

# The Sierra Pelonaogram



April 2021

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*... Member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc. ...*

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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.

## Sierra Pelona Rock Club

General Meeting  
March 16, 2021  
Zoom

15 members attended the meeting. The meeting was Called to Order at 7:08pm.

It was told that the new BBQ pit was no longer at the claim. Bill and Heidi said they would check it out. (It was stolen—verified). There was some discussion about replacing the pit as Ruth said there has been a lot of trouble with people setting fires in the area (we had a couple burned shrubs and the entrance tires were burned. Bill found more tires that had been thrown out in the desert to re-stack at the drive entrance), and she felt, based on other clubs and organizations' problems with this, that another pit may encourage illegal and destructive burning. For now, we will bring our BBQ's for events.

Ruth said she was going to make new signage at the entrance road to the claim as the others are gone or so faded as to be unreadable.

There being virtually no additional business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 for Tina White's program on the Many Forms of Calcium Carbonate.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heidi S Webber, Secretary, SPRC



We are selling the club's Flat Lap polisher. It is a Diamond Pacific 24" Vi-Bro-Lap. It was refurbished a few years ago and has never been used since. \$300. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members.

## Birthdays

### April

Lynne Alexander  
Yolanda Resnick  
Greg Mazourek  
Michael Shane

### May

Therese Colvin  
Golden Crockett  
Lise Meyers  
Mike Serino



### **Officers:**

President – Bill Webber  
Vice-President – Julie Tinoco  
Secretary: Heidi Webber  
Treasurer –Shana Brunes-Ruiz  
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) --Ron Rackliffe

### **Chairpersons:**

Claim--Linda Jenkins  
Donation Rock Table--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 –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](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

Visit the SPRC website [www.sierrapelona.com](http://www.sierrapelona.com)

## Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Board Meeting

April 6, 2021

Zoom

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:20pm. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Shana Brunen-Ruiz, Julie Tinoco, Tina White and Ron Rackliffe.

Tina gave us the exciting news that the clubhouse at Greenbriar is now available to us. There are some non-negotiable requirements at this time until everyone sees how things go. Masks are mandatory. No food or drink is to be served; members are to bring their own drink. No more than 25-30 people are allowed to be in the room at one time. In anticipation to a lot of people wanting to meet for the first time in over a year, we decided that we would need members to basically reserve a spot for the meeting. Hopefully, this requirement won't be for long. We can have our usual June picnic in the park and then break for summer, with a couple field trips and hopefully our summer dinner at a restaurant.

Shana's Treasurer Report was approved. Ron/Bill.

April program: Tina will give a program about the Petrified Forest and petrified wood in general. If you have some nice samples, feel free to bring it in to show.

Ron Rackliffe proposed we try to sell the flat lap again. He researched them and we decided to try to sell it for \$300 OBO. It is never used and had been refurbished several years ago. He is going to email Heidi a photo for the Pelonagram. His proposal was seconded by Heidi and the board approved selling the flat lap.

Bill and Heidi will hold the first workshop in over a year on June 12. More information to come as the date gets closer.

At the April General Meeting, the first thing is to request a change in the Bylaws to allow electronic voting on club matters, including voting in new officers. We all know how that worked out last year and we aren't the only club struggling with this. A vote to change this portion will be held at the May General Meeting. A copy of that portion is below, plus it will be emailed to all members and read at the meeting.

### **ARTICLE TWELVE - Amendments:**

"The bylaws shall only be amended once a year. Amendments shall only be made through a committee. The president shall appoint at least three active members to the committee, who in turn shall solicit and consider all inputs from the general membership. The committee shall report their recommendation for amendments at a general meeting. These bylaws may be amended at a general meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active membership present, provided a reading of the proposed amendment has been given at the previous general meeting and a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed to each member household or a soft copy sent via e-mail at least 10 days before the meeting designated for the vote. The committee shall conduct the voting (bylaw changed by membership vote March 2012)."

### **Elections:**

"The term of elections of officers of the Board is one year. (amended December 2011 to clarify the term of office)

Elections shall be held at the general meeting in December. If there is but one candidate, the ballot may be dispensed with and the election held by voice vote. A majority vote is required for election to office. Secret ballots shall be used when there are two or more candidates for one office. The nominating committee chairperson shall conduct the ballot."

The proposed change will be the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Elections section to read:

"Elections shall be held at the general meeting in December except if in-person voting is prohibited and beyond membership control. (Covid-19 pandemic for example). Electronic voting will be permitted at that time. Voting shall still be held in December and only one method of voting will be permitted per election. (in-person or e-vote)."

Julie Tinoco is making a tentative official club field trip to the Cambria area/Moonstone Beach for May 22. She needs to get permission from the property owner and an insurance rider for that owner. Emails will give further details.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 Ron/Bill. Passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber, Secretary, SPRC

## President's Message



Well, this month I come to you with exciting news. After over a year of not being allowed in-person meetings, the state, county and Greenbriar Park management have given permission to start meeting again, with some restrictions. We'll take it! April 20 at our old meeting time of 7:30. We are only allowed a maximum of 30 persons, so be sure to email Heidi to let her know to add you to the list. There will only be April and May meetings before the June picnic and off for the summer. We shall see what September brings.

As we found out to our surprise from the lockdown, we were unable to hold elections for a new board in December. Technically the current board wasn't able to continue either, but after talking to several other boards with the same dilemma, we continued with our jobs with approval of membership. This year, there will absolutely be an election! But to help prevent something like this happening in the future, we will be approaching membership for a vote to change the bylaws to reflect e-votes. More information on this will be noted via email and at the meeting on April 20 for a May vote. This is an important adjustment to the bylaws that no one ever thought about.

We are also going to be able to hold official field trips again and workshops! In fact, our next workshop is scheduled for June 12! More on that as the day draws closer.

So, exciting news all around!

See you at the meeting! In person!

Bill Webber, President, SPRC



Photo by Ronnie Van Dommelen

## Howlite

*Howlite is our club rock/mineral. Every new member gets a slab in their packet. However, I personally never knew that it can come in a crystal form too. I bet the older rockhounds knew that! Anyway, here is a little information about howlite.*

### History

Howlite was discovered near Windsor, Nova Scotia in 1868 by Henry How (1828–1879), a Canadian chemist, geologist, and mineralogist. How was alerted to the unknown mineral by miners in a gypsum quarry, who found it to be a nuisance. He called the new mineral silico-boro-calcite; it was given the name howlite by James Dwight Dana shortly thereafter.

### Geology

The most common form of howlite is irregular nodules, sometimes resembling cauliflower. Crystals of howlite are rare, having been found in only a couple localities worldwide. Crystals were first reported from Tick Canyon in the Sierra Pelona Mountains of California, and later at Iona, Nova Scotia. Crystals reach a maximum size of about one centimeter. The nodules are white with fine grey or

black veins in an erratic, often web-like pattern, opaque with a sub-vitreous luster. The crystals at Iona are colorless, white or brown and are often translucent or transparent.

Its structure is monoclinic with a Mohs hardness of 3.5 and lacks regular cleavage. Crystals are prismatic and flattened on {100}. The crystals from Tick Canyon are elongated along the 010 axis, while those from Iona are elongated along the 001 axis.

### Jewelry

Howlite is commonly used to make decorative objects such as small carvings or jewelry components. Because of its porous texture, howlite can be easily dyed to imitate other minerals, especially turquoise because of the superficial similarity of the veining patterns. Howlite is also sold in its natural state, sometimes under the trade names of "white turquoise" or "white buffalo turquoise," or the derived name "white buffalo stone" and is used to produce jewelry similar to how turquoise is used. Varieties of the unrelated gemstone turquoise which are white instead of the typical blue or green color have been mined in the US States of Arizona and Nevada, and are also marketed as "white buffalo turquoise". Most of the white varieties of turquoise are chalk-like with a Mohs hardness of 1, and are not as hard or durable as howlite, and subsequently require stabilization in order to be used in jewelry, which has resulted in howlite being more popular for use in jewelry than the artificially stabilized white forms of the mineral turquoise.

## Granite vs Gabbro: Similarities and Differences

### Definition:

Granite is a medium-to coarse-grained acid igneous rock with essential quartz (>20%) and feldspar, where alkali feldspar constitutes between 100 and 35% of the feldspars, and minor mafic minerals.

Gabbro is a dark, medium- to coarse-grained intrusive igneous rock composed of calcium plagioclase, pyroxene, and minor olivine, but no quartz.

### Texture:

Granite is a coarse-grained igneous rock with average grain size ranging from 1 to 25 millimeters.

Gabbro is generally coarse grained, with crystals in the size range of 1 mm or greater.

### Classification:

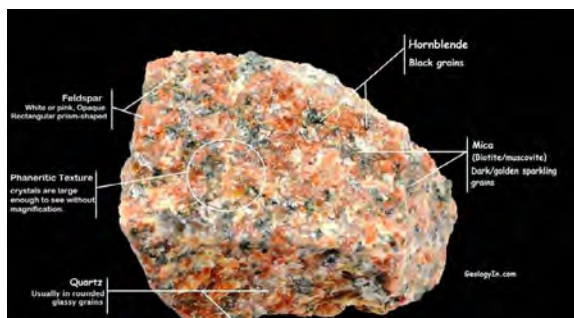
Granites are subdivided on the basis of the relative proportion of alkali feldspar to plagioclase feldspar into monzogranites (65-35% alkali feldspar), syenogranites (90-65% alkali feldspar), and alkali granites (>90% alkali feldspar). Around 70% of granites are monzogranites. Granites can be subdivided on the basis of their chemistry into peralkaline, metaluminous, and peraluminous on the basis of the ratio  $Al_2O_3/(Na_2O + K_2O + CaO)$ .

Gabbro in the strict sense of the term is an intrusive rock that is chiefly composed of monoclinic pyroxene and plagioclase. If more than 90% plagioclase is present, then the rock is an anorthosite, if on the other hand, the rock contains more than 90% pyroxenes, it is termed pyroxenite. Gabbro may also contain small amounts of olivine (olivine gabbro) amphibole (hornblende gabbro) and biotite. Gabbroic rocks may contain small amounts of quartz (up to 5%). If there is more quartz present, the rock must be named quartz gabbro. If quartz makes up more than 20%, then the rock is one of granitoids.

### Mineralogy

#### Granite Mineral composition:

Granite is a medium-to coarse-grained acid igneous rock with essential quartz (>20%) and feldspar, where alkali feldspar constitutes between 100 and 35% of the feldspars, and minor mafic minerals. Hornblende and biotite are the commonest mafic minerals, however, muscovite is also frequently encountered. Pyroxene, andalusite, corundum, tourmaline, garnet and topaz are also relatively common mafic minerals.



#### Gabbro Mineral composition:

Gabbro is composed mainly of calcium-rich plagioclase feldspar (usually labradorite or bytownite) and clinopyroxene (augite). Minor amounts of olivine and orthopyroxene might also be present in the rock.

#### Occurrence:

Granite containing rock is widely distributed throughout the continental crust. [8] Much of it was intruded during the Precambrian age; it is the most abundant basement rock that underlies the relatively thin sedimentary veneer of the continents. Outcrops of granite tend to form tors and rounded massifs. Granite often occurs as relatively small, less than 100 km<sup>2</sup> stock masses (stocks) and in batholiths that are often associated with orogenic mountain ranges.

Gabbro is an essential part of the oceanic crust, and can be found in many ophiolite complexes as parts of zones III and IV (sheeted dyke zone to massive gabbro zone). Long belts of gabbroic intrusions are typically formed at proto-rift zones and around ancient rift zone margins, intruding into the rift flanks. Mantle plume hypotheses may rely on identifying mafic and ultramafic intrusions and coeval basalt volcanism.

#### Uses:

Granite has several uses. It may contain valuable minerals. These may be either gemstones or industrial minerals. Granite is an important construction material. It is hard and durable which makes it a very good material for aggregate. It is one of the most important dimension stones because of beautiful textures and colors. It is also massive and durable – ideal material for countertops.

Gabbro often contains valuable amounts of chromium, nickel, cobalt, gold, silver, platinum, and copper sulfides. Ocellar (orbicular) varieties of gabbro can be used as ornamental facing stones, paving stones and it is also known by the trade name of 'black granite', which is a popular type of graveyard headstone used in funerary rites. It is also used in kitchens and their countertops, also under the misnomer of 'black granite'.

