Creek Agate for plasma agate, serpentine and jadeite. There are stipulations and permits required to visit the area. Evelyn Velie did a presentation of the area and Julie emailed the members with more detail and coordination. Participants will leave the Walmart on Copperhill/Kelly Johnson Pkwy at 6am. (The trip was 4 days after the meeting, so this is just to document what happened)

Bruce Velie wants diet soda to be provided in the future.

It was noted that the Benetoite mine is nearby. Admission is \$70 per person.

Kay let us know that club hats and tees are available for only \$7 each.

Bill Wertz brought samples to share and discussed some of them and offered a future field trip to the Armargosa area.

The meeting ended at 8:30 for the rock table raffle and the silent auction, snacks and chat.

Respectfully submitted by

Tina White (note taker) and Heidi Webber (transcriber)



Photo by By Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com

Realgar

Realgar, is an arsenic sulfide mineral, also known as "ruby sulphur" or "ruby of arsenic". It is a soft, sectile mineral occurring in monoclinic crystals, or in granular, compact, or powdery form, often in association with the related mineral, orpiment. It is orange-red in color, melts at 320 °C, and burns with a bluish flame releasing fumes of arsenic and sulfur. Realgar is soft with a Mohs hardness of 1.5 to 2 and has a specific gravity of 3.5. Its streak is orange colored. It is trimorphous with alacranite and pararealgar. Its name comes from the Arabic "powder of the mine", via Catalan and Medieval Latin, and its earliest record in English is in the 1390s.

Occurrence

Realgar most commonly occurs as a low-temperature hydrothermal vein mineral associated with other arsenic and antimony minerals. It also occurs as volcanic sublimations and in hot spring deposits. It occurs in association with orpiment, arsenolite, calcite and barite.

It is found with lead, silver and gold ores in Hungary, Bohemia and Saxony. In the US it occurs notably in Mercur, Utah; Manhattan, Nevada and in the geyser deposits of Yellowstone National Park.

It is commonly held that after a long period of exposure to light realgar changes form to a yellow powder known as pararealgar. It was once thought that this powder was the yellow sulfide orpiment, but has been recently shown to be a distinct chemical compound.

Uses

Realgar, orpiment, and arsenopyrite provide nearly all the world's supply of arsenic as a byproduct of smelting concentrates derived from these ores.

Realgar was used by firework manufacturers to create the color white in fireworks prior to the availability of powdered metals such as aluminium, magnesium and titanium. It is still used in combination with potassium chlorate to make a contact explosive known as "red explosive" for some types of torpedoes and other novelty exploding fireworks branded as 'cracker balls', as well in the cores of some types of crackling stars.

Realgar is toxic. The ancient Greeks, who called it "sandarach", understood it is poisonous. It was used to poison rats in medieval Spain and in 16th century England. It is still sometimes used to kill weeds, insects, and rodents, even though more effective arsenic-based agents are available.

The Chinese name for realgar is xionghuang, literally 'masculine yellow', as opposed to orpiment which was 'feminine yellow'. Its toxicity was also well known to them, and it was frequently sprinkled around houses to repel snakes and insects, as well as being used in Chinese medicine. Realgar is mixed with rice liquor to make realgar wine, which is consumed during the Dragon Boat Festival in order to ward off evil, alluding to its repellent properties. (This practice has become more rare in modern times, with the awareness that realgar is a toxic arsenic compound.)

Realgar was commonly applied in leather manufacturing to remove the hair from animal pelts. Because realgar is a known carcinogen, and an arsenic poison, and because competitive substitutes are available, it is rarely used today for this purpose.

Realgar was, along with orpiment, a significant item of trade in the ancient Roman Empire and was used as a red paint pigment. Early occurrences of realgar as a red painting pigment are known for works of art from China, India, Central Asia, and Egypt. It was used in European fine-art painting during the Renaissance era, a use which died out by the 18th century. It was also used as medicine.

Other traditional uses include manufacturing lead shot, printing and dyeing calico cloth.

Reference: Wikipedia