

The Sierra Pelona nagram



February 2019

... 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.



President's Message

February is shaping up around here.

We had great rains last week, and now, while it is kind of cold for SoCal, we aren't Midwest or Back East! It is sunny and beautiful. Flowers are starting to bloom and trees are budding up. A perfect time of year to hit the desert for collecting.

Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary saw his shadow.

As far as the club is concerned, it should be a pretty good month too. On February 16 Julie is guiding us on a great trip for thulite, jasper and some other good stuff. She will be sending out an email soon with details. Keep in mind that this month's field trip is a week earlier than the usual Saturday after the General Meeting. Some-

times we have to shift the trip because of scheduling conflicts.

February 23 is the first workshop of 2019 at mine and Heidi's home. Workshops are for members in good standing only.

Of course, Valentine's Day is next week, so guys, start thinking on that, I can guarantee your significant other has been for some time! Don't wait until the last minute.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting, February 19 at 7:30pm. Until then, Cheers.

Bill Webber
President, SPRC



Welcome New Members

Ed Learn and John Wheeler have joined us as our newest members to the SPRC. Welcome to you both. You will find a lot of friendly people ready to share this wonderful hobby with you.

Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Board Meeting

February 5, 2019

Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Julie Tinoco, Shana Brunes-Ruiz, Kay Denson, Ron Lawrence, Evelyn Velie, Tina White and Mike Serino.

The Minutes for January were approved as presented: Kay motioned/Bill seconded/passed.

The Treasurers Report for January was approved as presented: Kay/Bill/passed.

Ed Learn and John Wheeler applications for membership were presented and passed. Bill/Evelyne/passed. Congratulations!

Rock Exchange: We were contacted by Nan Butler who was a guest of Peggy Stamboulion at one of our meetings last fall. She belongs to the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society in Birmingham, AL and is starting a Rock Pups and would like to exchange some rock samples with us. Heidi is to contact her for more detail and to fulfill her request. We all liked the idea and have lots of samples to share.

Evelyn is attending the CFMS Conference at the Pomona Fair Complex being held from March 8-11. She plans to spend the night on March 9 as she will be manning the ticket booth all day Sunday, starting at 8am. She asked for us to pay for her hotel stay and a meal. She will provide receipts. Heidi/Shana/passed.

Open House at Placerita Canyon Nature Center will be held on May 11. Evelyn said she would like to be the washer woman at Walker Cabin again and we also need volunteers for the SPRC table from 9:30am-3:30pm. You can sign up for half or full day. Contact Kay Denson as she will handle the sign-up sheet.

The February program will be given by Tina White: Sharks in the Central Valley?

There was a discussion as to the Holiday Dinner normally held at the clubhouse, but that is up in the air at this time. If anyone has access to a large room where we could hold our annual dinner, please let us know. We will continue to try to take positive action over the next few months.

The first workshop of 2019 will be held on February 23 at Bill and Heidi Webbers' home from 10-3-ish. Lunch will also be served for \$5 as per usual. This club event is for club members in good standing only. Their address is on the roster.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm. Kay/Bill/passed.

The next meeting will be March 5.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi Webber
Secretary, SPRC



Collecting Ballarat Marble
Heidi Webber

On January 26, a group of us went to Ballarat to collect marble for the January field trip. Julie Tinoco guided Tim and Owen Gunter, Lynn Alexander, Evelyn Velie, Ed Learn, Donna Svetich, Bill and Heidi Webber and their friends Aimee Reece and Sam Bannon.

It was a beautiful sunny day and added bonus, because of the rains, there wasn't any dust. The non-bonus were the hoards of gnats. Bug spray or head nets really helped.

In spite of the gnats, we were able to find several really great pieces of marble. In fact, I found a fantastic piece. Unfortunately, it was a couple hundred pounds and Bill, the party-pooper, said it couldn't be moved. I think if he REALLY tried, it could maybe, possibly have been moved. So I settled on naming it "Heidi's Rock". I will go visit it. Next time, I am packing a wench and some planks!

So after a really great day of gathering, stopping in at the Ballarat General Store and chatting with the proprietor and checking out the grounds, we headed home, dirty and tired and altogether happy.



Shana with her found treasures.



Panamint Valley

Birthdays

February

Carlos Carrillo
Adam Hamilton
Brigitte Mazourek
John Wheeler
Tina White



March

Richard Carlson
Cindy Gold
Ruth Hidalgo
Ed Learn
Evelyn Velie
Bill Webber

Officers:

President – Bill Webber
Vice-President – Kay Denson
Secretary: Heidi Webber
Treasurer –Shana Brunes-Ruiz
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 – Ron Rackliffe
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@pacbell.net

Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com

Sierra Pelona Rock Club
Board Meeting
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse
January 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Julie Tinoco, Shana Bruner-Ruiz and Kay Denson. There was no board meeting (minutes) in December. The General Meeting Minutes were presented which also listed the new board. Julie moved to pass as presented, Kay seconded and the motion passed.

Kay presented the Treasurer's Report. Shana moved to pass as presented, Julie seconded and the motion was passed.

We discussed Evelyn Velie's request to develop a Pebble Pup program to be held during the General Meeting to keep the Pups occupied. We all agreed this would be a nice addition to the meeting.

We need to find a person to be in charge of Hospitality. Julie said she could do it temporarily until someone volunteers.

Scott and Nick Millers' membership applications were presented to the board by Heidi (membership chair). Bill proposed to accept the applications, Kay seconded and the motion was passed. Welcome Scott and Nick!

Julie presented a potential calendar for field trips. The TENTATIVE trips are January-Ballarad, February-Volcano/Lavic Siding, March-Shark Tooth Hill, April-Strawberry Onyx, May-TBD, June-Cambria. These are not absolute, and may be changed. The actual dates may also be changed. The calendar should be distributed soon.

Heidi talked about the 2019 Workshops. The Board decided to hold them on February 16, June 1 and October 5. (February changed to 23rd)

Kay gave Heidi the Treasurer Reports for 2016-2018 to audit. She also gave her documents to Shana. We will go to the Bank of America to get the signature cards changed on Thursday, January 10.

Kay gave some IRS materials to Heidi to complete and file. The IRS is making non-profits update a portion of their by-laws to conform with code changes. Before that can be done, paperwork has to be filed with the state to legalize those changes. Heidi will do what she can by the January General Meeting to present the changes/updates to the membership in attendance. The bylaws state that changes have to be presented one month and voted on the following month, but the IRS is forcing us to make the updates/changes a.s.a.p. (Kay received the notice in December) so a January vote will be held after the updates are read. Members will receive an email detailing the changes so an informed vote can be made at the January General Meeting. Kay motioned we email members with the proposed changes, Heidi seconded and the motion passed.

Julie motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi S Webber
SPRC Secretary



Sierra Pelona Rock Club
General Meeting
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse
January 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm. 22 members and 8 guests were present.

President Bill Webber led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed the guests who stood and introduced themselves.

Heidi Webber explained the needed bylaws changes and also the change to make urgent changes easier. The changes were put to a vote of members in good standing present and it was passed unanimously.

Ron Rackliffe said he would be the Hospitality Chair. We still need a T-shirt chair, an email will be sent to membership looking for a member to take over this very important task. (Trina Aeen has volunteered to be in charge of the t-shirts)

Evelyn Velie talked about Ballarat marble, the destination of the January 26th field trip. It is approximately 3 hours drive. Further information will be emailed by Julie Tinoco before the trip.

Evelyn also spoke of the CFMS Show on August 10. Stoddard Wells is that same weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 for the raffle and refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi S Webber
SPRC Secretary



Moqui Marbles

Moqui Marbles, hematite concretions and iron ore. They are reported to have mystical properties in some cultures, and have a Mars connection.

The stony spheres are concretions — sandstone balls cemented by a hard shell of iron oxide minerals. Often called moqui marbles, acres of the chocolate-colored rocks are scattered across Utah and Arizona. They tumble from the pale, cream-colored Navajo Sandstone beds, when wind and water wash away the softer rock.

Moqui (pronounced "Mo-Key") Marbles consist of a sandstone center covered by a shell of hematite, an iron ore. They can be as small as a toy marble, or as large as eight inches in diameter. The majority of Moqui Marbles come from Utah's Navajo Sandstone Formation (now part of Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument), and in Zion National Park.

For decades, the rocks were simply a geological oddity. The same type of stone formations, nicknamed "blueberries" have been discovered on Mars by the Opportunity Rover in 2005. This was predicted by Utah geologists who were studying environmental conditions that create the formations. However, there is a difference between the Earth marbles and Mars' blueberries, in that the Utah stones are mostly sandstone, and the Martian stones are pure iron oxide (rust). Scientists believe that the presence of rust can mean there was once water on Mars, and that in turn can be tied to the possibility of life.

A study reveals that the moqui marbles are no more than 25 million years old — a sharp contrast to the 190-million-year-old Navajo Sandstone. Marbles scattered on sandstone slopes in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument are only 2 million to 5 million years old. And on Arizona's Paria Plateau, the marbles' iron oxide rind is as young as 300,000 years old, researchers report in the September 2014 issue of the Geological Society of America Bulletin.

"They really represent a record of how water moved the rock millions of years ago, and the next generation can use them to understand water and life on other planets," said Marjorie Chan, co-author of the new study and a geologist at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

The iron oxide concretions found in the Navajo Sandstone exhibit a wide variety of sizes and shapes. Their shape ranges from spheres to discs; buttons; spiked balls; cylindrical hollow pipe-like forms; and other odd shapes. Although many of these concretions are fused together like soap bubbles, many more also occur as isolated concretions, which range in diameter from the size of peas to baseballs. The surface of these spherical concretions can range from being very rough to quite smooth. Some of the concretions are grooved spheres with ridges around their circumference.

The abundant concretions found in the Navajo Sandstone consist of sandstone cemented together by hematite (Fe_2O_3), and goethite (FeOOH). The iron forming these concretions came from the breakdown of iron-bearing silicate minerals by weathering to form iron oxide coatings on other grains. During later diagenesis of the Navajo Sandstone while deeply buried, reducing fluids, likely hydrocarbons, dissolved these coatings.

When the reducing fluids containing dissolved iron mixed with oxidizing groundwater, they and the dissolved iron were oxidized. This caused the iron to precipitate out as hematite and goethite to form the innumerable concretions found in the Navajo Sandstone. Evidence suggests that microbial metabolism may have contributed to the formation of some of these concretions.

Concretions of all shapes and sizes are found all over the world. The curious rocks have inspired fantastical tales of fairies, meteorites and dinosaur eggs, but their origin is fairly mundane. Water flowing through sedimentary rock leaves behind minerals that glue together masses of sand, mud or other particles. Sometimes, a treasure — like a bone or a shell — hides inside.

Reference: Amazing Geologist, Facebook



*Moqui marbles on a sandstone slope. The concretions collect in topographic lows.
Photo: Marjorie Chan, University of Utah*



*Interior of a Moqui Marble.
Photo: MostlyDeserts*



*Wind-blown sand polishes the outer shell of hematite or goethite.
Credit: Marjorie Chan, University of Utah*