

The Sierra Pelonaagram



October 2012

... 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.

October Birthstones

TOURMALINE

Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designers, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These *bi-color* or *tri-color* gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as *watermelon tourmaline*, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.



OPAL

The name *opal* derives from the Greek *Opallos*, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance.

October Birthdays

Omid Aeen Oct. 4
Deb D'Agostino Oct 26
Barbara Farrar Just Oct.
Candice Jones Oct 10



Officers:

President – Ron Lawrence
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
Facebook--Greg Langewisch
Field Trips – Greg Langewisch
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie
Membership – Janelle Williams
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs – Shep Koss
Publicity –Open
Storage - Vlad Litt
Sunshine - Brigitte Mazourek
Website – Greg 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

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

A good friend of mine from another club was saying something nice about our club on Face Book the other day and by accident spelled our club's name wrong. I also remember a member of our club mispronouncing the club's name a while back.

I want to take advantage of this presidents message to make sure all our members, new and old, know something about the club they are part of.

I may be off a little on these dates but as I was told, a group of like-minded rockhounds got together to form a rock club sometime in 1955. It started small but was fair size in 1957 with regular meetings and in 1959 petitioned the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. to become an official part of their organization.

They took their name from a well-known mountain range just north of our valley called Sierra Pelona or Bald Mountains and set up by-laws and rules of order.

As they grew they got involved in the community with park clean ups and even were part of the Saugus train station's relocation to its current location near W. S. Hart park.

The club was mentioned in the local paper many times and even received a letter of accommodation from the community.

Working together with the Del Air club and the Woodland Hills Rockchippers our club put on one of the best rock shows for many years. The locations changed from Devonshire Downs to a park near Victory in Van Nuys but were a big event.

I was around to work the last three or four shows but this all ended some ten years ago. For a few years our club shrank as people moved away or moved on to, shall we say, greener collecting areas.

We have always had a claim or two with the club. Mike Moreno talks about a gold claim just before Randsburg and I understand Rainbow Ledge, a well-known collecting area, was ours many years ago.

Our Travertine claim has been in the club for maybe thirty years and is likely the most popular collecting area in Southern California. The material at our new claim is easy to work, once you get it out, and makes beautiful slabs and cabs so I'm sure it will be very popular also.

Know that as a member of The Sierra Pelona Rock Club you have a history that goes back as far or further than any of the other clubs and we have always been on the leading edge.

With two claims and interesting field trips and outings I consider us the best club around.

Enjoy participating in club activities and do your part to continue the long history that you are part of.



Ron Lawrence
President
Sierra Pelona Rock Club

SPRC Business Meeting
October 2, 2012
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. In attendance was Dianne Southwell, Evelyn Velie, Greg Langewisch, Shep Koss, Frank Humelbaugh, Greg Mazourek and Bill and Heidi Webber. A quorum was met and the meeting commenced. Ron Lawrence was out of town; Bill Webber ran the meeting.

We discussed product for Lombardi next weekend. This is our main fundraiser of the year and we need people to man our table both days. Heidi said she would put out an email reminding members and asking for assistance. We need to get shells from Ron and Akiko Strathmann as we understand they have a couple of buckets. Evelyn is going to look for necklace chain so she can make some stone necklaces for Lombardi to sell. Frank Humelbaugh donated some shells and a nice mesquite branch that will be good for displaying necklaces and other items.

Shep said the October program would be a Tree of Life video and asked that samples of petrified wood in all forms be brought (pieces, slabs, polish, etc.).

Shep wants to invite Shirley Brown for the November meeting. Her fee is \$100 plus 35 cents a mile, with approximately 70 miles to travel. She will give an "A to Z" program on Silver Art Clay, will make a piece of jewelry and bake it in a kiln as part of the program. Greg M. made a motion to pay the approximately \$125 for the program. Shep seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. (Shep has since received confirmation that she will do the program.)

Dianne said she is still doing the publicity, but she needs someone to step in for her.

Greg L. said the October field trip will be to the rose quartz collecting site on Saturday, October 20. Shep recommended high-clearance vehicles be taken, not sedans. Carpooling will be available as always and Shep said there is a site where sedans can be driven to, parked and go the rest of the way in an appropriate vehicle. Greg will be sending emails with further details as the date gets closer. November's field trip will be to Wiley's Well, which is also a Federation field trip. He said this should be an over-night trip because of the distance.

Dianne said she would like to see guests, upon being introduced to the members, be asked a question or two to ferret out their interests and experiences in collecting. This will also help members have a conversation opener during the open portion of the meeting.

Shep said he would write a check to the Federation for the coins collected, which is due in November. He said to check the CFMS website as they are giving some nice prizes. Greg M said that if we should be lucky enough to win one of the prizes, it should be auctioned or raffled off to the membership.

Shep said that the club waiver form has been updated at the CFMS website. Because we use the same form, Heidi will change it with the old form.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

SPRC General Meeting
September 18, 2012
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. There were 29 members and 4 guests, who were introduced to the members and given a gift of pyrite. Welcome Jeff and Lannie Legler, Steve Justus and Ron Rackliffe.

After the pledge of allegiance, Ron discussed the upcoming Lombardi Ranch fundraiser. We will be there both Saturday and Sunday October 13 and 14th. We need help in running the booth. This is our main fundraiser of the year for the club.

Greg Langewisch discussed the Saturday, September 22nd trip to the Onyx claim. Ron also wants to explore surrounding areas that seem promising.

Shep said the endowment fund, i.e.: Nickel Drive, will be turned in to the CFMS in November. He said we are on the second jar of coins collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm and the Show and Tell program commenced.



September Field Trip Report Greg Langewisch

In the early morning on Saturday, September 22nd we headed out in search of rocks and adventure. Our plan was to visit the club's newest onyx claim, out past Trona. We had a modest group of 9 for this field trip, which included two guests of the club. After several hours of driving we reached the town of Trona, home of Searless Valley



Minerals. From here we drove a few miles into the desert to reach the club's onyx claim.

At one point in time, this was a busy onyx claim where a previous owner had constructed a large concrete pad with concrete tables to hold large saws for cutting the freshly mined onyx. About ¾ up the hill was an old rusted out generator about the size of a VW Bug. The weather was just about perfect with some clouds and a slight breeze to help keep us cool while we worked on the onyx. While there was plenty of small float material, the good stuff had to be worked to get a sizable piece. It took a heavy hammer, chisel and sweat to dig out a nice sized chunk of the onyx. It was hard work, but eventually we all got some of the honey colored rocks. We took a break under a pop up shade to eat some lunch before heading out to the next spot.

We found our next destination a few miles back on a small dry lake bed that looked like a UFO landing spot (there was a large circular area that looked bleached out and much lighter than its surroundings). From here we traversed some desert roads to arrive at another onyx claim.

This was another well-worked claim, where the previous owners had actually built a storage shed into the side of the hill which now serves as a country estate to the various desert dwelling animals.



This onyx was a bit softer, lighter and much easier to work. Everyone was able to walk away with their fill of large pieces. The colors were shades of white with many cream colored bands. At the top of the hill was a spectacular view of the valley and surrounding areas.

After about an hour at this spot we headed back home, stopping off in Ridgecrest for lunch at the local McD's.

Following lunch, we went our merry ways with another field trip in the books and pounds of rocks in our bags.



Quartz

Silicon dioxide
 SiO_2



Quartz is the most abundant and most common mineral on the Earth. It is found in almost every geological environment and also it is at least a component of almost every rock type. It has a hexagonal crystal structure and is made of trigonal crystallized silica. It is most varied in terms of varieties, colors and forms.

The most important distinction between the types of quartz is that one is of macrocrystalline, which is individual crystal visible to the unaided eye, and the other is microcrystalline or cryptocrystalline varieties, aggregates of crystals visible only under high magnification. Chalcedony is the generic term for cryptocrystalline quartz. The transparent variety tends to be macrocrystalline and the cryptocrystalline varieties are either translucent or mostly opaque. The name "quartz" has been derived from the German "Quarz," a Slavic origin. It is the most common material identified as mystical substance maban in the Australian Aboriginal mythology. Pliny the Elder, a Roman naturalist believed quartz to be a permanently frozen ice. According to him, quartz is found near glaciers in the Alps and that the crystals of quartz were fashioned into spheres to cool the hands. It was also known to him the ability of quartz to split light into a spectrum.

Nicolas Steno's study of quartz made way for the modern crystallography. His discovery states that no matter how distorted a quartz crystal is, the long prism faces always made a perfect 60 degree angle.

Major Varieties of Quartz

Chalcedony - Any of the cryptocrystalline quartz, although usually only used for white or lightly colored material.

Agate - Banded Chalcedony, translucent.

Onyx - Agate, where bands are straight, parallel and also consistent in size.

Jasper - Opaque chalcedony, impure.

Aventurine - Translucent chalcedony with a smaller inclusions (generally mica), which shimmer.

Tiger's Eye - Fibrous quartz, exhibiting chatoyancy.

Rock Crystal - Clear, colorless.

Ruby Quartz - Crimson glass-like crystal that absorbs vast amounts of solar energy.

Amethyst - Purple, transparent.

Citrine - Yellow to reddish orange, greenish yellow.

Rose Quartz - Pink, translucent, might display diasterism.

Milk Quartz or Snow Quartz - White, translucent to opaque, may display diasterism.

Smoky Quartz - Brown, transparent.

Morion - Dark-brown, opaque.

Carnelian - Reddish orange chalcedony, translucent.

Uses of Quartz

Silica for glass

Electrical components

Optical lenses

Abrasives

Gemstones

Ornamental stone

Building stone

Piezoelectricity—It creates electricity through a process known as piezoelectricity with mechanical stress given on it. Earlier, quartz crystal was used as phonograph pickup. Now it is used as a crystal oscillator. These oscillators are simply known as "quartzes."

Occurrences of Quartz

Amethyst—Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico, Russia, Thunder Bay area of Canada and some localities in the U.S.

Smoky Quartz—Brazil, Colorado, Scotland, Swiss Alps and many other places.

Rose Quartz—It is widespread but large quantities come from Brazil.

Natural Citrine—Is found with many amethyst deposits but in very rare quantities.

Rock Crystal—Brazil, Arkansas and many localities in Africa and elsewhere.

Fine Agates—Brazil, Lake Superior region, Montana, Mexico and Germany.

Reference: Mineralzone

Upcoming CFMS Shows

See the CFMS Website for more detail.

October 3 - 8: JOSHUA TREE, CA

Hi-Desert Rockhounds of Moronga Valley

Contact: Wayne Hamilton, (760)

366-2915, cell (760) 401-0375

Email: waylin2000@msn.com

Website: www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gemshow.htm

October 7: FALLBROOK, CA

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility

Website: www.fgms.org

October 13 - 14: CAYUCOS, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club

Contact: Kim Patrick Noyes, (805) 610- 0603 (cell)

Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com

Website: www.slogem.org/

October 13 - 14: GRASS

VALLEY, CA

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Kim Moore, (530) 470-0388

Email: Webmaster@ncgms.org

Website: www.ncgms.org

October 13 - 14: TRONA, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356

Email: slgms@iwvisp.com

Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

October 13 - 14: VISTA, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7570

Contact: Lois Harr, (760) 724-0395

Email: raysrocks@cox.net

October 20 - 21: ANDERSON, CA

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Sara Fenske

Email: sarafenske@yahoo.com

Show Website: www.shastagemandmineral.com

October 20 - 21: LOS ALTOS, CA

Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
Contact: Steve Jobe, (408) 834-5384

Email: steve_jobe@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.pggs.org

October 20 - 21:

PLACERVILLE, CA

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society

Contact: Arlene Williams, (530) 676-2472

Email: info@rockandgemshow.org

Show Website: www.rockandgemshow.org

Website: www.rockandgemshow.org

October 20 -21: WHITTIER, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Marcia Goetz
(626) 260-7239

Email: joemar1@verizon.net

October 26 - 27: WEST HILLS, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

Contact: Mary Beth Pio, (818) 349-2943

Email: info@rockchippers.org

Website: www.rockchippers.org

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November 2 - 4: EUREKA, CA

Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society

Contacts: Toni Tyson 707-502-9574

Diane Reed, 707-839-2079

Email: bluiis911@msn.com

November 3 - 4: CONCORD, CA

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

Contact: Harry Nichandros, (925) 289-0454

Email: show-cf@ccmgs.org

Website: www.ccmgs.org

November 3 - 4: LANCASTER, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club

Email: pgmc@antelecom.net

Website: www.palmdalegemandmineral.com

November 3 - 4: RIDGECREST, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: John DeRosa, (760) 375-7905

Email: IndianWellsGems@hotmail.com

Website: www.indianwells.weebly.com

November 3 - 4: SAN DIEGO, CA

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society

Contact: Bob Hancock, (619) 889-6886

Email: rhbobhancock@cs.com

Website: www.sdmg.org

November 10: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 745-1816

Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net

November 10 - 11:

SACRAMENTO, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society

Contact: Stanley Henneman, (916) 363-5011

Email: lakota27@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.sacramentomineralsociety.org

Website: www.sacramentomineralsociety.org

November 10 - 11: SANTA

CRUZ, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society

Contact: Julia Cornblatt, (831) 687-0509

Email: juliacornblatt@gmail.com

Website: www.scmgs.org

November 10 - 11: YUBA CITY, CA

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Erik Anspaugh

Email: show@sutterbuttes.net

Website: www.sutterbuttes.net