

The Sierra Pelonagram



October 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.



Mookaite Jasper

Mookaite jasper, also known as mookite, mookalite, mookerite, moakite, moukalite and moukaite. However, mookaite is considered the correct spelling and is named after the local area it comes from, Mooka Creek in the Kennedy Ranges near Gascoyne Junction which is about 100 miles inland from the coastal town of Carnarvon in Western Australia.

Mookaite is found only in Australia and is actually a fossiliferous sedimentary rock & it is reasonably common to find cavities left by decomposed belemnite casts or in some rare cases, impressions of ammonites. (Windalia Radiolarite) Microscopic examination shows this rock consists of the remains of tiny organisms known as radiolaria that have an unusual skeletal structure of opaline silica. Billions of these little critters were deposited as sediment in the shallow areas of ancient sea beds. When the seas retreated, these sediments were cemented into solid rock by silica carried in groundwater. The type and degree of silicification varies from place to place, forming opalite, chert and chalcedony.

It has been found in many very bright colors, reds, purples, tan, snow white, ivory white, pinks and many other shades. Sometimes but not often it will have black dendrites and in the hands of a careful lapidary the cabochons can be stunning especially if you get very lucky and run into a nice dendrite tree. The more scenic the more these cabochons will bring. A hundred dollars is common for a nice dendritic stone.



October Birthdays

Omid Aeen Oct. 4
Dave D'Agostino Oct 26
Barbars Farrar Just Oct.

November Birthdays

Frank Hummelbaugh Nov. 10
Dianne Southwell Nov. 13



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). Go to <http://www.cfmsinc.org> for upcoming shows. 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 Message from the President

Hello to all SPRC members, it is a great time to be alive and among other things, alive in the desert! Fall is perfect for collecting and sight-seeing.

Recently a group of us, along with a couple members of the Antelope Valley club had a great field trip to the North Edwards claim and several collecting places within a few miles.

We collected some great agate, jasper and travertine. It was all so beautiful. Then we descended on our claim and Greg Langewisch fired up the firepit and soon we were enjoying hot dogs (blackened, just the way I like it!) followed by decadent s'mores. Potato salad and various types of chips rounded out our meal. Iony and Omid brought their off-road vehicles and played around on them too.

All in all, the weather was perfect, the people fun and we got some good stuff to work at home or the next workshop. Too bad you missed it! There will be a next time, so stay tuned and we hope to see more of you there—wherever that turns out to be!!

It is also time to start thinking about elections! This happens every year at this time but I am always surprised that it is time again so soon. If any of you think you would like to hold an office, let us know! Also, the new president assigns the chairpersons for various things like publicity or hospitality. The list of chair positions is in every Pelonagram,



so take a look and see if you think this is something you would like to do and let us know! Happy Collecting

Lombardi Ranch Fundraiser

On October 11 and 12 the SPRC had their annual booth at the craft fair weekend at Lombardi Ranch aka Pumpkin Patch. We were able to claim a nice spot and the weather was wonderful, just a bit hot, but not as bad as previous years. We were set up and ready for business in record time.

The crowds started swarming our booth, the wheel spinning. I think we had a record number of big wins this year. So many kids (and not-so-kids) went away happy with polished stones, candy, shells and trinkets.

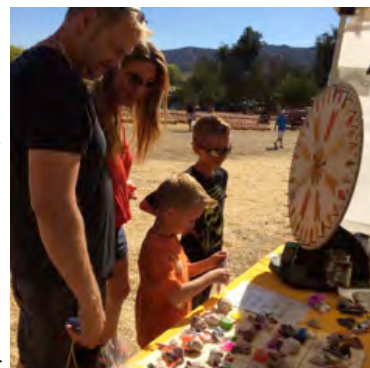
At the end of the day Saturday, we covered the tables and lowered the canopy and headed home, tired and dirty, but with a feeling of

a day well spent.

Sunday afternoon came too early for me and Bill as we were still tired from the day before, but we needed to show up to relieve the morning folks. When we got there, we found Greg Mazourek and Omid hanging onto a canopy fighting for freedom. It had gotten quite breezy and it had already taken flight once, breaking a couple of the metal cross connectors. With tape, rope, bungies and whatever else we could find, we managed to mostly hold it together and finish off a really good second day, for a successful weekend. As far as the canopy went, we discovered that Caravan has replacement parts whereas many other canopies don't. By Tuesday the canopy was in prime condition with its replacement parts. Bill and I donated the canopy to the club and found ourselves an almost new one in the local paper for dirt cheap. Win-win!

Many thanks to club members Greg and Morgan Langewisch, Ralph and Sarita Hyde, Frank Hummelbaugh and Connie Flores-Reisbeck, Deanna Cattermole, Shep Koss, Ron Rackliffe, Larry Holt, Tina White, Trina and Omid Aeen and Deb Clem for coming out and helping the club earn some money for operating expenses for the coming year.

Now we need to get to tumbling for the Placerita Open House in May. Feel free to get your tumblers going to make that another great event for the club.





The Rose Quartz Field Trip

Ron Lawrence

I wasn't too impressed when three vehicles with six of us met at Mammoth but when we pulled into Rosamond and found many more waiting to hit the road things were looking up.

Our next stop, where the 14 hits the 178, added about five more cars and a group from the Tehachapi club.

We headed up the hill with fifteen vehicles from five clubs only to meet five vehicles with some ten more rock hounders already on site collecting rose quartz.

The weather was perfect and the material beautiful. Boulders were carried up the hill one after another until I thought we were too dead to make another trip but I forgot about the determination of some of these people. One and then two more trips with material almost the size of the people carrying them.

Some people left before the group photo was taken and some were still down the hill but this is most of us.

Thank to you the claim holder for allowing permission to collect on their claim and to Shep for arranging it.



Workshop at the Webbers'

On October 5, the club hosted another workshop at Bill and Heidi's place. It was scheduled to be a pretty warm day, but with shade and determination, around 15 people showed up to work their finds. Shortly after 10am, saws were sawing and polishers were polishing. People were learning and people were teaching.

Around noon, lunch was served. Heidi had an Asian theme going on, to no ones dismay! Food disappeared and everyone went back to work. By 3, almost everyone was gone, very happy with their progress and waiting for the next wire-wrap session (November 19)

The next workshop should be in January, stay tuned.



October Field Trip

The field trip for October was fantastic! The weather was perfect, nicely cool with a good breeze. Some of us met at Mammoth and the rest in Rosamond at the usual spot by Jack in the Box. A couple of persons from the Antelope Valley Club joined us.

We headed on down the road, first stop was some nice jasper and agate. After an hour or so of collecting some really nice stuff, we headed for another area for travertine. This is really pretty with a lot of nice purple color in it. About noon, we headed for the club's claim for a weenie roast.

Greg Langewisch fired up the pit and the club's newly donated canopy was set up over the picnic table. Heidi brought some potato salad, Ruth had the most delicious melon cut up in bowls and out came the chips, buns, dogs and s'mores fixin's. We ate and relaxed and then broke "camp" after an hour or so. Some of us needed to get home, others headed off to another collecting site. Iony and Omid had their quad and dirt bikes with them and were enjoying the day with a breeze in their hair and bugs in their teeth. Well, Iony did at least!

It was just another wonderful day in the desert with great friends, wonderful weather and fun company. Join us next time, you won't regret it!



Just a Reminder About Collecting From the Barstow Field Office

Rockhounding

Visitors to the Mojave Desert often ask where they can rockhound. Perhaps the best source of information is rock, gem, and mineral groups found in communities throughout southern California. Libraries, bookstores, and “gem and mineral shows” are also very good sources of published information. Although any hill, mountain, or wash can provide some wonderful rock and mineral discoveries, the following listed areas are some of the well-known sites visited by rockhounds in which good samples can still be found.

Many rockhounding sites require hiking or driving to remote areas on sandy or rocky roads where there is a possibility of getting stuck. It is always a good idea to travel in a group and to bring plenty of drinking water with you when traveling in the desert. If you must travel alone, be sure to let someone know of your plans. Remember to stay on designated open roads. Cross country travel is illegal, as is driving in designated Wilderness Areas.

Rules and Regulations

Part 8365 of Title 43 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) provide for the collecting of “reasonable quantities” of rocks, minerals, semiprecious gemstones, and invertebrate and plant fossils of non-scientific importance, for personal use. With respect to rockhound material, the Field Office considers a “reasonable quantity” to be not more than can be carried in a daypack.

Regulations do not allow collecting on “developed recreation sites and areas,” or where otherwise prohibited or posted. Care should be exercised not to collect minerals on mining claims. Most claimants will allow rockhounding if the individual interested in rock collecting first asks permission. Remember, it is your responsibility to determine if an area is open to collection or if you are on private land.

Petrified Wood

The collection of petrified wood is governed by regulations found in Part 3622 of Title 43 CFR. Persons may collect petrified wood for non-commercial purposes without charge, from public lands. There is a limit of 25 pounds per person per day, plus one piece (to avoid breaking a large piece) to a maximum of 250 pounds per year.

Vertebrate Fossils

The collection of vertebrate fossils is illegal on public lands without a paleontological permit. Violators will be prosecuted under the “theft of government property” provision of 18 USC (United States Code), Section 641, and may face a minimum fine of \$1,000 and a year in jail, and up to \$10,000 and 10 years in jail. Permits to paleontologists are available from BLM State Offices.

Prehistoric Artifacts Virtually all sources of colored silica (agate, chalcedony, jasper, obsidian, etc.) have been historically used by Native Americans in the building of weapons and other tools. The collection of any artifacts, including projectile points, ovate bifaces, cores, flakes, and all other material worked by prehistoric cultures and now found on public lands, is prohibited by the Antiquities Act of 1906, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, without an archaeological permit; such permits may be obtained from BLM State Offices.

Rock for Decorative Purposes

With respect to the collecting of decorative veneer stone, the Barstow Field Office considers a “reasonable quantity” to be not more than can be carried in the trunk of a car.

Mining Claims The requirements for location of mining claims on public lands for commercial mineral development is contained in various Federal Regulations. The information is also available in an easily readable publication entitled “Discovery, Location, Recordation, and Assessment Work for Mining Claims in California.” This publication can be purchased at any BLM office. BLM field offices maintain a record of location for active and abandoned mining claims in the LR-2000 computer system.

Maps Desert Access Guide Maps showing the distribution of public and private lands are available for sale at BLM offices. These maps can be purchased at any BLM office.

California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos,

Moreno Valley, CA 92553 - Phone: (951) 697-5200

Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA 92311 - (760) 252-6000

Needles Field Office, 101 W. Spikes Rd., Needles, CA 92363 - (760) 326-7000

Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 - (760) 384-5400

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262 - (760) 833-7100

El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th, El Centro, CA 92243 - (760) 337-4400

Additional Information

If you would like additional reading material on rockhounding, please visit the California Welcome Center., Tanger Way, Barstow, CA 92311 - (760) 253-4813.



Rockhounding continued

Rockhounding Locations

1. Opal Mountain Black Mountain - 5 miles north of Fossil Bed Road via dirt road . Jasper . Nodules . Opal
2. Mule Canyon - 3 miles north of Yermo . Agate . Borax . Celestite . Jasper . Olivine . Petrified Wood . Satin Spar . Silver . Travertine . Olivine
3. Alvord Mine - 7 miles north of Manix via dirt road . Agate . Calcite . Chalcedony . Jasper . Pyrite
4. Pisgah Crater - 1 mile south of Interstate-40 off of Historic Route 66 . Lava . Volcanic Bombs
5. Cady Mountains - 6 miles north of Pisgah via dirt road . Agate . Chalcedony . Geodes . Jasper
6. Afton Canyon - 1 miles southeast of Afton off ramp via dirt road . Agate . Calcite . Chalcedony . Jasper . Nodules
7. Broadwell Dry Lake - 6 miles north of Ludlow via Crucero Road; west to hilly area . Banded Agate . Moss Agate . Geodes . Jasper . Onyx
8. Halloran Spring - Turquoise Mountain North of Halloran Springs . Azurite . Turquoise

SPRC Business Meeting

October 7, 2014

Greenbriar Estates, Santa Clarita, CA

The meeting was called to order at 7:00. In attendance were Tina White, Ron Lawrence and Ron Rackliffe, Greg Langwisch, Shep Koss and Bill and Heidi Webber.

Elections were discussed and Bill will get a nominating committee together at the General Meeting.

Ron Rackliffe will look into a Director and Officers insurance policy. Start asking for dues for 2015, due January 1, late as of February 2015 business meeting.

The Holiday Party (members and guests only) will be December 14 at 11am in the clubhouse. It will be potluck and the club will supply the meats (turkey and ham) and plates, cutlery, etc. Tina White will be making a chart of who wants to bring what, so if you know already, let her know.

October Field Trip will be at the claim and a few collecting spots nearby, culminating in a weenie roast at the claim.

Heidi said that she was going to start posting more club photos of activities in an effort to encourage more club members' participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber, Secretary, SPRC

SPRC General Meeting

October 21, 2014

Greenbriar Estates, Santa Clarita, CA

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. 24 members and 9 guests.

After the pledge of allegiance, Bill announced that the holiday dinner would be December 14 from 11-5 in the clubhouse. The club will supply meats and all dinning accessories such as cups and plates. It will be potluck and Tina will have a sign-up sheet ready for the next meeting, and if you already know what you may like to bring, email her.

Trina Aeen and Greg Mazourek were named nominating committee. Several persons have expressed an interest in joining the board. If anyone else is interested, please let Greg or Trina know.

Bruce said he has booked the room to the right of the entrance for November 19 for our next wire wrap session from 7-9pm.

The next workshop will be January 24.

Ron Rackliffe said we did well at Lombardi's. Thanks to all who attended to help the club earn operating funds for the next year.

Dues are due in January. Ron will take your money now for 2015. Dues are late as of the first Tuesday of February, the Business Meeting. A \$2 late charge is then applied.

Ron Rackliffe has club T-shirts for sale.

There will be an outreach to the Valencia Library on November 15. Greg M and Greg L are heading the committee for this presentation. Please contact either of them if you wish to help.

Shep Koss said he and some other people with CFMS are organizing a campout on Thanksgiving Weekend near the Ludlow area. If you are interested, see him for details.

Heidi also announced that the SPRC is joining with the Community Hiking Club for a weekend campout the week before Thanksgiving in Afton Canyon. The flyer detailing directions and instructions will be in the October Pelonagram. Please note that if you wish to make this a day trip, feel free.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm for Evelyn's program.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber, Secretry, SPRC

**Community Hiking Club
Sierra Pelona Rock Club
November 2014 Camping Trip**

AFTON CANYON CAMPGROUND

November 21-23, 2014

Latitude: 35° 04'27" N
Longitude: -116° 30'95" W
Elevation: 1,640 feet



Introduction: Afton Canyon Campground is in the Afton Canyon Natural Area, which is located about 37 miles northeast of Barstow along Interstate 15 between the Afton Road and Basin Road exits. Afton Canyon is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect plant and wildlife habitat, and to preserve scenic values of the riparian area within the canyon. Early western explorers passing through this area included Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson and John Charles Fremont. The route following this road, known as the Mojave Road, is a rugged 4-wheel-drive scenic tour running from Fort Mojave on the Colorado River near Needles to Camp Cady near Harvard Road. However, a 4-wheel drive vehicle is not necessary to get to the campground.

This camping trip will be a joint trip with the Sierra Pelona Rock Club.

Directions: From Santa Clarita, take the 14 Freeway north about 25 miles to Exit 30 for Angeles National Highway, Pearblossom Highway. Almost immediately after exiting, there will be a fork in the road. Stay to the left. Continue on Pearblossom Highway for about 6 miles. When you get to Four Points, make a right at the light (direction Highway 138). Continue on 138 for about 18 miles, passing through Littlerock and Pearblossom. You will then reach another fork in the road, where you will need to turn left onto Highway 18 (direction Victorville). Travel another 24 miles or so on Highway 18, until you reach I-15 in Victorville. When you reach I-15 in Victorville, take the ramp to I-15 North (located on your right after you cross over I-15). Travel north on I-15 for about 25 miles, when you will reach the Barstow city limits. Continue on I-15 for about 46 more miles. Take exit 221, Afton Road, and turn right onto Afton Road (a dirt/gravel road). Please note that Afton Road is graded fairly frequently. However, caution is always recommended, especially after any significant rainfall.

You will see this sign shortly after turning onto Afton Road (from the freeway):

Shortly before reaching the campground, you will see another dirt road that forks off to the right with the following sign:

Do NOT turn right at this sign; stay to the left. You will travel on Afton Road (by staying to the left) for about 3.5 miles, until you reach the campground (also on your left).

Description: This campground consists of 22 sites. There are no RV hook-ups. Each campsite has a table; some of the campsites also have a shade veranda over the table. Most campsites have fire rings and some have barbecue grills. Two pit toilets are located in the center of the campground. Water is brought in by truck for one spigot at the front of the campground, but the water quality is unknown. It would be best to bring your own water for the time you will be camping. The BLM requests that you pack out all of your trash, but there are trashcans available throughout the campground.



If you realize that you have forgotten to bring something after arriving at the campground, there is a small store located on I-15, at the



intersection with Afton Road (about 3.5 miles away from the campground). They have ice, charcoal, and a few other necessities for sale.

Fees and Rules: Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to two vehicles or 10 individuals are allowed to occupy each campsite. The fee for camping is \$6.00 per night. Holders of Golden Age/Golden Access Passports only have to pay \$3.00 per night. Quiet hours are 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Camping and campfires are only permitted in the fire rings provided, or in fire pits, within the designated campground. Dogs are allowed, as long as they remain on a leash at all times. Check out time is 2:00 p.m. Removal of plants, rocks, fossils, artifacts, or animals from the Afton Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is prohibited.

Vehicles are restricted to posted open routes. Within this ACEC, routes are posted with "OPEN ROUTE" markers. Routes have been selected to allow access to the area and to the Mojave Road while preserving riparian (stream-side) environments.

BROWN markers with route numbers indicate an OPEN ROUTE for use by motorized vehicles;

No marker indicates a CLOSED route;

Within the Afton Canyon area, travel is restricted to designated OPEN ROUTES.

Weather: The average temperatures this time of year are highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.

Hikes/Trips: We plan to visit the following areas:

Cady Mountains area – to sightsee and collect agate, sagenite, calcite crystals, opalite, petrified palm root, chert, chalcedony and jasper (requiring some hiking).



Rainbow Basin National Natural Landmark – to sightsee and hike.

Calico Early Man Archeological Site (Open Thursday-Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with guided tours on those days at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Fees are \$5.00 per adult (\$2.50 per adult after the first two pay \$5.00), \$1.00 per child and \$2.00 for those 62 and older).

RSVP: To sign up for this camping trip, contact Dianne by email at zuliebear@aol.com. Please note that by reserving early with Dianne, and giving her the camp site fees, she will do her utmost to get you a camping site. However, campsites cannot be guaranteed for any of us, due to the first-come-first-served rule enforced at the campground. Unused camp site fees will, of course, be refunded. If you pay in advance and do not show up, your fees will not be refunded. (They will have already been deposited at the campsite check-in on your behalf.)

NOTE: Camping is NOT required for this trip, feel free to make this a day trip.