

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



March 2013

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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.

### March Birthdays

Jerry Farrar	March 7
Roger Gibson	March 3
Ruth Hildalgo	March 10
Brenda Litt	March 14
Evelyn Velie	March 27
Bill Webber	March 19



### April Birthdays

Deb D'Agostino	April 3
Norma Holt	April 8
Sarita Hyde	April 9
Shep Koss	April 14
Greg Mazourek	April 12
Suzie Rizzo	April 4
Ron Strathmann	April 11

A Great Big Welcome  
To new member  
**Olivia Miseroy!**

### Jalama Beach Agate

Photos by Greg Langewisch



### 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**  
**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/>



## Hello all you Rockhounds!

Well February is behind us now and what fun it was. We had a great field trip to Jalama beach where we collected a bunch of travertine, agate, jasper and various beach rocks as well as tackled the famous Jalama Burger (yummy)! While not in February, we just had the first of our 2013 club workshops. Big thanks to Bill and Heidi for hosting the event this time. We had an excellent turn out and everyone had a great time working on their rocks.

March is already starting out strong! Stoddard Wells was a lot of fun. Tons of vendors and some of us got out to collect the distinct Stoddard Wells marble. There's still more to come this month. We've still got our upcoming meeting as well as the March field trip. I hope to see a great turn out at both events!

Talk to you all soon,  
The Pres

### SPRC Workshop

The first SPRC workshop of the year was held March 2 at Bill and Heidi Webbers' home. There was a good turnout and a good lunch was supplied. A lot of learning went on, which is necessary to be able to borrow club equipment. The next workshop should be April 27 at a to-be-determined location.





**Sierra Pelona Business Meeting**  
Greenbriar Estates Club House  
March 5, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. In attendance were Greg Langewisch, Greg Mazourek, Mike Serino, Heidi and Bill Webber, Evelyn and Bruce Velie, and Shep Koss. A quorum was met and the meeting commenced.

The minutes from the February meeting were approved as written in the Pelonagram.

Greg L. said that the first workshop of the year was a great success. We all felt that more saws, and more shade would be nice. We also have waivers that we need to remember to make available for participating members to sign before they start work. The next workshop will be held the Saturday following the April field trip (April 27). Location to be announced.

Shep announced that the March program guest will be Jason Badgley on Collecting in the Santa Monicas AND he will also lead the March Field Trip. The only detail at this point is that we will be meeting up at Kanan Dune Road. Details will be supplied in a timely manner.

There are still a few club members who haven't paid their dues. Contact Greg M or Heidi to verify if you can't remember if you have paid or not.

Bruce Velie agreed to take the position of Publicity Chair. We still need a Field Trip Chair.

Olivia Miseroy was voted in as a new member. Greg M motioned/Evelyn 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed. Welcome Olivia.

Greg M. said that the club CD account was closed and the funds placed with the Bank of America checking account.

Shep wanted to remind anyone interested in Camp Paradise at Zzyzx to go to the CFMS website for more information. From the Home Page, Click on ES Camps. Other information will be in the Pelonagram.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Heidi S. Webber, Secretary



**SPRC General Meeting**  
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse  
February 19, 2013

Greg Langewisch called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. In attendance were 23 members and one guest, Olivia Miseroy. Greg Mazourek motioned to approve the minutes of the January General Meeting as presented in the Pelonagram. Bill seconded/motion passed.

Greg announced that this month's field trip would be to Jalama Beach. There are collecting restrictions and heavy fines if caught. Nothing that was alive can be collected, i.e.: whale bone. There is still plenty to collect such as beach agate, jasper and travertine. There is a \$10 per car admission. Meeting place is the Wal-Mart in Stevenson Ranch near the Camping World. Greg will send an email with further detail.

Greg announced the workshop to be held at Bill and Heidi's house on March 2. \$3 for lunch to be made by Heidi.

Greg announced the new website designed by Larry Holt. He would like club photos of field trips and worked stone. Larry would also like old photos and recent past photos.

Bill Webber reminded everyone that we are collecting the club equipment for refurbishing as needed. We are working on rules and guidelines and a waiver for members. (completed after this meeting).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm for the program.

Respectfully Submitted  
Heidi S. Webber, Secretary

## FORDITE

by Layna Palmer, Wire-Sculpture.com

Who doesn't love a great car? The "new car" smell, the iconic designs, the beautiful paint in a rainbow of colors, and the pleasure of taking a wonderful machine on new and exciting adventures. The automobile has been the standard of the American culture for more than a century and we still love our vehicles!

When Henry Ford first started rolling his products off the assembly line, he was asked what colors the vehicles came in. He re-plied, "Any color you want, as long as it's black!"

Enter the Du Pont Company. In 1924, DuPont, in conjunction with General Motors, developed a nitrocellulose paint lacquer that dried fast and came in several colors, the most popular of which was blue. New paint came in the 1930s that was enamel instead of lacquer and it was baked on the car's frame. This paint lasted longer and retained its shine better over time.

The automobile was mounted on an assembly stand and pulled into the painting room, sprayed by a person and baked in place, then pulled down the line for further assembly. The paint overspray on the walls and assembly stands would also be baked in place, making a very hard, thick product.

Over time, the layers of paint would build up and make it difficult to pull the car chassis through the painting process and the workers would chip the paint off the metal sleds and walls. In the 1960s and 70s, acrylic paint was introduced that was more durable and weather-resistant than the enamel being used at the time, creating a buildup of vibrant colors in defined layers on the overspray. Workers noticed this material building up, and they would clear it away and take it home, forming it into shapes. Voila...Fordite, or Motor Agate, was born!

About Fordite - Fordite is not really a gemstone, but the buildup of layer upon layer of acrylic enamel paint that has been baked over and over again, making it very hard and durable. The lapidary process for Fordite is similar to other stones, though care does need to be taken since it is in such defined layers and may have hairline cracks from the removal process at the factory. I couldn't find any information about the hardness on Mohs scale, but it is a medium-hard material with some earlier specimens being a little softer due to the composition of the paint. That's recycling!

You may be wondering as to the lead content and safety of the paint. The paint is an acrylic material that does contain lead. Lead is absorbed into our bodies through breathing, our mucus membranes, ingestion, and occasionally through cuts or scrapes. However, inorganic lead that is contained in paint is not easily absorbed through our skin, even though a cut or scrape, so unless you are going to eat it, there is really no danger in wearing a piece of Fordite.

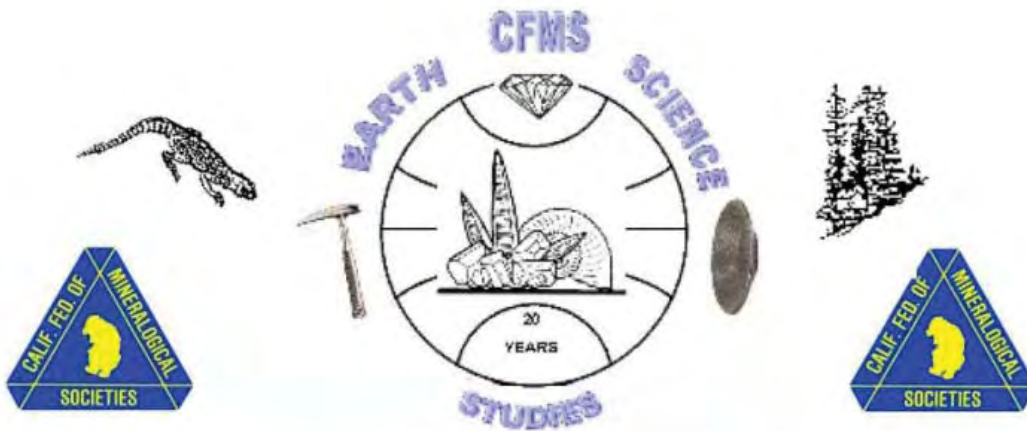
There are several different types of Fordite - some having separated colors and regular banding with a primer layer in between while others are color-on-color with metallic and limited color ranges. Add in the color from drips and swirls most likely from the walls and floor of the painting rooms, and you have very neat patterns.

Where is Fordite from? Fordite also comes from several different places. Great Britain has some beautiful specimens that not only have the opaque colors, but metallic and transparency to some of the layers too. Detroit Fordite, although not necessarily from Detroit, is American in origin and usually has a gray primer layer between the vibrant colors. Ohio Fordite is another American original and comes from the factories that painted vans, so the colors can be earth-tones of green and brown or the more vibrant colors of the 70s with yellow, orange and bright blues.

Why Fordite is a Collector's Item? Automobiles are no longer painted in this way today, because the painting process is automated and the chassis charged to attract the paint molecules, so there is virtually no waste. Because of this, Fordite is a finite material that is quickly running out, but what a great piece of automotive history!

*Reference: Rockhound Ramblings, February 2013 issue.*





The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
 Invites You to Join Us at Our  
 Rockhound "Kids" Camp for Adults

at

Zzyzx

Camp Paradise



**Zzyzx is in the Mojave Desert near Baker, California**  
**Camp Paradise is in the Plumas National Forest near Clipper Mills, California**

**Classes Include:**

Cabochon Making  
 Faceting  
 Wire Wrap Art  
 Soft Stone Carving

Silver Smithing  
 Chain Making  
 Lost Wax Metal Casting  
 Ming Trees

Beading  
 Glass Bead Making  
 Dichroic Glass Fusion  
 Enameling

Precious Metal Clay--  
 PMC  
 Intarsia and Inlay



We Do Not Offer All These Classes at Every Session

For information about which classes are being offered and for more information about time & location, Contact:



**E.S.S. Committee Chair**  
**Marion Roberts**  
 1505 Plumas Ave                   OR  
 Modesto CA 95358-5939  
 209-538-0197

**Camp Zzyzx Registrar**  
**Audrey Harvey**  
 3363 Tuxford Pl  
 Thousand Oaks CA 91360-4626  
 805-492-2253

**Camp Paradise Registrar**  
**Anna Christiansen**  
 OR 245 N 6th Ave  
 Oakdale CA 95361-3124  
 209-847-1173

**2013 CAMP SCHEDULES & APPLICATIONS**

2013 Camp Zzyzx Dates: March 31 - April 8 <a href="#">Application Form</a>	2013 Camp Paradise Dates: 1st week: August 25-30 2nd week: September 1 - 6 <a href="#">Application Form</a>
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## CFMS Shows

For More information, go to the CFMS website

### March 16 - 17: VISTA, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine  
Museum  
Contact: Mike Nelson (760) 580-5902

Email: [manelson1@cox.net](mailto:manelson1@cox.net)

Website: [www.palomargem.org](http://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](mailto:amy95247@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://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](mailto:gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com)

Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

### March 23 - 24: TORRANCE, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society  
Ken Miller Recreation Center  
Contact: Bill Sudduth, (310) 787-7851

Email: [Sudduth3@msn.com](mailto:Sudduth3@msn.com)

Website: [www.palosverdes.com/sblap](http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap)

### April 12 - 14: VISTA, CA

San Diego County Council of Gem & Mineral Societies  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine  
Museum  
Contact: Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7570

### April 13 - 14: MARIPOSA, CA

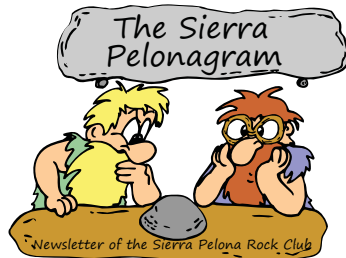
Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
Contact: Chel, (209) 742-7625  
Email: [mineralmuseum@sti.net](mailto:mineralmuseum@sti.net)

### April 13 - 14: PARADISE, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society  
Elks Lodge  
Contact: Manuel Garcia, (530) 877-7324

Email: [mmpg@att.net](mailto:mmpg@att.net)

Website: [www.paradisegem.org](http://www.paradisegem.org)



**Sierra Pelona Rock Club**

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