

The Sierra Pelona nagram



December 2018

... 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.

Dues are Due

OK All, it is that dreaded time of year, The Dues are Due! Bill and I belong to several organizations and they all seem to come due right now! Regarding our club, the dues need to be paid by the February Board Meeting or a \$2 assessment is charged. By March, you could very well lose your membership and will have to put up with me dogging you until then!

The timing of dues is quite important to the club. We have to pay our overarching organization, the CFMS, an annual fee per member in January which covers liability insurance, for starters. Our own insurances are also coming due and so on.

So please be prompt and mail your check to Shana Brunes-Ruiz. Her address is on your roster, I don't want to put it on here as this newsletter goes to many persons who aren't club members.

Thanks Everyone.

Heidi S Webber
Membership Chair, SPRC



January

David Burkhead
Larry Holt
Karen Lindner
Larry Patrich
Martin Schreiner
Robin Shane

Bruce Velie
Austin Williams

February

Adam Hamilton
Brigitte Mazourek
Tina White

**THERE WAS
NO BOARD MEETING
IN DECEMBER**

Officers:

President – Ron Rackliffe
Vice-President – Bill Webber
Secretary: Shana Brunes-Ruiz
Treasurer –Kay Denson
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) --Evelyn Velie

Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table--Ron and Akiko Strathmann
Equipment--Bill Webber
Field Trips – Julie Tinoco
Historian -Open
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie
Membership – Heidi Webber
Website-- Larry Holt
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs –Tina White
Publicity –Bruce Velie
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@pachell.net

Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com





Hi all,

As we celebrate this holiday season and spend time with our loved ones, I wish you all the best, for health, prosperity and happiness. We will quickly be in the New Year, with all our desires for improvement and doing our best.

I want to thank all of you for your support of me and your rock club. We have had some good times this last year. I look forward to getting out to collect with you again this upcoming year and meeting with you at the meetings. I enjoy the comradery and friendship. It feels good to get away from the rat race and enjoy the beauty of the nature around us. Thanks so much for joining me.

Ron R

Sierra Pelona Rock Club General Meeting

Greenbriar Estates

December 8, 2019

The club enjoyed their annual Holiday Dinner beginning at noon, December 8. The turkey, gravy and ham were provided by the club, prepared by Heidi Webber. Members provided all the delicious side dishes and desserts. Karen Rackliffe made 6 lovely centerpieces, and Ron made containers of candy to sit under the centerpieces.

Ron Rackliffe, club president, started the General Meeting at 12:30. He announced that board elections would be held with voting by a show of hands. It went rather quickly, with the new board as follows:

President:	Bill Webber
Vice President:	Kay Denson
Treasurer:	Shana Brunes-Ruiz
Secretary:	Heidi Webber
CFMS Rep:	Evelyn Velie

Various committee members will be contacted to verify if they wish to continue in their current capacity.

Kay Denson advised that Dues are Due as of January 1, 2019 and she would be more than happy to accept them now. As of the February Board Meeting, they will be considered late and a \$2 fee will be added to the annual dues.

An auction of the items brought by members for the White Elephant was quick and lively and made a nice addition to our funds. The silent auction of the rocks followed to great success. The club's first ever 50-50 raffle was won by Heidi Webber.

The Holiday Dinner for 2018 was called at 2pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber for Shana Brunes-Ruiz

Sierra Pelona Rock Club General Meeting

Greenbriar Estates

November 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Guests were: Mike Richter, Scott Miller, Carlos and Tristan Perez Carillo and Chris Driesbach.

Evelyn Velie spoke about the Holiday Dinner to be held on Saturday, December 11. There will be a potluck with the meats (turkey and ham) provided by the club. A rock blind auction, a White Elephant auction, a 50-50 raffle and 6 centerpieces made by Ron and Karen Rackliffe will be raffled off. She asked for attendees to sign up for various dishes for the potluck. It will also be presented online for those not here tonight.

She also spoke of the Visalia CFMS meeting: No alcohol or pot is ever allowed on field trips. Also, they asked for clubs to document trash pick-up when we are on field trips and send to the BLM to show how we are stewards of the land. For our club, give documentation to Evelyn and she will compile the reports to send. Ron Rackliffe said this will add our voices to the BLM regarding land use.

Ron Rackliffe asked for input for Field Trips for 2019. He also discussed fund raisers for 2019 and how our funds are spent.

Elections for the board will be held during the Holiday Dinner.

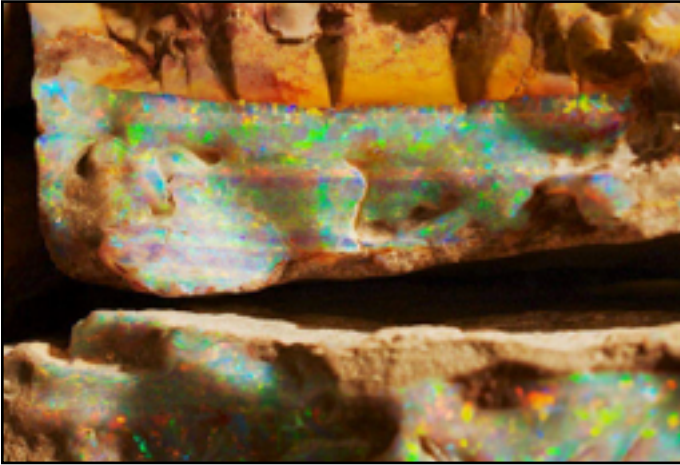
The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber for Shana Brunes-Ruiz

Gemstone Turns Out to be Fossil of an Unknown Dinosaur

GEOLOGYIN.com via Amazing Geologist, Facebook



A new kelpie-sized dinosaur has been identified in the Lightning Ridge opal fields, 100 million years after it roamed prehistoric floodplains.

A new dinosaur has been added to the more than 700 already named after a chance discovery of a jawbone fragment in a bucket of opal rubble from near Lightning Ridge, New South Wales.

The kelpie-sized reptile, which lived in the Cretaceous Period about 100 million years ago, has been dubbed *Weewarrasaurus pobeni* – a name that recognises the fossil's unearthing in the Wee Warra opal field, and honours Mike Poben, an Adelaide-based opal buyer who donated the specimen for research.

It is the first new dinosaur to be named in NSW in nearly a century.

Weewarrasaurus was an ornithomimid dinosaur, part of a group of small plant-eating species that moved around on two legs and that were particularly abundant on the ancient floodplains that covered the region 100 million years ago.

Like all fossils from the Lightning Ridge opal mines, the lower jaw—the only piece of the animal recovered—is preserved in opal. Precious opal gives off a rainbow of colours, in this case shimmering green and blue.

Lightning Ridge is the only place in the world where dinosaur bones routinely turn to opal.

Palaeontologist Dr Phil Bell from the University of New England in Armidale, who led the research, said, "I remember Mike showing me the specimen and my jaw dropped. I had to try hard to contain my excitement, it was so beautiful".

Although only the lower jaw of the new animal has been identified so far, even that might never have been found if it were not for Mr Poben's keen eyes.

"I was sorting some rough opal when, astonishingly, I saw two fan-like ridges protruding from the dirt around one oddly-shaped piece," said Mr Poben. "Time froze: if these were teeth, then this was an opalised jawbone fragment."

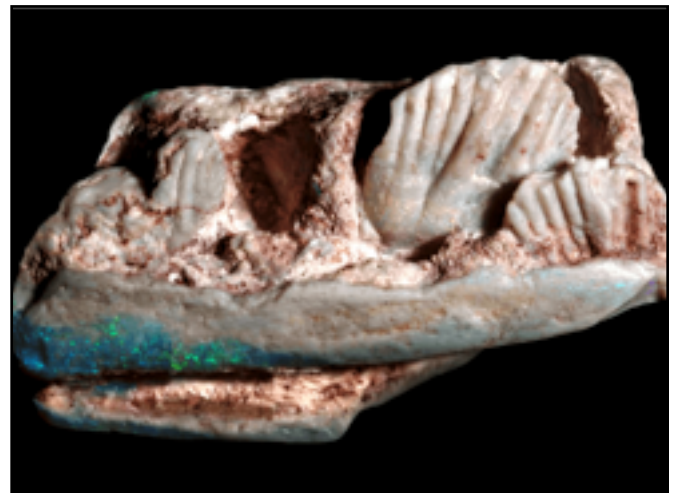
Dr Bell regards Lightning Ridge as a world-class fossil resource because it preserves a unique suite of Cretaceous fauna. "If these fossils were in surface rock, like those found in China and Mongolia, it would be an absolute treasure-trove," he said.

"Unfortunately, the fossil remnants we see are almost always part of mining spoil, because they sit in rock strata that lies up to 30 metres underground. The mining process breaks the fossils into fragments – but on the other hand, we would never get to see even those fragments if it wasn't for mining."

Jenni Brammall, palaeontologist, gemmologist and manager of the Australian Opal Centre in Lightning Ridge, describes the jawbone as "a supremely rare and unlikely discovery".

"This incredible little object is both the 100 million-year-old jaw of a new dinosaur species and a precious gemstone," she said.

The *Weewarrasaurus* jaw is now part of the Australian Opal Centre collection, the world's most diverse public collection of opalised fossils.



<http://www.geologyin.com/2018/12/gemstone-turns-out-to-be-fossil-of.html#CEkfKTTKkEzjvtA7.99> Follow us: @GeologyTime on Twitter