

The Sierra Pelonaagram



October 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.

CFMS Shows

Go to the club website or the CFMS website for more information.

October 19: WEST HILLS, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

Website: www.rockchippers.org

October 19 - 20: CAYUCOS, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club

Website: www.slogem.org

October 19 - 20:

PLACERVILLE, CA

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society

Website: www.rockandgemshow.org

October 19 - 20: WHITTIER, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society

Email: joemar1@verizon.net

October 26 - 27: LOS ALTOS, CA

Peninsula Gem & Geology Society

Website: www.pggs.org

November 2 - 3: ANAHEIM, CA

American Opal Society

Website: www.opalsociety.org/

November 2 - 3: CONCORD, CA

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

Website: www.ccmgs.org

November 2 - 3: RIDGECREST, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society

Website: www.indianwells.weebly.com

November 9 - 10:

SACRAMENTO, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society

Website: sacramentomineralsociety.org



Fall Birthdays

October

Omid Aeen Oct 4
Dave D'Agostino Oct. 26
Barbara Farrar Oct. ?
(a woman of mystery!)

November

Frank Humelbaugh Nov. 10
Dianne Southwell Nov. 13



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

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



Hello all.

So many things going on this month... First, there was the Trona Gem-O-Rama on the 12th and 13th. Hopefully some of you were able to make it out there to get some of the hanksite and other minerals to be found at the event. The following Tuesday we have our general meeting where we will have a very special speaker, Stephanie Holgren! The weekend of the 19th and 20th, we have the Lombardi Ranch craft fair, where the club will have a booth on Saturday and Sunday. I can't wait to see a whole bunch of us out there supporting the club! Finally, on Saturday the 26th, we'll head out to Gem Hill and the North Edwards claim for some collecting and weenie roast! We certainly want to see a good sized group attend that event. We always have a great time at the cook outs at the claim!

Of course, it being October, many of us are carving pumpkins, making pies and otherwise preparing for the Halloween festivities. Whew...so much going on this month. I hope you all have some time between family activities to spend some time with us.

A Trip You Might Like With the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

VVGMC October Field Trip

Saturday, October 26, 2013

Double Trip: Calico Silver Lace -
Mule Canyon Blue Stone

The Calico Silver Lace is an old favorite. But, since that is true, the pickings in float are few and far between. Some material can be gotten from climbing the very steep tailings pile, but this is dangerous, not only for the climbers, but also for those who stay behind.

As the Mule Canyon blue stone is easily gotten to, I plan to guide everyone to that first. After we've gotten our share, we can then go back to the Silver Lace and see how we may collect for everyone.

The Mule Canyon stone is on a ridge, and though it is not very high, the climb is steep. What I had hoped to do is get a number of volunteers to donate material and labor on making a small sled. This could be dragged to the stone site and loaded with good material. This would then be lowered down to the flat below where those who could not climb the trail could still harvest some of the beautiful stone.

Please email me at wagon-master@vvgmc.org if you can donate either material or labor.

The mileage to the Mule Canyon site is 50 miles one way. The roads are passable to cars. Again, I plan to meet at the Barstow Pizza Hut. Take the I-15 N. and exit at Barstow Road. Turn right and take another quick right and you will see a Valero gas station and the Pizza Hut behind. This time, since I had some late comers last time, we are going to meet at 7 am, and we will wait until 7:30 am at which time we leave promptly. My phone is, 760.508.6726

There will be a roster and release form. As far as tools, bring a good pry bar if you plan to go up top at the Mule Canyon site, sledge hammers, good chisels, a shovel wouldn't hurt and go ahead and bring a pick. Of course your regular rock hammer and a spritzer bottle are important. Snacks too.

Just a reminder to everyone...Please make sure your vehicle is in good operating condition. My alternator went out on the last trip, and I was very lucky to have been with the stragglers who made sure I got back to my home safely.

Consider a routine tune-up. Worth the trouble and expense with driving into the desert. Also check your spare, lug wrench and jack to be sure all are operable.

John Patrick Hill

Wagon Master

Also check your battery terminals, I had mine corrode off of my 2007 Tundra in August because they are made of thin copper now instead of the old heavy lead of yesteryear.

Jim – webmaster

Sierra Pelona Rock Club
Business Meeting
October 1, 2013

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

Greg reiterated that the workshop at Bill and Heidi's would be the coming Sunday from 10-whenever. Lunch will be provided for a \$5 donation.

Trona Gem and Mineral show is October 12 and 13. Greg said he will email for caravan opportunities.

Lombardi is October 19 and 20. We need volunteers to work the booth, half days, setup, tear-down. The hours are 9am-6pm with setup commencing at 7:30. Greg will send out an email for volunteers and Heidi will coordinate the sign-up sheet.

The October field trip on Saturday the 26th will be at the North Edwards claim and surrounding areas, TBD. Bill will bring the pop-up and we will have a weenie roast for lunch—donations to Greg. If you want to bring a side dish, please do. We now have 2 beautiful new (so far) picnic tables on the site.

Shep said that the October program will be presented by member Stephanie Holgren. She needs a projector.

Club Saw: Ron wants to get the 24" saw out of his shed. Greg L. suggested if we can't find a place for it, we consider selling it and buy a couple of smaller saws to use. Greg M motioned to look into selling if now one can take it for club use. Mike Serino seconded/motion passed. (Update: Omid and Trina can take the saw to their home. They are fairly centrally located in the SCV for convenience of use by the club membership).

Ron L has a lot of oil from the saw. We desperately need a place to take it. So far Chiquita landfill and the LA County of Public works is a washout.

Bill might need parts for the 10" saw.

Mike Serino said the claims are good until next August.

December Elections: Bill will get together a committee at the October General Meeting for the December elections. Bruce may become the chair of the committee, he will let us know.

Holiday Potluck Signups: Bruce is checking with the clubhouse to see the available dates. The date depends on a availability. If no availability, we will check with Placerita to use the classroom again. A signup sheet will be at the General Meeting in October. The club will provide a turkey and ham.

Membership: The board voted to admit Tina White and Jeff Legler as members to the club. Congratulations!

Greg L motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8pm. Heidi seconded/motion passed.

Sierra Pelona Rock Club
General Meeting
September 17, 2013

The Meeting was brought to order at 7:40pm. Greg welcomed back the membership from the summer hiatus.

Sheep Springs is the trip planned for September. It will be with the Antelope Valley club on the 4th weekend of this month, a Saturday. Sheep Springs is near Ridgecrest. High clearance vehicles are recommended. Dendritic and moss agate are collected in that area. Participants have to walk in from the springs—more detail will come via email.

Lombardi's is the 19th and 20th of October. This is our main fund raiser of the year. Heidi will get toys and candy. Volunteers are needed both days. This year there is no conflict with the Trona Gem and Mineral show. Greg suggested we think about entering the Scarecrow contest at Lombardi's next year. It could be a fun and different experience for the club.

The Trona show is the 12th and 13th of October. The 2-day event has many fun and various activities. Some members plan to stay overnight.

There will be a workshop at Bill and Heidi's on Sunday, October 6.

Elections will be held in December. Start thinking if you would like to join the board and help with the club direction in the future.

The Holiday party will be potluck with the club supplying the meat. Normally that is turkey and ham.

Greg L said to NEVER clean quartz crystals in hot oxalic acid and then plunge into cold water! Shep added never place them into a microwave! Gives one pause...

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm for Show and Tell.



A knife blade manufactured from mahogany obsidian. The craftsman who made this blade had a very high skill level and was able to produce a serrated edge. Image © Al Braunworth, iStockphoto.

Obsidian

Obsidian is a naturally occurring volcanic glass formed as an extrusive igneous rock. It is produced when felsic lava extruded from a volcano cools rapidly with minimum crystal growth. Obsidian is commonly found within the margins of rhyolitic lava flows known as obsidian flows, where the chemical composition (high silica content) induces a high viscosity and polymerization degree of the lava. The inhibition of atomic diffusion through this highly viscous and polymerized lava explains the lack of crystal growth. Obsidian is hard and brittle; it therefore fractures with very sharp edges, which had been used in the past in cutting and piercing tools, and has been used experimentally as surgical scalpel blades.

Obsidian is the rock formed as a result of cooled lava, which is the parent material. Having a low water content when newly formed typically less than 1% water by weight, becomes progressively hydrated when exposed to groundwater, forming perlite. Tektites were once thought by many to be obsidian produced by lunar volcanic eruptions, though few scientists now adhere to this hypothesis.

Obsidian is mineral-like, but not a true mineral because as a glass it is not crystalline; in addition, its composition is too complex to comprise a single mineral. It is sometimes classified as a mineraloid. Though obsidian is usually dark in color similar to mafic rocks such as basalt, obsidian's composition is extremely felsic. Obsidian consists mainly of SiO_2 (silicon dioxide), usually 70% or more. Crystalline rocks with obsidian's composition include granite and rhyolite. Because obsidian is metastable at the Earth's surface (over time the glass becomes fine-grained mineral crystals), no obsidian has been found that is older than Cretaceous age. This breakdown of obsidian is accelerated by the presence of water.

Pure obsidian is usually dark in appearance, though the color varies depending on the presence of impurities. Iron and magnesium typically give the obsidian a dark brown to black color. Very few samples are nearly colorless. In some stones, the inclusion of small, white, radially clustered crystals of cristobalite in the black glass produce a blotchy or snowflake pattern (*snowflake obsidian*). It may contain patterns of gas bubbles remaining from the lava flow, aligned along layers created as the molten rock was flowing before being cooled. These bubbles can produce interesting effects such as a golden sheen (*sheen obsidian*) or an iridescent, rainbow-like sheen (*rainbow obsidian*).

Occurrence

Obsidian can be found in locations which have experienced rhyolitic eruptions. It can be found in Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Greece, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Scotland, Turkey and the United States. Obsidian flows which may be hiked on are found within the calderas of Newberry Volcano and Medicine Lake Volcano in the Cascade Range of western North America, and at Inyo Craters east of the Sierra Nevada in California. Yellowstone National Park has a mountainside containing obsidian located between Mammoth Hot Springs and the Norris Geyser Basin, and deposits can be found in many other western U.S. states including Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Obsidian can also be found in the eastern U.S. states of Virginia, as well as Pennsylvania.

There are only four major deposit areas in the central Mediterranean: Lipari, Pantelleria, Palmarola and Monte Arci. Ancient sources in the Aegean were Melos and Giali. Acigöl town and the Göllü Dağ volcano were the most important sources in central Anatolia, one of the more important source areas in prehistoric Near East.

Historical Use

The first archaeological evidence known of usage were made from within Kariandusi and other sites of the Acheulian age (beginning 1.5 million years previously) dated 700,000 BC, although the number of objects found at these sites were very low relative to the Neolithic.

Use of obsidian in pottery of the Neolithic in the area around Lipari was found to be significantly less at a distance representing two weeks journeying.

Anatolian sources of obsidian are known to have been the material used in the Levant and modern-day Iraqi Kurdistan from a time beginning sometime



A baroque cabochon of iridescent "rainbow obsidian".

about 12,500 BC. The first attested civilized use is from excavations at Tell Brak dated the late fifth millennia.

Americas

Lithic analysis can be instrumental in understanding prehispanic groups in Mesoamerica. A careful analysis of obsidian in a culture or place can be of considerable use to reconstruct commerce, production, distribution and thereby understand economic, social and political aspects of a civilization. This is the case in Yaxchilán, a Maya city where even warfare implications have been studied linked with obsidian use and its debris. Another example is the archeological recovery at coastal Chumash sites in California indicating considerable trade with the distant site of Casa Diablo, California in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Pre-Columbian Mesoamericans' use of obsidian was extensive and sophisticated; including carved and worked obsidian for tools and decorative objects. Mesoamericans also made a type of sword with obsidian blades mounted in a wooden body. Called a *macuahuitl*, the weapon was capable of inflicting terrible injuries, combining the sharp cutting edge of an obsidian blade with the ragged cut of a serrated weapon.

Native American people traded obsidian throughout the Americas. Each volcano and in some cases each volcanic eruption produces a distinguishable type of obsidian, making it possible for archaeologists to trace the origins of a particular artifact. Similar tracing techniques have allowed obsidian to be identified in Greece also as coming from Melos, Nisyros or Yiali, islands in the Aegean Sea. Obsidian cores and blades were traded great distances inland from the coast. In Chile obsidian tools from Chaitén Volcano have been found as far away as in Chan-Chan 400 km north of the volcano and also in sites 400 km south of it.



A thin piece of obsidian is often used as a “backing” material for opal doublets and triplets. The black obsidian adds stability to the opal and provides a dark background color that contrasts with the opal's fire.

Easter Island

Obsidian was also used on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) for edged tools such as Mataia and the pupils of the eyes of their Moai (statues).

Current Use

Though not approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use on humans, obsidian is used by some surgeons for scalpel blades, as well-crafted obsidian blades have a cutting edge many times sharper than high-quality steel surgical scalpels, the cutting edge of the blade being only about 3 nanometers thick. Even the sharpest metal knife has a jagged, irregular blade when viewed under a strong enough microscope; when examined even under an electron microscope an obsidian blade is still smooth and even. One study found that obsidian incisions produced fewer inflammatory cells and less granulation tissue at 7 days, in a group of rats.

Don Crabtree produced obsidian blades for surgery and other purposes,

Obsidian is also used for ornamental purposes and as a gemstone. It possesses the property of presenting a different appearance according to the manner in which it is cut: when cut in one direction it is jet black; in another it is glistening gray. “Apache tears” are small rounded obsidian nuggets embedded within a grayish-white perlite matrix.

Plinths for audio turntables have been made of obsidian since the 1970s; e.g. the grayish-black SH-10B3 plinth by Technics.

Obsidian's hardness of 5.5 makes it relatively easy to carve. Artists have used obsidian to make masks, small sculptures and figurines for thousands of years.



Pig carved in snowflake obsidian, 10 centimeters (4 in) long. The markings are spherulites.