

The Sierra Pelonaagram



January 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.



A very warm and Happy Birthday is extended to all the winter babies.

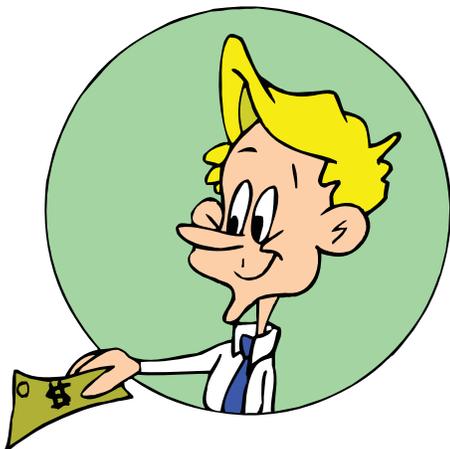
January:

Judd Figatner	Jan. 10
Bonnie Forstner	Jan 14
Dianne Henry	Jan 30
Larry Holt	Jan 29
Debbie Meredith	Jan 11
Martin Schreiner	Jan 9
Bruce Velie	Jan 3
Austin Williams	Jan 5

February:

Barbara Cottage	Feb 1
Brigitte Mazourek	Feb 1

The January field trip will be to the southern Cady's, near Ludlow. Greg will have more detail at the General Meeting and via email.



Don't forget, if you haven't already done so, your dues are due NOW. Dues are \$20 per year. You can pay Greg at the General Meeting.

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. Garnet, derived from the word granatum, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry. Garnet is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites. Today, the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka, and India.



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 Chair--Open
 Facebook--Open
 Field Trips – Open
 Historian - Open
 Hospitality – Open
 Membership – Janelle Williams
 Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
 Programs – Shep Koss
 Publicity –Open
 Storage - Vlad Litt
 Sunshine - Brigitte Mazourek
 Website – Greg 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 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: January-2013



Hello all.

Welcome to the Sierra Pelona Rock Club V.2013. Before I get into all the excitement we have planned I'd like to begin The President's Message by thanking Ron Lawrence, the rest of the 2012 SPRC board as well as each and every club chairperson for all the hard work they put into making 2012 an excellent year for the Club! I know it may look easy to keep this club going, but I assure you that there is a tremendous effort required by board and chair people to keep it running smoothly. So, thanks again to all of you who do what you can to make this a great club to be a part of.

As crazy as it may seem, the 2013 board and chair people are striving to make this year even better than the last. We are hitting the ground running and finished our first Business Meeting of the year with many new goals and action items, including:

- Creating an organized process for lending out club equipment to its membership
- Planned quarterly "Backyard Workshops" where everyone can come and work on their rocks
- Purchasing new club equipment for club use and to loan out to members
- More "hands on" programs where we can learn skills such as wire wrapping, cab making, and other lapidary crafts

We want to make sure that you not only have the opportunity to collect some great rocks, but also are able to do something cool and interesting with them as well.

There's a lot going on behind the scenes to make the club run smoothly so everyone can just focus on having a great time at the general meetings, field trips and other club sponsored events. But these things don't happen by themselves. We begin 2013 with several vacancies in the club chairs. We'll need some of you to help out the club by donating your time and effort to volunteer for a club chair position. I'll talk a little more about what opportunities are available at the January general meeting.

We're going to start this year by celebrating 2012. The January meeting will be a retrospective of last year where we'll show lots of pictures of our many field trips and outings. There will be displays of the rocks and other items we collected during our trips as well as talk of the future and where we want our club to go from here. I invite all of you who collected on a field trip to bring in some of your favorite "finds" to show off to the rest of the club. The more cool rocks we bring the more fun the meeting will be. If you know someone who may be interested in our club, this month's meeting would be a good time to bring them.

In closing, I'll leave you with the January 2013 Quote of the Month:

A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties. ~Harry Truman

See you at the meeting.

Greg Langewisch
President-Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Sierra Pelona Rock Club
Business Meeting
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse
January 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by incoming president Greg Langewisch. In attendance were Greg Langewisch, Bill and Heidi Webber, Diane Southwell, Ron Lawrence, Greg Mazourek, Omid Aeen and Trina MacDonald, DJ Gervais and Janelle Williams. A quorum was present and the meeting commenced.

It is noted that the standing board for the year 2013 is Greg Langewisch-president, Bill Webber-vice president, Greg Mazourek-Treasurer, Heidi Webber-secretary and Shep Koss-Federation director.

Greg L stated that he had many goals for the year 2013. Among them, he wants to increase active membership and see an increase in attendance on field trips and club events. He wants to make a new chair position: Equipment Supervisor, who will be in charge of developing a system of keeping an inventory of all club equipment and how long it should be loaned out and training required to be able to take it out on loan. They will keep a record of if it can be lent out, who has it, and for how long. He said it should all be stored in a central location. He also wants to look into buying more equipment.

DJ said she would like to see a shed on property like other clubs, to be used as a workshop and storage area. It would require electricity and water and probably a bathroom. She said she will try to identify various steps needed. Heidi said she would send out an email to club members to return club property they may have, or if it isn't readily movable, like the large saw in Ron's shed, to identify it.

Greg M. bought a small projector for computer/iPad/iPod use for \$300 from Fry's. Greg L plans to use it for the program on Tuesday's General Meeting.

Greg L wants to buy a swap top flat lap for a cost of \$325. Heidi made the motion to buy one. Greg M seconded/ passed. Bill to purchase from Greg's source.

Due to the popularity, workshops are now going to be held on the Saturday after the field trip in the second month of each quarter. This quarter would be March 2, second quarter on June 1. Times will be 10am-3-ish. Places may vary but will be announced in advance.

Greg M motioned we purchase snacks for meetings rather than depend on a sign-up sheet. He said he realized how time-consuming signup sheets can be for the Hospitality Chair. The chair would be the person to purchase the snacks and drinks each month with a budget of around \$20. Anyone who wants to bring goodies anyway are also welcome to do so. Greg L. seconded/passed.

Programs for January: Greg L will present a retrospective on field trips and events in 2012. Feel free to bring any treasures you obtained during the year. The purpose is to show everyone how much fun it is to be involved in various field trips and events and hopefully be more active.

Janelle wants to order 100 4" patches. She has already been given board approval.

DJ said the Culver City Fiesta of Gems would like us to present a nice display for their cases. It has to be our claim materials. Greg M made a motion to do so and Greg L seconded/passed. It is due by May. The show is the first week of July.

Ron L said Howell Thomas invited us to the museum again to see the skull. We need to schedule a date. He would like to see newer club members who haven't been to the museum to have priority since there is limited space in the back rooms.

Heidi will audit the books for 2012.

Heidi moved to adjourn at 8:45pm, Greg M seconded/passed.

SPRC General Meeting
Placerita Canyon Nature Center
December 9, 2012 12pm

The December General Meeting was the SPRC annual Holiday Dinner. This year it was held at Placerita Canyon Nature Center and catered by Marie Calendar's. About 50 people attended.

First on the agenda were elections: Greg Langewisch was voted as president for the year 2013 by a show of hands. All other current board members will keep their positions: Bill Webber as vice-President, Greg Mazourek as Treasurer, Heidi Webber as Secretary, and Shep Koss as the Federation Director. Chairpersons will be announced by Greg at the January Business Meeting and as positions are filled.

The formal portion of the General Meeting was then adjourned for dinner, auctions and silent auctions.



Green Nephrite Jade Pendant

What is Jade?

“Jade” is a word used for a very durable gemstone material that has been fashioned into jewelry, sculptures and other ornamental objects for thousands of years. Most people who think of jade imagine a green gemstone material. However, jade occurs in a wide variety of colors that include: green, white, lavender, yellow, blue, black, red and gray.

Are All Jades the Same?

Originally all jade objects were thought to be made from the same material. However, in 1863 a Frenchman, Alexis Damour, discovered that jade was actually two different minerals: jadeite and nephrite. Because these two materials were so difficult to distinguish and because the word “jade” was so entrenched in common language its use in the gemstone trade has persisted. In this article, the word “jade” will be used for jadeite and/or nephrite without distinction. (The word “nephrite” is also an imprecise term. It is used in reference to the minerals actinolite and tremolite.)

Jadeite and Nephrite

Although jadeite and nephrite have very similar visible and physical properties they have distinctly different mineral compositions. Jadeite is an aluminum-rich pyroxene while nephrite is a magnesium-rich amphibole. They have distinctly different chemical compositions and distinctly different crystal structures but slightly different physical properties.

China has always been the leading producer of jade objects. Master Chinese craftsmen before 1863 recognized that some of the jade obtained from Burma (now the Union of Myanmar) had superior working qualities and superior appearance when compared to jades obtained from any other source. The Burmese jade was slightly harder and produced a higher polish. Unknowingly they had distinguished jadeite from nephrite and appreciated it enough to pay premium prices for jadeite. However, they didn’t have the knowledge of chemistry and crystallography needed to distinguish them in a formal way.

Rarely the Chinese craftsmen encountered fine-grained jade with a bright translucence and a rich, uniform, green color. This beautiful material was given the name “Imperial Jade” and regarded as a stone of highest quality. At that time in China ownership of Imperial Jade was reserved only for the Emperor. Now, anyone can own Imperial Jade. The best specimens can cost more than the highest quality diamonds.

Substances Confused With Jade

While it is difficult to distinguish between jadeite and nephrite, a number of lower-value materials are also confused with jade. Green quartz, amazonite, chrysoprase, jasper, serpentine, aventurine, grossular garnet and other materials are all - unknowingly or knowingly - used as a substitute for jade. These sometimes enter the marketplace without distinction. All of these materials can have a color, luster and translucence that is very similar to jade - so similar that the average person is unable to recognize them.

Dyes, bleaches, heat treatments and other procedures are sometimes used to enhance the color of jadeite, nephrite or other materials to give them the appearance of finest jade. These treatments can often be detected in a careful examination by an experienced person using a microscope, hand lens or ultraviolet light. Sellers have an ethical obligation to accurately identify the material that they are selling and to reveal any treatment that has been applied.

The caution to buyers is: if you are spending serious money for a jade object be sure that you are buying from a knowledgeable and trusted dealer. If you don’t know what you are buying then you should pay no more for jade than you would pay for the same object made from a material with no intrinsic value.



Hand-made, antique Chinese jadeite buttons showing the typical color range of high quality green jadeite. The jadeite in these buttons was most likely mined in Burma (the Union of Myanmar today). This photo was taken by Gregory Phillips and is distributed under a GNU Free Documentation License.



Hand-made Mayan jadeite pectoral from the Mayan Classic period. This photo was taken by John Hill and is distributed under a GNU Free Documentation License

Early Use of Jade in Tools

People have used jade for about 7,000 years. The earliest objects made from jade were most likely tools instead of gemstones. Jade is a very hard and tough material that breaks to form sharp edges. (“Toughness” is the ability of a material to resist fracturing when subjected to stress. “Hardness” is the ability of a material to resist abrasion.) Early toolmakers took advantage of these properties of jade and formed it into cutting tools and weapons. It was used to make axes, projectile points, knives, scrapers and other sharp objects for cutting.



Hand-made jade dragon from the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC - 9 AD). This photo was taken by Snowyowls and is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 2.5 License.

Use of Jade as a Gemstone

Jade is a durable, colorful material that can be worked into shapes and given a high polish. These properties make it a very desirable gemstone. Jade has been used to make a variety of jewelry items such as: pendants, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, beads and other items. These are often made of solid jade, combined with other gems or placed in settings made from gold, silver or other precious metals. In addition to jewelry, jade is used to make small sculptures, ornaments, religious art, and small functional objects.



A pendant in the shape of a flat disk made from a light green nephrite. Photo copyright by iStockPhoto and Trudy Karl.

However, the Chinese have a higher regard for jade than any other people. For thousands of years, jade has been the most popular gemstone in China. Chinese emperors desired excellent specimens of jade and they traded or waged war with distant people to acquire them. In China, gifts made from jade are given at almost every important station in life such as: birthdays, anniversaries, marriages and other celebrations. It is also a commonly used material for producing religious art.

Geography of Jade

Most people immediately think of China as the source of jade and jade objects. Although China is the most important source for mined nephrite and the most important manufacturer of jade objects, the material is not unique to that country. Jade has been found and used on all continents except Antarctica.

Jade has been used to make tools, weapons and important ornamental objects in Asia, Europe, Australia, the Americas and numerous Pacific islands. In all of these locations people held jade in highest esteem and used it to make religious art or ornaments for their rulers. None of these ancient cultures had contact with one another yet they all independently used jade for their most sacred and important objects.

Social Importance of Jade

In the United States and Europe, diamonds, opals and a number of faceted stones are much more popular than jade. In these areas jade is normally regarded as a “semiprecious” stone.



A reproduction of a Mayan or Aztec ax head. Photo copyright by iStockPhoto and Stacy Brogan.

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA
San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674

Email: bert67@verizon.net

March 1 - 3: NEWARK, CA
Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley

Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 305-4196

Email: Cdmiller59@gmail.com

Website: www.mgscv.org

March 2 - 3: ARCADIA, CA
Monrovia Rockhounds

Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624

Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com

Website: www.Moroks.com

March 2 - 3: VENTURA, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725

Email: abaris2007@gmail.com

Website: www.vgms.org

CFMS Shows

For more information, go to the CFMS website or to the club website.

March 9-10: SAN MARINO, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society

Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239

Email: joenmar1@verizon.net

March 9 - 10: SPRECKELS, CA
Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club

Contact: Karin Salomon, (831) 375-5233

Email: kcbakes27@yahoo.com

Website: www.salinasrockandgem.com

March 9 - 10: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society

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

Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 745-1816, cell (707) 334-2950

Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net

March 16 - 17: VISTA, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club

Contact: Diane Hall, (760) 741-0433, cell (760) 213-1377

Email: dhall13@cox.net

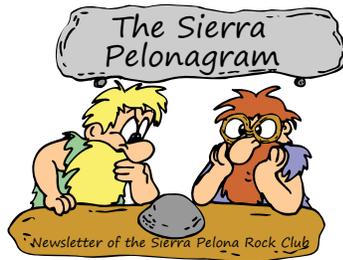
Website: www.palomargem.org

March 23 - 24: Angels Camp, CA
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277

Email: amy95247@yahoo.com

Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org



Sierra Pelona Rock Club
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Newhall, Ca. 91322