

The Sierra Pelonaagram



September 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.

Upcoming CFMS Shows

For further information, visit the club website or the CFMS website at CFMSINC.org/

SEPTEMBER 2013

September 21 - 22: CHICO, CA

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society, Oroville

Website: www.featherriverrocks.com

September 21 - 22: REDWOOD

CITY, CA Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society

Email: preston.bingham@att.net

September 28 - 29: LODI, CA

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club

Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

September 28 - 29: MONTEREY, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Website: www.cvgms.org

September 28 - 29: SANTA ROSA, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society

Website: www.srmgs.org

OCTOBER 2013

October 2 - 6: JOSHUA TREE, CA

Hi-Desert Rockhounds of Moronga Valley, Yucca Valley

Website: <http://www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gem.html>

October 5 - 6: BORON, CA

Mojave Mineralogical Society

Email: Rock5b@starband.net

October 6: FALLBROOK, CA

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility

Website: www.fgms.org

October 12 - 13: ANDERSON, CA

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society

Show Website: www.shastagemandmineral.com

October 12 - 13: GRASS VALLEY, CA

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Website: www.ncgms.org

October 12 - 13: TRONA, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society

Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

October 12 - 13: VISTA, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society

Website: www.vistarocks.org

October 19: WEST HILLS, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

Website: www.rockchippers.org

September/October Birthdays

It looks like Stephanie is all by herself in September.

Happy Birthday to you all!

September

Stephanie Holgren Sept 16

October

Omid Aeen Oct 4

Dave D'Agostino Oct 26

Barbara Farr



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/>



President's Message

Hello all.

Well, September is here and with its arrival official club activities will resume. We have a September general meeting and field trip scheduled in the upcoming weeks. I did many things, since last we met, and I hope you did too. This brings us to the theme for our September meeting; "Show and Tell".

**September Meeting: Show and Tell: Tuesday
9/17/2013 7:30pm**

This is an opportunity to bring your rocks that you collected and/or worked on over the summer. Everyone wants to see what you picked up during the break. So, bring it down and let us take a look. Got some nice rocks you collected while on vacation? Bring em down. Did you make some beautiful cabs? Bring em down. Did

you make some pretty wire wrapped pendants? Bring em down. Let everyone see what you've got!

Our field trip this month will be a joint effort with the Antelope Valley Club. We will be joining their field trip to Sheep Springs where we can pick up, among other things moss agate and maybe some dendritic agate. The trip is on the 4th Saturday of the month; 9/28. More details about when and where we will meet TBA.

I hope everyone had a great summer. We had a fantastic turnout for our get together/ dinner at Rattlers in July. We've had a couple of workshops over at Bill & Heidi's over the past few months. So, hopefully everyone had an opportunity to stay in touch. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting next week!

Greg Langewisch



Business Meeting for September

Due to the lack of a quorum, there was no Business Meeting in September.

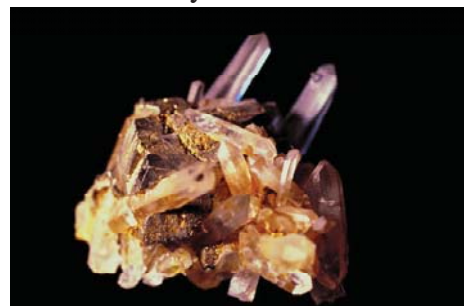
General Meeting for June

The club held their annual picnic. There was tons of food, loads of auction items and active back-and-forth with the bidding.

The Program for September
will be

Show and Tell.

Bring all your treasures you found,
worked or bought over the summer
for everyone to admire.



Mining Claims

The Sierra Pelona Rock Club owns two claims in Southern California. These claims are an integral part of our club, yet I would hazard a guess that most of you don't have any idea how we found and registered the claims. The North Edwards site has been in the club for over 35 years, the Diablo Onyx claim for only a couple of years. The club also owned a couple of claims that we gave up at some point. As you can see, it can take a lot of time and work on the behalf of the club to maintain our claims. The excerpts below are only a partial listing of what is needed to find and file a claim. A big shout of thanks to our Claim Administrator, Mike Serino, for keeping our claims up-to-date and legal.



Ron Lawrence, who has been in the club almost longer than anyone except Frank Humelbaugh, shared his thoughts on our claims. Like he said, a lot of this is relegated to distant memories and hopefully club records:

Well, this may take some time but I will try to separate what I know from what I have heard. Mike Moreno took a few of us out to the Randsburg area years ago to a spot that was once our gold claim. It's just a section of desert in the middle of nowhere with few landmarks. No water, just sand. The only thing notable near there is an area next to it that is the Lockheed gold claim and I can't be sure if it is still an active claim.

Mike also told me that the Rainbow Ledge claim I think currently owned by the Ridgecrest club was once our claim. This is an area near Sheep Springs where we are going this month for our field trip. I have no idea when we had this claim or why we gave it up.

The North Edwards onyx or Sierra Pelona Travertine claim has been in the club for over thirty five years maybe even forty years by now. Mike put on a program a few years ago with a slide show of old club outings and showed club gatherings at the claim when he was quite young. It has always been considered one of the most popular claims and has drawn visitors from all over the states.

From Mike and other old-time members of the club I've learned that when the claim was new they worked the pits nearer the camping area and near the discovery point. Gradually the digs moved along the road and turned the corner to where the newer pits that we now work are.

As far as the new claim is concerned I can only tell you what I know.

Some ten years ago or so Dad and I took the Gem Trails book and went on vacation to check out all the areas we could. We checked out around Death Valley and came over the Panamints near Ballarat.

We checked out the onyx mine thirteen miles north of Trona and then on to the other onyx mine a few miles north of there. We were amazed at the material on the hill and couldn't wait to tell the club. There wasn't a great interest so quite a while passed before we got back out there.

Paul and Ruth, Shep and I drove out there one Saturday and brought back some of the material to show the club. After a few more field trips to the area we started talking about putting a claim on the hill. Janelle and D.J. verified that the area was BLM so we started the claim paperwork.

The area had been under claim a number of times and was even a commercial claim in the past but wasn't currently under claim.

This is to the best of my memory but others may remember is a bit differently.

Excerpts about filing for a claim from the California BLM website follow:

WHO MAY LOCATE A MINING CLAIM?

Any citizen of the United States, a minor who has reached the age of discretion, a corporation, and non-citizens (aliens) who have declared their intention to become a citizen. (43 CFR 3832.1)

WHERE CAN I LOCATE A MINING CLAIM?

A mining claim can be located on federal lands (BLM and Forest Service) that are open to mineral location (entry). If you have a specific location site in mind, you may verify that the lands are open to mineral entry. This can be accomplished by checking with the BLM State Office Information Access Center (Public Room), who will assist you in determining if the lands are open to mineral entry by checking master title plats, records, files and other pertinent information.

WHAT TYPES OF CLAIMS/SITES ARE THERE?

Lode - A classic vein, ledge, or other rock in place between definite walls. A lode claim is located by metes and bounds. The maximum length is 1,500 feet by 600 feet. (43 CFR 3841)

Placer - All deposits, other than lodes. These include placer deposits of sand and gravel containing free gold and other minerals. Placer claims are located by legal subdivision. An individual may locate up to 20 acres with a maximum of 160 contiguous acres with 8 or more people (an association). A corporation is considered a single locator. (43 CFR 3842)

Tunnel Site - A tunnel site is where a tunnel is run to develop a vein or lode. It may also be used for the discovery of unknown veins or lodes. To stake a tunnel site, two stakes are placed up to 3,000 feet apart on the line of the proposed tunnel. Recordation is the same as a lode claim. A Tunnel Site can be regarded more as a right-a-way, than a mining claim. (43 CFR 3843)

Mill Site - Public lands which are non-mineral in character. Mill Sites may be located in connection with a placer or lode claim for mining and milling purposes or as an independent/custom mill site that is independent of a mining claim. Mill Sites are located by metes and bounds or legal subdivision and are up to 5 acres in size. (43 CFR 3844)

WHAT MUST I DO TO MAINTAIN A CLAIM?

Once a claim/site is serialized, an annual filing must be made on or before September 1, of each year to maintain the claim/site. If you have more than 10 claims, you must pay maintenance fees. If you have 10 or fewer claims/sites, you may choose to file either the maintenance fee payment or file the Maintenance Fee Waiver certification (a.k.a. small miners waiver). If you choose to file a small miners waiver, then you must also perform \$100 worth of labor or improvements on all placers or lode claims during the assessment year (September 1, noon through September 1, noon). An Assessment Work Notice (Proof of Labor) form must be filed on or before December 30, along with the \$10 filing fee per claim. For mill/tunnel sites, a Notice of Intent to Hold must be filed on or before December 30, along with the \$10 filing fee per site. To learn more about mining claims/sites filing instructions, please visit our web page mining facts. (43 CFR 3833.1-5 and 43 CFR 3833.1-6)

WHAT QUALIFIES AS ASSESSMENT WORK?

Some of the activities that qualify for assessment work are construction and maintenance of access roads, development drilling and sampling, and buildings that benefit the claim. For more information about what qualifies as assessment work please contact your local BLM office.

Staurolite

What is Staurolite?

Staurolite is a mineral that is commonly found in metamorphic rocks such as schist and gneiss. It forms when shale is strongly altered by regional metamorphism. It is often found in association with almandine garnet, muscovite and kyanite - minerals that form under similar temperature and pressure conditions.



Twinned staurolite crystals in muscovite schist from Pestsovye Keivy, Keivy Mountains, Russia. This specimen of schist has one pair of staurolite crystals forming a 90 degree penetration twin (lower right) and another pair forming the more typical 60 degree penetration twin (upper left, partially embedded). Specimen is approximately 4 inches (10 centimeters) across. Photograph by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com. Used here under a [Creative Commons License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Properties of Staurolite

Staurolite is a silicate mineral with a generalized chemical composition of $(\text{Fe,Mg})_2\text{Al}_9\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{23}(\text{OH})$. It is usually brown or black in color with a resinous to vitreous luster. It ranges from transparent to opaque in diaphaneity.

Staurolite is usually easy to identify when it occurs as visible grains in a metamorphic rock. Grains of staurolite are typically larger than the grains of other minerals in the rock and they often exhibit an obvious crystal structure. They occur as six-sided crystals, often with penetration twins.

Twinning in Staurolite

The name “staurolite” is from the Greek word “stauros,” which means “cross.” The mineral commonly occurs as twinned, six-sided crystals that sometimes intersect at 90 degrees to form a cross. (An intersection angle of 60 degrees is more common.) In some localities these twinned crystals are collected, made into jewelry and sold under the name “fairy crosses.”

Uses of Staurolite

There are very few uses for staurolite. It has been used as an abrasive, but that use has been replaced by other minerals and man-made materials. It is used in geologic field work to assess the temperature-pressure conditions of a rock’s metamorphic history.

In locations where staurolite is found as well-formed cruciform twinned crystals it is sometimes collected, sold as a souvenir, made into jewelry, and used as an ornament. The cruciform crystals have often stirred religious beliefs and superstitions. Some of these objects are not staurolite, instead they are manufactured. If you see a selection of these for sale that are all the same size, the same shape and containing gas bubbles, they might be manufactured.

Staurolite is the official state mineral of the state of Georgia. It is especially abundant in a few localities in Patrick County. One of them is now “Fairy Stone State Park,” named after the stone and the legends that surround it.



Staurolite crystals forming the typical 60-degree penetration twin from Rubelita, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The specimen is about 1.5 inches tall. Photograph by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com. Used here under a [Creative Commons License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



A specimen of quartzite with several brown staurolite crystals and blue crystals of kyanite. This specimen is about three inches wide and was collected in the Bernina Pass area, near Grischun, Switzerland. Photograph by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com. Used here under a [Creative Commons License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



Staurolite in schist from Little Falls, Minnesota. Specimen is approximately 4 inches (10 centimeters) across.

Reference: Geology.com