

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



June-July-August 2012

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*... Member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc. ...*

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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.



July 13 – 15: RIVERSIDE, CA

CFMS GOLD AND GEM SHOW & CONVENTION  
Hosted by Valley Prospectors  
Riverside Municipal Auditorium  
3485 Mission Inn Avenue  
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 – 5; Sun 10 – 4  
Contact: Steve Schubert, Show Chair, (951) 943-0535  
Email: [meschubert@hotmail.com](mailto:meschubert@hotmail.com)



[More About Show](#)

### Summer Birthdays

Many of our members will be enjoying the long lazy days of summer with a celebration of their own.

Happy Birthday to all of you.

#### June

Carole Degenfelder, June 7  
Connie Flores-Reisbeck, June 2  
Paul Hobbs, June 11  
Akiko Strathmann, June 25  
Heidi Webber, June 10  
Janelle Williams, June 3

#### July

DJ Gervais, July 5  
Trina MacDonald, July 28

#### August

Ralph Hyde, Aug. 3  
Karen Kubota, Aug. 19  
Ron Lawrence, Aug. 12  
Vlad Litt, Aug. 21



#### OOPS!

I am so sorry, I left out a couple of May Birthdays:

Paul Kinney, May 27  
Greg Langewisch May 24  
Mike Serino, May 26  
Monica Travis May 31

### Officers:

President – Ron Lawrence  
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  
Facebook--Greg Langewisch  
Field Trips – Greg Langewisch  
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh  
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie  
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 Sierra Pelonagram Editor at:

**Sierra Pelona Rock Club  
P.O. Box 221256  
Newhall, Ca. 91322**

Or e-mail: [hwebber@pacbell.net](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

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

### **President's Message**

Summer break is here and our last meeting is behind us. No more meetings until September but there will still be plenty of activities and outings to keep us busy.

The picnic on Sunday should be well attended with plenty of good food and bingo not to mention the fundraising expertise of our auctioneer. On the menu are ham, beef, chicken, and lasagna; also salads and drinks with more desserts than we can eat.

I'm sure you have read about the field trip fundraiser on the fifteenth. If you're a card player come show us your stuff; if you're like me and can tell the difference between a queen and a five maybe you'll get lucky. Even if you aren't a card player, come enjoy the pizza and soda and watch the action. Check with Greg L. or the email he sent out about donations.

We have an overnight field trip to the San Simeon area with a number of collecting areas for different materials. The weather seems good for a beach trip and a camp site is set up. It can also be a day trip. Again check with Greg.

I hope to have a work shop or two here at my place and we can cut rocks on the club saw if you can catch me at home. There are plans for other field trips and outings with at least one dinner during the break. Keep checking the club's Face Book page and emails as the summer progresses.

Hope everyone has a great summer and has lots to share at our Show-and-Tell September meeting.  
Ron



### **SPRC General Meeting**

Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

May 15, 2012

The General Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Janelle announced that there were no guests and 36 members present. We welcomed three new members, Candice Jones, Trina MacDonald and Omid Aeen.

Ron Lawrence wasn't in attendance, so Vice President Bill Webber issued thanks to the people who worked the booth at the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House.

Greg Langewisch said the May field trip would be to Gem Hill for agate and green opal, Brown Butte for agate and Lucy in Rosamond for anything else. Janelle suggested since Lucy is so generous with the club that anyone visiting her spend some time helping to set the place to order, or whatever else she would like to be done.

Greg also said that the June 23 field trip would be to the beaches of the San Simeon area. He is arranging for a group camp site for those who wish to make it a weekend. Otherwise it is about a 3-hour drive.

Evelyn reiterated that the end of year pot luck and general meeting would be Sunday, June 10. A flyer and email with details and sign-up list will be sent to members. The club will provide the paper goods, cutlery, cups, etc. There will also be a white elephant auction and bingo.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm and Dick Flayharty gave his slideshow on the SE corner of Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heidi S. Webber  
Secretary, SPRC

**SPRC Business Meeting**  
June 5, 2012  
Greenbriar Mobile Estates

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. In attendance were Ron Lawrence, Bill and Heidi Webber, Vlad Litt, Shep Koss, Greg Mazourek, Greg Langewisch and Evelyn Velie. A quorum was met.

**Old Business**

End of Year Picnic: Evelyn said she would be at the site at 9am to secure the area and start setting up. The club is supplying plates, cups, utensils and main dishes such as meats and casseroles.

Procedures Manual: The draft of the manual was sent to board and chair persons earlier in the week in preparation for a vote of acceptance. Ron proposed the Policy and Procedures Manual be accepted. Bill seconded and the motion was passed. The manual will be emailed or mailed to all members and will become part of the introduction package that the membership chair gives to new members.

Selling Shed Items: It was decided to have a silent auction as a program for a General Meeting after we reconvene in September. These will be a variety of specimens and rough rock. We will also start bringing a small assortment of items to sell at each general meeting. The shed is full and we need to make space for more things that belong there that are now living at members' houses.

**New Business**

Work Shops: Ron wants help cleaning, oiling and general working on the club saw. Bill, Greg M and Greg L will meet at Ron's on Friday morning (June 9) to do some work, maybe cutting halite slabs with water before putting oil back into the saw, since halite absorbs oil so badly. Ron plans to have a couple of workshops at his place during the summer break; he will notify by email when he decides.

Bill said we need more grit and gaskets and oil. Ron called a motion to buy necessary grit and supplies. Heidi and Greg seconded, motion passed.

Ron reminded us that the Lombardi fundraiser is just around the corner. Normally we have our booth the second weekend in October, but the date will be firmed up later. In the meantime we need to go out to the desert to get more shells (TBA), replenish our polished rock, and obtain candy and toy gifts for the wheel.

Greg mentioned that Brigitte as Sunshine Chair, needs to be told of events within the club family that would need a card for any reason. Please remember to contact her.

Field Trips: Greg Langewisch said that the June field trip on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> is still on. He will be sending an email to members, plus a reminder in the Pelonagram.

Greg has also arranged for a Las Vegas Night at the clubhouse on June 15. Again, email with details will be sent, also in the Pelonagram. This night will be open to club members and their friends and family and will run from 5-9pm. Buy in will be \$20 and non-players will be charged \$10 at the door. This will allow pizza and drinks to be bought during the evening. Benefits will go to future field trip expenses.

Committee Reports: Ron reiterated that we badly need a Publicity Chair. Diane Southwell wrote a nicely detailed procedure for the manual that spells out the duties. This very important job should take only a few minutes a month. Vlad (storage) wants to clear stuff from the shed to try to bring in off-site items at other members' homes. A plan is in place to start selling items at the General Meetings in the future. Greg M (website) said the site is fine, and that anyone with experience, or just wants to learn, and can take over this job would be welcome to it. He said he updates monthly and it only takes a couple minutes as the interface is very easy to use. Otherwise, it is just monitoring the site to make sure all is well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

## Moonstones

*Moonstone is also known as selenite (“selene” means “moon” in Greek). It is one of the birthstones for June. Moonstones’ variety of colors, pearly sheen and mystical properties make them versatile and desirable, especially as jewelry. Moonstones are found on most continents, making them abundant enough to meet demands.*

### Types

Moonstones belong to the feldspar group, the largest group in the earth's crust. Moonstones are either of the orthoclase feldspar (adularia) subgroup or the plagioclase feldspar (peristerite) subgroup. Moonstones come in a variety of colors, such as grey, brown, yellow, pale orange, peach, red, pink, green and blue. The rarest and most valuable moonstones are clear and colorless, with a hint of blue shine.



### Features

Moonstones are named because their sheen is similar to moonlight. In 100 A.D., Romans thought the rock was actually made with moonlight. Moonstones' three-dimensional depth of color is called either adularescence (if the moonstone is from the orthoclase feldspar group) or peristerescence (if the moonstone is from the plagioclase feldspar group). The layering of all moonstones causes the light to refract repeatedly inside the stone and gives the stone its iridescent quality.

### Geography

Moonstones can be found all over the world, but for higher-quality moonstones, many go to Sri Lanka. Mined from the earth where orthoclase and plagioclase layers are most abundant, moonstones can be found in irregular shapes among other gems, gravel and clay debris. Other countries where they can be found include India, Madagascar, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Switzerland, Tanzania, Myanmar, Russia and even parts of the United States.

### Mystical Properties

Moonstones have been used for many metaphysical and healing purposes for a long time. One use is for protection. Sailors would carry moonstones to be safe at sea, and travelers would carry them to be safe on land. A second use is for increasing psychic abilities and inducing lucid dreaming. Third, moonstones are said to contain feminine energy, helping people to get in touch with their emotions and intuition. Healing is the fourth use, especially for issues related to female fertility, menstrual irregularities and body imbalances. Moonstones are said to be at their peak power during the full and waxing periods of the moon.

### Refining

Unpolished moonstones look ordinary and have little of the captivating qualities of those found at the jewelry store. Once moonstones are cut and polished into shapes such as cabachon, where the bottom is flat and the top of the stone is dome-shaped, their quality and shine come through. Moonstones have a hardness of 6 on the Mohs scale, which is considered slightly hard but not as hard as a steel file, so they should be handled with care to avoid possible damage. Because of this relative softness, minor surface scratches can be easily polished out, restoring the stone back to its pearly luster.

### Past Uses

The Moonstone Temple of Anuradhapura, a former capitol city of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), built around 100 B.C., featured elaborate steps with inlaid moonstones. These steps were of significance to Buddhism in its relationship to enlightenment. But the moonstones once there were said to have been looted throughout the centuries after India invaded in 933 A.D. Moonstones were very popular during the Art Nouveau period at the turn of the 20th century, when they were used widely in jewelry. One piece in particular was the tiara of turquoise, moonstone and diamond that the last Grand Duke of Hesse gave to his second wife. The tiara is now displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

*Source: EHow*



## Just a Rock?

by Erica Nathan

When you pick up an igneous rock, you may not recognize it as a common rock like granite or basalt. Rocks are harder to identify than minerals because they have many more contributing factors. One of these factors is texture. There are four main textures that can be found in igneous rocks. They are called vesicular, glassy, aphanitic, and phaneritic. Let's learn a bit about them!

### Type Description Example

Vesicular : No crystals, lots of tiny holes formed by bubbles during cooling

Pumice: Glassy No crystals, looks like a chunk of glass Obsidian

Aphanitic: Lots of tiny crystals which are seen best under magnification (like a 10x loupe)

Basalt: Phaneritic Lots of larger crystals Granite

### How do these textures form from magma?

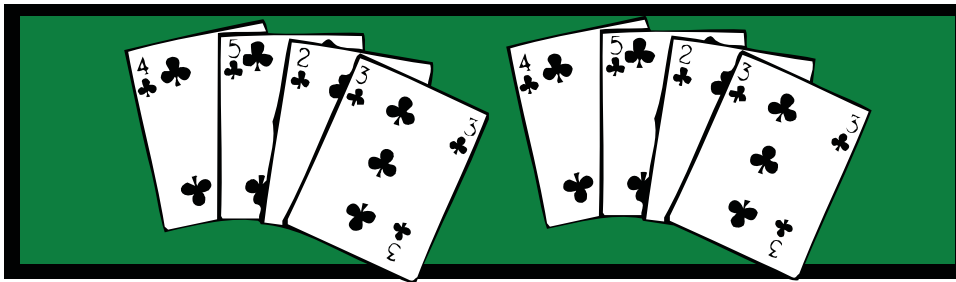
Let's start with vesicular. The magma cools so quickly that the bubbles don't even have time to reach the surface and are trapped in the rock.

Magma that cools very fast doesn't have a chance for crystals to form at all creates volcanic glass. This makes our glassy igneous rocks.

Aphanitic rocks are formed when magma cools quickly, but slowly enough for the bubbles to dissipate and then begins to form tiny crystals while cooling.

When magma cools slowly, larger crystals have time to form in the magma. When completely cooled, this magma becomes the phaneritic rocks.

*Ref: Diamond Dan newsletter*



On Friday-June 15<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Field Trip Fundraiser Event. This will be a Texas-Holdem tournament held at the Greenbrier clubhouse from 5:00pm – 9:00pm. The entry donation will be \$20 which includes food and drink (pizza, water and sodas). Registration for the tournament will begin at 5:00pm and is open to SPRC members and guests. All SPRC guests will need to be accompanied by a member and should be 13 years of age or older. The tournament will begin at 5:30pm. The tournament will end at 8:30pm sharp, after which prizes will be awarded to the winners. More detailed rules covering the tournament will be provided in a subsequent email.

This is a fundraising event. So, there will be no cash prizes. There will be one rock prize awarded for every 3-4 tournament participants. These prizes will be taken from the club storage and awarded to the winners of the tournament at its completion.

While you can register for the event when you arrive, I encourage as many of you as possible to pre register by responding to let me know that you are attending and how many guests you will be bringing (if any). Those of you who may want some instruction and or tips on how to play, here are a couple of links to Youtube videos that you can review:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKPHpnpvEeM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1Li3SEJEa8>

If you wish to contribute to the event but not participate in the tournament, you can donate \$10 to eat pizza and hang out.

Let me know if you have any questions.

I hope to see a bunch of you there!



Akiko wins the best natural rock contest for the April field trip with an interesting rock. Thanks for bringing it in, Akiko!



Dave and Deb win the best worked rock from the April field trip with a nice wire wrapped speckled agate. Congrats, Dave!

### CFMS Shows

**June 9 - 10: LA HABRA, CA**

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
Contact: Loretta Ogden, (909) 598-2456, (909) 217-5864 Cell  
Email: [fbriktr1@aol.com](mailto:fbriktr1@aol.com)  
Website: [www.nocgms.com](http://www.nocgms.com)

**June 16 - 17: GLENDORA, CA**

Glendora Gems & Mineral Society  
Contact: Bonnie Bidwell, (626) 963-4638  
Email: [Ybidwell2@aol.com](mailto:Ybidwell2@aol.com)

**June 30 - July 1: CULVER CITY, CA**

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Contact: Robert Thirlaway, (310) 462-2269  
Email: [fiestaofgems@gmail.com](mailto:fiestaofgems@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.culvercityrocks.org](http://www.culvercityrocks.org)

**August 3 - 5: NIPOMO, CA**

Orcutt Mineral Society  
Contact: Wes Lingerfelt, (805) 929-3788  
Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

**August 4 - 5: SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society  
Contact: Ellen Nott  
Email: [ellen\\_nott@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_nott@yahoo.com)

**August 31 - September 3: FORT BRAGG, CA**

Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society  
Jerry Sommer, (707) 937-1833  
SEPTEMBER 2012

**September 8 - 9: DOWNEY, CA**

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Jon Fults, (714) 856-7548, (714) 287-5743 cell  
Email: [jhfults@verizon.net](mailto:jhfults@verizon.net)

**September 15 - 16: BORON, CA**

Mojave Mineralogical Society  
Contacts: Steve Breckenridge (760) 559-0872, [Rock5b@starband.net](mailto:Rock5b@starband.net)  
David Eyre, (760) 762-6861, [david\\_eyre@mail.com](mailto:david_eyre@mail.com)

**September 15 - 16: PASO ROBLES, CA**

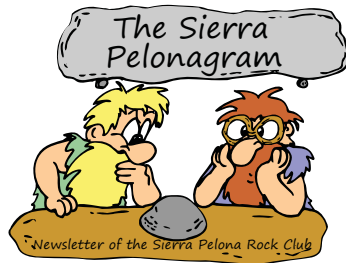
Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Contact: Dale Conrad, (805) 226-0719  
Website: [www.slrockhounds.org](http://www.slrockhounds.org)

**Greg Langewisch Says:**

In June, we are planning an overnighiter to Moonstone beach (and surrounding areas). This will be on the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of June. I will be reserving a campsite at San Simeon campgrounds which can accommodate up to 8 people. If we have more folks coming, I can reserve another spot. The sites I will reserve will be developed sites. So, they have access to bathrooms and showers. However, they are a bit more expensive than the undeveloped sites and cost \$35 a night. If you are planning on bringing a trailer, go ahead and make a reservation through Reserve America's website at: [http://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/San\\_Simeon\\_Sp/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=CA&parkId=120086&topTabIndex=CampingSpot](http://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/San_Simeon_Sp/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=CA&parkId=120086&topTabIndex=CampingSpot)

If you are going on the trip and want to reserve a spot at the campsite(s) I am reserving, please let me know ASAP. As the date draws closer, I'd assume that the available campsites will dwindle.

It's gonna be a lot of fun.



**Sierra Pelona Rock Club**  
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**Newhall, Ca. 91322**