

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



March 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.

## Birthdays

### March:

Luis Busso March 25  
Jerry Farrar March 7  
Roger Gibson March 3  
Ruth Hidalgo March 10  
Brenda Litt March 14  
Bill Webber March 19



### April

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

### Tee Shirts

We are planning to put in an order with Optima Graphics for club T-shirts. If you are interested in buying one or two, let me know what size you would like: large-medium-small and if it is a regular t-shirt, polo shirt or tank. They will be aqua blue with the club logo and name embroidered on it. Not sure of the cost yet, but think around \$12-\$16 for the polos.

### May Field Trip

Ron Lawrence is putting together a long field trip to the Tonapaugh, Nevada area. This club trip will happen May 2 through the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. The turquoise mine is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays. You can come up at any point within that time frame (or go on your own at some other time). Also collecting in the Tonapaugh area is wonderstone, jasper, agate, petrified wood and apache tear. Then on the trip home he will be stopping at the garnet collection area near Bishop. As you can see, this will be a great week, or partial week. Motels are available as are camp grounds.

**A Great Big Welcome**  
To New Member  
Luis Bucco!

### 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 – Open  
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: [hwebber@pacbell.net](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

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

## President's Message



Well, with Daylight Savings Time in effect, to me this is official spring. And nature agrees with me, look all around you and see the blooming trees, shrubs and flowers. In the desert, everything is also in bloom and it is just beautiful.

We had a great trip with the CFMS for thulite and then on our own to Dish Hill where we got some great peridot druzy. Luis also got a really nice piece with druzy and pretty good-sized crystals too. This is definitely a return trip!

The Stoddard Wells tail-gate show had many club members making the trek to Victorville to go on the marble collecting outing that Victor Valley Gem Club puts on, and then to wander the various stalls looking for that perfect piece to buy. This weekend (March 15) is a trip to our North Edwards claim where we will go to several collecting sites and then back to the claim for gathering travertine and a Weenie Roast lunch. Greg Langewisch started this tradition last year and it is always popular. Feel free to bring a side dish, but also give Greg a couple dollars for his supplying the dogs and buns, etc.

June is almost upon us and so is the annual End-of-Year potluck picnic. More details will be released soon, including the date, but it is usually the first weekend or so of June.

It is hard to believe the year is almost half over, but when you have this much fun, it really flies. There is another trip with Ron L. in the works; he will be supplying details via email. This trip will involve camping or hoteling and I can't wait!

So, until I see you next week at the General Meeting, Happy Collecting!  
XOXOXO

Bill Webber  
President, SPRC



March 22 - 23: ANGELS CAMP, CA  
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society  
Calaveras County Fairgrounds  
Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

March 22- 23: ROSEVILLE, CA  
Roseville Rock Rollers  
Roseville (Placer County)  
Fairgrounds  
Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

March 29 - 30: TORRANCE, CA  
South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Torrance  
Ken Miller Recreation Center  
Website: [www.palosverdes.com/sblap](http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap)

APRIL 2014  
April 11 - 13: RENO, NV  
Reno Gem & Mineral Society

### CFMS Shows

Craft Show  
Reno Town Hall  
Website: [www.renorockhounds.com](http://www.renorockhounds.com)

April 11 - 13: VISTA, CA  
Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
Website: [www.vistarocks.org](http://www.vistarocks.org)

April 12 - 13: PARADISE, CA  
Paradise Gem & Mineral Society  
Elks Lodge  
Website: [www.paradisegem.org](http://www.paradisegem.org)

April 12 - 13: SAN JOSE, CA  
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
Website: [www.scvngms.org](http://www.scvngms.org)

April 19 - 20: MARIPOSA, CA  
Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
Website: [www.camineralmuseum.com](http://www.camineralmuseum.com)

April 26 - 27: THOUSAND OAKS, CA  
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchard Park Community Center  
Website: [www.cgamc.org](http://www.cgamc.org)

April 26 - 27: SANTA CRUZ, CA  
Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society  
Website: [www.scmgs.org](http://www.scmgs.org)

MAY 2014  
May 2 - 4: BISHOP, CA  
Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society  
Bishop Fairgrounds  
Email: [steve@littlebearrocks.com](mailto:steve@littlebearrocks.com)

**Sierra Pelona Rock Club**  
General Meeting  
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse  
February 18, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:35. We welcomed 21 members and 3 guests.

Bruce Velie said he will check with the office about reserving room for a wire wrap session. (ultimately was held on March 12, 2014).

Ron Lawrence said this Saturday's Field Trip: We will join up with the CFMS for their field trip to gather thulite and then to Lavic. We are to meet at the restaurant in Ludlow at 9am, leaving Mammoth at 6am for carpooling. High-clearance vehicles needed to reach the thulite site and 4-wheel drive for Lavic and Pisca Crater (if time permits). Ron also suggested that we could separate after the thulite and go to Dish Hill for peridot. We decided to go to Dish Hill.

March 7-9 is Stoddard Wells and this is the official field trip for the club in March. The CFMS trip is just a bonus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 for the program.



**Sierra Pelona Rock Club**  
Business Meeting  
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse  
March 4, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Tina White, Ron Lawrence, Bruce and Evelyn Velie, Greg Mazourek, Shep Koss and Ron Rackliffe. A quorum was met.

1. Luis Busso was voted in as our newest member. Congratulations Luis!
2. Workshop April 5? 12? Or 13?. Will be determined shortly.
3. Publicity will send wire wrap email.
4. Ron L: Stoddard Wells is the official field trip for March. Possibly a second later on.
5. Discussed the Diablo Onyx Claim. Shep can order paperwork from Sacramento and will contact Mike for the other party's claim number, etc.
6. Shep said he has booked Justin Zzyzx to talk about Rock Fakes for the March meeting. April's program will be Jason Burgdorfer talking about geography.
7. Ron R. said there are still outstanding members' dues owed. Heidi will send an email to those members. After that, the member will be dropped from the rosters.
8. End of Year Pot Luck Picnic is tentatively set for June 14. More details will come later.
9. Greg M: We need to file forms 1043 with a \$400 fee to keep our non-profit status. This is a one-time charge. He presented the motion, Ron L. seconded and motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

*Oh, you lucky March Babies! You get TWO birthstones! Read On:*



## **AQUAMARINE**

The counterfeit of emeralds are aquamarines. Aquamarine, meaning “water of the sea” is a birthstone for the month of March (along with bloodstone and jasper). Aquamarine is also recommended gemstones to give on the 16th and 19th wedding anniversaries. It is closely related to emeralds and some call it the sister gemstones of emeralds. In fact, the emerald belongs to the same family of jewels as the aquamarine. Most Aquamarines have pale blue color but deeper blue hue of aquamarines are actually more valuable.

Aquamarines are considered to be in the same class as beryl (beryl means bluish-green color in Greek) which has a hardness rate of 7. Other beryl minerals include pink morganite, golden heliodor and pale green beryl. Aquamarine is the most common variety of gem beryl, it occurs in pegmatite, in which it forms much larger and clearer crystals than emeralds.

The amount of iron within the aquamarine structure will influence the color of the stone. This is why the color varies between blue and green, it also depends on where the iron impurities are located and the concentration of iron within the beryl crystal structure. Now, because of the modern method, aquamarine gemstones can be heat-treated in order to drive out the green color and leave a more desirable darker blue. Irradiation can reverse this process. In order to make aquamarine displays a “cat’s eye” effect (aka asterism), they are cut as a cabochon. When compared to the relative abundance of this gem, the costs of producing synthetic aquamarine are very high, that is why it is hard for you to find synthetic aquamarine on the market. Aquamarines are also known for being relatively free of inclusions. These stones cannot withstand high temperature and will lose their color when heated at 800-900 centigrade. Real aquamarines will feel cold to the touch and will float in bromophorm solution.

Madagascar was the historical source of aquamarines. Most of the world’s aquamarines are now mined in Brazil. The natural color of Brazilian aquamarines leans toward bluish-green. Other sources include Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia in Africa.

## **BLOODSTONE**

Bloodstone (also known as ‘heliotrope’ in Greek which means “sun turning”) is the original birthstone for March, today, bloodstone, aquamarine and jasper are all considered birthstones for March. Perhaps this is surprising since bloodstones are usually green with red flecks and far from sun-colored.

Bloodstone is a silicon dioxide and a variety of chalcedony, which is a form of cryptocrystalline quartz. It is a dark green color gemstone with red spots on it. The gemstone is technically a green jasper with presence of iron oxide giving the stone the red spots. These red spots are what gave the gem the name ‘bloodstone’. The deep green color of the stone is due to the presence of masses of chlorite in the gem. Sometimes jasper with yellow or other colors are also present, but those multi-colored jaspers are usually called “fancy jasper”.

Many bloodstones are also found with no red spots at all. Some of them have brown spots, while a few exhibit multicolored inclusions. Being a variety of chalcedony it is a cryptocrystalline quartz, meaning that the individual crystals is too small and cannot be easily distinguished under a light microscope. Its belongs to the trigonal crystal system. There are two types of bloodstone: heliotrope and plasma. Plasma is very deep green, opaque, with little or no red in it, and some may have yellowish spots. Heliotrope is somewhat translucent, lighter colored and has red in it.

Legend has it that bloodstone was first formed when drops of the Christ’s blood stained stone at the foot of the cross. There is often some confusion between jasper and bloodstone. Fancy jasper is sometimes called bloodstone and bloodstone is sometimes called blood jasper. Jasper and bloodstone are different though closely related stones, two of them being chalcedony forms of quartz.

A good quality bloodstone should have a solid color of green with very visible red spots. The gemstone is found in a variety of cuts and shapes, some of the most common ones are round, oval, cushion cut, octagonal, cabochon and emerald cut. The name bloodstone is sometimes misleadingly used for hematite.

It is important to remember that bloodstones set in jewelry are coated with a special polish that will enhances the beauty of the gemstone, therefore you should not expose your bloodstone ring or pendant to strong detergents or harsh chemicals as this would damage the surface treatment.

There are also so many fake bloodstones out there but bloodstone leaves a red streak when tested. Today India is the major source of bloodstone. There are also known deposits in Brazil, China, Australia and United states.





## Howlite

*Howlite is our club stone and can be found in the Tick Canyon area. I thought it was time to give a bit of detail about howlite as it can be very interesting.*

Howlite, a calcium borosilicate hydroxide, is a borate mineral found in evaporate deposits. Howlite was discovered near Windsor, Nova Scotia in 1868 by Henry How (1828–1879), a Canadian chemist, geologist, and mineralogist. How was alerted

to the unknown mineral by miners in a gypsum quarry, who found it to be a nuisance. He called the new mineral silico-boro-calcite; it was given the name howlite by James Dwight Dana shortly thereafter.

The most common form of howlite is irregular nodules, sometimes resembling cauliflower. Crystals of howlite are rare, having been found in only a couple localities worldwide. Crystals were first reported from Tick Canyon, California, and later at Iona, Nova Scotia. Crystals reach a maximum size of about 1 cm. The nodules are white with fine grey or black veins in an erratic, often web-like pattern, opaque with a sub-vitreous luster.

The crystals at Iona are colorless, white or brown and are often translucent or transparent. Its structure is monoclinic with a Mohs hardness of 3.5 and lacks regular cleavage. Crystals are prismatic and flattened. The crystals from Tick Canyon are elongated along the 010 axis, while those from Iona are elongated along the 001 axis.



*Crystalline Howlite*



*“Turquoise” from dyed howlite*

*Reference: Wikipedia*

Howlite is commonly used to make decorative objects such as small carvings or jewelry components. Because of its porous texture, howlite can be easily dyed to imitate other minerals, especially turquoise because of the superficial similarity of the veining patterns.

The dyed howlite (or magnesite) is marketed as *turquenite*. Howlite is also sold in its natural state, sometimes under the misleading trade names of “white turquoise,” or “white buffalo turquoise,” or the derived name “white buffalo stone.”