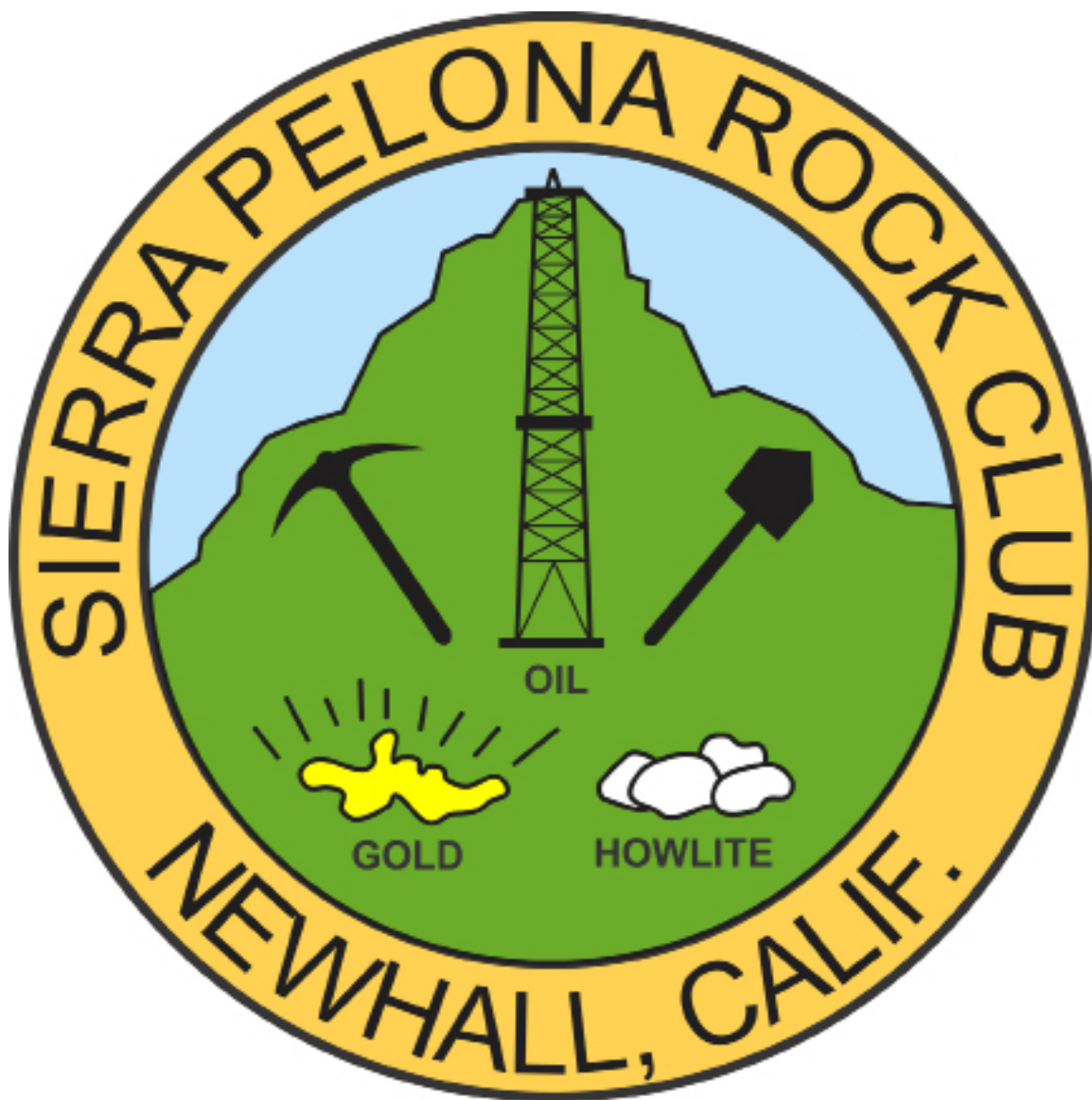


The Sierra Pelona nagram



November 2018

... 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.

General Meeting

Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

October 16, 2018

Start Time: 7:36pm

End Time: 8:10pm

Opened the General Club Meeting with Pledge of Allegiance lead by the President.

There weren't any new visitors. However, some people have showed some interest over the internet-through our Facebook page and website.

There were quite a few missing faces, must have been due to those Dodgers in the NL Championship Series games.

Went over the Gilchrist Farms Fundraiser for Oct. 27th Saturday. We had a volunteer sign-up sheet. Discussed about what fieldtrip, would be a good one, to let the Cubs Scouts join us out in the field. Still brainstorming on ideas. Please let us know if you have any.

Reminded everyone of our Christmas Party on Dec. 8th. starts at 11am.

Tina White gave a excellent presentation on the Benitoite. The field trip that was coming up on Oct. 20th. Saturday. Please see:

<http://www.benitoite.com/benitoite/benitoit.shtml>

This has everything she went over about our State Gem. How it was formed and who founded/funded the mine. A lot of interesting information.

We had our t-shirts and hat sales. Silent Auction table. As well as our raffle table that had some great treasures like pink moonstone from India, amber, geodes, and other great stuff. Thank you Kay & Frank Denison, Julie Tinoco, and Ron & Akiko Strathmann. You all do such a great job!

Thank you to all who brought/donated snacks and refreshments. You guys Rock!

Sincerely
your Club Secretary,
Shana Ruiz



We Can Hope!



A Busy Day at Gilchrist Farms

Officers:

President – Ron Rackliffe

Vice-President – Bill Webber

Secretary: Shana Brunes-Ruiz

Treasurer –Kay Denson

Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) --Evelyn Velie

Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino

Donation Rock Table--Ron and Akiko Strathmann

Equipment--Bill Webber

Field Trips – Julie Tinoco

Historian -Open

Hospitality – Evelyn Velie

Membership – Heidi Webber

Website-- Larry Holt

Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber

Programs –Tina White

Publicity –Bruce Velie

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@pachell.net

Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com



Hi Everybody,

I wanted to give a BIG thanks to all those in the club that helped out with the booth at Gilchrist Farms on Saturday October 27th. We were able to raise \$400, which helps us to keep our equipment in good running order. It also helped some people get to know us, we had one person come out to our last meeting as a result of our booth there and many others enjoyed visiting us and seeing what rocks we have. We also have our Holiday Party coming up soon, it is always a great time and I hope to

see you all there. Each of you will have the opportunity to help the club at the Party as we will be having our elections.

The 5 board positions that are available are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Federation Director for the CFMS

Please consider trying a position for a year, many hands make work easy and it is a good group to be involved with.

Thanks, Ron R

Board Meeting Minutes

Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

11/06/2018

Start time: 7:00pm Ended: 8:40pm

Attendees:

Ron Rackliffe-President, Bill Webber-Vice President, Shana Brunes-Ruiz-Secretary, Kay Denson-Treasurer, Evelyn Velie-Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS), and Ron Lawrence-Life Member.

Meeting started off by voting to approve the last Board Meeting Minutes. There is amendment needed to be made to the last Board Meeting on Oct. 2nd, 2018. The correction is the IRS wanted the information from the Club during July 1st, 2016 up to June 30th, 2017.

We have no new member applications at this time.

Finances: The information that the Club was suppose to furnish to the IRS has been taken care of. Kay Denson our Treasurer has been in contact with them and was told that they will be in contact with her in 2 weeks to let her know if everything is fine or if additional information is needed. There was a discussion of having a 2 day fundraiser instead of just 1 day- next year. Also, possibly having another fundraiser event there during the Holiday Boutique that the Farm hosts.

The plan for the last fieldtrip of the year, will be before the Club Meeting on Nov. 17th. Sat. We will be going to the Santa Monica College for the Jewel Tunnel Imports- the leading whole sale event. The hours are from 10am to 4pm. We will be going shopping for treasures instead of getting dirty for them.

We talked about fieldtrips to think about going on next year. There was talk about definitely going back to Shark Tooth Hill and also Strawberry Onyx.

Club Meeting is Nov. 20th Tuesday at 7:30pm. Also, for those members that want to go on a fieldtrip the Sat. after Thanksgiving-there will be a discussion to talk about interest.

Other business: we will be getting pens with our club name and website address on it to add to our t-shirt and hat sales.

The Club Holiday Party is on Dec. 8th Sat. from 11am to 4pm. There will be a sign-up sheet for additional food and drinks items that we still need. We will be having a White Elephant (loud auction) you can bring a new item, used item in really good condition like new, or homemade Holiday decoration-it doesn't have to be rock related to be donated to the White Elephant. Please use your best judgment. The usual Silent Auction Table and a 50/50 with table center piece raffle. 50/50 raffle will be whatever the Club collects from raffle sales, the ticket winner gets half of the jackpot and the other half goes to the Club funds. Then additional tickets will be called for winners of the table center pieces which will be crafted and donated by our President's Ron Radcliffe's wife Karen. As the New Years approaches Board Member jobs will be open and will be needed to be filled. Up for grabs is all Board Members positions and Chairs. If you would like to give it a try or nominate someone-we will be voting at the party.

Sincerely Your Club Secretary,

Shana Brunes-Ruiz

Birthdays



November

Shana Brunes-Ruiz
Frank Hummelbough
Dianne Southwell

December

We have no December birthdays

Dues Are Due (Almost)

Hi Members! It is coming up on that time of year for all of us, the dreaded Dues are Due! January is it for our club. Your membership dues go a long way and are never, ever wasted!

Some of our on-going obligations are submitting OUR dues to our parent organization the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, SPRC insurance, various government fees, and equipment upkeep. In the case of the equipment, it is almost all quite old—the best you can get, but it is old, like from the 1960's. Bill does as much as he can to keep it running, but motors burn out, belts need replaced, wheels resurfaced and so on. We also supply paper goods and plastics for various club functions and the meats for the Holiday Dinner.

So while you are enjoying your Holiday Dinner on December 8, consider meandering over to Kay Denson and giving her a check for your 2019 dues, it would be greatly appreciated. Don't make me chase you down come the end of January—like a dog with a bone here!

Heidi

Membership Chair, SPRC





Photo: JewelsfromtheWoods.com

Spinel

Spinel is the magnesium aluminum member of the larger spinel group of minerals. Its name comes from Latin "spina" (arrow). Balas ruby is an old name for a rose-tinted variety of spinel.

Properties

Spinel crystallizes in the isometric system; common crystal forms are octahedra, usually twinned. It has an imperfect octahedral cleavage and a conchoidal fracture. Its hardness is 8 on the Mohs scale, and it is transparent to opaque with a vitreous to dull luster. It may be colorless, but is usually various shades of

pink, rose, red, blue, green, yellow, brown, black, or (uncommon) violet. There is a unique natural white spinel, now lost, that surfaced briefly in what is now Sri Lanka. Some spinels are among the most famous gemstones; among them are the Black Prince's Ruby and the "Timur Ruby" in the British Crown Jewels, and the "Côte de Bretagne", formerly from the French Crown jewels. The Samarian Spinel is the largest known spinel in the world, weighing 500 carats (100 g).

The transparent red spinels were called spinel-rubies or balas rubies. In the past, before the arrival of modern science, spinels and rubies were equally known as rubies. After the 18th century the word ruby was only used for the red gem variety of the mineral corundum and the word spinel came to be used. "Balas" is derived from Balascia, the ancient name for Badakhshan, a region in central Asia situated in the upper valley of the Panj River, one of the principal tributaries of the Oxus River. Mines in the Gorno Badakhshan region of Tajikistan constituted for centuries the main source for red and pink spinels.

Occurrence

Spinel has long been found in the gemstone-bearing gravel of Sri Lanka and in limestones of the Badakhshan Province in modern-day Afghanistan and Tajikistan; and of Mogok in Burma. Recently gem quality spinels also found in the marbles of Luc Yen (Vietnam), Mahenge and Matombo (Tanzania), Tsavo (Kenya) and in the gravels of Tunduru (Tanzania) and Ilakaka (Madagascar). Spinel is found as a metamorphic mineral, and also as a primary mineral in rare mafic igneous rocks; in these igneous rocks, the magmas are relatively deficient in alkalis relative to aluminium, and aluminium oxide may form as the mineral corundum or may combine with magnesia to form spinel. This is why spinel and ruby are often found together. The spinel petrogenesis in mafic magmatic rocks is strongly debated, but certainly results from mafic magma interaction with more evolved magma or rock (e.g. gabbro, troctolite).



Pink Spinel, Burma
Photo: AJSGems.com



Mahenge Spinel, Tanzania
Photo: AJSGems.com

Spinel is common in peridotite in the uppermost Earth's mantle, between approximately 20 km to approximately 120 km, possibly to lower depths depending on the chromium content. At significantly shallower depths, above the Moho, calcic plagioclase is the more stable aluminous mineral in peridotite while garnet is the stable phase deeper in the mantle below the spinel stability region.

Synthetic Spinel

Synthetic spinel, accidentally produced in the middle of the 18th century, has been described more recently in scientific publications in 2000 and 2004. By 2015, transparent spinel was being made in sheets and other shapes through sintering. Synthetic spinel which looks like glass but has notably higher strength against pressure, can also have applications in military and commercial use.

Reference: Wikipedia and Photo: Blue Spinel

