

The Sierra Pelona agram



February 2013

... 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.

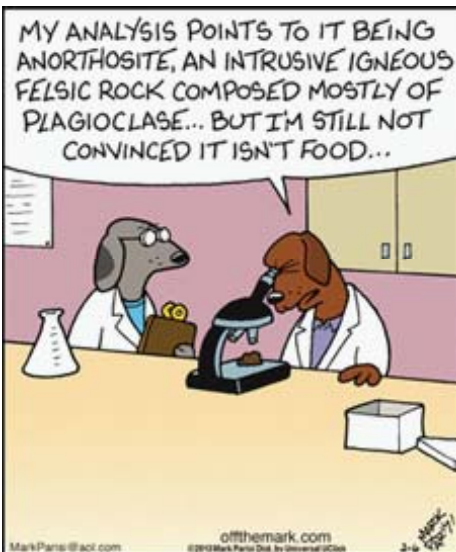
Editor's Thoughts

With the passing of Mike Moreno, I started thinking about the persons we have lost in the last couple of years.

First Al Brown, then George Lawrence and now Mike. Our "Three Old Men". You so often saw the three sitting together at meetings, dinners and other club events. Al was proud to be in charge of the raffle tickets at the general meetings and was a past vice president; George was treasurer and vice president. Mike eschewed holding an elected position, but was Field Trip Chair and Storage Chair for many years as well as being heavily involved with the annual Gem Fair.

With the passing of these three men, my hope is that the club can continue to hold onto our older members; they are our history. I feel they are also our future.

Heidi Webber



Did you know that the first geologist on the moon was Harrison Schmitt who was part of the Apollo 17 mission? From the rock samples he collected, scientists have been able to learn many things about the moon.

February Birthdays

*Happy Birthday
to our
Winter Babies*

Barbara Cottage February 1
Brigitte Mazourek February 1



Officers:

President – Greg Langewisch
Vice-President – Bill Webber
Secretary: Heidi Webber
Treasurer – Greg Mazourek
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

Chairpersons:

Claim - Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table - Akiko Strathmann
Equipment - Bill Webber
Field Trips – Open
Historian -Open
Hospitality – Evelyn
Membership – Janelle Williams
On-Line Presence (FB and website) - Larry Holt
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs – Shep Koss
Publicity –Open
Storage - Vlad Litt
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>.



Presidents Message-February 2013

Well, we're a month into the year and already we've had some fun. Thanks to Shep and Ron for taking us out to the Southern Caddies to find some colorful jaspers and thulite. It's always a lot of fun to explore the desert and pick up some nice rocks along the way. The general meeting was an opportunity to take a look at pics from our field trips in 2012. We talked about our plans to make some of our equipment available to the club membership to borrow and also about how we're going to have regular workshops throughout 2013.

On a sad note, January saw the passing of long time member, Mike Moreno. His memorial was on Saturday-Feb 9th and, as expected there was a good turnout, indicating what a well-liked and respected individual he was. The club will mourn our loss and we are very sorry to see him gone.

There are several dates to mark on your calendars for March, 2013. Tuesday the 19th is our general meeting. The program will include some great info on obsidian. If you have some nice obsidian you'd like to show the club, please bring it in. Saturday the 23rd will be our February field trip to Jalama Beach in Santa Barbara. Expect to find some nice agate, jasper and onyx at the beach, as well as the sand and surf! More about that at the meeting. While it's technically not in February, Saturday-March 2nd will be our first workshop of 2013. Bill and Heidi Webber have generously offered up their home to host the event. Bring your rocks and we'll show you what you can do with them.

So, lots of good things coming up in the near future. We hope you can make them all!
Happy Valentine's Day!

Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end. ~Author Unknown

-The Prez

Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Business Meeting

February 5, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President Greg Langewisch. In attendance were Greg Langewisch, Greg Mazourek, Shep Koss, Ron Lawrence, Vlad Litt, and Bill and Heidi Webber. A quorum was met and the meeting commenced.

Several members present went to Quartzsite and bought many nice specimens for the club to sell at various functions.

The club Certificate of Deposit was discussed. Because of the extremely low interest rate, it was decided to close the CD and open a standard checking account at Bank of America, where our checking account is. This will facilitate transferring funds from one account to another. Heidi made the motion to do so, Vlad seconded, motion passed.

Bill said he needs a saw blade, oil, lube coolant, and an expandable wheel for the large polisher the club got from Al Brown. He has torn apart the saw and is refurbishing the cabinet and saw so that members can easily and safely use it. Because he isn't sure of the exact amount, he was given permission to make the purchases and be reimbursed for that amount. Heidi made the motion and Greg M. seconded. The motion passed.

Ron Lawrence said that the 24" saw needs to be cleaned. He needs help and buckets for legal disposal of the residue. Greg L. said he would help him. Shep is going to take care of the disposal at the dump site near his home.

Greg L. announced that Larry Holt is going to take over the new position of Website Presence Manager. He wants to move the host from Yahoo to Blue Host as they are much more user friendly at a lot less cost. Larry also met with Greg and Heidi and showed them the ideas he has to redesign the SPRC webpage. Heidi made the motion to move the website hosting to Blue Host, Greg L. seconded, motion passed.

Greg L asked Bill to be Equipment Manager. A form or spreadsheet needs to be made for equipment inventory, check-out requirements and length of time out.

Vlad verified that we hold a resale license and that the claims fees had been paid. He also had checked around for better prices for storage as our unit has gone up quite a bit in the last several months. He said that we still have a pretty good price and we should probably stay where we are.

Greg L said that the February field trip will be to Jalama Beach. Details to be announced.

Shep said that the February program will be a video on Davis Creek/Lassen Creek obsidian.

The first workshop of the year will be held Saturday March 2 at Bill and Heidi's home. The hours will be from 10am until we get done. Heidi said she would make a pot of Sloppy Joes for lunch and pass the hat to help pay for it. Normally the hat is passed for pizza, so this will be a little bit of a change. (Vegetarians can make a cheese sandwich.) Greg L wants to hold a workshop several times a year, always the week after the field trip so members can have an opportunity to work their findings from the week before.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S. Webber

Secretary, SPRC



Mike Moreno

On January 17, 2012, the SPRC lost a dear and long-time member of the club. Mike Moreno had been with the club over 50 years. A celebration of his life was held on February 9 at Eternal Valley and a wake was held afterward by his friends and club members Greg and Brigitte Mazourek.

Mike was born on May 18, 1923 in Patagonia, Arizona. As a young man, he worked with the Conservation Corps at the Grand Canyon before moving to California. Here he was a truck driver for a record company. Because of this, he had stacks of LP's which he eventually traded for rock polishers and saws. Because he didn't know how to use this equipment, he was grinding his nails down to nothing before he was introduced to a dopp stick and the right way to do things. Around this time, he joined the Sierra Pelona Rock Club and was a life member when he died.

Mike made a point of teaching new members how to "slab and cab" and polish their found treasures. He was generous with his supplies and knowledge. And by the way, he refused to show you how to do something—he insisted on TEACHING you how to do it yourself.

His favorite collecting spot was the Black Rock Desert in Nevada.

Mike never wanted to hold an elected position in the club, but was always ready to help with any programs or events. He was extensively involved with the Gem Fair, an annual event the club, along with other clubs in the San Fernando Valley held jointly. He was in charge of the displays and made sure they were absolutely perfect. He also was Field Trip Chair for years as well as the Storage Chair, until just a couple of years ago.

Many years ago he cut and polished a cab for the club to enter into a CFMS display. This cab went to the Smithsonian Institute as part of a national tour. It is now a permanent part of the traveling exhibit at CFMS shows.

Mike was a highly respected member of the club and will be missed.



Sierra Pelona Rock Club

General Meeting

Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

January 15, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Langewisch at 7:40pm. Janelle Williams reported 29 members and one guest was present. Larry and Norma Holt were welcomed as the newest club members.

Greg L. said that the field trip for January would be to the Cady Mountains near Ludlow. There is plenty of agate and jasper at the collecting site. Those wishing to attend are to meet at the Mammoth Lane site at 8am.

Greg L. said there are several open chair positions. Evelyn said she would remain Hospitality Chair. The club still needs Field trip, Historian and Publicity Chairs. There are also two new positions—On-Line Presence Chair who will be both the web-site manager and the Face Book facilitator, and Equipment Manager, who will inventory, maintain and check out club equipment to members.

Bill has accepted the position of Equipment Manager and will maintain and clean the equipment. Mike Serino also mentioned that he has the club's other large flat lap.

The first club workshop of the year will be March 2.

D.J. talked about the Culver City Gem Show and if the SPRC would be entering a display board with samples taken from our claim.

Ron Lawrence said that around 7 people were going to be meeting up at the Quartzsite show on January 26 and 27. Anyone else interested, let him know for possible carpooling.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm for the program.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi S. Webber
Secretary, SPRC

Larimar



History

The Dominican Republic's Ministry of Mining records show that on 23 November 1916 Father Miguel Domingo Fuertes Loren of the Barahona Parish requested permission to explore and exploit the mine of a certain blue rock he had discovered. Pectolites were not yet known in the Dominican Republic and the request was rejected.

In 1974, at the foot of the Bahoruco Range, the coastal province of Barahona, Miguel Méndez and Peace Corps volunteer Norman Rilling *rediscover* Larimar on a beach. Natives, who believed the stone came from the sea, called the gem *Blue Stone*. Miguel took his young daughter's name Larissa and the Spanish word for sea (*mar*) and formed *Larimar*, by the colors of the water of the Caribbean Sea, where it was found. The few stones they found were alluvial sediment, washed into the sea by the Bahoruco River. An upstream search revealed the in situ outcrops in the range and soon the *Los Chupaderos* mine was formed.

Geology

Larimar is a variety of pectolite, or a rock composed largely of pectolite, an acid silicate hydrate of calcium and sodium. Although pectolite is found in many locations, none have the unique *volcanic blue* coloration of larimar. This blue color, distinct from that of other pectolites, is the result of copper substitution for calcium.

Miocene volcanic rocks, andesites and basalts, erupted within the limestones of the south coast of the island. These rocks contained cavities or vugs which were later filled with a variety of minerals including the blue pectolite. These pectolite cavity fillings are a secondary occurrence within the volcanic flows, dikes and plugs. When these rocks erode the pectolite fillings are carried downslope to end up in the alluvium and the beach gravels. The Bahoruco River carried the pectolite bearing sediments to the sea. The tumbling action along the streambed provided the natural polishing to the blue larimar which makes them stand out in contrast to the dark gravels of the streambed.

Los Chupaderos

The most important outcrop of blue pectolite is located at *Los Chupaderos*, in the section of *Los Checheses*, about 10 kilometers southwest of the city of Barahona, in the south-western region of the Dominican Republic. It is a single mountainside now perforated with approximately 2,000 vertical shafts, surrounded by rainforest vegetation and deposits of blue-colored mine tailings.

Larimar jewelry is offered to the public in the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere in the Caribbean as a local speciality. Most jewelry produced is set in silver, but sometimes high-grade larimar is also set in gold. It also has become available elsewhere. Some Far-East manufacturer have started to use it in their production and buy large quantities of raw stones as long as this is still permitted

Quality grading is according to coloration and the typical mineral crystal configuration in the stone. Larimar also comes in green and even with red spots, brown strikes etc. due to other matters and / or oxidation. But the more intense the blue and the contrasts in the stone, the higher and rarer is the quality. The blue color is photosensitive and fades with time if exposed to too much light and heat.

Reference: Wikipedia



Specifications

Name: Larimar

Family: Pectolite

Variety of: Pectolite,

$\text{NaCa}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8(\text{OH})$

Composition: Hydrated sodium calcium silicate with manganese

Origin: Barahona, Dominican Republic, La Hispaniola, Caribbean

Hardness: 4.5-5

Color: varies between white, light blue, sky blue, green-blue, and deep blue

Uses: ornamental stone and semi-precious stone

Cleavage: perfect in two directions, but not seen in this compact form

Crystal System: triclinic

CFMS Shows

For more information, go to the CFMS or club website

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair Contact: Bert
Grisham, (915) 849-1674
Email: bert67@verizon.net

March 1 - 3: NEWARK, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
Newark Pavilion
Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 305-4196
Email: Cdmiller59@gmail.com
Website: www.mgscv.org

March 2 - 3: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
The Arboretum & Botanic Gardens
Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624
Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com
Website: www.Moroks.com

March 2 - 3: VENTURA, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725
Email: abaris2007@gmail.com
Website: www.vgms.org

March 8 - 10: VICTORVILLE, CA

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Stoddard Wells Road
Tele: (760) 243-2330
Website: www.vvgmc.org

March 9 - 10: SAN MARINO, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center

Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239
Email: joenmar1@verizon.net

March 9 - 10: SPRECKELS, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
Spreckels Veteranâ€™s Hall
Contact: Karin Salomon, (831) 375-5233
Email: kcbakes27@yahoo.com
Website: www.salinasrockandgem.com

March 9 - 10: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209)
524-3494
Email: terry_mcmillin@yahoo.com
Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 16 - 17: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds
Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 745-1816, cell
(707) 334-2950
Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net

March 16 - 17: VISTA, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
Contact: Diane Hall, (760) 741-0433, cell
(760) 213-1377
Email: dhall13@cox.net
Website: www.palomargem.org

March 23 - 24: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds

Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277
Email: amy95247@yahoo.com
Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 23 - 24: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds
Contact: Gloria Marie, (530) 367-2262
Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
Website: www.rockrollers.com

March 23 - 24: TORRANCE, CA

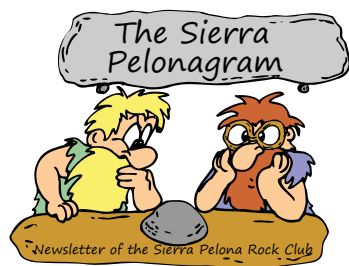
South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Ken Miller Recreation Center
Email: Sudduth3@msn.com
Website: www.palosverdes.com/sblap

April 13 - 14: MARIPOSA, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
Contact: Chel, (209) 742-7625
Email: mineralmuseum@sti.net

April 13 - 14: PARADISE, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Manuel Garcia, (530) 877-7324
Email: mmppg@att.net
Website: www.paradisegem.org



Sierra Pelona Rock Club

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