

The Sierra Pelonagram



April 2023

... 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.

SPRC Board Meeting

4/4/23

On Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:13 p.m. by President Linda Jenkins

Attendees: Heidi W., Ed L., Linda J., Lady J., Greg M., Julie T., Ron R., Tina W.

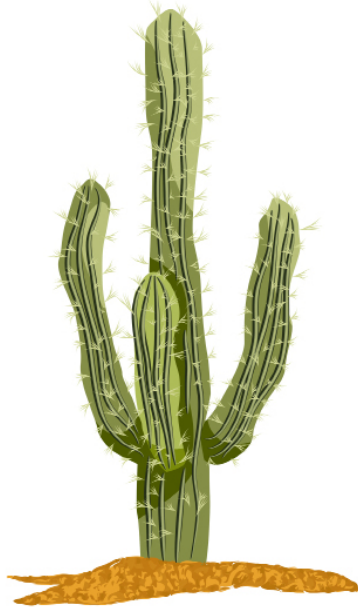
Miscellaneous Topics:

- April 2 FT out near No. Edwards/ Gebhard (sp?) Rd.; collected jaspers, "green stuff", tiny chalcedony roses, rhyolite, and lots of flowers
- Presentation for April:
 - o Greg will send Tina the PP files
- May 6 & 7 is the AV Gem & Mineral Show – as our April FT?
- Heidi: Workshop - May 20th or 27th
 - o TBD at General Meeting
- June Picnic: June 10th (Heidi's BD)
- Unanimous approval of reimbursement of \$6.30 for 10 stamps to Ed
- Update: April 18th meeting will be in Room 207 at COC
- The Club made only \$50 this month, per Ed
- Ron Lawrence told Julie he's going to check with Greenbrier about holding an auction of his rocks with proceeds going to SPRC.
- Sad news: Bruce Velie had a heart attack while on vacation in New Zealand; he's still hospitalized but will be returning home soon.
- Julie is working on a trip to Cambria, late May/early June or even July if the water is too high in the creek. She'll try to get a date range from the property owner then Ed can get the also insured policy arranged.
- Field trip Sat. 4/22:
 - o Linda suggested Acton (Hubbard Rd.) as we had a big turnout last year and after the rains there should be a lot of float.

Schedule Review:

- April 22: Acton Field Trip
 - May 6/7: AV Club Gem & Mineral Show
 - May 13: Placerita Canyon Open House
 - May 20 or 27: Workshop (TBD)
 - Late May/Early June: Cambria (?)
 - June 10: Picnic
- Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Tina White, Secretary



April

Lynne Alexander
Greg Mazourek
Yolanda Resnick
Michael Shane

May

Therese Colvin
Lise Meyers

Officers:

President – Linda Jenkins
Vice-President – Julie Tinoco
Secretary: Tina White
Treasurer – Ed Learn
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) --Greg Mazourek

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--Yolanda Resnick

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 7:00 PM, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at: College of the Canyons, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Rd in the Dianne Van Hook University Center, Room 209. (Go to their website for a map, It's in section 14)

Contact the Club or the Sierra Pelonagram Editor at:
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Hi Everyone:

May is turning into a very busy month for members of our club. The Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 6-8 at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. I understand there will be exhibits and booths set up by the Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club. Please plan to visit to support local rock clubs and see what wonderful things are available to enjoy and perhaps purchase.

Locally, Placerita Nature Center will hold its annual Open House May 13th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We'll have a table at the Open House and need volunteers to help. Hope to see many of our club members at the Nature Center. There is so much to do and see while there. Not to mention the short nature walk and fresh air.

I really enjoy the energy and enthusiasm by all of our club members. This is a great way to meet people with the same interests, learn about rocks and minerals, and just have fun getting dirty!

See you soon,

Linda

SPRC Meeting

3/21/23

At the UCN at College of the Canyons

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m. by President Linda J.

New Members

Our new members Jacklyn and Doug were welcomed and presented with their packets and slabs of howlite. We're glad to have them join us!

Meeting Locations

There was an open discussion of the search for other (free) meeting places, particularly one that will allow snacks and encourage our Pebble Pups to attend.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Ed L. reported a balance a healthy balance; specifics are found in the Treasurer's Report.
- Ed shared that he wrote a letter regarding our donation to our Desert Advisory Committee rep using AI! (A brief discussion of what Gregor is doing for us re: the MTNM; Diane H. says that a ban on rockhounding is not in the current version of the legislation.)

Silent Auction

- Julie T. reviewed the whys-and-hows of the Silent Auction and Drawing.

Field Trips

- Julie T. announced that the scheduled 3/25 field trip has been postponed as it is forecast to be too cold & windy that day. She offered up 2 optional dates: Sunday 4/2 or Saturday 4/8, both to head out to the Aerial Acres area (near the Club's claim).
- The group opted for the earlier date, so we will be meeting on Sunday 4/2 at 7:00 a.m. at the usual Mammoth spot. Carpooling is encouraged; Julie believes we need at least 3 high-clearance and/or 4WD vehicles as the area is sandy and rocky.
- Linda J. shared that she rents AWD vehicles for these trips and just makes sure they're thoroughly clean before returning them.

Presentation - Not

- Due to multiple communications glitches, there was no formal presentation prepared/presented.
- However, a discussion on borates and Death Valley ensued and revealed that Diane H. has extensive knowledge of the southern DV/Shoshone area (borates, the Dublin Caves in ancient Lake Tecopa, native artifacts, etc.) and the group discussed a future field trip to the area. There are campgrounds & motels in Shoshone, and Pahrump's casinos and wineries aren't too far away.

Flowers!

- Someone mentioned that there are poppies all along the W side of Soledad, which led to mention of the Poppy Festival in Lancaster on 4/21.

Placerita Canyon Open House

- May 13th! Details to follow.

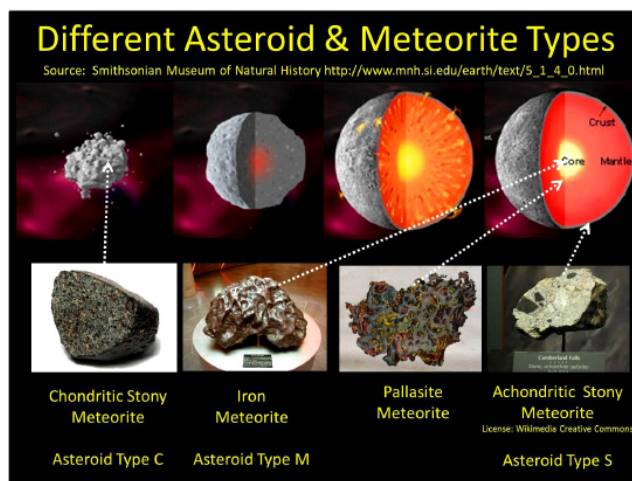
Drawing Winners

- Julie (Botswana agate), Peggy (garnet), Heidi (green ?), Ed (Apache tears), Jacklyn (polished locket), Betsy (turquoise), Peggy (Gemtrails book), Linda (quartzite core), Heidi (wooden necklace), and Julie (coral).

Auction

- The auction closed at 8:28, some but not all of the items were bid on.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Tina White, Secretary



Identifying Meteorites

Have an interesting rock in your possession and want to see if it's out of this world?

A meteorite is a solid piece of debris from an object, such as a comet, asteroid, or meteoroid, that originates in outer space and survives its passage through the Earth's atmosphere and impact with the Earth's surface or that of another planet.

When the object enters the atmosphere, various factors like friction, pressure, and chemical interactions with the atmospheric gases cause it to heat up and radiate that energy. It then becomes a meteor and forms a fireball, also known as a shooting star or falling star; astronomers call the brightest examples "bolides." Meteorites that survive atmospheric entry and impact vary greatly in size. For geologists, a bolide is a meteorite large enough to create a crater.

Most meteoroids disintegrate when entering the Earth's atmosphere. Usually, five to ten a year are observed to fall and are subsequently recovered and made known to scientists. Few meteorites are large enough to create large impact craters. Instead, they typically arrive at the surface at their terminal velocity and, at most, create a small pit.

Below you will find descriptions of seven different tests you can do to determine if the rock in question is a meteorite.

1. Metal

Most meteorites contain at least some metal. Do you see the metal shining on a broken surface? If so, you might have a meteorite.

2. Density

Density - Those meteorites that do have a lot of metal tend to be very dense compared to regular rocks. Do you have something very dense such that it could be a meteorite? But remember that not all meteorites are dense.

3. Magnetic Properties

Magnetic Properties - A lot of meteorites contain shiny iron-nickel metal grains or consist largely of iron-nickel metal. The iron in the metal attracts a magnet. Is a magnet attracted to the surface of your sample? If so, you might have a meteorite. But remember that a lot of normal rocks on the Earth are also magnetic. So, just because something is magnetic, it doesn't mean that it is a meteorite.

4. Chondrules

Some primitive meteorites have little round pieces of stony material in them. These little round pieces are called chondrules. Some sedimentary and volcanic rocks can have spherical particles that look somewhat like chondrules. Does your sample contain chondrules? If it does, you might have a meteorite.

5. Fusion crust

When a meteorite is falling through the atmosphere, it begins to heat up because of the extreme compression of the atmosphere. The meteor gets so hot that the outer surface begins to melt, which produces a thin black/brown coating on the surface of the rock called a fusion crust. Iron meteorites may show evidence of melted metal on their surface, but this is less common. Fusion crusts are present on freshly fallen meteorites, but the crusts are fragile and can weather away from samples that fell a long time ago. Small patches of fusion crust can sometimes remain in hollows of the sample. Does your sample have a fusion crust? If so, you have a meteorite.

6. Regmaglypt texture/thumbprints

When the surface of the meteorite begins to melt during entry into the atmosphere, some areas of the meteorites are eroded by the melting more than others, almost like someone is taking little scoops of material out. This leaves a bunch of small dents in the surface of the rock, making it look like someone put thumbprints into clay. The surface of most meteorite samples have these thumbprints called "regmaglypts," which can vary in size from less than a centimeter up to as much as 10 centimeters. Does your sample have Regmaglypt texture/thumbprints? If so, you have a meteorite.

7. Streak

Most meteorites won't leave a streak, but the surfaces of some meteorites might leave a reddish streak if they have been oxidized (rusted). If you drag your sample across this "streak plate," and it leaves a red/orange line, then the sample is probably a common mineral on the Earth called hematite. If the sample is magnetic and leaves a black or gray streak, then it might be the common terrestrial iron-oxide mineral called magnetite. Does your sample cause a streak on a "streak plate?" If not, you may have a meteorite.

The above story is based on Materials provided by NASA's Dawn Mission.



Ron, Doug, Dianne and Julie

THE WILD FLOWERS ARE IN BLOOM

On Sunday, April 2, 2023 the Sierra Pelona Rock club took a field trip to the Ariel Acres area. There were six of us, Ron L., Dianne H., Doug V., Jaclyn W., Julie T. and Ruth H. We visited several locations that we had not stopped at on the last trip. Lovely rocks and minerals were found, including some Jasper and Agate combinations. We stopped to admire the view and take pictures of the beautiful wild flowers starting to bloom.

It turned out to be a very pleasant day for exploring the desert. The weather was warmer than it had been in a while, the sun was out, with a light breeze which helped keep the temperature from getting too warm. It was a fun and

