

The Sierra Pelonaagram



June 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.

Business Meeting

June 4, 2013

Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The June 4 Business Meeting fell short of a quorum, and so no official business was able to be conducted.

There was discussion about future actions, as follows: Discussed finances. Storage is coming due in August and taxes in July. We did better this year at PNC Open House than last year (by about \$100).

There is an upcoming field trip to Moonstone Beach.

Ron L to provide claim receipts / sheets to Mike S in order to turn them in in August. We need forms at the claim.

May try to do a weekday field trip to the Natural History Museum in July. Ron L suggested Greg M bring his company from Germany.

May try to do a dinner the third Tuesday of July and August at Rattlers (or somewhere else).

There are no meetings in July or August. The Pelonagram also will not be published. Have a great summer and watch for announcements for special gatherings.

We are sorry to announce the passing of long-time club member, Carole Degenfelder. She was a life-member and hasn't been active for some time, so many of you may not know her. I asked Ron Lawrence for a few words about her:

Carol was in the club for many years and the last ten years or so her being active she was the treasurer.

She really ran the club since we had a number of presidents and she was the steady rock that kept the club going through the years when the club had its smallest number of members. She did as Heidi does now; she did all that needed to be done.

Happy Birthday to all of you!

June:

Connie Flores-Reisbeck June 2

Paul Hobbs June 11

Heidi Webber June 10

Janelle Williams June 3

Akiko Strathmann June 25

July:

DJ Gervais July 5

Trina Aeen July 28

Ron Rackliff July 28



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 Velie

Membership – Janelle Williams

On-Line Presence (FB and website) - Larry Holt

Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber

Programs – Shep Koss

Publicity –Bruce Velie

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

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Or e-mail: hwebber@pacbell.net

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



Hello All

I hope everyone is staying cool and enjoying their summer. I know we've already had some really hot days this summer and am glad that we are able to take a break like this to avoid the desert heat. Even though we're on break, we still like to stay in touch with each other. We're already planning a get together at Rattlers on July 23rd @ 6pm and a club workshop on July 27th @ 10am. Stay tuned for other opportunities to get together over the summer break.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday-September 17th at the clubhouse. This is our show and tell meeting, where everyone should bring in something (rock related) to share with the group. Could be anything from some nice jewelry to a pretty rock you picked up at some far away locale. I encourage everyone to bring something to share. We really need a lot of you to participate to make this a good event!

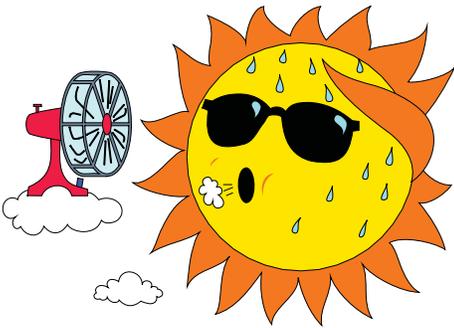
That said, I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer. I'll see you at Rattlers!

June Pelonagram Delay

A Message from the Editor

If you noticed the lack of a June Pelonagram, there were a couple reasons, the main one being that I had surgery the 3rd of June and have been unable to be at my computer to finish the issue until now. So here you are, a little late, but still relevant. Enjoy your summer, be safe and I hope to see you at Rattlers the end of July. Your next issue of the Pelonagram is September when we gear up for the 2013-2014 year.

Heidi Webber



SPRC General Meeting

May 21, 2013

Greenbriar Mobile Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. Janelle reported 19 members and one guest: Debbie Schoenman.

Greg L. spoke about the club trip to the strawberry onyx. He said the theme of the day seemed to be getting stuck in the sand—even Ron L! However everyone had a great day of collecting and have great memories. He said the workshop at Bill and Heidi Webbers' went great with lots of shade, cuts and polishes. He brought samples of strawberry onyx and a shark tooth from Shark Tooth Hill.

Greg L. said we had a good table at the Placerita Open House, plenty of help and we made some money.

The May trip is to the North Edwards claim, Trina's Flats for chert, District G for jasper, agate and chert and a weenie roast at the claim, asking for \$3 for lunch and if you want to bring something to share, please do.

We welcomed our newest member Roxanne Heagey.

Greg announced that the June 9 potluck would be in place of the General Meeting. There will be a White Elephant auction, Bingo and lots of food. Bruce asked that people email him and Evelyn with what they would be bringing so they can be sure of a nice variety.

June's Field Trip will be to Moonstone Beach on June 21. Camping is available, but you need to reserve right away. Greg will be sending out an email to firm up plans, meeting places, etc.

There will be no July and August meetings or field trips. Often there is a club dinner at a local restaurant called by the president and all will be notified by email.

There will be no July and August Pelonagram.

September's meeting will be show and tell. Remember to bring your projects and finds from over the summer.

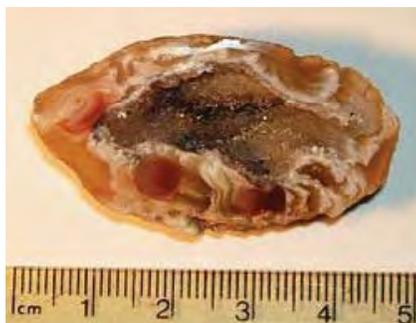
Ron L brought slabs to sell for \$4 to go into the club coffers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm for Greg M's program.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi Webber, Secretary SPRC

Chalcedony



Chalcedony /kæl' sɛdɒni/ is a cryptocrystalline form of silica, composed of very fine intergrowths of the minerals quartz and moganite. These are both silica minerals, but they differ in that quartz has a trigonal crystal structure, while moganite is monoclinic. Chalcedony's standard chemical structure (based on the chemical structure of quartz) is SiO_2 (silicon dioxide).

Chalcedony has a waxy luster, and may be semitransparent or translucent. It can assume a wide range of colors, but those most commonly seen are white to gray, grayish-blue or a shade of brown ranging from pale to nearly black.

The name *chalcedony* comes from the Latin *chalcedonius* (alternatively spelled *calchedonius*).

The name appears first in Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis Historia* as a term for a translucent kind of Jaspis. The name is probably derived from the town Chalcedon in Asia Minor. A little later the Greek word *khalkedon* (χαλκηδών) appears in the Book of Revelation (Apc 21,19). It is a Hapax legomenon, a word found nowhere else, so it is impossible to tell whether the precious gem mentioned in the Bible is the same mineral known by this name today.

Chalcedony occurs in a wide range of varieties. Many semi-precious gemstones are in fact forms of chalcedony. The more notable varieties of chalcedony are as follows:



Agate is a variety of chalcedony with multi-colored curved or angular banding. Fire agate shows iridescent phenomena on a brown background; iris agate shows exceptional iridescence when light (especially pinpointed light) is shone through the stone. Landscape agate is chalcedony with a number of different mineral impurities making the stone resemble landscapes.



Chrysoprase (also spelled chrysoprase) is a green variety of chalcedony, which has been colored by nickel oxide. (The darker varieties of chrysoprase are also referred to as prase. However, the term prase is also used to describe green quartz, and to a certain extent is a color-descriptor, rather than a rigorously defined mineral variety.)

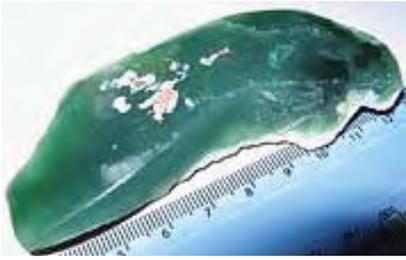


Moss agate contains green filament-like inclusions, giving it the superficial appearance of moss or blue cheese. There is also tree agate which is similar to moss agate except it is solid white with green filaments whereas moss agate usually has a transparent background, so the "moss" appears in 3D. It is not a true form of agate, as it lacks agate's defining feature of concentric banding.



Aventurine is a form of chalcedony, characterized by its translucency and the presence of platy mineral inclusions that give a shimmering or glistening effect termed aventurescence. Chrome-bearing fuchsite (a variety of muscovite mica) is the classic inclusion, and gives a silvery green or blue sheen. Oranges and browns are attributed to hematite or goethite.

Chalcedony, continued



Mtorolite is a green variety of chalcedony, which has been colored by chromium. Also known as chrome chalcedony, it is principally found in Zimbabwe.



Heliotrope is a green variety of chalcedony, containing red inclusions of iron oxide. These inclusions resemble drops of blood, giving heliotrope its alternative name of bloodstone. A similar variety, in which the spots are yellow instead of red is known as plasma.

Carnelian (also spelled cornelian) is a clear-to-translucent reddish-brown variety of chalcedony. Its hue may vary from a pale orange, to an intense almost-black coloration. Similar to carnelian is sard, which is brown rather than red.



Chalcedony knife, AD 1000-1200



Onyx is a variant of agate with black and white banding. Similarly, agate with brown, orange, red and white banding is known as sardonyx.



Chalcedony cameo of Titus head, 2nd Century AD

History

As early as the Bronze Age chalcedony was in use in the Mediterranean region; for example, on Minoan Crete at the Palace of Knossos, chalcedony seals have been recovered dating to circa 1800 BC. People living along the Central Asian trade routes used various forms of chalcedony, including carnelian, to carve intaglios, ring bezels (the upper faceted portion of a gem projecting from the ring setting), and beads that show strong Greco-Roman influence.

Fine examples of first century objects made from chalcedony, possibly Kushan, were found in recent years at Tillya-tepe in north-western Afghanistan. Hot wax would not stick to it so it was often used to make seal impressions. The term *chalcedony* is derived from the name of the ancient Greek town Chalkedon in Asia Minor, in modern English usually spelled Chalcedon, today the Kadyköy district of Istanbul

At least three varieties of chalcedony were used in the Jewish High Priest's Breastplate. (Moses' brother Aaron wore the Breastplate, with inscribed gems representing the twelve tribes of Israel). The Breastplate included jasper, chrysoprase and sardonyx, and there is some debate as to whether other agates were also used.

In the 19th century Idar-Oberstein, Germany became the world's largest chalcedony processing center, in particular agates. Most of these agates were from Latin America, in particular Brazil. Originally the agate carving industry around Idar and Oberstein was driven by local deposits that were mined in the 15th century. Several factors contributed to the re-emergence of Idar-Oberstein as agate center of the world: ships brought agate nodules back as ballast, thus providing extremely cheap transport. Also, cheap labor and a superior knowledge of chemistry allowing them to dye the agates in any color with processes that were kept secret helped. Each mill in Idar Oberstein had four or five grindstones. These were of red sandstone, obtained from Zweibrücken; and two men ordinarily worked together at the same stone.

Reference: Wikipedia