

The Sierra Pelona nagram



January 2025

... 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.

I put these minutes in the December Pelonagram to finish out the year, but am repeating this month for continuity.

SPRC Holiday Party Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2024

Elected Officers In attendance:

Tina White, President
Julie Tinoco, Vice President
Maureen Thomas, Secretary

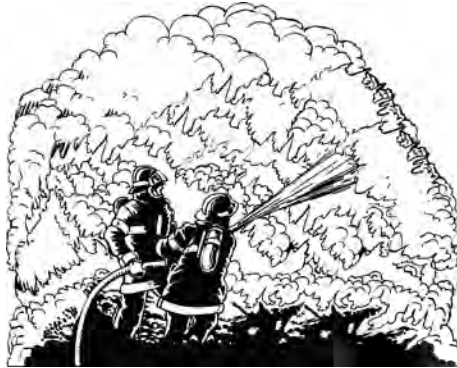
Elected Officers Absent: Greg Mazourek, Federation Director CFMS/AFMS & Ed Learn, Treasurer
Hospitality coordinator Heidi Webber was also present.

Purpose: Officer nominations for 2025 and general business

- The positions open are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and CFMS representative.
- Greg Mazourek was voted in as CFMS representative; Tina White will remain as President, Julie Tinoco will remain as VP and Ed Learn will remain as Treasurer. The position of Secretary will be filled by Heidi Webber.
- Hospitality chair – Heidi Webber was nominated and the motion passed.
- Sunshine chair – Yolanda Resnick will continue to be responsible for sending cards but only to ill members and for family passings.
- Meeting event coordinator will continue to be Tina White.
- Meeting rock auctioneer will continue to be Julie Tinoco with Jo Lasky providing assistance. NOTE: members are cautioned not to bring rocks to be auctioned to the meeting as this function is the responsibility of Julie and Jo.
- Drawing chair will continue to be Diane Wohlleben.
- Joe Lasky volunteered to help post useful information to our Facebook page that is currently administered by Trina Aeen and Ron Lawrence. Tina White will speak to Trina and Ron about creating a group accessible Facebook page.
- A guest at the party was Bonnie Traylor who would like to join the club. This will be discussed in more detail at the January general meeting.
- The auction generated \$211 in income for the club.

Maureen Thomas, Secretary, SPRC

Heroes



January

Larry Holt
Larry Patrick
Robin Shane
Martin Schreiner

February

Brigitte Mazourek
Alan Pollack
John Wheeler
Tina White

Officers:

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

Chairpersons:

Donation Rock Table--Dianne Wholleben
Equipment--Bill Webber
Field Trips – Julie Tinoco
Co-chair Field Trips--Jo Lasky
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**

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Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com



Hey there, SPRC Members ~

I'm not able to come up with an upbeat and witty message this week with all of the wind- and fire-driven destruction here in Southern California. I do hope that none of you or your friends or family were affected by any of this; I wish I could say the same for friends of mine. But SoCA will rebuild!

Fortunately rocks are pretty darn resistant to fire. There is even a word for rocks that show the effects of intense fire: spalling. That is when exterior layers flake or detach from the rest of the rock.

And yes, rocks CAN explode if they contain water (or other liquids) that reach their boiling point. Here is a (not always completely clear) website that discusses the interaction between rocks and fires, and includes advice on what rocks not to have near your home. [https://solidasrocks.com/understanding-the-](https://solidasrocks.com/understanding-the-risks-do-rocks-explode-in-fire/)

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Stay safe!

Tina White

SPRC President

SPRC Board Meeting

January 7, 2025

Via Zoom

The meeting was brought to order at 7:10pm

Board members in attendance were Tina White, Julie Tinoco, Ed Learn, Heidi Webber, and Jo Lasky who has joined the board as assistant chair to Julie.

Board Member absent was Greg Mazourek.

Minutes from December move to approve Ed moved, Tina seconded, all approved,

Treasurer: paid for PO Box for the year. Dues are due. Remind to put full name on your check. The bank now requires it. Can pay by check, cash at a meeting, Venmo or Zelle. Text Ed for the specifics if Venmo or Zelle.

Old Business:

Introducing Secretary Heidi Webber

Beautiful centerpieces - Tina asked to give Placerita a donation of \$25 for the beautiful yule logs that graced the tables at the Holiday Dinner. Julie motioned, Heidi seconded, and all in favor.

Bonnie Traylor was a guest at the Holiday Dinner

Robin and Michael Shane are moving to Idaho

Tina has the clubhouse booked for this year.

The Lasky's Shed: THANK you! All our stuff is now in the shed for safekeeping and the rented storage shed has been cancelled.

Tina explained to Jo about Ron Lawrence and his amazing rock collection and donations to the club.

Julie and Jo said that if a member wants to donate a specimen rock for the silent auction, to contact them at least a week BEFORE the next meeting so they can work it into the auction. They can also bring the specimen at the meeting to give and it will be put out at a future meeting. Julie said that she chooses the items in advance and it throws her choices off when there are unexpected rocks on the table for the auction.

New Business:

Ideas from the Laskys:

Facebook: Jo said she can post on the page to keep dates and meetings for social media presence. Tina will contact Trina Aeen and Ron Lawrence to add her as an admin.

Website: Blog? Active Calendar?

Julie and Jo will make a list of possible field trips that are educational rather than collecting to add more variety.

Field Trips (Julie): Trip to the Arial Acres/our claim vicinity for closer-to-home collecting on January 25. She will send out an email soon.

Also Quartzite pow-wow is coming up and she will send out a general message to remind those interested—NOT a club field trip.

List of possible field trip sites for 2025—Julie and Jo will be planning our trips for the year.

Shows in March:

Go to the CFMS website for more information.

- Ventura Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Art, & Fossil Show 3/1 - 3/2
- Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate 3/7 - 3/9
- Mother Lode Mineral Society Rock & Gem Show 3/8 - 3/9
- South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Show 3/22

The meeting was adjourned: Tina motioned, Jo seconded, Adjourned at 8:45.

The next meeting of the board will be February 4 and the next General Meeting will be February 18.

Heidi Webber, Secretary, SPRC

Amber Colors: What Are the Different Colors of Amber?



Yellow Amber

Yellow and brownish amber pieces are found around the world. They make up more than two-thirds of the amber found in the world. The original place that amber was found was in the Baltic Sea area, and this area is still the best market for amber both in quality and quantity. However, wherever old fossilized trees can be found, amber may be found as well.



Black Amber

Black Amber accounts for about fifteen percent of the amber found. However, it is not actually pure fossilized tree resin. It has been mixed with the remains of the tree from which it came or other plant matter. That does not make it any less appetizing.

When the specimen is made up entirely of carbonized coal, there is little difference between jet and black amber. Consequently, jet is sometimes called black amber and vice versa. When black amber is held up to the light, it will usually be another color.

The back-light shines through the amber and a different color will show. This color is usually a dark red, blue, or brown. It is criticized that the black amber is not truly black because of this property and some people deny that black amber even exists.

The cost of black amber is slightly more expensive than the common amber, but there is also not much of a demand for it.



Green Amber

Green amber is very popular. It only accounts for about two percent of the amber, but there is plenty of it found in the to supply the world. The Dominican Republic is known for the best specimens of green amber. The cost goes up as the shade of green, or any other color, deepens in the rock. Lighter amber, or yellow-green amber is less expensive. Green amber can also be treated by heating it and it will become even more beautiful as it becomes more transparent.



White Amber

White Amber is especially rare (about 1-2%). It is also called “bony” or “royal white” for its unique texture. White amber is praised for the decorative swirls in butterscotch, grey, green, honey or blue hues which create one-of-a-kind decorative effects. White amber is never treated as it is praised for its natural beauty.



Red Amber

The second most rare amber is red amber. Only about one in every two hundred amber specimens are red. The color is very authentic and can be very deep. This amber is very expensive per gram.



Blue Amber

Blue Amber is the rarest of all the colors of amber. However, blue amber is fairly new to the gem industry. It must be caught in the right light, or it will look like every other piece of yellow-brown amber.

A fascinating property of blue amber is the color that it will change when a fluorescent light is shown on it. It will be a dazzling bright blue because the fluorescents inside it will react to the light.

However, the same rock will look yellow or brownish when a white light source, such as the natural sunlight, shines from behind it. Blue amber is almost completely found in the Dominican Republic.

Reference: Geology Page