

The Sierra Pelonaagram



May 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.

Rockhound Etiquette

Know whose property you are on.
Get permission when collecting on private property and mining claims.
Don't use blasting materials or mechanized earth moving equipment.

Limit excavation depth to four feet and fill in holes before you leave.

Collect only what you can reasonably use until your next trip.

Leave all gates as you found them

No vehicles or mechanized equipment are allowed in wilderness areas.

All vehicles are limited to designated signed open routes. If a route is not signed it is not open to vehicle travel.

CFMS Shows

May 31 - June 2: VENTURA, CA Annual CFMS SHOW & CONVENTION, "California Rocks"

Sponsored by:

Conejo, Oxnard, & Ventura Gem
& Mineral Societies

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10
W. Harbor Boulevard

Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Show Chair Rob Sankovich

rmsorca@adelphia.net,

(805) 494-7734

Dealer Inquiries

CFMS2013Dealers@gmail.com,

(805) 765-1252

June 8 - 9: LA HABRA, CA

North Orange County Gem &
Mineral Society

La Habra Community Center

Website: www.nocgms.com

June 14 - 16: WOODLAND HILLS, CA

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral
Society

Pierce College Farm

Website: Rockatomics.com

June 28 - 30: SAN BERNARDINO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society

Western Regional Little League
Ball Park

Website: <http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>



Welcome to new club
member Roxanne Heagy

Birthdays

May:

Colleen Clough	May 4
Greg Langewisch	May 24
Iony Panaitescu	May 5
Mike Serino	May 26

June:

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

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



Hello All

Well, another month has passed and we had plenty to do in April. We had our field trip to get the colorful Strawberry Onyx, Bill and Heidi hosted another workshop at their place, we had our general meeting in which Shep made a presentation on Sharks Teeth & fossils found in Bakersfield and a bunch of us got together and went up to Sharkstooth Hill to find some teeth! Whew....quite a month!

Bunch of things we need to mention for the upcoming months. This month we will be going out to the North Edwards claim to find some rocks and have a weenie roast. We'll supply the dogs and chips and just ask that everyone who wants food, just pay \$3 each. If you want to bring a dish to share with the club, please do so! June is our annual picnic and auction. This is a potluck picnic. So, get all your greatest recipes ready to go. Since we have the picnic in June, there will be no general meeting that month. There will be a field trip, though. July and August, there are no meetings and no field trips. As you may recall, we take those months off because of the heat and because many members will have summer plans. When we come back in September, the general meeting will be a show and tell, where we bring in some of the rocks we have found throughout the year and maybe show off some of the stuff we worked on.

So, lots of good stuff coming up! I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming events!



Petrified logs at the Petrified Forest National Park near Holbrook, Arizona. Image by the National Park Service.

What is Petrified Wood?

Petrified wood is a fossil. It forms when plant material is buried by sediment and protected from decay by oxygen and organisms. Then, groundwater rich in dissolved solids flows through the sediment replacing the original plant material with silica, calcite, pyrite or another inorganic material. The result is a fossil of the original woody material that often exhibits preserved details of the bark, wood and cellular structures.

Some specimens of petrified wood are such accurate preservations that people do not realize they are fossils until they pick them up and are shocked by their weight. These specimens with near perfect preservation are unusual; however, specimens that exhibit clearly recognizable bark and woody structures are very common.

Petrified Forest National Park

The most famous locality for observing petrified wood is Petrified Forest National Park near the community of Holbrook in northeastern Arizona. About 225 million years ago this area was a lowland with a tropical climate and covered by a dense forest. Rivers flooded by tropical rain storms washed mud and other sediments into the lowlands. Enormous coniferous trees up to 9 feet in diameter and 200 feet tall lived and died in these lowlands. Fallen trees and broken branches were often buried by the river sediments. Nearby volcanoes erupted numerous times. These eruptions blanketed the area in volcanic ash with a high silica content.

Rapid burial allowed the plant debris to escape destruction by oxygen and insects. The soluble ash was dissolved by groundwater flowing through the sediments. The dissolved ash served as a source of silica that replaced the plant debris, creating petrified wood. Trace amounts of iron, manganese and other minerals were included in the silica and gave the petrified wood a variety of colors. These sediments, plant debris and volcanic ash became part of a rock unit known today as the Chinle Formation.

In the millions of years after the Chinle Formation was deposited the area was uplifted and the rocks deposited above the Chinle were been eroded away. The petrified wood is much harder and resistant to weathering than the mud rocks and ash deposits of the Chinle. Instead of eroding away the wood accumulated on the ground surface as the surrounding mud rocks and ash layers were eroded away. That is why areas of the Park are covered with a litter of petrified wood trunks, branches and fragments. Today, visitors to the park can observe the petrified wood and photograph it; however, collecting petrified wood in the park is prohibited.



An accumulation of petrified logs in a gully at Petrified Forest National Park. At the top of the gully a “pedestal log” is suspended on a column of Chinle Formation. When the Chinle weathers away the log will be lowered to the ground surface. Image by Petrified Forest National Park.

Other Petrified Wood Localities

Petrified wood is not rare. It is found in volcanic deposits and sedimentary rocks at many of locations worldwide. It is sometimes found where volcanic activity covered plant material with ash, mudflows or pyroclastic debris. It is found where wood in sedimentary deposits was replaced by minerals precipitated from groundwater. It is especially abundant around coal seams, although many of the wood specimens in these locations are casts and molds rather than petrifications.

In the United States, noteworthy locations where abundant fossilized wood can be seen include:

- [Petrified Forest National Park](#) near Holbrook, Arizona
- [Ginkgo Petrified Forest](#) near Wanapum Reservoir, Washington
- [The Petrified Forest](#) near Calistoga, California
- [Mississippi Petrified Forest](#) near Flora, Mississippi
- [Gilboa Fossil Forest](#) near Gilboa, New York
- [Florissant Fossil Beds](#) near Florissant, Colorado
- [Gallatin Petrified Forest](#) near Yellowstone, Wyoming
- [Escalante Petrified Forest State Park](#) near Escalante, Utah
- [Petrified Wood Park](#) near Lemmon, South Dakota (a rock sculpture park - some made of local petrified wood)

Petrified Wood by Many Other Names

A wide variety of names are commonly used for petrified wood. “Fossilized wood” is a general term for wood that has been petrified or preserved by other methods of fossilization. “Opalized wood” is petrified wood that has been replaced by opal, an amorphous form of silica. “Agatized wood” is wood that has been replaced by agate, a form of chalcedony or microcrystalline quartz. “Silicified wood” is wood that has been replaced by any form of silica, including opal and agate.

Lapidary Uses of Petrified Wood

Petrified wood is often used in lapidary work. It is cut into shapes for making jewelry, sawn into blocks to make bookends, sawn into thick slabs to make table tops, and sawn into thin slabs for clock faces, cabochons and many other crafts. Small pieces of petrified wood can be placed in a rock tumbler to make tumbled stones.



Photograph of a polished cross-section of a petrified log from Arizona. Enlarge the image to see the structure of the wood and even insect borings. Image by Michael Gäbler

Only a small fraction of petrified wood is suitable for lapidary work. Poorly preserved specimens, those with lots of voids or closely-spaced fractures do not polish well or break while being worked. Workable specimens with spectacular color can sell for over \$100 per pound.

Contributor: [Hobart King geology.com/stories/13/petrified-wood/](http://HobartKinggeology.com/stories/13/petrified-wood/)



Some petrified logs contain a spectacular surprise. Cavities within them served as crystallization locations for quartz crystals such as the citrine (yellow, left) and amethyst (purple, right) shown here. Images by Petrified Forest National Park.

Is That a Piece of Jasper or an Agate?

Written By: HeySal on November 1, 2010

Finding a great agate or piece of jasper is a thrill for any rockhound, but being able to identify exactly what it is that has been found is quite a headache for the beginner. These headaches can be relieved very easily though with just a little bit of knowledge about the different quartz group stones.



Yellow Jasper

Agate and jasper are actually chalcedony, which in turn is cryptocrystalline quartz. All are SiO₂. When you pick up a stone you can rule out that it is a piece of regular massive quartz quite quickly just by looking to see if you can see the grains of the stone. If you can see grains, you do not have an agate or jasper. Most likely, what you have then is massive quartz or some other type of stone.

Many new rockhounds will mistake massive quartz for a piece of agate, so don't feel bad if you do. It's a very frequent mistake.



Red Jasper

Jasper and agate will appear to be made of wax. If the rock is just plain clear to white translucent with no markings or patterns, it is considered chalcedony. If it is opaque, that is, if you cannot see into or through it, it is jasper. Jasper is most frequently earth tones or red but you can find jasper in just about any color or color combination and it can contain some very lively patterns. One well known form of jasper is called "picture" jasper, and just as the name suggests, the lines and markings look just like a scenic picture of mountains and valleys or forests and so on. Geometric patterns are also common in jasper stones.

If a stone is an agate, it will be translucent as is chalcedony, but an agate will have patterns. Most commonly, agates have bands, and are appropriately called banded agate. Sometimes the bands are also translucent, sometimes some are opaque. There are many agates named to describe how they look, such as plume, orbicular, or flower and many that are named for the place they are found, such as Dryhead or Lake Superior. For instance, moss agate is a clear to semi-clear agate that looks like moss was embedded in the stone. No two agates are alike and many fantastically patterned stones will not have specific type or place names.

There are also stones which you will find that have both jasper and agate in them. Both the opaque and translucent parts of these stones will appear waxy. These are often referred to as jasp-agate. Once you become familiar with the look of both jasper and agate, you will be able to recognize jasp-agate with no problems. One other stone that can be confused with agate or jasper is opal.



Agate



Opal

Opal will have flashes of color if it is precious opal. It can be also be common opal which is plain translucent or opaque and a just about any color or a mix of colors. Opal generally looks more glassy than waxy, and it is much more brittle and breakable than agate or jasper.

If you still aren't sure when you find a rock if it is jasper, agate, or opal, you should take it with you and ask someone about it. Your local rock shop or club or even a jeweler's shop can identify it for you. You will have few problems identifying these stones after the first or second time. Once you learn to identify these basic stones, you will be surprised how many different types of gemstones you will start noticing on your hunts.

By: Sally Taylor, RHS1 Gazette

SPRC Business Meeting
May 7, 2013
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. In attendance was Greg Langewisch, Evelyn and Bruce Velie, Greg Mazourek, Ron Lawrence, Bill and Heidi Webber and Diane Southwell.

Bruce said that he has booked December 7, a Saturday, from noon to 4 for the Holiday Potluck. The club supplies the meat, which Heidi will cook. (Turkey and Ham)

Greg M. will do a presentation for the May program. He isn't sure what it will be at this time.

A review of the bylaws committee was formed: Greg M. Heidi, Diane and Bruce. If you have any revisions or additions you would like to have considered, please contact one of the committee members.

Roxanne Heagy was voted in as a new member.

The field trip will be to the North Edwards Travertine claim with a weenie roast for \$3. Feel free to bring a dish to share if you so desire.

The End of Year Picnic will be held at Meadows Park as usual. The date will be June 9. It will be a potluck and we will have an auction and play bingo. So time to go through your closets, attics and garages for some good, working stuff to auction off. Time will be from 10am until we are done.

There are no club meetings in July or August. The September meeting will be show and tell for your summer collection and projects you would like to show off.

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi S. Webber

SPRC General Meeting
April 16, 2013
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

At 7:40pm the meeting was called to order. Janelle reported 28 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Greg Langewisch said that the field trip this month would be to collect Strawberry Onyx in the Cady Mountains. This would be a more strenuous trip, hiking in approximately 2 miles, and of course, out with a load of beautiful onyx.

The next workshop will be April 28, Sunday, at Bill and Heidi's house.

Bob Caudill said his goodbyes and thanks to the club. He is moving to Kentucky.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 for Shep's presentation on fossils in and around Bakersfield.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi S Webber