

The Sierra Pelonagram



April 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.



Bruce is proud of his 15 million-year-old baby whale jawbone.

Sharktooth Hill

The SPRC had 26 club members and friends join us for the March 16, 2019 field trip to Sharktooth Hill (Ernst Quarries), Bakersfield. The day turned out to be sunny and warm. A perfect day to collect fossils.

The shark teeth were in short supply although some nice ones were found. There were plenty of ancient bones to collect which many of us did. Bruce V. found a partial baby whale jawbone of what might be a new species according to Rob our guide. Rob will contact Bruce in near future with more information on his find.

Jack J. and Joaquin G. found some beautiful Selenite Crystals (a form of Gypsum) which they shared with many of us in the group.

There were a group of cows that decided to visit during the collecting. I was a fun day which culminated between 3:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon.

Julie



Joaquin and Jack had so much fun.



Even the cows came for a visit!

Happy Birthday All You Spring Babies!

April

Lynn Alexander May
Gerardo Guzman
Joaquin Guzman
Greg Mazourek
Yolanda Resnick
Michael Shane
Ron Strathmann
Michael Wertz



May

Tristan Carrillo
Kory Lindner
Scott Miller
Mike Serino

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 – 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@pacbell.net

Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com



President's Message

What a wonderful spring we have had! Beautiful weather and a super bloom that has caught the fancy of the country, maybe the world!

We have several events coming up before our summer break. We have an outreach at Placerita Canyon Nature Center for their Junior Rangers program. Who knows how many future rockhounds we will encourage. We also have a table at their Open House which is one of two fundraisers we do each year. We will be needing help at the table for this all-day event. Then will be the end-of-year picnic in June. That is always a fun time. Details will be provided as the various times near.

Have a great April and we will see you at the meeting on April 16.

Bill Webber,
President, SPRC

SPRC General Meeting

Greenbriar Estates
March 19, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM by President Bill Webber

Present - General Membership and guests

New guests introduced themselves as Robert and Krista; they found our club online.

New members present to receive their membership packets were Danny and Monroe Quarles and Linda and Jack Jenkins.

Bill reported that at the Placerita Nature Center the Junior Ranger program has requested us to do a presentation on rock hounding and lapidary April 13 from 11 to 1. He was asking for anyone interested in helping to speak to him about doing so.

Julie Tinoco was absent but it was reported that our field trip for the strawberry onyx is up in the air for April due to a closure of the collecting site. She will send everyone an email when details are firmed up.

The CFMS has confirmed that all conferences will be every six months going forward. Which is far more convenient for those who want to attend.

Bill reported that on May 11 the Open House at the Placerita Nature Center we will have our usual booth. He needs volunteers for that. We will bring our spinning wheel, geodes to cut and our sand box to sift for treasures.

Tina White: It was reported that the membership is not allowed to loiter outside the gate to get in for the meetings. There are instructions on the call box on who to call for the gate to be opened and presently we dial #051. If the current person is going to change a note will be posted on the gate. If we continue to loiter outside the gate and sneak in when somebody comes home we could lose our privilege of using the clubhouse.

Tina gave a presentation on strawberry Onyx. She also reported that the strawberry onyx collecting site is closed to anything that has a wheel on it. No vehicles, no carts, no wagons are allowed. But she believes we are allowed to walk in and it's a 2 to 2 1/2 mile walk. Tina was going to check on the validity of that statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM where we all participated in the silent auction and raffle drawings and lots of yummy snacks.

Respectfully Submitted

Robin Shane for Heidi Webber
Secretary, SPRC

SPRC Board Meeting

April 2, 2019

Present: Bill and Heidi Webber, Kay Denson, Shana Brunes-Ruiz, and Julie Tinoco

The minutes were presented and approved. Kay/Bill/passed. Heidi said she would start emailing the minutes to the board, apart from the newsletter.

The Treasurer's report was presented and approved. Kay/Bill/passed.

Placerita outreach on 4/13. Bill explained the request. Heidi will send a group email for helpers.

Julie said she was waiting for Ruth Hidalgo to get back to her with information regarding the strawberry onyx field trip. Ruth is in touch with BLM and may "possibly" get a deferral to the wheels prohibition. Julie will let membership know as soon as she knows anything.

Open House at Placerita. Heidi will email a request to members to sign up to help. Half day or full day. The more people available, the more opportunity for members to visit the various events at the center happening that day. Evelyn will be the washer-woman at the cabin as she has been for the last several years. Heidi will buy small toys and candy for the wheel. We will bring a saw and small tumbler. We can cut stones and geodes bought in the gift shop. We won't bring geodes as that will conflict with the gift shop. Julie said she will be there all day, Kay 1/2 day morning.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm. Shana/Kay/adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi Webber
Secretary, SPRC

520-Million-Year-Old-Sea-Monster had 18 Mouth Tentacles



*A detailed fossil of the newly identified
Daihua sanqiong.
Credit: Yang Zhao*

Scientists have uncovered a wealth of well-preserved fossils in China from the early Cambrian Period, representing 101 species so far, over half of which have never been described before.

The most recent 12% of time on Earth is a striking anomaly when compared with the great bulk of our planet's evolution. After 3 billion years or more of Earth as a microbial world, cells found ways to grow and assemble in their millions to build eyes, guts, muscles, nerve systems with brains, skeletons and the rest of the complex structures that form the mobile, sentient, marvelously various animals that fill our now familiar world.

The speed of this transition, seen by geologists in the sudden appearance of complex fossils such as trilobites in layers of rock, seemed so shockingly abrupt that it amazed and worried even Charles Darwin. As this flowering of complex multicellular life is used to mark the beginning of the Cambrian Period of Earth time, 541m years ago, it has long been called the "Cambrian explosion".

We now know it was not quite so abrupt. The evolution actually took place in distinct stages over more than 30m years – the pioneering geologist Preston Cloud called it "the Cambrian eruption".

Read more at <http://www.geologyin.com/2019/03/520-million-year-old-sea-monster-had-18.html#0wVK0cVIwDadQrry.99>

The period has, somewhat mysteriously, left behind more than its fair share of amazing fossil localities called "Lagerstätten", where not only hard skeletons but soft and delicate tissues are preserved, to give a much clearer window on the totality of life than the usual fragments of shell and bone. The classic in this respect was long the Burgess Shale, high up on Mount Stephen in British Columbia, Canada, and mined for its wondrous fossils for more than a century. In the past three decades it has been joined by China's Chengjiang deposits.

Together these have given a detailed picture from near the dawn of animal life in the marine realm (the land, then, was still largely barren): a wealth of arthropods, worms, lamp shells, sponges, chordates, and even some animals that still defy biological assignment.

Now another Cambrian Lagerstätte has turned up – and the first results, just published in Science, suggest that it may rival those of the Burgess Shale and Chengjiang. It is also in China, in Qingjiang in Hubei province, and is about the same age as the Chengjiang, some 518m years old, and so in the early part of the Cambrian Period. Indeed, it formed on the same general stretch of continental shelf sea as the Chengjiang fossils, about 1,000km away, and seemingly in somewhat deeper waters. What is surprising is that not only are the fossils just as exquisite, but they represent quite different animal communities. The Cambrian seas were clearly more diverse than thought, even in those early days.

Although the Qingjiang fossils do include many worms, arthropods and sponges, they also are prolific in animals possessing the most delicate and translucent of tissues, such as jellyfish, here preserved with mouths and tentacles, and their distant relatives "comb jellies". These are rare in the Burgess Shale and Chengjiang deposits, but among the Qingjiang fossils there are many astounding examples, flattened on the shale surfaces and preserving fine details of these softest of anatomies.

The comb jellies may be the earliest form of animal – a title that they currently contest with the sponges. Both these kinds of animal are preserved here, in numbers and fidelity that may help resolve the dispute.

Other strange and wonderful animals appear in the Qingjiang strata, and represent curious and perhaps profound trends in evolution. There are kinorhynch, for example – these are the "mud dragons", animals that are today obscure because they are part of the "meiofauna", those tiny creatures that live between grains of sediment on the sea floor.

Here, three new fossil forms have been found, some up to 4cm long, rather than the contemporary sub-millimetre size. These Cambrian giants suggest that some of today's meiofauna started off "normally" sized, and then became miniaturised – for good.

It is a true cornucopia. How did it form? The same kind of quickfire preservation process is mooted as for the Burgess Shale and the Chengjiang fossils: the animals were caught up in mud slurries, and carried down to deep, oxygen-starved parts of the sea floor to be rapidly buried in the stifling mud. It makes sense – but then such conditions and processes persisted long after the Cambrian, and yet were rarely associated with such bonanza fossil finds. There is much that remains mysterious about the dawn of life as we know it – but the Qingjiang fossils, as we study them more, will slowly shed light on these enigmas.



*An undescribed species of Leanchoilina, an
arthropod, from the Qingjiang fossil site.
Photo: FU ET AL*

Read more at <http://www.geologyin.com/2019/03/520-million-year-old-sea-monster-had-18.html#0wVK0cVIwDadQrry.99>