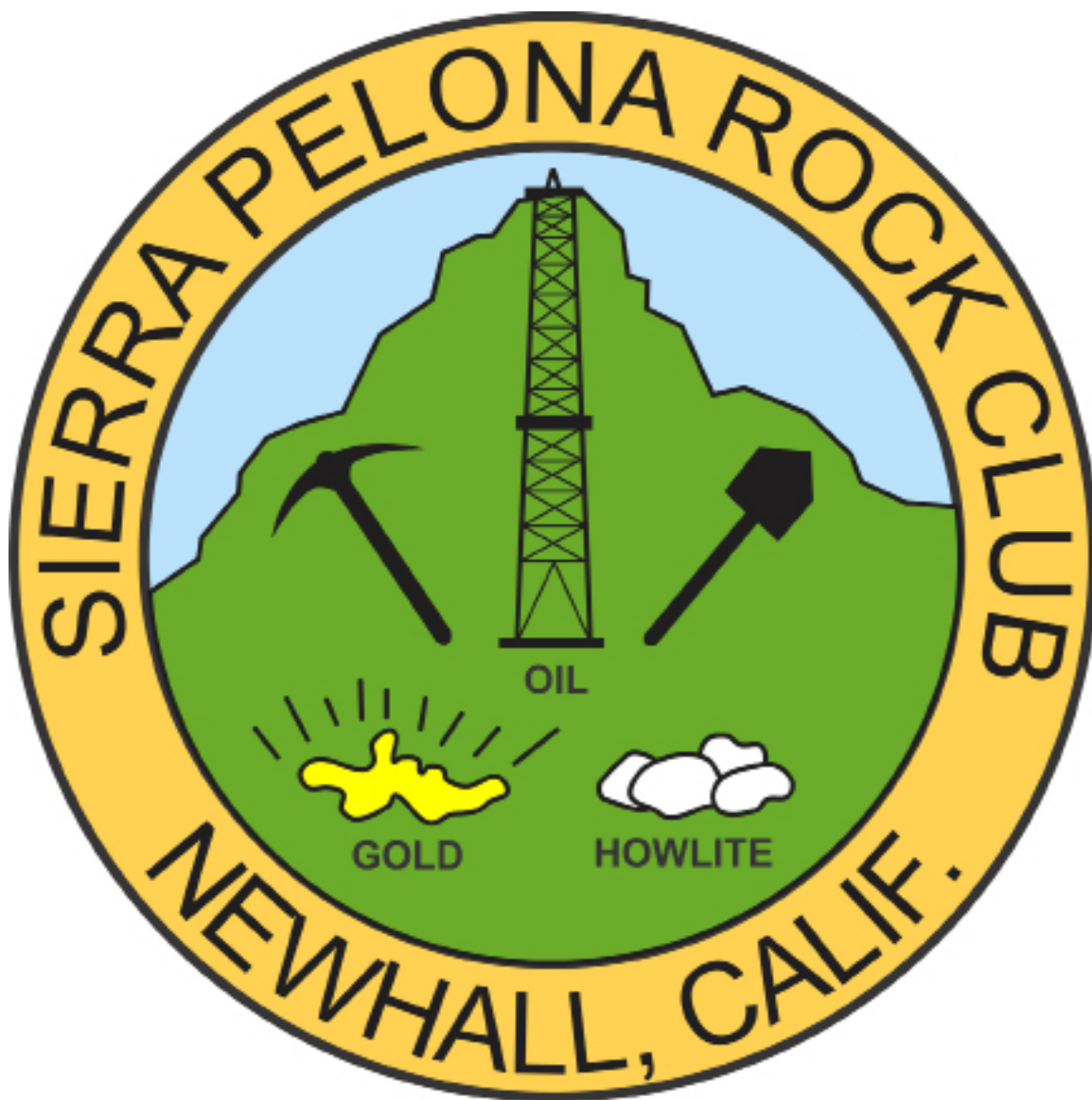


# The Sierra Pelona



December 2022

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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.



**December**

Dianne Hellrigel  
Mark Scott

**January**

Larry Holt  
Larry Patrick  
Robin Shane  
Martin Schreiner  
Janelle Williams  
Austin Williams

**President's Message**

Well, the time has come to hand over the gavel to Linda Jenkins, our new president, who will take her position on January 1, 2023. I have very much enjoyed my tenure as your president for the last four or so years, and man have we been in for a ride! Pandemic, losing our meeting spot, Zoom meetings, finding a new meeting room (Thanks to Linda who was successful in locating our room and making arrangements to pass on to Shana who completed the paperwork and finalized everything for us). I wish smooth sailing for Linda, and my pledge to help her as needed. I also want to thank Shana for her efforts as treasurer for the last few years, she put a lot of time and effort into her position. Ed has big shoes to fill, but I know he'll be quite able to do so. And last but not least, Don, who was our Federation representative this last year, thanks so much for your time and efforts. Greg will be a great representative for the club as he's been around for a long time and knows all the ropes.

So here's to a great 2023!

Bill Webber, President  
Sierra Pelona Rock Club



**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 7:30 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: [hwebber50@gmail.com](mailto:hwebber50@gmail.com)  
Visit the SPRC website [www.sierrapelona.com](http://www.sierrapelona.com)

**SPRC Meeting**  
11/15/2022  
At the UCN at COC

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. with 19 in attendance  
A Mix of Old and New Business

**Holiday Party**

This event will take place on 12/10 at the Sierra Inn (motorcycle club where the camel is); a map will be sent out in advance. The Club will provide the turkey/ham; sides are potluck. (Ron R. is on a cruise and not here to fulfill the vital role of filling us in on this tonight.) There will be an auction at the party; clean & functioning contributions (no clothes) are requested.

**Elections**

Board elections will be held at the Holiday Party. If you're interested in any position, please let Bill or Heidi know. A new Treasurer is DEFINITELY needed, as Shana can't make it down here regularly.

**Finances**

- Annual dues will be due soon; we were encouraged to pay at the meeting if possible.
- The Gilchrest Farms event was "really good" for our income.
- This meeting room at COC costs the Club \$60 per meeting.

**December Field Jaunt**

On 12/17 all interested will head to Montrose to visit some of our very own SPRC members at their store, The Stone Femme Studio. We can buy rocks & minerals there, wander around the other shops, have lunch or dessert, whatever the group desires. Julie will send out time/location/details.

**Future Field Trips**

Bill asked where people would like to go next year. Strawberry Onyx a popular choice as was Silver Lace Onyx out near Ballarat. A rather disjointed/multiple focus discussion on destinations ensued; I made out Cave Onyx, Rainbow Ledge, Diablo Mine, Cerro Gordo, and Davenport as possibilities.

**Geology, Lapidary, and Gemology**

Tina gave a presentation on how these fields are different, how they overlap, and some examples of rocks & minerals and how they relate to all 3. There were lots of contributions of good information from members in attendance, Tina appreciated them sharing their knowledge!

**Drawing(s) for Nifty Rock Stuff**

We had a lot of cool stuff to hand out; 12 different winning tickets were drawn!

**Auction**

A number of items were auctioned; more funding for the Club is always a good thing.

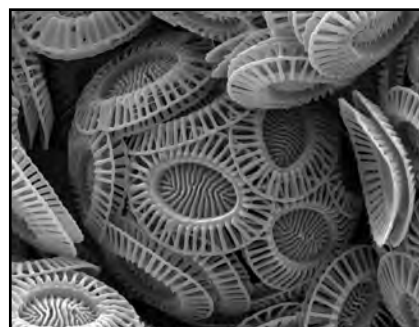
The meeting was adjourned 8:34 p.m. (This is imprecise, as everyone was socializing and chaos had ensued.)

Tina White, Secretary



**The White Cliffs of Dover, SE England/UK**

The White Cliffs of Dover, SE England/UK; Cretaceous limestones, overwhelmingly composed of coccoliths - they are the ring structures that form the coccospheres (diameter less than a tenth of a millimeter) in the photomicrograph.





## SPRC Board Meeting

December 6, 2022

### Attendees:

- Heidi W.
- Bill W.
- Julie T.
- Don C.
- Linda J.
- Tina W.



Meeting opened at 7:18 p.m.

### Elections

Bill reminded us that we will be holding elections for the 2023 Board at Saturday's Holiday Party. He will not be available to serve as President again, so we'll definitely need both a new President and a new Treasurer. Of course, all positions are open! One member has expressed an interest in the Treasurer position, and after a quick review of the duties of the President, another has expressed a possible interest in that position.

### Meeting Room at COC

Last month's meeting at COC was generally approved of; the room arrangement and viewing screen in particular were mentioned. Of concern is the size of the room; it was a tad crowded and could be more so if our membership grows. Then again, some who don't always attend may have done so in November, so we'll have to see how it goes.

Along that same line is the issue of insurance. While our coverage is fine for the next year, the second check sent at the agent's insistence has not yet been returned. The check has been cancelled, but the check itself is outstanding. This lack of action by the agent has prompted discussion about looking into (an)other insurance carrier.

### Jaunt to Montrose on 12/17

We are still planning a visit to Stone Femme Studio, the rock & mineral store owned & operated by two of our very own SPRC members. Julie will contact them to find out what time our arrival would be most welcome; she will update us on the 10th and/or via email. Those interested may gather for lunch and/or dessert in the quaint shopping area of Montrose.

### Holiday Dinner on 12/10

A reminder of the location of the event: 13800 Sierra Highway, Agua Dulce. You'll know you're there when you see the concrete camel kneeling out front – s/he may be wearing a hat and a lei.

The event starts at 11:00, some will arrive (much) earlier to start set-up and deal with large food items. (Thanks, Heidi.)

There will be the customary auction of functional items (no clothes) to raise money for the Club.

Food was further discussed, and a couple of adjustments were made to the list to ensure we've got a well-rounded feast.

### CFMS Business Meeting

Don will not be able to attend this meeting, to be held November 12th in Visalia. If anyone else would like to attend as the SPRC representative, please let Don or the Webbers know.

### November Field Trip

Julie has sent out an email announcing the November 12th trip to the North Edwards area to look for Bloodstone, Jasper, and Agate. As of tonight, she's not heard from anyone that they will be going.

### Website Emails

Heidi recently learned that she's not been receiving emails sent through the Club's website. She spoke with Larry, and they determined that it was an issue with forwarding between services, and it has been resolved. Heidi will soon be bombarded with emails from people interested in joining the Club!

### December Club Activity

Although we don't have field trips in December, Julie has been advocating for a rock-related activity. Tonight, it was decided that those who are interested will go to Montrose on the 12/17 to visit the shop owned by Club members Janelle & DJ: The Stone Femme Studio. Those interested may then lunch together in one of Montrose's many interesting restaurants.

That was it for Club business, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Tina White, Secretary



## SPRC Meeting (Part of the Annual Holiday Party)

12/10/2022

At the Sierra Inn

Eating commenced at 11:45 a.m. and continued with gusto until 1:32 p.m.

While many still nibbled on desserts, Bill Webber welcomed us to the Clubhouse, apologizing for the cold.

As was mentioned at the November meeting, it is time to elect a new Board, including the position of President as Bill Webber will be busy learning a new martial art.

A brief discussion of the duties of the President followed, and then nominations for all positions opened. There was only 1 nominee for each position, and all were elected by acclamation. Specifically:

- President: Linda Jenkins was nominated by Tina White
- Vice President: Julie Tinoco was nominated by Dianne Wohlleben
- Secretary: Tina White self-nominated/volunteered
- Treasurer: Ed Learn self-nominated/volunteered
- Federation Chair: Greg Mazourek was nominated by Heidi Webber

The positions of Committee Chairs were then discussed, including explanations of the duties of each. The result was:

- Hospitality Chair: Ron Rackliffe
- Field Trips: Julie Tinoco
- Drawings/Auctions: Dianne Wohlleben
- Newsletter (Pelonagram): Heidi Webber
- Sunshine: Yolanda Resnick

Next was the auction of items donated by Club members, Heidi Webber kept track of the successful bidders and amounts bid.

The auction concluded at 3:00 p.m. and the event officially ended at 3:01 p.m.

Tina White, Secretary  
Sierra Pelona Rock Club



### Two New Minerals Never Before Seen on Earth Discovered in Massive 33,500-pound Meteorite

A massive meteorite discovered in Somalia in 2020 has been hiding what researchers call a "phenomenal" discovery – two new minerals, and potentially a third, that have never before been seen on Earth.

The minerals were discovered from a 70-gram slice of the 15.2-ton "El Ali" meteorite that had been known about by locals for five to seven generations but was only officially discovered two years ago. Researchers from the University of Alberta analyzed the slice to find two minerals – one named elaliite after the meteorite and the other named elkinstantonite after Lindy Elkins-Tanton, vice president of Arizona State University's Interplanetary Initiative and a principal investigator on NASA's Psyche mission.

There is also potential for a third newly-discovered mineral, the University of Alberta said in a press release, and it's possible that even more will be found.

University of Alberta professor and Meteorite Collection curator Chris Herd helped make the identification, along with Andrew Locock, the head of the university's Electron Microprobe Laboratory.

"The very first day he did some analyses, he said, 'You've got at least two new minerals in there,'" Herd said in a press release. "That was phenomenal. Most of the time it takes a lot more work than that to say there's a new mineral."

And it's all a happy accident. Herd said at a presentation of the findings at the Space Exploration Symposium last week that they "happened to stumble upon" the new minerals.

"We didn't go in looking for new minerals, we just happened to find them," he said.

That easy identification was possible because of manmade versions of them that matched the compositions. Now, the research into these minerals will continue – and with the hope that their discovery could prompt new uses in the scientific, and everyday, world.

"That's my expertise – how you tease out the geologic processes and the geologic history of the asteroid this rock was once part of," Herd said. "I never thought I'd be involved in describing brand new minerals just by virtue of working on a meteorite."

However, work on the meteorite may be reserved to the single sample they acquired. Herd said that the rest of the meteorite may have been moved to China to be sold, and it's unclear if researchers will be able to obtain more samples.

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## Holiday Party

Heidi Webber

The day started out cloudy, misty and cold for us Southern California peeps not used to cloudy, misty and cold weather! We are such babies. But about 40 of us braved the elements to head out to the SPRC Holiday Party at Bill clubhouse on Sierra Highway. Bill I were already there trying to get the place heated up with the wood stove and space heaters placed around the building, but it was a battle as that building is over 100 years old. Enough said.

In spite of the chill, we all had such a great time. The potluck dishes were all amazing. The turkey, gravy and ham were pretty good too, if I say so myself! Trina was delighted that there were so many vegetarian dishes on the buffet table, she went back for seconds, her plate filled both times. (Was there a third trip?)

After we all were stuffed and quite mellow, we held our elections. Bill announced that we absolutely needed a new treasurer and president, no repeats this time around. So, now we have Linda Jenkins as our new president, Ed Learn has stepped into the treasurer spot, Julie Tinoco will stay on as vice president as will Tina White as secretary. Greg Mazourek said he'd take the Federation Chair position since it was the only thing he hasn't done so far. Congratulations and Thank You to our new board!

The committee positions remained much the same with Linda Jenkins staying on as Claim Chair, Ron Rackliffe as Hospitality, Julie Tinoco planning field trips, Dianne Wohlleben in charge of the drawings, me, Heidi, working the Pelonagram and membership (don't forget—dues are DUE!) and Yolanda Resnick stepped up as the Sunshine chair. This is great, thank you all!

After the business of the day was concluded, it was time for fun! There were a ton of really great things brought by members to auction and Ron Rackliffe and Greg Mazourek were in fine form to lead the bids. We even had a few good-natured bidding wars, with hysterical threats and side comments. We almost split a gut at times, laughing so hard, but we brought in a nice sum to help the club's bottom line.

By 3, we had packed up, cleaned up and turned out the lights. It was definitely a great day. Now Bill and I were off to our second Holiday Party of the day.

