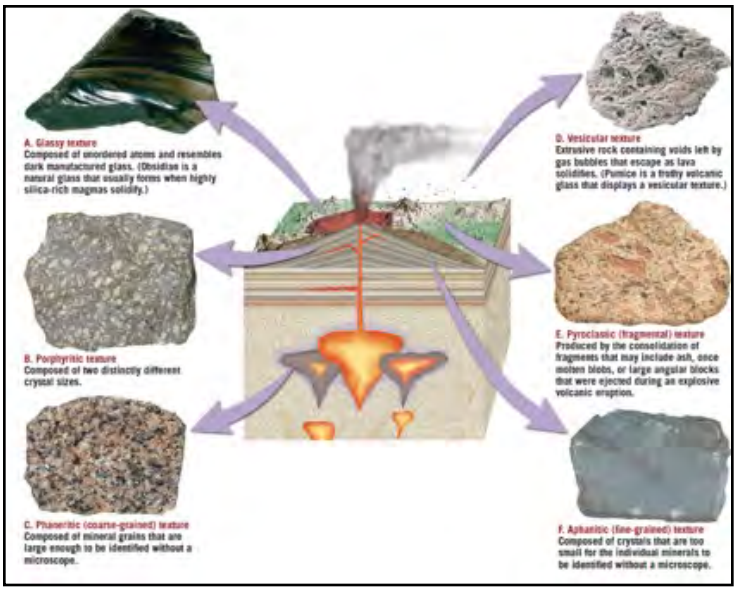
The Sierra Pelonagram

March 2022

... 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

It's hard to believe March is already here. Happily, spring is also here, with (mostly) comfortable days, while experiencing some pretty chilly nights. It's great! Unfortunately, we are half-way through our rainy season, with almost none of the rain.

Our membership dues are paid for the year, we lost some members for various reasons. I wish them well, and the door is always open if they want to rejoin in the future. The updated roster will be emailed soon.

This weekend is the first workshop of the year. Now that things have eased up, I think many of us are more comfortable in being in even a small crowd. I know Heidi and I are. The weather should be great and Heidi is busy planning a nice lunch. If you are a club member and want to attend, let her know asap. She needs to plan for the lunch.

On an extremely sad note, one of our favorite and long-time members, Paul Hobbs, died in February. Our condolences go to his family, and especially to Ruth. He will be sorely missed.

I hope to see you all next week via Zoom, at our regular meeting. We are still looking for a meeting room.

Bill Webber, President
Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Officers:
President – Bill Webber
Vice-President – Julie Tinoco
Secretary: Tina White
Treasurer –Shana Brunes-Ruiz
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) --Don Cogan

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--Linda Jenkins

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: Currently via Zoom

Contact the Club or the Sierra Pelonagram Editor at:
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Or e-mail: hwebber50@gmail.com
Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com

SPRC General Meeting
Date: February 15, 2022
Time: 7:10
Meeting Host: Sandra Cattrell

In attendance: Betsy Swallow, Maureen Thomas, Don Cogan, Omid Aeen, Trina Aeen, Therese Colvin, Ron Rackliffe, and Julie Tinoco.

I (Julie) started the meeting by asking if everyone was aware that Heidi was out of town and that Sandra was the virtual meeting host. I explained that Tina would not be available to do her program and that I had prepared a short replacement program about the mineral psilomelane found near Blyth, CA

I asked if someone was willing to take the minutes. There were no volunteers.

The next item discussed was unpaid dues. If you have not paid yet, please do so. February 28th is the last day before removal from the member list.

On the way home from Quartzite, Julie, Dianne W., and Yolanda ventured out to a mine near Blyth, California. We found some interesting specimens. I showed pictures that I pulled from the web of different types of Psilomelane. The group discussed a possible field trip in the future.

The next item discussed was the upcoming field trip 2/26/22 to Castle Butte. Looking for the hard-to-find Bloodstone. I have been looking into new areas to explore. Bloodstone and Fluorite might be found in the Palm Springs area. Will give more information as I receive it.

Ron R. shared the sad news that Paul Hobbs passed away. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Ruth and their family.

The meeting ended 7:55

Submitted by Julie Tinoco for Tina White

SPRC Board Meeting
March 1, 2022
Zoom meeting opened at 7:13 p.m.

Virtual Attendees
- Heidi Webber
- Bill Webber
- Julie Tinoco
- Don Cogan
- Shana Ruiz
- Ron Rackliffe
- Tina White

Dues (Heidi)
- 10 prior members have failed to renew
- Various reasons: moved, too busy, forgot, no reply/unknown, etc.
- Heidi will drop those rarely heard from or currently incommunicado

Workshop (Bill & Heidi)
- March 12th at the Webbers'
- 10:00 – 3:00; arrive early to help Bill set up
- Masks optional (though a good idea when working with rock dust)
- Lunch $5

Field Trip (Julie)
Fluorite 3/26
- One location near Palm Springs, but need to contact BLM first
- Known location near Barstow better for this trip

In general, we need more high-clearance, AWD/4WD vehicles for these trips

Program (Tina)
- Fluorite (timely, huh?)

Meeting Place (Heidi)
- We need a physical location in which to meet
- Tina will check with Greenbrier management; changes are afoot

Placerita Canyon Open House (Bill)
- Will be on 5/14
- Everything will be/must be free
- Demonstration of slab cutting (various rock types)
- Tumbled rocks for wheel game

o Ron R. has some, check with Ron L.

CFMS (Don)
- Nothing currently; he will let us know when the next meeting is scheduled

Upcoming Rock & Mineral Shows (Ron)
- Ventura March 5 & 6
- Stoddard Wells Tailgate March 11 – 13
- Pasadena Lapidary Society March 12 – 13

Report on February Field Trip (Julie)
- Difficulty finding Bloodstone site
- Did find agate, jasper, rhyolite, green opalite, bits of bloodstone

General conversation about people & places…
Meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Tina White, Secretary, SPRC

March	**April**
Ruth Hidalgo	Lynne Alexander
Linda Jenkins	Greg Mazourek
Ed Learn	Yolanda Resnick
Bill Webber	Michael Shane

Desert Rose

Desert rose is the colloquial name given to rose-like formations of gypsum or baryte crystal clusters which contain abundant grains of sand. The 'petals' are crystals flattened on the c crystallographic axis, fanning open in radiating flattened crystal clusters.

The rosette crystal habit tends to occur when the crystals form under arid sandy conditions, such as a shallow salt basin becoming evaporated. The crystals form a circular series of flat plates that give the rock a similar shape to a rose blossom.

How Does Desert Rose Form?

Gypsum roses tend to have sharper edges better defined than baryt roses. Celestine and other minerals bladed with evaporite may also form clusters of rosettes. These can either appear as a single rose-like bloom, or as bloom clusters, with most sizes ranging from pea size to 4 inches (10 cm) in diameter.

The ambient sand that is incorporated into the crystal structure, or otherwise encrusts the crystals, varies with the local environment. If iron oxides are present, the rosettes take on a rusty tone.

The desert rose may also be known by the names: sand rose, rose rock, selenite rose, gypsum rose and baryte (barite) rose.

Where Do You Find Desert Rose?

Rose rocks are found in Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Spain (Fuerteventura, Canary Islands; Canet de Mar, Catalonia; La Almarcha, Cuenca), Mongolia (Gobi), Germany (Rockenberg), the United States (central Oklahoma; Cochise County, Arizona; Texas), Mexico (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua), Australia, South Africa and Namibia.

Desert Rose Rock Size

The average size of rose rocks are anywhere from 0.5 inches (1.3 cm) to 4 inches (10 cm) in diameter. The largest recorded by the Oklahoma Geological Survey was 17 inches (43 cm) across and 10 inches (25 cm) high, weighing 125 pounds (57 kg). Clusters of rose rocks up to 39 inches (99 cm) tall and weighing more than 1,000 pounds (454 kg) have been found.

Read more : https://www.geologypage.com/2020/03/desert-rose-what-is-desert-rose-how-do-desert-roses-form.html#ixzz7My2o1gZi
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