

The Sierra Pelonagram



May 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.



Strawberry Onyx Field Trip

By Julie Tinoco

On Saturday April 27, 2019 the SPRC went on a field trip to collect Strawberry Onyx in the Ludlow area. Eight of us--Trina & Omid Aeen, Larry Patrich, Evelyn Velie, Ed & Adam Learn, Ron Rackliffe and I met up and left Canyon Country at 6:30 in the morning.

The weather cooperated for the first half of the 2.5 mile walk to the mine area. It got warmer but wasn't bad in the shade of the old shack. We collected some beautiful specimens then rested up in the shade before heading back to the vehicles. The 2.5 mile walk back had the temperature climbing from 90 to 100 degrees. It was brutal with no shade for the walk back; the air conditioning sure felt good once we reached the vehicles.

Everyone ended up with some beautiful specimens, so it was worth it



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all you Spring and Summer Babies!

May

Tristan Carrillo
Kory Lindner
Scott Miller
Mike Serino



June

Connie Flores-Reisbeck
Tim Gunter
Paul Hobbs
Thomas Rossi
Katie Stewart
Akiko Strathmann
Heidi Webber
Janelle Williams
Dianne Wohlleben

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

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Or e-mail: hwebber@pacbell.net

Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com



President's Message

We are already five months into 2019 and close to our summer break. We have had some great field trips thanks to our Field Trip Chair, Julie Tinoco. Shark Tooth Hill, Ballarat Marble and most recently a hike in for Strawberry Onyx. The May trip will be to the club claim at North Edwards for travertine and possibly a short side trip for petrified palm root. A weenie roast is also on the agenda. We have a lot of new members so this should be a nice trip for them.

Coming up this weekend, May 11, is the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House and I hope to see a lot of the club come out. We will have a table in our usual spot in the classroom with a saw outside for cutting geodes. This is one of our fundraisers, the other one being Gilchrest Farms in October.

So have a great May, enjoy the May Grey as much as possible. Summer will be here before we know it!
Bill

Sierra Pelona Rock Club

General Meeting

Greenbriar Estates Mobile Home Park

April 16, 2019

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, nine guests were introduced.

32 members were in attendance.

Membership packets were given to new members.

May 11 is the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House. Heidi will email members to sign up for the day. This is one of two fund raising events held each year.

Julie Tinoco described what to expect on the April 27 field trip for Strawberry Onyx. Details as to what to bring and what to expect will also be emailed to club members.

April 20—this upcoming Saturday, is a special field trip to Gem Hill to introduce a cub scout pack to rock collecting. Julie and Ron Lawrence will be taking the group but encouraged anyone else interested to join them. Meet at 7:45am at Mammoth Lane.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm for Tina White's program.

Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Board Meeting

May 7, 2019

Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Evelyn Velie, Shana Brunes-Ruiz and Kay Denson.

The Treasurer's Report was discussed and passed. (Heidi/Evelyn/passed).

The Minutes from April were discussed and passed. (Evelyn/Shana/passed).

Chris Driesbach was voted in as our newest member. Welcome Chris.

May Field Trip: The May field trip will be to the club's claim for travertine, a side trip is planned to collect some petrified palm and a weenie roast. The club will supply hot dogs and buns. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish like chips or salads, etc, to round out our meal. As always, bring your own drinks and a chair. Bill will bring the EZ-Up and tables. Heidi said she will bring the paper plates, napkins and plastic utensils.

June 1 is the workshop at the Webber's home. Lunch will be served at \$5 per person. Not sure what Heidi will be cooking but it will be good! Promise! Email will be sent out before as a reminder and to get an approximate attendance.

June 8 is the end of season picnic in Meadows Park. More detail will also be emailed.

A letter was mailed to Clyde Morton, the gentleman who invited the club to his late fathers' home to gather his rock collection. 28 members showed and 2400# of rock distributed, along with a nice tumbler rack, and several new or almost new tumbler tubs. There was also a lot of various grit and rouge given to the club. We thank him whole-heartedly.

Bill said that the tables that Ron Rackliffe was able to buy at auction for the club are starting to deteriorate. One is pretty bad and so will be disposed of, the other will be done when the time comes. They are stored outside as there isn't anywhere else to put them. They have been well-used in the time the club has had them.

Bill said that he was able to repair the frozen motor on the Genie. A new one would have cost over \$500 but all it needed was 2 \$10 bearings, free shipping. We also decided that the Genie really needs to stay at the Webber's home, not to be loaned out any more. If someone wants to use it, contact them and arrangements will be made for the club member to come to the house and use it. There are still a couple saws that can be loaned out.

Bill was also voted permission to buy an expandable wheel for one of the machines, which will completely convert that machine to expandable. It is a lot more price effective to use the sanding belts than to mail the entire wheel out for resurfacing. The end purpose is to have all the sanders converted to expandable at some point.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm. (Shana/Kay/passed)



How the Color or Clarity of Gemstones is Altered

Today, most gems are treated to improve appearance. Gemstones are often treated to enhance the color or clarity of the stone. Depending on the type and extent of treatment, they can affect the value of the stone. Some treatments are used widely because the resulting gem is stable, while others are not accepted most commonly because the gem color is unstable and may revert to the original tone.

Heat

Heat can improve gemstone color or clarity. The heating process has been well known to gem miners and cutters for centuries, and in many stone types heating is a common practice. Most citrine is made by heating amethyst, and partial heating with a strong gradient results in "ametrine" – a stone partly amethyst and partly citrine. Aquamarine is often heated to remove yellow tones, or to change green colors into the more desirable blue, or enhance its existing blue color to a purer blue.[18]

Nearly all tanzanite is heated at low temperatures to remove brown undertones and give a more desirable blue / purple color.[19] A considerable portion of all sapphire and ruby is treated with a variety of heat treatments to improve both color and clarity.

When jewelry containing diamonds is heated (for repairs) the diamond should be protected with boric acid; otherwise the diamond (which is pure carbon) could be burned on the surface or even burned completely up. When jewelry containing sapphires or rubies is heated, those stones should not be coated with boracic acid (which can etch the surface) or any other substance. They do not have to be protected from burning, like a diamond (although the stones do need to be protected from heat stress fracture by immersing the part of the jewelry with stones in water when metal parts are heated).

Dyeing

Dyeing refers to one of the oldest treatments recorded. The treatment involves the introduction of a coloring agent into a gemstone to give it a new color, intensify an existing color or improve color uniformity.

Radiation

Virtually all blue topaz, both the lighter and the darker blue shades such as "London" blue, has been irradiated to change the color from white to blue. Most greened quartz (Oro Verde) is also irradiated to achieve the yellow-green color. Diamonds are irradiated to produce fancy-color diamonds (which occur naturally, though rarely in gem quality).

Waxing/oiling

Emeralds containing natural fissures are sometimes filled with wax or oil to disguise them. This wax or oil is also colored to make the emerald appear of better color as well as clarity. Turquoise is also commonly treated in a similar manner.

Fracture filling

Fracture filling has been in use with different gemstones such as diamonds, emeralds and sapphires. In 2006 "glass filled rubies" received publicity. Rubies over 10 carats (2 g) with large fractures were filled with lead glass, thus dramatically improving the appearance (of larger rubies in particular). Such treatments are fairly easy to detect.

Reference: *Geology.com*