

The Sierra Pelonagram



February 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.

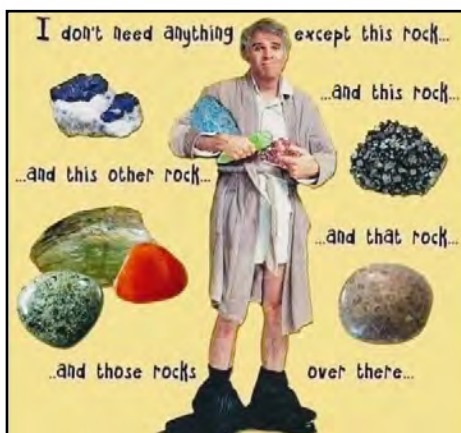


February

Brigitte Mazourek
Alan Pollack
John Wheeler
Tina White

March

Ruth Hidalgo
Linda Jenkins
Ed Learn
Maureen Thomas
Bill Webber



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

2023 Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival

June 23-25, 2023

Lodi Grape Festival &

Harvest Fair

413 East Lockeford Street

Lodi, CA

10am - 5pm Friday & Saturday 10am - 4pm Sunday

Educational Exhibits

Demonstrators

Speakers Dealers

Kid's Activities

For information contact:

Bob Rush, Show Chairman

rocksbob@sbvglobal.net

Susan Chaisson-Walblom,

Dealer Chairman

slchaisson@yahoo.com

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

Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com



President's Message

The first SPRC event of the year was the Hauser Geode Beds outside of Blyth, CA. Those of us who attended were rewarded with beautiful weather and an exciting drive out to the beds. Glad we had all wheel drive! Once there, the geodes were easy to spot, though very few big ones were found. Still, it was a great start to the new year.

Just a reminder that the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society show is right around the corner, the weekend of March 4 & 5th. Admission is free.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on February 21st.

Linda Jenkins, President
Sierra Pelona Rock Club

SPRC Board Meeting February 7, 2023

Attendees:

Heidi W. Julie T. Linda J. Ed L. Greg M Ron R. Tina W.

Meeting opened at 7:10 p.m.

Treasurer's Update (Ed)

- A letter from the BLM regarding the signer of a form re: our Claim has been resolved. Bill W. had signed, Linda then sent a letter to the BLM stating that Bill was authorized. The next time we will send a letter saying it should be the then-current Treasurer who signs. The upshot is that our old Claim # is no longer on the books, and this for established our new Claim #.
- The Club's finances are all in balance. Some past members (4 adults) have not yet submitted their dues. Heidi has sent an "Are you in or out" message to them, including the \$2 post-January penalty.
- Ed has not yet received an invoice from COC for our January meeting, but he has spoken with someone and asked that the door be unlocked.

Field Trips (Julie)

- Referencing past trips, as Heidi will continue to publish the Pelonagram she will ask Trina for pictures of the trip to Quartzsite and will get pictures from the Wiley's Well/Hauser GeoBeds trip from Julie.
- Julie reported that the Hauser GeoBeds trip was well-attended. BLM waivers were required as it was a BLM-sponsored event; that is not always the case. Ed will bring some of the rocks he picked up to show everyone and perhaps encourage folks to want to return... Julie proposes the Club go again when it is warmer – and camp and explore more. It won't necessarily be an official Club trip. Ed did share that the road out is rough washboard, from the highway it takes about 1.5 hours.
- The February 25th trip to the Boron area through the Victor Valley Club will be a "jumping off point" for our February event. Details remain undecided, but it not the intent to go to our Claim but to a nearby location which Julie states has "all that stuff". Ed asked that folks bring samples of what is found in that area so that everyone will know what they would be looking for.
- Greg mentioned a site with fluorescent rocks for a future trip.

February Presentation (Tina)

- Greg has shared that he has a number of topics on which he could present; he will send me some of them to choose from. (As our trip on the 25th is an area familiar to most of us, the topic needn't be pertinent to that.)
- Greg also shared that the Federation has videos and a list of speakers, for future speaker/presentation options.

CFMS (Greg)

- He hasn't yet heard from them, but Heidi reported that she forwarded his contact information to them so he should be receiving information soon.

Workshops (Heidi)

- Given Bill's recent medical adventure, late May is Heidi's preferred month for our next workshop. Bill spends the week before the workshop dealing with hoses & wiring; it's the heavy stuff that must be a team effort. Greg offered to help setup and breakdown; Julie will help with the latter as she usually does.

It was agreed that our next General Meeting will be at COC on February 21st.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

SPRC General Meeting
1/17/2023
At the UCN at College of the Canyons

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Linda Jenkins

A Mix of Old and New Business

Ventura Gem and Mineral Society Show

Ventura Fairgrounds Saturday 3/4 10-5, Sunday 3/5 10-4

Free admission, though there is a fee for parking.

Learn more at vgms.org.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Ed Learn reported on the treasury. That included a deposit of from the holiday party auction and dues.
- Ed asked that documentation of any/all expenditures be provided to him.
- o On a related sub-topic, Ron Rackliffe purchased a motor for some of our workshop equipment at the swap meet; it was only \$50 and he received telephone authorization from Bill Webber.
- Our "other insured" paperwork is still in process.
- We must register our new officers with State of California.
- A tax document was evidently not filed in 2020; Ed will follow-up on what needs to be done now.

Guests

Diane Hellrigel introduced the two young guests she brought to the meeting: Addison and Kevin. Welcome!

Presentation on Geodes and Hauser Beds

- Tina shared a PowerPoint presentation on geodes (and thundereggs) and the Hauser site. She had samples collected at the site, a few of which had been cut.
- Club members interested in joining on a BLM-sponsored outing on January 28th were provided details from the BLM site; see more info below under Future Field Trips.

Future Field Trips

- Julie T. will be heading out to the Hauser Beds on Friday the 27th to explore, and dry camping overnight and meeting up with others on Saturday morning.
- So far 8 members have said they'll be going, some of them will also be camping.
- Julie will email additional information before that weekend.
- In addition to the unofficial outing on the 28th, Julie announced that a "meet us there" field outing to the Quartzsite PowWow on January 21-22 is planned.
- There are field trips scheduled through the event, and Julie also suggested Club members might like to meet up and visit a site near the Colorado River with agate and petrified wood.
- Rather than coordinating in advance, please contact Julie (and/or others) by text or phone call on Saturday. And bring a UV or blacklight flashlight to find scorpions!
- Mention was also made of chalcedony roses to be found up AZ95, hematite near town, and jasper near the town of Brenda.
- Looking to the future, Diane asked about the possibility of a rockhounding trip to Afton Canyon with the Community Hiking Club. There was general approval of the idea, with agreement to wait until Spring when the weather is warmer and the water in Mojave River is lower.

Drawing and Silent Auction

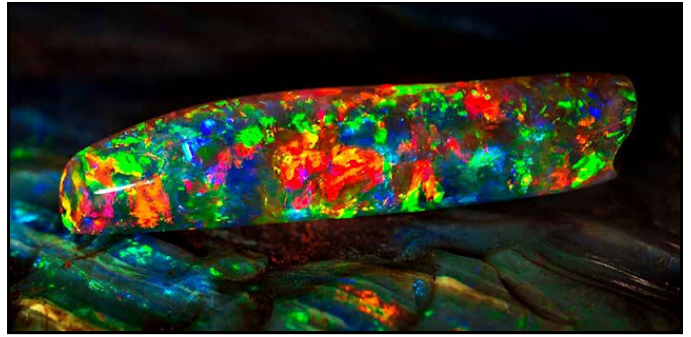
- While winning ticket numbers for this month's drawing were called, attendees were encouraged to post their bids for the silent auction. Winners in the drawing were:
Julie, Ron R. (4x), Ed, Greg (he gave his selection to Kevin), Dianne, Diane, and Linda.
- Julie declared the auction closed at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. (Motion by Tina, second by Betsy.)

Dig Your Own Opals

Nevada is famous for its beautiful, colorful black opal. The state contains some very rich precious opal beds and has produced some spectacular and extremely valuable specimens. The Virgin Valley opal beds in northwest Humboldt County are perhaps the most famous gemstone locality in Nevada. High quality precious opal emitting a multihued rainbow of color is found replacing wood or other plant material in this remote location.

The Virgin Valley Opal Field is in an isolated desert area south of Highway 140 about 25 miles southwest of Denio. Precious opal was first discovered here in 1905 and a number of claims were located at that time. Exploration of these deposits has been continued intermittently by various parties since that time. The opal field lies within an area approximately 5 miles wide and 10 miles long in certain beds outcropping along the walls and slopes of Virgin Creek Valley.



Geology of the Area

The formations here consist of volcanic ash tough and mud originally deposited in shallow lakes. The sediments are in part overlain by lava flows. The sedimentary beds have been divided into upper middle and lower divisions the upper beds contain fossil remains in the form of bones and teeth of mastodon camels and other fauna while the middle beds contain silicified wood and plant remains is principally in these middle beds that the opal occurs in the form of wood casts. These productive beds are buried by overburden sometimes as much as 100 feet thick. Many of the plant remains in the opal beds are only partly replaced by silica and still contain considerable carbonaceous material. Precious opal is sparsely and irregularly distributed throughout the deposit, but comprises only a very small part of it.



The Roebling Opal is an extraordinary 2,585-carat piece of opal from Rainbow Ridge Mine in 1917 from Virgin Valley, Nevada.

Many opal experts consider the Virgin Valley material to be some of the best, brightest and most beautiful opal yet discovered. The Virgin Valley deposits produce a wide variety material from intensely colored crystal opal to some of the world's finest black opal. Brilliant flashes of red, blue, yellow, green and all the rest of the rainbow emanate from these spectacular gems.

There are areas at Virgin Valley which are open to rockhounds who would like to pay to dig for the fiery precious black opal. You have a couple of different options, tailings diggings or bank diggings.

The three areas open for rock hounds are:

Rainbow Ridge Mine

Owned and operated by the Hodson family since 1949. Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine is located in Northwest Nevada, approximately 135 miles from Winnemucca, Nevada, and approximately 100 miles from Lakeview, OR. The closest town is Denio, NV, which is 35 miles away. Denio Junction has reopened and food, fuel and rooms are available. Tailings fee is \$100.00 per person per day.

Address: Sage Brush Rd, Winnemucca, NV 89445

Royal Peacock Mine

Since 1981, the Royal Peacock Opal Mine has been open to the public as a pay-to-dig mine. It has yielded countless world-class precious opal specimens during that time. Digging isn't cheap, though. They charge \$190 per person per day to dig in the fire-opal-rich bank area and \$75 to dig in the mine dumps and tailings (piles of rock extracted from the mine).

Address: 10 Virgin Valley Rd, Denio, NV 89404

Bonanza Opal Mine

The Bonanza Opal Mine is renowned for its fire opals. Since the early 1900s, the Virgin Valley has had a reputation for producing unique, world-class precious gemstones. At Bonanza, you can dig for opals amidst the rugged beauty of the Virgin Valley in northern Nevada.

The fee is \$70.00 per person/day. Children 12 and under are FREE with paid adult.

Address: 10 Virgin Valley Rd, Denio, NV 89404

**Sierra Pelona Rock Club Outings and Field Trips
December 2022 through January 2023**

Shopping at the Stone Femme Studio

On Saturday, December 17, 2022 some of us from the Sierra Pelona Rock Club went to The Stone Femme Studio, 2418 Honolulu Ave, Suite C, in Montrose for a private holiday shopping experience.

DJ and Janelle served tasty treats while club members were treated to exclusive club time. It was great fun and enjoyable to all.

The Store is open all year so visit often for that special gift item any time of the year. Confirm store hours on-line or by phone for best shopping hours.

POW WOW Quartzite, Arizona

Gem and Mineral show January 18-22, 2023

Club members began arriving in Quartzite, Arizona on January 19, 2023 with most of the club members heading out on the 22nd.

During the days the shopping was exciting and the items for purchase plentiful. There were every type of rock and mineral. Rough, slabs or already completed cabs of every shape or size.

The SPRC would like to thank Danny and Vivian for their generosity in giving the club some beautiful rocks/slabs to auction off during our meetings.

Later there was collecting of petrified wood at the Colorado River. Watching the sunset from the river is a beautiful sight. Then watching the stars in the night sky is a sight to behold. The perfect ending to the evening is hunting and photographing Scorpion's in the same area by the river.

**Plamosa Road near Bouse, Arizona
January 21, 2023**

On January 21, 2023 Martin, Valarie, David and Julie took off to explore Plamosa Road near Bouse, Arizona. The area was very quiet. and nice place to hike and rock hound. There was interesting red Jasper with a pretty jewelry quality. Minerals of crystals, druzy and more were found as well.

**Hauser Beds Palo Verde, California (near Blythe)
January 28, 2023**

On January 28, 2023 eight of us from the Sierra Pelona Rock Club met up with about 50 members of other groups and clubs to join with the BLM and ALAA at the Hauser Geode Beds for a 1-to-2-mile Desert Hike and Geode hounding experience.

The BLM showed up a little later than expected. The entire group was ready to go. After sign in was completed the group followed the BLM to the actual Hauser Bed collection area. The group proceed to dig or hike around the area looking for geodes. Geodes were found along with other types of rocks. A great day was had by all.

