The Sierra Pelonagram



June 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.



End-of-Year Picnic

Saturday the 18th of June was a fabulous day. Twenty of us gathered at the Valencia Meadows Park for our annual End-of-Year potluck picnic. It was great to see each other again and there was a whole lot of conversation and laughter. Bruce and Evelyn Velie were out here for a visit, so we did a lot of catching up.

After stuffing our faces with all the goodies that were bought, we checked out the auction table. There were a lot of books this time around, mostly rock related but a couple novels. Bill Webber, a long-time Trekkie even brought a lunchbox of Whorf who said a few phrases when opened. Then there were the rocks, slabs, rock jewelry and rock equipment. The bidding got pretty active on a few things.

After everything was auctioned off, we cleared off the tables and while a few people had to leave, there were plenty of members left to play a few rounds of bingo. Sadly, we missed some group photos as people had to leave before the festivities were complete.

The only thing missing was that kid who ran through our group to steal the leftover box of pizza! (This happened a couple years ago to our jaw-dropping amazement).

It was a great day and I can't wait for our next event.



SPRC Board Meeting June 7, 2022

Zoom

The meeting began at 7pm. Unfortunately, the only board members in attendance were Bill Webber and Don Cogan. Ron Rackliffe, Heidi Webber and Linda Jenkins were also in attendance. Since a quorum wasn't met, we couldn't hold an official meeting, but we did spend that time discussing the upcoming picnic, and Linda's efforts to get an agreement on a meeting room at COC.

We said goodbye to each other around 7:20pm.

Heidi Webber

SUMMER TIME



Connie Flores-Reisbeck Akiko Strathmann Heidi Webber Janelle Williams Dianne Wohlleben

July

Trina Aeen Sandra Cattell DJ Gervais Ron Rackliffe Betsy Swallow

August Don Cogan Ron Lawrence Cody Patrich

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: Sierra Pelona Rock Club P.O. Box 221256 Newhall, Ca. 91322 Or e-mail: <u>hwebber50@gmail.com</u> Visit the SPRC website <u>www.sierrapelona.com</u>

President's Message



The club had great representation at the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House in May. Martin Schreiner had a fantastic display of fossilized shark's teeth and coprolite. Thanks Martin. Greg Mazourek, Ron Rackliffe, Ron Lawrence and Omid Aeen and Valarie Schreiner all were present to promote the club. Big thanks to them all.

After a great End-of Year picnic, we are all off for the summer. That doesn't necessarily mean nothing will happen, it just means that most club activities will cease until September. At some point, we usually have a dinner at a restaurant and a trip up the coast for collecting where it is cooler.

We want to wish Ron Lawrence a speedy recovery, he's had some health issues, and is with his daughter Dianne, in Seattle.

So that's it for now, see you in September—and at the dinner (TBD). Bill Webber, President

SPRC







April and May 2022 SPRC Field Trips By Julie Tinoco

On Saturday April 23rd the Sierra Pelona Rock Club went to Acton for another local Field Trip. There were 18 rock hounds in attendance. With the weather cool and breezy it was just perfect for picking up float along the hillside or some shallow digging. All of which produced beautiful agate, druzy, quartz and other exciting mineral specimens. No one left disappointed. We visited and caught up with everyone including, Evelyn Velie who happened to be in California and attended the field trip. A few of us gathered for lunch afterward at the Mad Tuna in Canyon Country. A very nice ending to a fun day.

The annual CFMS Gem and Mineral show was held at the Lancaster Fair Grounds, May 7, 2022. The Sierra Pelona Rock Club in conjunction with the CFMS Show and Antelope Valley Rock Club hosted a Field Trip to the SPRC claim. I led the group on the half day outing. There were 10 of us digging up Travertine of different colors.

After finding the Travertine and fixing the damaged club sign our group did a little more digging and collecting. Two turtles were found at our claim. We are so grateful that they are coming back. We headed back to the Fairgrounds for some shopping. I purchased a large clam which had 30 pearls inside and a couple of slabs to make cabs from.

As a last-minute trip on May 21, 2022, 8 of us from SPRC met up in the Kramer Corners area to look for rutilated quartz, garnet, agate and more. We explored two areas that we hadn't been to before and two more that we had. Many great rocks were found. Still looking for the quartz. Maybe we'll find some on the next Kramer Corners trip. A few of us stopped for a late lunch at a diner-style restaurant on the way home. Good food, good company and beautiful rocks for the taking. What more could we ask for?

Acton Group

Kramer Corners Trip

Antelope Valley and CFMS Show Field Trip to the Claim







SPRC General Meeting

5/17/22

Meeting opened at 7:06 p.m.

Note: Items are not in the order in which they were discussed, as we jumped from topic-to-topic.

Attendees:

- Webbers, H & B
- Chamberlains, M, A, & S
- Cogans, C & D
- Rackliffe, R
- Cattell, S
- Tinoco, J
- Aeens, T & O
- White, T

Old Business

Meeting Place at COC

- College requires "Also Insured" policy before signing contract
- Our insurer requires signed contract before "Also Insured" policy
- Trina A. thinks proof of insurance certificate may be enough for COC to start
- Linda J. and Shana B. are working on this

Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House

- There was a good turnout
- Ron R. says we gave away a lot of rocks and almost ran out of candy
- Only cut two geodes from a docent
- Lots of interest in Omid's jewelry

New Business

Annual Picnic 6/18/22 at Valencia Meadows Park 11:00 - 3:00ish

- Potluck
- Auction of "Stuff"
- Tee Shirts & Hats for sale
- Ron R. will send out flyer

Future Field Trips

- Trip to Kramer Junction this Saturday (5/21) for rutilated quartz, garnets, etc.
- Meet at Pilot Station nr. 395/58 at 8:00 a.m.
- Something of a recon trip as uncertain exactly where to go
- Ron R. has info from someone with coordinates and photos
- Julie is also looking at a possible beach trip in late June
- Back to a tourmaline mine one of these days...

What to Do When You Can't Collect Rocks

• Presentation by Tina W. on the rocks of relatively close-by National Parks

Meeting adjourned around 8:10.

What is the Difference Between Chalcedony, Chert, Jasper and Agate?

By Jude Rosenthal

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The most ubiquitous question among beginner rockhounds (at least here in Utah): What is the difference between Chalcedony, Chert, Jasper and Agate? Thank you to https://www.fossilera.com/pages/agate-jasper-chalcedony for a great review on the topic.

In Short:

Chalcedony: "any microcrystalline variety of silica composed of very fine intergrowths of quartz and moganite. Microcrystalline meaning the crystals are microscopic and cannot be observed by the naked eye"

Chert: "often opaque, brown-tan in color and is still composed of a combination of microcrystalline quartz and the particles present within the sediment"

Agate: "may generally be used to describe any form of chalcedony that is translucent (light will pass through it)"

Jasper: "Term that can be applied to an opaque variety of chalcedony (light does not pass through it). The opaqueness is due to a much larger amount of impurities mixed with silica/ quartz. Like agate it may form in a huge variety of colors, and is often multi-colored."

I am not a geologist and this article does say that chert fits into the category of jasper, which I think is an odd way to put it, since I think of jasper as a trade term for pretty colors of chert, so if any geologists would like to set me straight on this, I would be open to correction. But that being said, if you are a beginner, you might want to download this article to your files for future rock hunting reference.

Here is a sample I collected in Elberta, Utah. It is a mix of jasper and a bit of agate with a few dendrites- (manganese oxide crystals that look like branches).



Photo by Jude Rosenthal



Jasper photo by: Ira Bradford. Agate photo by Achat Sphaerolith

What Is the Difference Between Agate and Jasper?

The simple answer is if you put light behind the material and you can see through it, then it is an agate if you can't then you're holding jasper. The more complex answer is that it is not always that straightforward. The simple science behind this question is that both agates and jaspers are comprised of quartz-- which is one of the most common minerals on the planet. Quartz is comprised of two major types--macrocrystalline (large crystal) and cryptocrystalline (small crystal).

Now here is where it can get confusing, one major variety of cryptocrystalline quartz is chalcedony. Chalcedony includes carnelian, chrysophase, agate, bloodstone, jasper and others. When chalcedony in concentrically banded it is called an agate. Occasionally the banding is larger than the crystal and the banding is not visible- like with most carnelian.

Sub-variety of chalcedony is opaque quartz called jasper. Jasper can be banded or striated, depending on how it formed, and are most commonly red, yellow, green, brown or a mixture of these colors.

Jasper is an opaque rock of virtually any color stemming from the mineral content of the original sediments or ash. Patterns arise during the consolidation process forming flow and depositional patterns in the original silica rich sediment or volcanic ash. Hydrothermal circulation is generally thought to be required in the formation of jasper.

The banding in agate is based on periodic changes in the translucency of the agate substance. Layers appear darker when they are more translucent (this may appear reversed in transmitted light). This effect may be accompanied and amplified by changes in the color of neighboring layers, due to other co-precipitated minerals. *Reference: GeologyIn.com*