

The Sierra Pelonaagram



January 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.

January Birthdays

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

February Birthdays

Trina Aeen	Feb. 1
Roxanne Heagy	Feb. 7
Jeff Legler	Feb. 13
Brigitte Mazourek	Feb. 1
Tina White	Feb. 17



Upcoming CFMS Shows

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

January 18 - 19: EXETER, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia
Contact: Pepper Okada, (559) 733-5842
Email: Pepperok@clearwire.net
Website: www.tulegem.org

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society,
Banning
Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674,
(951) 288-9025 cell
Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 21 - 23: NEWARK, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
Contact: Cathy Miller
Email: info@mgscv.org
Website: www.mgscv.org

March 1 - 2: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624
Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com
Website: www.Moroks.com

March 1 - 2: VENTURA, CA

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

March 8 - 9: SAN MARINO, CA

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

March 8 - 9: SPRECKELS, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
Contact: Karin Salomon, (831) 375-5233
Email: k1.salomon72@yahoo.com
Website: www.salinasrockandgem.com

March 8 - 9: TURLOCK, CA

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

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 – Barbara Farrar
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: hwebber50@gmail.com

Visit the *SPRC* website <http://www.sierrapelona.com/>

President's Message



Well, here I am again! I want to thank all the board members who remained and those who were elected into their new position. And big thanks to the various chairpersons. Each and every one of you are vital to the smooth running and vitality of our club.

And speaking of club vitality, membership participation is also vital to any club. I know you probably get tired of hearing this, but think about why you are with us: You want to learn about and enjoy rocks and minerals and even the geology around us. Going out on field trips is like going to a fantastic laboratory. It is all there for you to discover. Added benefits are beautiful, peaceful vistas, fresh air, exercise and on occasion, hot dogs! How can you beat that?!

I also plan to continue with Greg Langewisch's programs with the workshop every other month and on alternating months, the wire-wrapping sessions. They technically aren't classes, but we meet, work on our projects and do learn from those that are there making stuff we want to learn. These sessions will be available as there is space at the clubhouse.

The clubhouse is scheduled for a renovation, but that has now been put off for several months, possibly even the rest of the year. So we will have access for now. We will be sure to let you know if at any time we don't have access.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on the 21st.

Bill Webber
President, SPRC

**Listed below is our lineup for the chairpersons for 2014.
Thank you all.**

Claim: Mike Serino
Equipment: Bill Webber
Facebook: Greg L (He is thinking about it)?
Field Trips: open
Historian: open
Hospitality: Tina White
Membership: Barbara Farrar
Pelonagram: Heidi Webber
Programs: (Shep would love for someone to take this over)
Publicity: Bruce Velie
Rock Table: Akiko Strathmann
Storage: open
Sunshine: Brigitte Mazourek
Website: Larry Holt

Welcome to new member
Deb Clem!

Dues are now due. Please remember to bring your payment to the General Meeting and give to Ron Rackliffe. Any dues not paid by the February Business Meeting (the first Tuesday of the month) are considered delinquent. You can also mail your dues to Ron or the PO Box. His address is on the membership roster. Dues are \$20 per year.

Sierra Pelona Rock Club
Business Meeting
January 7, 2014
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. In attendance were Tina White, Ron Rackliffe, Shep Koss, Greg Langewisch, Bill and Heidi Webber and Mike Serino. A quorum was met.

President Bill Webber said he would like to continue some programs that Greg Langewisch introduced last year, namely the workshops every other month and in alternate months the wire wrap session at the clubhouse as long as it is available.

Again, it was discussed about getting more participation in the field trips. It is very frustrating for the field trip chair to plan the outing and then have a handful of people show up. We all understand life commitments, ability and so on, but since this is a rock club, we would like to see more people participating in the activities. We discussed reinstating a participation prize, more notice, etc. It was also suggested that some outings not collecting might be nice, such as a geology-oriented trip. It was decided that this would be a topic for the General Meeting in January. We also need a Field Trip Chair.

Greg L said he would think about becoming the Face Book chair.

Mike Serino, regarding the Diablo Claim: Mike will call Sacramento BLM regarding the claim challenge by American Travertine and Onyx. The board agreed to pay any expenses Mike incurs. We need to make absolutely sure their claim has been in effect for as long as they say and that our claim was given to us in error by the BLM. He will be obtaining maps, etc. and Tina has friends who can do an overlay to try to pinpoint our claim.

A little background on this issue: After much research, measuring, paperwork, fees, etc. Ron Lawrence and Dianne Southwell were highly instrumental in obtaining the Diablo Onyx claim 4 years ago. In November 2013, we were contacted by American Travertine and Onyx saying that this is their claim and has been for over 20 years. Mike S has been in contact with them and while it appears they haven't been near the claim since we put up our collecting box and discovery posts 4 years ago, they have been paying the annual fee. We need to be sure we are at the right spot, hence the maps, etc. They say we are a mile south of the claim. BLM doesn't use GPS coordinates; they use a grid map which can make exacting locations very challenging.

Greg M. Ron L. and Ron R. are all planning to go to Quartzite at least once and will pick up materials for the rock table and other events for sale.

Deb Clem was voted in as our latest member. Welcome Deb.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi S Webber



Amber - A Most Unique Mineral!

by Mark Nelson

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Amber represents a past that we can only study in the fossil record! We know from fossils that there were insects and vegetation 40 to 60 million years ago and, in amber, we frequently see the actual insects and vegetation in the glowing mineral specimens!



The gem we call Amber has been appreciated for its color and natural beauty since Neolithic times. Amber is fossilized tree resin - often mistakenly referred to as tree sap. Whereas sap is a thin material which acts like arterial blood to a tree, running deep in the heart of the tree, resin lies at the outside edge of the tree - right under the bark - and acts like a clotting agent to heal the tree when its damaged or when attacked by insects - which are then trapped and encapsulated in the sticky substance!

Amber is one of a few organic materials that classify as a gemstone. The others are pearls, jet, ivory, coral some colorful shells like abalone. Much valued from antiquity to the present as a gemstone in jewelry, amber is also made into a variety of decorative objects.

Amber is a very soft material - varieties are rated from 1 to 3 on Mohs scale of hardness so be especially careful with pliers when wrap-ping amber in wire. Amber is also used as an ingredient in perfumes and as a healing agent in folk medicine.



Amber comes in a variety of colors, including ruby red, pale yellow/brown and green. Like many gems and soft minerals (peridot, citrine and turquoise) amber is often enhanced by jewelers and faked by thieves. We would be wise to know the source of the amber we acquire and to ask the dealer if it is real and where it came from!

Photos: Wikipedia and National Geographic



Sierra Pelona Rock Club
General Meeting
December 22, 2013
Placerita Canyon Nature Center

The meeting was called to order by out-going president Greg Langewisch. This is to be a very brief meeting before the Holiday Party and Pot Luck. The new board for the 2014 year was announced and presented to the membership:

Bill Webber President
Ron Lawrence Vice-President
Heidi Webber Secretary
Ron Rackliff Treasurer
Shep Koss Federation

Many thanks go to the nomination committee, Bruce Velie, Bill Webber and Omid Aeen.

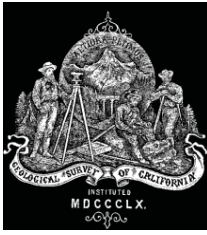
It was announced that the work on the clubhouse should be starting by mid-January, meaning that the monthly General Meeting for January will need to be held elsewhere. Any changes will be announced to membership as soon as we are aware of them.

UPDATE 1/02/13: Ron Lawrence just checked with the office and it will now be at the very least March before the renovations start, so we will be meeting as usual at the clubhouse during January and February.

The meeting was adjourned for the potluck, silent auction and live auction.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi S Webber

Ruth Hidalgo sent me this for the Pelonagram. There are quite a few pages, so I think it would be nice to post a different page monthly for the next few months. Thanks Loads, Ruth! There is an awful lot of neat information here. Read the first 12 facts presented below. (There just might be a test!)



California Geological Survey - 150th Anniversary 150 Geologic Facts about California



California's geology is varied and complex. The high mountains and broad valleys we see today were created over long periods of time by geologic processes such as fault movement, volcanism, sea level change, erosion and sedimentation. Below are 12 of 150 facts about the geology of California and the California Geological Survey (CGS).

General Geology and Landforms

1. California has more than 800 different geologic units that provide a variety of rock types, mineral resources, geologic structures and spectacular scenery.
2. Both the highest and lowest elevations in the 48 contiguous states are in California, only 80 miles apart. The tallest mountain peak is Mt. Whitney at 14,496 feet; the lowest elevation in California and North America is in Death Valley at 282 feet below sea level.
3. California's state mineral is gold. The Gold Rush of 1849 caused an influx of settlers and led to California becoming the 31st state in 1850.
4. California's state rock is serpentine. It is apple-green to black in color and is often mottled with light and dark colors, similar to a snake. It is a metamorphic rock typically derived from iron- and magnesium-rich igneous rocks from the Earth's mantle (the layer below the Earth's crust). It is sometimes associated with fault zones and often has a greasy or silky luster and a soapy feel.
5. California's state fossil is the saber-toothed cat. In California, the most abundant fossils of the saber-toothed cat are found at the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles.
6. California state gem, benitoite, was discovered in 1907 in San Benito County. Crystals are typically light to sapphire blue, but can also form in a wide range of colors. Although benitoite is found in several places worldwide, large gem quality crystals are found only in California.
7. The Mendocino Triple Junction is located off the coast of northern California, where three tectonic plates (Pacific Plate, Gorda Plate, and North American Plate) meet.
8. The San Andreas Fault forms a transform plate boundary where the Pacific Plate meets the North American Plate south of the Mendocino Triple Junction.
9. Geologic hazards in California can consist of earthquake shaking and fault movement, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions, floods, and exposure to hazardous minerals.
10. Floods in California occur along the flood plains of streams and rivers, and also in desert washes and alluvial fans. Alluvial fans form at the mouths of canyons in California's deserts and semi-arid environments from floodwaters depositing sediment as the water velocity decreases.
11. The Salton Sea was created in 1905 when several floods inundated a bypass in irrigation canals and diverted the entire Colorado River for nearly two years. Currently, the Salton Sea is maintained by water diversions from the Colorado River.
12. Salts are found throughout California's desert areas in basins that have periodically filled with water that subsequently dried up or evaporated. Evaporation of freshwater in Mono Lake, thought to be the oldest lake on the North American Continent, has left behind salts and minerals making the water three times saltier than sea water.