

The Sierra Pelonagram



September 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.



Go to the CFMS Website at <http://www.cfmsinc.org> and click on "shows" for a listing of California shows each month.

June

Connie Flores-Reisbeck	June 2
Paul Hobbs	June 11
Akiko Strathmann	June 25
Heidi Webber	June 10
Janelle Williams	June 3

July

Trina Aeen	July 28
DJ Gervais	July 5
Ron Rackliffe	July 28

August

Jane Gates	August 6
Ralph Hyde	August 3
Karen Kubota	August 19
Ron Lawrence	August 12
Vlad Litt	August 31

September

Stephanie Holgren	Sept. 16
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October

Omid Aeen	October 4
Dave D'Agostino	October 26
Barbara Farrar	Just October



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 – Evelyn Velie
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). 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 Heidi

A few of you may have noticed that there have been no Pelonagrams in your InBox since June. I had major computer problems which ended up with me the proud owner of a brand new computer, and then I had to get a new publishing program. This has all taken some time, so here we are, with all the catch-up meeting minutes and the September issue of the Pelonagram.

Thanks for your patience.

SPRC Business Meeting

September 2, 2014

Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. In attendance were Ron Rackliffe, Ron Lawrence, Greg Mazourek, Bill and Heidi Webber, Tina White, Mike Serino and Bruce and Evelyn Velie.

Lombardi's is usually the 2nd or 3rd week of October, however an exact date hasn't been posted to their calendar at this time. Ron L will contact them.

Shep sent word that this month's program will be show and tell. Be sure to bring all the goodies you collected, polished, made, etc. to the meeting. Effective with the October program, Evelyn Velie will be taking over as Program Chair. Her October presentation will be a short video with discussion following on "The History of the Earth" by National Geographic. Shep, thanks for all your years of service!

Mike Serino said that the Diablo Onyx claim has been officially dropped and that he has had dialogue with the owner about us occasionally visiting the site for collecting. He will remain the intermediary for future conversations. All paperwork for the year for the North Edwards claim has been filed and paid.

Bruce is going to try to get the little meeting room for September, the 4th Wednesday.

We have tentatively scheduled an outreach with Valencia Library on November 15 at 10:am. We think displays and demonstrations of polishing and wrapping and maybe even sawing (we will be inside, so mess will be a factor). This is a great way to promote our club.

Bruce will try to get the clubhouse room for the Holiday Party for the 13-14th, 20-21, or 6-7th of December, in that order. Placerita won't be available this year.

Be sure to hold onto stuff for the raffle. Make sure it is clean and working.

Club hats and T's are now available. The cost will be \$7 to members for T's (ask Ron R for the cost of hats.)

Don't forget membership dues are coming up as of the first of January. You can start paying your dues at any time.

Bill made a motion to adjourn, Greg seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber
Secretary, SPRC

SPRC Business Meeting
May 13, 2014
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

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

The annual picnic will be June 1 at Meadows park off Old Orchard.

Evelyn is going to do a program on Tanzanite.

Placerita Canyon Nature Center's Open House was a good year for the club. It was suggested that next year we bring a saw and polisher for demonstrations. This may draw in even more interested potential new members.

Wire wrapping: Bruce booked the room for tomorrow, the 14th, which will be the last until September. Remember we will try to do this approximately every other month, with a workshop the other every other month.

The Pelonagram was not issued in May, computer problems.

It was approved to approach Feathers to make badges for membership. (update: Feathers doesn't make badges and sent us to Astro Awards. They did not charge a set-up fee and all back-ordered badges have been made.)

It was suggested that we design and home-print some 3-fold brochures for give-aways at events like Lombardi's.

Heidi made a motion to have a club banner made. It was approved for up to \$225.

Heidi motioned to adjourn, Shep seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

SPRC General Meeting
May 26, 2014
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. 22 members and 2 guests were in attendance. Welcome everyone.

Ron Lawrence said he will let everyone know where this month's field trip would be but he is out at least a couple times a week if anyone wanted to get together more often, just give him a call or email.

Tina White reiterated that the picnic would be pot luck at Meadows Park on June 1. There will also be bingo and the raffle.

There will be a workshop on June 8 at Bill and Heidi's at 10am until you are done.

The members were told that this was the best year yet at Placerita's Open House.

Attendees were reminded that Lombardi Ranch is our biggest fundraiser of the year and is just around the corner regarding tumbling rocks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 for Evelyn to give her program on Tanzanite.

SPRC Business Meeting
June 3, 2014
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. In attendance were Ron Lawrence, Ron Rackliffe, Tina White and Bill and Heidi Webber. A quorum was met.

Heidi will email membership for t-shirts and caps for a final order to give to Ron R.

Ron R said that the proper names are now on the storage unit account.

Ron L. said Antelope Valley club would like to get together with us for a joint trip to the tourmaline mines. The more the merrier. \$\$

Ron L would like to see a line for email to be given by guests so we can continue to connect with them, encouraging new growth to the club.

There will be a mid-summer dinner at a restaurant, probably Rattler's.

This was the final meeting before summer break and was adjourned at 8pm.

A Message from your President



Already summer has come and gone and we are headed into fall. We have so much happening, starting with our main fundraiser, Lombardi Ranch, which will be a weekend to be announced as soon as we know. Please plan to help out one or both days, a couple hours or all day, but we always can use the help. It is also a lot of fun.

In November, we have a new venue, the Valencia Library. We have been asked to set up in one of the rooms for people to come through and see what we do. We really don't know the exact presentation at this time, but will let all know as soon as we do. We hope to have wire wrap demonstrations, polishing and maybe even cutting slabs if we promise to clean up after ourselves!

Evelyn, as our new Program Chair, has some interesting presentations lined up for us to enjoy. Thanks Evelyn, and a huge thanks to Shep for being Program Chair for so many years.

Before you know it, elections will be here. If you would like a position on the board, please let it be known. We always like to see someone with new ideas come in and relieve some of us "old folk". Elections will be held at the December Holiday potluck, ready to start the new year off right.

See you at the meeting!

Bill Webber
President, SPRC

Fire Agate



Fire Agate, a variety of chalcedony, is a semi-precious natural gemstone found only in certain areas of northern Mexico and the southwestern United States. Approximately 24-36 million years ago these areas were subjected to massive volcanic activity during the Tertiary Period. The fire agates were formed during this period of volcanism when hot water, saturated with silica and iron oxide, repeatedly filled cracks and bubbles in the surrounding rock.

Fire agates have beautiful iridescent rainbow colors, similar to opal, with a measurement of

hardness on the Mohs scale of between 6.5 and 7 which prevent issues of fading, cracking and scratching. The vibrant iridescent rainbow colors found within fire agates, created by the Schiller effect as found in mother-of-pearl, is caused by the alternating silica and iron oxide layers which diffract and allow light to pass and form interference of colors known as fire. There is no actual object inside the stone, this special effect arises from light interference within the microstructure layering of the gem.

What also makes fire agates unique is that they are only found in the





south western USA and northern Mexico. Unlike agates which are found in many parts of the world and were known and adored by ancient civilizations such as the Romans and Greeks, fire agates are a relatively new gemstone. They were discovered in the 1950's, but their success as commercially sold gemstones didn't take off until the late 1960's. Today they can be worth from 35\$-500\$ per carat depending on quality and color.

The place to prospect for fire agates in the USA is Maricopa County, Arizona. There are a number of mines in the area, but only one that is open to the public. The Opel Hill Mine is located off Wiley Well road near interstate ten. The nearest town is Palo Verde. This mine is very different from other public mines which are often organized, have facilities and support small industries. On the

contrary the Opel Hill Mine is more of a claim than a mine. It is how one imagines gemstone prospecting was in its glory days and how it should be.

You will need to take your own tools such as hammer, chisel, wire brush and gloves. You will also need buckets to carry the stones. If you prefer not to dig there are also piles of tailing to sift through that other prospectors have excavated. A good tip when digging for fire agates is to look under rocks that are covered in white calcite. Because the mine is located miles from the nearest town you will also need to take food, drink and any other supplies. People are also allowed to camp for free on the mine site.

For more information visit: www.desertusa.com/magjan98/stories/opal.html



References: Wikipedia and DesertUSA

