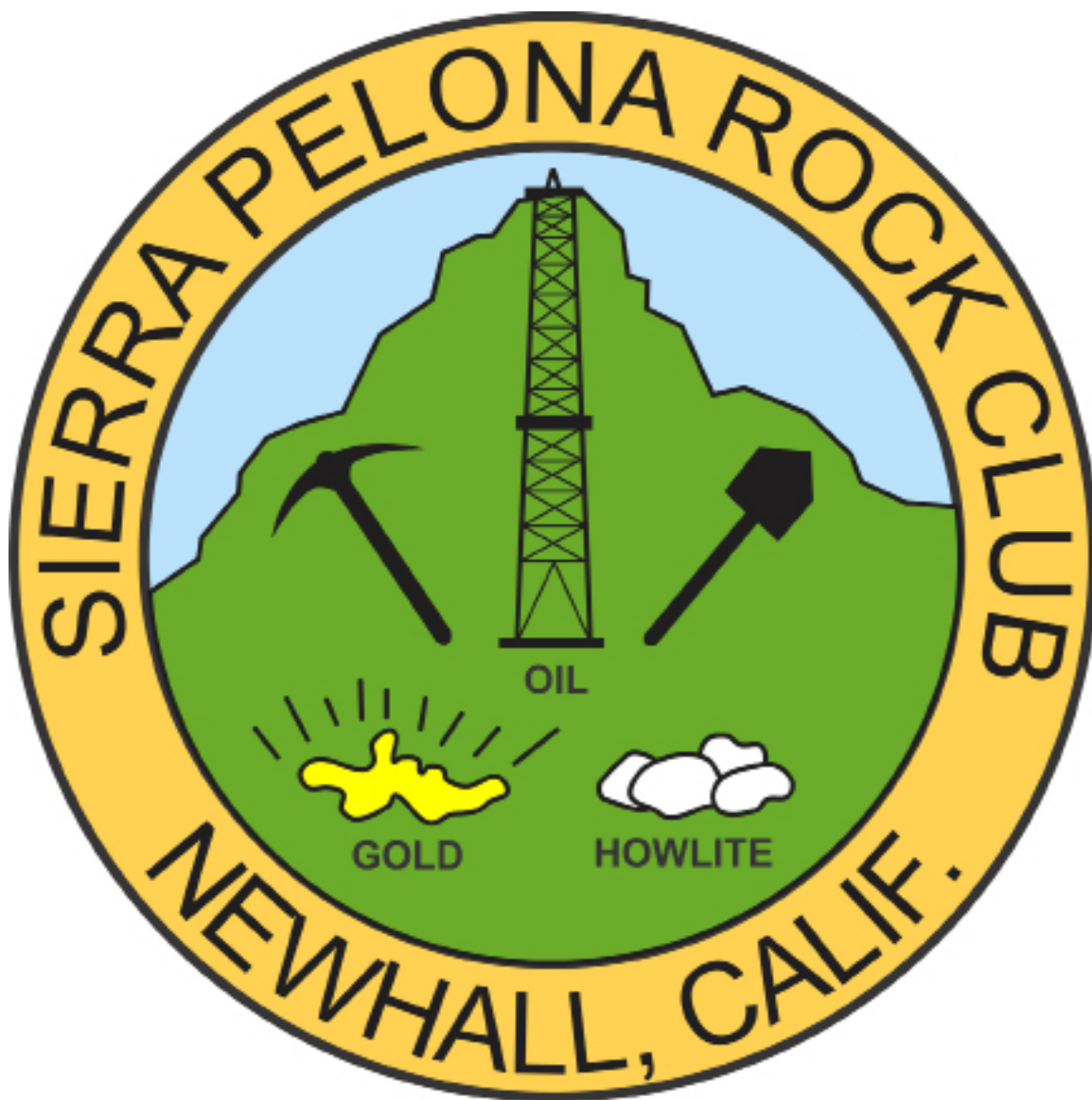


The Sierra Pelona nagram



October 2021

... 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.



Birthdays

October

Omid Aeen
Alexander Hamilton
Ashton Scott
Katherine Webber

November

Shana Brunes-Ruiz
Frank Hummelbaugh
Jack Jenkins



President's Message

Hi All!

Well, we are back to meeting regularly, although it still needs to be via Zoom. We are actively perusing a potential meeting place and believe me, you will all hear about it if the news is good! We are also starting to work on a place for the Holiday party.

This is also getting to be the time of year for you to seriously start thinking about elections. We really would like to see new blood on the board, which brings to the party new ideas. All clubs need this to remain viable and just plain interesting. So, think about it, please!

Dues are also going to be due soon, start saving your nickels and dimes!

I hope to see you all at the Zoom meeting on the 19th at 7.

Bill Webber, President, SPRC

Elections are coming up and all positions are open.! Please support your club and think about a position. New blood equals new thoughts and traditions equals a strong vital club!

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--Dianne Wholleben
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:

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
General Meeting via Zoom
September 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm. There were 15 members in attendance and a guest, Ken Kramm.

We discussed meeting rooms, and Tina White is still working on a possibility.

Julie Tinoco talked about our field trip for September as attending the Stoddard Wells Tailgate and their annual field trip. As usual, she will email the club with the specifics as the date approaches.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm for Tina's presentation entitled "Finding One's Marbles".

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi Webber, Secretary, SPRC



Sierra Pelona Rock Club
Business Meeting via Zoom
October 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm. In attendance were Tina White, Ron Rackliffe, Julie Tinoco and Bill and Heidi Webber.

Gilchrist Farms has their October festival and traditionally has non-profits every weekend. We decided to try to attend on the 23rd or 30th if possible. Heidi will call and/or email to see if they are inviting vendors this year as the site doesn't say anything about that. (Heidi has tried several times since the meeting. The voice mail is full and the email kicks back as non-deliverable. She will keep trying.)

Tina is still working on obtaining a meeting room for us. It has been referred to the next person in charge of permissions to use a room. She will keep us informed.

We will have our next workshop at Bill and Heidi's on January 29.

Ron will be attending the next CFMS meeting in Visalia on November 12-13.

Quartzite has their big gem and mineral show the month of January. The very popular Pow-wow is January 19-23 (not the usual full week).

Julie said SPRC has been invited to join the Pasadena Lapidary Society on their October field trip on October 30. They are planning to go to Brown Butte, Castle Butte and our claim. She will email members with details at a later date.

Tina said the program for October will be on Bloodstone.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Webber, Secretary, SPRC

Dangers of Rock Dust By Glen Kuban

Reprinted from the August 2021 CFMS Newsletter

Reprinted from PALEO FOOTNOTES VOLUME 16, NUMBER 8 AUGUST 2021 First published in the December 1997 Paleo Footnotes and republished to inform a new generation of members.]

Editor's note: I am not reprinting this article to scare the pants off any of you, but just to alert you to problems that can occur and for you to decide what action you wish to take while pursuing your hobby. There were quite a few aspects of this essay that I never thought of myself. Heidi Webber

Many collectors use a mechanical rock saw to cut, trim, or abrade rocks and fossils in the field or lab. Dangers of this activity include flying rock chips, wounds from the blade itself or broken blades, and rock dust, which is extremely dangerous to inhale. Always read and understand the proper operation of any mechanical tool before using it. Whenever cutting or grinding rock, wear protective eye goggles. Also wear a good respirator, or use a dust collection system, to avoid inhaling rock dust which accumulates in the lungs and can cause a variety of serious illnesses.

For those not convinced that rock dust is a serious danger, or that they can get away with not wearing a respirator or working under a hood (if working indoors), I encourage you to read the message below. The original message was posted on 7-14-97 in the Rocks and Fossils News groups, and my reply was sent to that list as well as the Dinosaur List, VrtPaleo and Fossil Nuts.

The original message I am responding to was posted in Rocks and Fossils, but I am sending my response to the other paleo related lists as well, because I feel this is an important safety issue. It affects anyone who even occasionally cuts rocks or fossils, or does fossil preparation work. It will be very worthwhile if it prevents even one person from suffering lung problems or dying prematurely. With that deliberately onerous introduction, let me quote the post that prompted my response:

Peter's Post: "Last night I spent an hour cutting sandstone sidewalk blocks with composition blade made of fiberglass and carborundum grit. This is a dry saw and it was a still night and clouds of dust were all around. Some of it hung in the air for minutes. I am not really concerned about a one-shot exposure, but it did make me wonder if this is the size of silica which DOES represent a health hazard. Of course, I do not know for sure that the fine dust was silica, as opposed to calcium carbonate (the cement in the sandstone) or material from the new blade..."

Glen's Response: "It's funny, or really not so funny, that you should write now. I'm suffering a chronic lung irritation, and seeing doctors now, because of the results of a similar incident. In short, yes, one or a few exposures to significant amounts of freshly-cut rock dust can cause serious problems. Silicosis is only one of the many lung problems that can be caused by rock dust, many of which (like fibrosis) can occur no matter what the composition of the rock. Wearing a good respirator or hood with dust collector if working indoors in a must. If you don't have the proper safety equipment, don't cut the rock!

Unfortunately, I found out the hard way, I hope everyone learns from my mistakes. About a year ago our fossil club went to Ontario to collect trilobites, and we took along a diamond rock saw. I only sawed out a few trilobites for fellow members (without wearing a mask, I forgot to bring one) and I tried to not inhale the dust. However, large clouds of it were kicked up each time, and it was impossible to avoid inhaling quite a bit of it. By the next morning I had significant lung irritation, and have had it ever since--some days worse than others. I have frequent coughing and uncomfortable sensation in my upper chest. After this went on a few weeks, I went to a doctor, not knowing if I had contracted a bacteria, fungus, or other microbe at the quarry, or just had accumulated too much dust in my lungs. An x-ray was clear, but that is not unusual in such cases (it sometimes takes years for fibrosis, TB, cancer and other diseases to develop). Apparently, the rock dust itself is the cause of the current lung irritation, and it may never get better. In fact, it may worsen into other conditions, as explained below.

Many people assume years of exposure to rock dust is needed to cause serious problems, and this is generally true when dealing with wind-blown, low concentration dust, which usually has already weathered to some degree. But not so with freshly cut rock. After I started having my problems, I began talking to doctors and doing lots of reading. I also talked to an uncle who used to work in a quarry, and is now dying of pulmonary fibrosis at the age of 55. I am now going to his doctor.

It turns out that not only do rock particles of any composition tend to stay and accumulate in the lungs, but freshly cut rock is the worst, and extremely pernicious. Even one or a few incidents of significant inhalation of such dust can cause long irritation and start a process of increasingly serious lung damage. The microscopic particles are like millions of razor-edged shards that damage lung tissue directly, as well as create conditions promoting the development of TB, micro plasms, fibrosis, and cancer. Experiments with rats and other animals have shown that inhalation of fresh cut rock dust is far more damaging than worn rock dust of any composition, and leads to far greater rates of several diseases, including pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer. But even accumulations of worn rock dust in the lungs greatly increases chances of lung disease.

I've also made many fossil molds and casts over the years, and although I often wore a mask while working with plaster, sometime I did not. I may well have accumulated plaster in my lungs as well, which may have contributed to or aggravated my lung condition. Plaster hardens when in contact with moisture, wherever it occurs, including one's lungs. But I did not have the constant lung irritation until after the Ontario trip using the rock saw (on hard shales and siltstones), and have had it ever since.

I have another appointment with a pulmonary doctor on Thursday, but from what I have learned, such damage is generally irreversible, and the best I may hope for is to have my condition not get worse. I may have to live with lung irritation and chronic cough for the rest of my life, plus increased chances for the serious conditions I listed above.

So PLEASE, whenever you are cutting or grinding rock of any kind ALWAYS wear a respirator (not just a cheap dust mask). If working indoors, use a dust collecting hood, or don't do it. Your health is not worth any rock or fossil.

There are serious inhalation dangers in the lab also, including solvents, urethanes, glues, and other chemicals used on prep work. These too can have accumulated effects, and lead to a variety of health problems. Work with such chemicals only with very good ventilation, or under a hood, or don't do it. Again, a rock or fossil is not worth your health. If I scared anyone, I can't feel too bad, because I wish someone had scared me before I did what I did, and now may have to pay the price the rest of my life.

Pete, in your case, I hope you do not have any problems, and can only urge you not to do it again, at least not without wearing a respirator. The dust you created by cutting sandstone probably included a mixture of siliceous sand particles, calcium carbonate particles (from the cement between the grains), and fibers from the fibrous saw blade. All could be dangerous to inhale.

Thank you, Glen Kuban,

Ed: This story can alert us to dangers we may tend to ignore when we are enjoying our shops. We should all consider keeping those annoying masks on when we are using lapidary equipment or sawing, soldering, or buffing silver and copper or doing torch work. Just for example, my own brother-in-law used to build futon frames in his garage. The work involved a lot of wood dust from some of the exotic woods he used, but he refused to wear a respirator—too hot, too clumsy, too sissifying. Some years later he, who had never smoked a day in his life, died of inoperable lung cancer.