The Sierra Pelonagram

April 2014

... 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.

April/May Birthdays

Loads of Spring Babies these next two months. Happy Birthday to you all.

April	
Deb D'Agostino	April 3
Norma Holt	April 8
Sarita Hyde	April 9
Shep Koss	April 14
Greg Mazourek	April 12
Ron Strathmann	April 11

May	
Deb Clem	May 26
Greg Langewisch	May 24
Olivia Miseroy	May 5
Iony Panaitescu	May 5
Mike Serino	May 26

T-Shirts

Reminder, we are taking orders for club t-shirts. They can be ordered as polo shirts (with buttons and collar), t-shirts and tanks. The color will be teal blue (or teal green if you see it that way). You can also order a cap. Email me, Heidi, with your request and size. When we get enough, we will place the order.

Help Support Your Club

There is an opening for Membership Chair. When you became a member, you received a welcome packet with a membership card, the bylaws and recently the procedures manual and a slab of howlite. At meetings, you sign in at the front and someone announces how many members and guests are present. You received a badge made by Jon Meredith. You saw the Membership Chairperson in action. Now does that seem hard or to take a lot of time? Naw, and that is what we would love someone to do for the club.

Let me know if you are interested.

Heidi

Officers:

President – Bill Webber
Vice-President – Ron Lawrence
Secretary: Heidi Webber
Treasurer – Ron Rackliffe
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

Chairpersons:

Claim - Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table - Akiko Strathmann
Equipment - Bill Webber
Field Trips – Open
Historian -Open
Hospitality – Tina White
Membership – Open
On-Line Presence (website) - Larry Holt
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs – Shep Koss
Publicity –Bruce Velie
Storage - open
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 http://www.sierrapelona.com/

President's Message

2014 is moving right along. Spring is here and the desert is in its full glory, everything is in bloom and grasses are growing. This is definitely the time of year to enjoy our hobby. In a very short time, it will be too hot to enjoy, so consider taking advantage of several field trips that are planned. Details will be emailed to members, so be ready to mark your calendar.

May 10 is the Open House at Placerita Canyon Nature Center. We need people to work the club table. Placerita is right here in Santa Clarita, so you won't have to travel at all and this venue has proven to be somewhat lucrative for a short day inside where it is cool. So plan to come help at the table, even if for a bit, and then enjoy the other tables and venues of the day. The theme this year is Amazing Arthropods.

So take a break from your daily grind and come on out for some great collecting and fundraising events that we have planned. I hope to see you there.

Bill Webber
President, SPRC

Upcoming CFMS Shows

For More information, go to the CFMS Website

April 11 - 13: RENO, NV
Reno Gem & Mineral Society
Craft Show
Reno Town Hall
Email: theresalanghans@yahoo.com
Website: www.renorockhounds.com

April 11 - 13: VISTA, CA
Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
Email: raysrocks@cox.net
Website: www.vistarocks.org

April 12 - 13: PARADISE, CA
Paradise Gem & Mineral Society
Elks Lodge
Email: paradisegemmineralclub@yahoo.com
Website: www.paradisegem.org

April 12 - 13: SAN JOSE, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
Email: info@scvgms.org
Website: www.scvgms.org

April 19 - 20: MARIPOSA, CA
Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
miles south of Mariposa
Email: martin@safarigold.com
Website: www.camineralmuseum.com

April 26 - 27: THOUSAND OAKS, CA
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park Community Center
Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net
Website: www.cgamc.org

April 26 - 27: SANTA CRUZ, CA
Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Website: www.scmgs.org

MAY 2014
May 2 - 4: BISHOP, CA
Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society
Bishop Fairgrounds
Email: steve@littlebearrocks.com

May 3 - 4: JACKSON, CA
Amador County Gem & Mineral Society, Kennedy Mine
Email: blackwolf@volcano.net

May 3 - 4: ANAHEIM, CA
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center
Email: bursonrocks@verizon.net
Website: www.searchersrocks.org

May 3 - 4: PASO ROBLES, CA
Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park & Museum
Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com
Website: www.slrockhounds.org

May 3 - 4: YUCAIPA, CA
Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Scherer Senior Center
Email: res09ayd@verizon.net
Website: www.yvgms.org/wiki

May 10 - 11: LANCASTER, CA
Antelope Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School
Email: cjq_62@yahoo.com
Website: www.avgem.weebly.com

May 10 - 11: RENO, NV
Reno Gem & Mineral Society
Reno-Sparks Livestock Event Center
Website: www.renorockhounds.com

2014 CFMS Show and Conference
May 30 - June 1
Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave
POMONA, CA
to be hosted by the
Pasadena Lapidary Society

May 31 - June 1: ESCONDIDO, CA
Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
California Center for the Arts
Email: gemshow@palomargem.org
Website: www.palomargem.org

SPRC
General Meeting
March 18, 2014
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The March meeting was held in reverse to normal so as to present Justin Zyzyx and his talk on Fake Rocks.

The actual meeting was called to order at 8:30. Luis Busso was introduced as our newest member.

The Antelope Valley Club invited us to go to with them Saturday the 22nd to Kramer Corners and Castle Butte. More information was to be provided by Ron L later in the week.

26 members and no guests were present.

There is to be a workshop at Bill and Heidi Webbers' on March 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 for the raffle and refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber
Secretary, SPRC

SPRC
Business Meeting
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse
April 1, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm. In attendance were Ron Lawrence, Tina White, Ron Rackliff, and Bill and Heidi Webber. A quorum was met.

The program for April will be Jason Burgdorfer from College of the Canyons. The subject will be geography.

We discussed members who haven't paid their dues being dropped from the roster and membership rolls.

Placerita Canyon's Open House is Saturday, May 10. This is a good fund-raiser for the club and is close by. Heidi will send out an email to garner names for those members who can work our table that day.

Ron L said that the Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Show is also that Saturday, running Friday-Sunday.

Ron L said that field trips will be held on the 12th, site TBD. Also Saturday the 19th will be a trip to Jasper Hill. Details will be emailed at a later date.

Bill said that we need more grit, templates and scribers and belts for the Genie.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber
Secretary, SPRC

The Olive Green Beauty

Peridot is a member of the olivine mineral family with the chemical composition of $(Mg, Fe)_2SiO_4$. An estimated 80--95% of all production of peridot comes from Arizona, specifically Peridot Mesa, San Carlos Apache Reservation, which is the source of this material. Myanmar, Pakistani and Egyptian gems more rare and of better quality and are quite valuable, approaching the per carat values of top gemstones.

Peridot has been mined as a gemstone for four thousand years or more, and is mentioned in the Bible under the Hebrew name of *pitdah*. Peridot gems along with other gems were probably used in the fabled Breastplates of the Jewish High Priest. Legend says that Peridot was Cleopatra's favorite gem. In fact many "emeralds" of royal treasures have turned out to be peridots!

The lovely Peridot is one of the very few gemstones that appear in only one color-olive green. The intensity and tint of the green, however, depends on how much iron is contained in the crystal structure, so the color of individual peridot gems can vary from yellow-to olive-to brownish green. The most valued color is a dark olive-green.

Peridot (pronounced pair-a-doe) is the gem variety of olivine. It crystallizes deep inside the earth and is basically magnesium iron silicate. Olivine is composed of two minerals fayalite and forsterite. Fayalite is the iron rich member with a pure formula of Fe2SiO4.Forsterite is the magnesium rich member with a pure formula Mg2SiO4. Olivine's formula is written as (Mg,Fe)2SiO$ to show the substitution of the magnesium and iron is the coloring agent for Peridot. The best colored peridot has an iron percentage of less than 15% and includes nickel and chromium as trace elements that may also contribute to the best peridot color.

Journey through History and Geography

Few know that peridot is a very old gemstone and one which has become very popular again today. It is so ancient that it can be found in Egyptian Jewelry from the early 2nd millennium B.C. The stone used at the time came from a deposit on a small volcanic island in the Red sea, some 45 miles off the Egyptian coastal Aswan, which was not rediscovered until about 1900 and has, meanwhile, been exhausted for quite some time.

The ancient Romans too, were fond of this gemstone and esteemed its radiant green shine, which does not change even in artificial light. For that reason they nicknamed it the emerald in medieval. Peridot is also found in Europe in medieval churches where it adorns many cathedrals. During the Baroque period, the rich green gemstone once again enjoyed a brief heyday and then it somehow faded into oblivion.

In order to emphasis the special quality of the Peridots from Pakistan, these stones are offered as Kashmir Peridot', following the famous Kashmir sapphires. Creative gemstone cutters have succeeded in cutting some fascinatingly beautiful one-of stones of more than 100 carats from some of the large, fine, clear crystal with their magnificent rich green!

Although the most beautiful stones come from the border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Peridot as a gemstone also exist in Myanmar, China, the USA, Africa and Australia. Stones from Myanmar have a vivid light green color and fine inclusions with silky sheen to them. Peridot from American jewelry often has somewhat yellowish or gold brown nuances.

This gemstone has no fewer than three names: 'Peridot', 'Crysolite', from the Greek 'gold stone' and 'Olivine', for peridot is the gemstone from the mineral olivine.

Peridot is not particularly hard--only 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale-but it is easy to look after and fairy robust. Peridot cat's eyes and star Peridot are particularly rare and precious.

Pakistan Peridot

Idiochromatic Color

Interestingly since the color in Peridot is due to iron which is also part of the chemical composition, the Peridot is classified as idiochromatic gem.

Idiochromatic gems are always colorful unlike the allochromatic which are colored by chemical elements that are trapped as impurities .Allochromatic gems can occur as colorless when absolutely pure!

Peridot is the official birthstone for the month of August as adopted by the American National Association of Jewelers in 1912. It is also the Zodiac sign of Libra.

The largest cut Peridot is 310 carat (62g) specimen in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

Peridot from Outer Space

Peridot can be also found in meteorites. Peridot crystals have been collected from some Pallasite meteorites.

Pallasite is the unique combination of an iron-nickel alloy with olivine, a meteorite dotted with interplanetary Peridot dated at 4.5 billion years old. The German Geologist Peter Simon Pallas (1741-1811) wrote the first description of this material in 1776 using a piece found in Siberia.

Geologists describe meteorites as chunks of original solar system material that once orbited the sun in an attempt to form another planet between Mars and Jupiter. Due to the enormous gravitational field around Jupiter, they remained in orbit as asteroids.

It is thought that Pallasite sustained melt downs in outer space while still in the asteroid stage, and this effect caused the iron nickel cores to fuse with the olivine mantles. One possible theory for the meltdown is the intense heat produced by the quick-decaying radioactive isotopes in the original material. The resulting high temperatures pushed the metal in the core out towards the mantle and then mixed it with the olivine from the mantle at the interface between the mantle and the core.

Reference: Wikipedia and other internet sources.