

The Sierra Pelonaagram

HALLOWEEN



October 2016

... 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.



Hi everybody,

Welcome back from summer, I hope those that came out for our first meeting back from the summer break had a good time and were able to enjoy seeing the finds that others had made or the artistic abilities of those that put some flair on their rocks. I missed seeing you all as I took an opportunity to meet with some long time rock hounders and see some of the pickings in Oregon. I had a great time and was able to collect a lot of stuff that I had never collected before. Makes me wonder if there is interest in the club for some overnighter field trips so that we could reach farther on some of our trips? I will bring some of the material I was able to collect. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting Tuesday.

Ron R



Birthdays

To all our Fall and Winter Babies, Have a very Happy Birthday!

October

Omid Aeen	Oct 4
William Edwards	Oct 2
Olive Edwards	Oct 20
Jane Sheppard	Oct 6

November

Frank Humelbaugh	Nov 10
Bob Peters	Nov 2



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 – Open
 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

Visit the *SPRC website* www.sierrapelona.com

SPRC Board Meeting

October 4th, 2016

Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse

In attendance were Ron Rackliffe, Trina Aeen, Sandy White, Ron Lawrence, and Tina White

The first item discussed was the prior weekend's workshop at the Webbers. A great time was had by all who attended, but we realized that the announcement about limiting one's time on any one machine to 30 minutes or less needs to be made at each gathering. Also, we will be recruiting for members willing to arrive early/stay late to help Bill W. with all of the setup he does, which includes moving the heavy equipment around to the back yard. Some good news: Ron L. has volunteered to take the Genie in for "preventive maintenance", on his dime. Thanks, Ron!

Future general meetings will include a brief review of these business meetings, as requested by Heidi Webber.

President Ron R. then reviewed the portion of the ByLaws concerning changes thereto. Such changes may be made only 1x/year, and require approval by 2/3 of the active members present at the appropriate General Membership meeting. First, however, a committee of 3 must be appointed by the President; they will be responsible for the changes. The proposed language of any changes must be shared at the prior General Membership meeting, or via email or letter to members 10 days in advance.

The group's online membership application process has been streamlined; while the form remains largely unchanged, henceforth prospective members must return the application form in person at a General Membership meeting.

As of this date, no new membership applications have been received since last month's meetings.

Our planned Desert CleanUp event has been postponed until spring, after fears of inclement weather limiting attendance were expressed. April 8th is the planned new date, and participants will be encouraged to join in a potluck lunch after the work is done.

Our meeting program for the remainder of 2016 is not yet filled; we are looking into having someone speak to us on flint knapping in October or November. Tina W. may speak at the other meeting. We will be asking Paul Hobbs if he would consider speaking about silver smithing at a meeting in 2017.

There is a wire wrapping workshop scheduled for Oct. 5th, at the Greenbrier Clubhouse.

Ron L. called Paul H. to ask for more details on this month's planned trip to Tick Canyon. Paul responded that he is waiting to hear back from the contact at Rio Tinto (the mine/property owners). At present, there is room for 8 more participants; any spaces still open on the 18th will be announced at our General Membership meeting.

Concerns over difficulty in reaching the collecting site at Calico were raised; the general consensus was to notify members of the steep climb and the availability of some specimens at the bottom of the hill.

Trina reminded all of Gem-O-Rama in Trona on Oct. 8 & 9; she and some other members will be attending.

The Club's Holiday Party will be held on Dec. 17th from approx. 11:00 – 3:00. The event is free to members and one (1) guest each; a \$5 charge will be levied for additional guests. We will look to past records to determine what is to be provided by the Club, but it is certain that members will be asked to contribute at least sides and desserts. It was recommended that we use a coupon for Boston Market as Greg did last year; if anyone knows of such a coupon, please notify Tina W.!

Sandy W. reported on her trip to the CFMS meeting in Placerville. Most importantly, she received a certificate from the American Federation of Mineral Societies (AFMS) recognizing our late member, Shep. She also shared with us plans for an AFMS/CFMS show at the Ventura County Fairgrounds June 9-11, 2017. A full write-up on the meeting will be published in a future Pelonagram, and information will appear on our Facebook page.

Having seen some nattily attired rock club folks in Placerville, Sandy suggested we offer our members polo shirts with the SPRC logo; our next order will include that new style.

We will be leaving the position of Publicity Chair vacant until the December election; all is well for now.

Things at our claim (the travertine mine) are in need of maintenance, e.g. the sign-in box; our group's next trip out there will include some work time!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
9/20/16

Club Vice President Trina Aeen called the meeting to order at 7:42, and led the group in the pledge of allegiance. Tonight's guests, Jenny and Josh, were introduced to, and welcomed by, all in attendance.

Our newest member, Debra Martin, was not present, so she will receive her welcome packet at the next meeting she does attend.

Trina reminded everyone that the rock auction and raffle would be ongoing throughout the meeting, and encouraged all to participate. And as this is our first meeting after our summer break, this is our annual "Show and Tell" meeting, so some interesting specimens are available for viewing.

The recent field trip to Field Road was briefly reviewed; members collected jasper, agate, and palm root. The Albert Mine was also visited, where metals (perhaps copper) were collected.

A number of the group's members visited our claim a few weeks ago, and observed that the desert is a mess – trash, old furnishings, etc. are scattered about the landscape. Accordingly, the SPRC is now planning on Desert CleanUp event for January, 2017. Other clubs will be invited to participate, but for now, volunteers are needed to help plan and organize this event. If you are interested in participating, please email Trina Aeen.

Club Treasurer and CFMS representative Sandy White was in Placerville at the annual CFMS meeting on the night of this meeting; she will update us on the proceedings at our next meeting. It is known that our long-time and recently deceased member, Shep, was designated Rockhound of the Year by that group; Sandy will return with the certification awarded him posthumously.

Future club events include:

10/1: Workshop at the Webbers. Bill has refurbished all of the equipment so it's all in good working order, and Heidi will be preparing a delightful meal for those in attendance.

10/5: Wire Wrap gathering at Greenbrier; the time was not mentioned, but those who have attended in the past will know. (Those who have not attended in the past should contact Sandy White for details.)

10/22: Our October field trip will be to Tick Canyon; Ruth Hildago was able to arrange access to the howlite mine there. Only 24 folks may attend, so if you didn't sign up at the meeting, contact Trina to do so a.s.a.p.!

11/19: The Club's November field trip will be to Calico, to collect Silverlace Agate.

12/17: SPRC Holiday Party, to be held at Greenbrier. Hours to be announced later.

Trina reminded folks that Oct. 8 & 9 is the Gem-O-Rama in Trona; this is a fun event for collectors and families.

Tina mentioned an 11/11 special trip to the Cady's, announced by Ruth via email a few weeks ago; stay tuned!

Trina also shared that elections for next year's Board will be held in the next few months, and encouraged members to get involved. Five (5) positions (President., VP, Secretary, Treasurer and CFMS Rep.) will be open, as will other opportunities to be involved in keeping the group going. Things this past year have been accomplished primarily through the efforts of only the President, VP and Treasurer; more involvement is needed.

Members then took the opportunity to review members' items brought to show, those available for auction, and to participate in the night's raffle.

The auction closed at 8:30; the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:31.

Stone Carving-Soapstone

Soapstone is relatively soft because of its high talc content, talc having a definitional value of 1 on the Mohs hardness scale. Softer grades may feel soapy when touched, hence the name. There is no fixed hardness for soapstone because the amount of talc it contains varies widely, from as little as 30% for architectural grades such as those used on countertops, to as much as 80% for carving grades. Common, non-architectural grades of soapstone can just barely be scratched with a fingernail and are thus considered to have a hardness of 2.5 on the Mohs scale. If a candidate rock cannot be scratched with a knife blade (hardness of 5.5), it is not soapstone.

Soapstone is often used as an insulator for housing and electrical components, due to its durability and electrical characteristics and because it can be pressed into complex shapes before firing.

Soapstone undergoes transformations when heated to temperatures of 1000–1200 °C into enstatite and cristobalite; in the Mohs scale, this corresponds to an increase in hardness to 5.5–6.5.

Historical Uses

Soapstone is used for inlaid designs, sculpture, coasters, and kitchen countertops and sinks. The Inuit often use soapstone for traditional carvings. Some Native American tribes and bands make bowls, cooking slabs, and other objects from soapstone; historically, this was particularly common during the Late Archaic archaeological period.

Locally quarried soapstone was used for grave markers in 19th century northeast Georgia, US, around Dahlonega, and Cleveland, as simple field stone and "slot and tab" tombs.

Vikings hewed soapstone directly from the stone face, shaped it into cooking-pots, and sold these at home and abroad.

Soapstone is sometimes used for construction of fireplace surrounds, cladding on metal woodstoves, and as the preferred material for wood burning masonry heaters because it can absorb, store and evenly radiate heat due to its high density and magnesite ($MgCO_3$) content. It is also used for counter tops and bathroom tiling because of the ease of working the material and its property as the "quiet stone." A weathered or aged appearance will occur naturally over time as the patina is enhanced. Applying mineral oil simply darkens the appearance of the stone; it does not protect it in any way.

Tepe Yahya, an ancient trading city in southeastern Iran, was a center for the production and distribution of soapstone in the 5th–3rd millennia BC. It was also used in Minoan Crete. At the Palace of Knossos, archaeological recovery has included a magnificent libation table made of steatite. The Yoruba of West Nigeria utilized soapstone for several statues most notably at Esie where archaeologists have uncovered hundreds of male and female statues, about half of life size. The Yoruba of Ife also produced a miniature soapstone obelisk with metal studs called superstitiously "the staff of Oranmiyan"



The outer layers of the Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro are made of soapstone.

Modern uses

Soapstone has been used in India for centuries as a medium for carving. Mining to meet world-wide demand for soapstone is threatening the habitat of India's tigers.

In Brazil, especially in Minas Gerais, due to the abundance of soapstone mines in that Brazilian state, local artisans still craft objects from that material, including pots and pans, wine glasses, statues, jewel boxes, coasters, vases. These handicrafts are commonly sold in street markets found in cities across the state.

Some of the oldest towns, notably Congonhas, Tiradentes and Ouro Preto, still have some of their streets paved with soapstone from colonial times.

Some Native Americans use soapstone for smoking pipes; numerous examples have been found among artifacts of different cultures and are still in use today. Its low heat conduction allows for prolonged smoking without the pipe's heating up uncomfortably.

Some premium wood fired heating stoves are made of soapstone to take advantage of its useful thermal and fire resistant properties.

Soapstone is also used to carve Chinese seals.

Currently, soapstone is most commonly used for architectural applications, such as counter tops and interior surfacing. There is currently only one active North American soapstone mine. That mine is found in Central Virginia and is operated by the Alberene Soapstone Company. All other architectural soapstone is mined in Brazil, India and Finland and imported into the United States.

Welders and fabricators use soapstone as a marker due to its resistance to heat; it remains visible when heat is applied. It has also been used for many years by seamstresses, carpenters, and other craftsmen as a marking tool because its marks are visible and not permanent.

Soapstone can be used to create molds for casting objects from soft metals, such as pewter or silver. The soft stone is easily carved and is not degraded by heating. The slick surface of soapstone allows the finished object to be easily removed.

Soapstones can be put in a freezer and later used in place of ice cubes to chill alcoholic beverages without diluting. Sometimes called 'whiskey stones', these were first introduced around 2007. Most whiskey stones feature a semi-polished finish, retaining the soft look of natural soapstone, while others are highly polished.

Reference: Wikipedia



This is a soapstone carving made by my sister, Kathleen Dahlquist-Gray who is an artist by trade and is just entering the world of carved stone. She says interesting enough is that soapstone, alabaster, and marble can be carved and otherwise shaped using the same gouges, files, knives, and rasps as are used with wood.

Instead of using hot wax to shine the wolf, she used Tung Oil. She used the tung oil because they dent and scratch so much easier with wax than with the tung oil.



The Wolf is Soapstone and is mounted on Black Walnut with copper wire as the vegetation.