

The Sierra Pelona nagram



January 2024

... 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.

Dues are Due

Yes, it's that time of year—again! Your dues are due now. I emailed all members already reminding those who haven't paid their dues yet. I included addresses and Venmo and Zelle information.

Your club dues pay for our insurance and membership in the California Federation of Minerals Society, through which we also get our liability insurance at a ridiculously low rate. But we need your dues to do that, along with other expenses the club incurs

So please, get out that checkbook, lick that envelope or access your Zelle or Venmo account, ASAP.
Thanks!

Ron and Karen Rackliffe announced at the Holiday Party that this spring they will be leaving on an approximately 2-year mission somewhere (local hasn't been told to them yet). We wish them both the best and a successful mission. Keep in touch and we'll see you when you get back!



January

Larry Holt
Larry Patrick
Robin Shane
Martin Schreiner

February

Brigitte Mazourek
Alan Pollack
John Wheeler
Tina White



Storage Place Needed

Members please note: Ron Rackliffe can't keep the club rocks and such at his home any longer. We need a place to store them. He said the space is roughly the amount of a 4-foot-wide storage shelf, so a bit of blank wall in your garage or shed should do it. We usually need to take the supplies out a couple times of year for events. Anyone?



T-Shirts

The SPRC sells club t-shirts and caps to members. At this time we need someone who will take over that assignment. You would bring the box of shirts, etc. to the meetings and sell them, giving Ed the proceeds. Let Tina or anyone on the board know and we will get you set up. Thanks.

Officers:

President – Tina White
Vice-President – Julie Tinoco
Secretary: Maureen Thomas
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 – Heidi Webber
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

**The Clubhouse of the
Greenbrier Mobile Estates EAST
21301 Soledad Canyon Rd
Canyon Country, CA 91351**

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



Hello!

It's a new year, and we all know those beget.... New Year's Resolutions. Personally, I've resolved to sort through the gazillion rocks I've collected that are now piled up inside and outside my house. The trick will be not collecting as many "new" rocks as I am able to redistribute in nature.

As this year's President of the SPRC, I've also resolved to do my best to keep the Club a fun and informational place for those of us who love rocks, geological processes, and doing creative things with rocks we collect.

One thing I've been thinking about is how to identify and then schedule new speakers and presentations for our meetings. (I appreciate your interest in what I've had to say, but there are many folks with different & exciting information to share.) And of course, new, and different field trip destinations – perhaps in conjunction with other clubs – are high on everyone's wish list. (If you have ideas, please share them!)

Please remember that you can do your part in helping the SPRC grow; adding to our numbers is always a goal, one to keep in mind when telling family & friends about the glories of rocks and how much fun we all are. Talk us up!

I look forward to seeing you all at our first meeting of the year: 7:00 p.m. on January 16th at Greenbrier Mobile Estates, 21301 Soledad Canyon Rd. If the gate isn't open, punch in 032 on the keypad and I'll open the gate.

Thank you for your votes of confidence (we'll ignore the fact that no one else volunteered), I'll do my best!

~ Tina White, 2024 SPRC President

SPRC Meeting

12/16/23 at our Holiday Party

The meeting portion was opened by President Linda Jenkins. at 1:45 p.m.

Welcoming of New Members

Linda J. introduced new members Janet & Brad Catmull

New Business

Board Elections

- President: Tina White
- Vice President: Julie Tinoco
- Treasurer: Ed Learn
- Secretary: Maureen Thomas
- CFMS Liaison: Greg Mazourek
- Hospitality: Heidi Webber

Membership Dues

- Attendees agreed to revert to \$25/year dues as no need to pay for meeting place going forward
- Officially due 1/1, but payable until board meeting first Tuesday in February
- May pay Heidi today or at our next meeting or Ed at our next meeting or via Venmo

Meeting Location

- Returning to Greenbrier Clubhouse at 21301 Soledad Canyon
- Tina will attempt to have the entry gate open from 6:30 – 7:30 on meeting nights
- Anyone arriving later will need to enter 032 on the keypad at the gate and Tina can open the gate remotely

Auction!

- Linda introduced Ron R. and Greg M. as our auctioneers, and off we went!
- Secretary Tina W. neglected to note when the meeting aspect of our gathering ended.

Septarian Concretion



Septarian from Muddy Creek, Orderville, Kane Co., Utah. Credit: Will Hough

A concretion is a hard, compact mass of matter formed by the precipitation of mineral cement within the spaces between particles, and is found in sedimentary rock or soil. Septarian concretions are concretions containing angular cavities or cracks, called "septaria". The septaria are the calcite filled cracks at the center of the rock, indicating where the centers of the concretions have shrunk, possibly during dehydration during its long transformative journey. Septarian concretions are typically found in sedimentary rocks, such as mudstone and sandstone.

Cracks are highly variable in shape and volume, as well as the degree of shrinkage they indicate. Although it has commonly been assumed that concretions grew incrementally from the inside outwards, the fact that radially oriented cracks taper towards the margins of septarian concretions is taken as evidence that in these cases the periphery was stiffer while the inside was softer, presumably due to a gradient in the amount of cement precipitated. There is an important distinction to draw between concretions and nodules. Concretions are formed from mineral precipitation around some kind of nucleus while a nodule is a replacement body.

Formation of Septarian Concretion

Septarian concretions form in sedimentary rocks, such as mudstone and sandstone. The process that created the septaria that characterize septarian concretions remains unclear. A number of mechanisms have been proposed, including the dehydration of clay-rich, gel-rich, or organic-rich cores; shrinkage of the concretion's center; expansion of gases produced by the decay of organic matter; or brittle fracturing or shrinkage of the concretion interior by either earthquakes or compaction. Another theory is that the cracks are caused by the growth of crystals within the concretion. As the crystals grow, they push against the surrounding material, causing it to crack.

Septaria usually contain crystals, often calcite, that precipitated from circulating solutions. Siderite or pyrite coatings are also occasionally observed on the wall of the cavities present in the septaria, giving rise respectively to a panoply of bright reddish and golden colors.

Where to Find Septarian Concretions

Septarian concretions can be found all over the world, but they are most common in sedimentary rocks that were deposited in marine environments. Some of the best-known localities for septarian concretions include:

- The Moeraki Boulders in New Zealand
- The Isle of Wight in England
- The Jurassic Coast in England
- The Smoky Hills region of Kansas, USA
- The Mancos Shale region of Utah and Colorado, USA
- The Bearpaw Shale region of Montana and Saskatchewan, Canada

Famous Septarian Concretions

A spectacular example of septarian concretions, which are as much as 3 meters (9.8 feet) in diameter, are the Moeraki Boulders. These concretions are found eroding out of Paleocene mudstone of the Moeraki Formation exposed along the coast near Moeraki, South Island, New Zealand. They are composed of calcite-cemented mud with septarian veins of calcite and rare late-stage quartz and ferrous dolomite.

Very similar concretions, which are as much as 3 meters (9.8 feet) in diameter and called "Koutu Boulders", litter the beach between Koutu and Kauwhare points along the south shore of the Hokianga Harbour of Hokianga, North Island, New Zealand. The much smaller septarian concretions found in the Kimmeridge Clay exposed in cliffs along the Wessex Coast of England are more typical examples of septarian concretions.

Reference: Geology.com

SPRC Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

The Board meeting via Zoom was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Tina White

Note: Advance notice of the meeting to members is given by email.

In attendance:

Tina White, President

Julie Tinoco, Vice President

Maureen Thomas, Secretary

Ed Learn, Treasurer

Greg Mazourek, Federation Director CFMS/AFMS

Heidi Webber

Treasurer's Report:

- Ed L. has received the list of members who have paid their 2024 dues, otherwise the Club is in good shape financially.

Old Business:

- Workshop
Once the rains have let up, the Webbers will reschedule.
- Registration of Claim and Club insurance
Ed L. will submit to the State this week. Insurance paperwork is done.

New Business:

- Ed L. and Tina W. need to get their names on the bank account. There is a form that must go to the State as well naming Ed and Tina in their respective roles – Tina will investigate.
- Tina W. cannot continue to store the Club t-shirts and hats so Heidi W. will ask in the next Pelona-gram for a volunteer.
- Our next chance to raise funds will be at the October Gilcrest event and Quartzite may be a good source for drawing/prize material.
- There are no new members to be voted in at present.
- We need tumbled rocks for our next fundraising event.
- As respects fundraising – an officer will have to apply for a sales permit to the Board of Equalization. Heidi W. has a copy of the old permit & paperwork. If we have to obtain a new number, we may be able to apply online. Tina W. will take care of the permit.
- Someone should ask Martin S. and Ron R. for rocks to auction off at our monthly meetings and advise Julie T. as she currently provides the rocks.
- Heidi W. will take over Hospitality from Ron R. if no one else volunteers.
- Ron R. needs to clear out rocks from his garage before he leaves on his mission so we need someone to take them.
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Field Trip Ideas:

Julie T. advised possibly Quartzite and an overnight trip to the Hauser beds and perhaps Afton but all depends on the weather. Maybe join with other clubs for joint field trips – Tina W. suggested So. Bay, Ventura or Palos Verdes clubs.

Yolanda R. is still doing b-day etc. cards to members and she will be submitting her expenses to Ed L. for reimbursement.

Tina W. will talk to the Greenbrier manager regarding leaving the gates open on our meeting nights.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried at 8:14 p.m.

Maureen Thomas, Secretary, SPRC



SPRC Holiday Party, December 16, 2023

What a great day for a Holiday Party! It was beautiful out; the clubhouse was warm and the people full of holiday cheer. Bill and Heidi had spent the previous couple of days setting up, with Heidi brining and preparing a turkey and ham, provided by the club. The rest was potluck, and boy, did everyone step up! We had a wonderful spread of goodies that were gobbled up starting about noon.

After our tummies were full, we held our annual club elections. Linda Jenkins passed the briefcase to our new president, Tina White. Our recording secretary is now Maureen Thomas. Julie Tinoco remains as vice-president, Ed Learn as Treasurer and Greg Mazourek as our CFMS representative. Congratulations to all of you and thanks. And many thanks to Linda Jenkins who served as our president for 2023. Then on to the really fun stuff—auction time! As always, Greg Mazourek and Ron Rackliffe manned the auction with help from Dianne Hellrigel. It was a lot of fun, the club earned some money, and the term “Out with the old, in with the new” takes on new meaning with newly won treasures to replace the old items brought in looking for a new home. It was win-win all around.

A lot of people also paid their 2024 dues so that is out of the way now too. It was a great time and around 3pm everyone pitched in and cleaned up and put away everything, ready to enjoy the rest of their holidays with family and friends.

Happy New Year Everyone!



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