

# The Sierra Pelonagram



April 2025

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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.

**Sierra Pelona Rock Club**  
General Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2025  
Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm. We had 6 guests.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Julie spoke about the upcoming workshop (March 22), and the claim cleanup on the 29th. She had our guests introduce themselves.

Jo Lasky talked about an upcoming gem and mineral show and had some flyers. She is also asking for members to contribute to a manual she wants to put together, by writing a few paragraphs of their knowledge of some or more aspects of rock hounding, wire wrap, machines, techniques to do rock/gem-related thing. In her words, she is looking for Institutional Knowledge to help preserve our club history for the future rockhounds.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 for Greg Mazourek to present his program on Glass fusion.

The next General Meeting will be April 15, 2025

Respectfully Submitted  
Heidi Webber, Secretary, SPRC



**March 22, 2025 Workshop**

On Saturday March 22, about 20 members and Guests met at the Webber home for the first workshop of the year. It was a beautiful warm day with a nice breeze and everyone was in fine form. The machines were all in use. Our guests (potential members) watched and learned, asking questions and getting answers. Heidi served lunch, which everyone devoured.

It was a great day!



**Claim Clean-up and Collecting**

It was a beautiful albeit quite windy day at the claim yesterday. Eleven of us came for a cleanup and some collecting of our travertine. Surprisingly, there wasn't a lot of trash other than loads of broken glass, mostly beer bottles. We brought home the SPRC sign to refresh. Julie, Bryan, Dianne W, Elf and Jackie headed to Brown Butte to check it out for future trips while the rest of us headed home.



**April**

Lynne Alexander  
Greg Mazourek  
Yolanda Resnick  
Andy Schubert

**May**

Brad Catmull  
Lise Meyers

**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**

Contact the Club or the Sierra Pelonagram Editor at:

**Sierra Pelona Rock Club**

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Visit the SPRC website [www.sierrapelona.com](http://www.sierrapelona.com)



### Hello, North Americans!

I'm still here in South America, and can assure you there are beautiful rocks here too! Today I saw mostly schist with quartz veins, but it was muddy where I was kayaking. Surprising & very cool is that many of the airports have rock & mineral shops in them! I restrained myself, but I sure enjoyed looking.

Meanwhile, I've had reports that members have been out cleaning up the claim, doing some collecting, and enjoying Heidi's delicious cooking at a productive workshop. I wish I could be in 2 places at once!

I look forward to seeing you all at the April General meeting and hearing your stories of time of the desert. For now, adios!

~ Tina White  
SPRC President

### A Big Welcome

To our newest members, Rodolfo (Rudy) and Josephine Casilang! We are glad you joined us.

### Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Board Meeting  
April 1, 2025  
Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm. In attendance were Julie Tinoco, Ed Learn, Greg Mazourek and Heidi Webber. Missing was Tina White. A quorum was met.

Ed reported the treasury was in good shape, all bills paid. Heidi said Bill will be buying supplies such as grit for the machines.

Heidi introduced the application to membership of two people, Rodolpho and Josephine Casilang. Julie seconded the motion and it passed. Welcome.

Julie said that the claim clean-up endeavor last weekend was a huge success. There were 11 people in attendance. Trash was mostly broken glass, especially beer bottles. Lunch was Jersey Mike's. After, there was an effort to dig up a large chunk of travertine. At about 2, several people left, and Julie, Dianne Wohlleben, Jackie Wright, Bryan Hori and Elff went to explore another section of the area for future field trips. Julie said they found lots of light agate, jasagate and some other material that looked interesting.

Julie will decide on the April field trip and announce it at the General Meeting on April 15.

It was decided that the May field trip will be to Afton Canyon for fluorite. It will be a camping trip from Friday to Sunday for those interested. It is also close enough for a day trip if wanted by members who don't camp. This will be on May 3, details to follow.

Larry Holt, a member and our website host proposed that in exchange for annual dues, he provide the hosting at no charge to the club. Heidi made a motion to accept, Ed seconded and the motion passed.

The Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House will be held on May 10. SPRC will have a table there as usual. Heidi will fill out the vendor form and email it to the coordinators.

It was decided that the End of Season picnic will be held June 7 at Meadows Park. It will be a potluck as usual and details will follow.

Heidi made a move to adjourn. Greg seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

The next meeting will be May 6, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted  
Heidi Webber, Secretary for SPRC



For further information about various Gem Shows, go to CFMS.org for a complete listing.





*China's Mysterious Egg-Laying Mountain That Spews Out Stone Eggs The "egg-laying" cliff in Sandu, Guizhou province,*

## **China's Mountain That Lays Stone Eggs**

In the Guizhou Province of China, there's a geological phenomenon that has captured the curiosity of both locals and visitors alike, known colloquially as the "egg-laying mountain." This phenomenon occurs at a cliff named Chan Da Ya, where what are described as "stone eggs" appear to be laid by the mountain itself.

A rural and small Chinese village has been in the media spotlight because of a mysterious cliff face that is said to lay 'eggs'. The so-called 'egg-laying cliff', situated in south-east China, regularly produces large round rocks as heavy as 660 pounds, according to the locals. It's said that the 'stone eggs' would drop from the cliff once every three decades or so. Scientists are yet to give an official explanation to the phenomenon.

The unusual mountain is located in the Guizhou Province in the Gulu Zhai village, where the minority Shui People have lived for about 1,000 years.

The 'egg-laying cliff', or 'chan dan ya' in Chinese, is an area measuring 20 metres long (66 feet) and six metres wide (20 feet) on an unnamed mountain in the village.

### **'Stone Eggs' Would Reportedly Grow From the Cliff Face and Eventually Drop to the Ground**

Every so often, about once every 30 years, the 6-meter (19 foot 8 inch) high cliff appears to "shed" an egg and it falls to the floor. The eggs are no more than 20 to 40 centimeters (8 to 16 inches) in diameter. According to the locals, there are other smaller "stone eggs" nearby. The largest of the stones have even been found to weigh over 600 pounds (272 kg).

The cliff is made of a common type of calcareous rock that was formed about 500 million years ago in the Cambrian period. The eggs, on the other hand, are concretions made of tougher, heavier sediment deposits. This means that the cliff face tends to erode away quicker than the eggs during prolonged rainfall or sudden landslides. The roundness of the "eggs" is likely due to running water, however it isn't clear how or why so many became embedded in the rocks.

### **Why Does the Cliff 'lay Eggs'?**

Over the years, geologists in China have provided some possible explanations to the cause of the phenomenon. However, none official ones have been announced.

The 'stone eggs' were lumps formed by calcium carbonate molecules in the deep sea around 500 million years ago during the Cambrian Period, claimed Dr. Wang Shangyan from the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Exploration and Development of Guizhou. These "eggs" are concretions, formed from tougher, more resistant rock types, primarily composed of silicon dioxide or calcium carbonate, embedded within a matrix of softer rock. Over time, as the cliff erodes due to weather conditions like rain or landslides, these harder stone formations become more exposed and eventually fall out or are more noticeable, giving the appearance of being "laid" by the mountain.

In a book, called 'Scary Phenomena', Dr Wang said the deep sea turned into high mountains over time, and these lumps became lodged in the mountains. And because mudstone, which forms the mountains, weathers more quickly than the lumps, it appears that the cliff is giving birth to the 'eggs'.

Dr Wang's opinion was largely agreed by Professor Xu Ronghua from Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Science. But Prof. Xu said the lumps were made with silicon dioxide.

In explaining why the objects are round, Prof. Xu told DW News: 'A sphere has the smallest superficial area compared to other shapes with the same volume. As such, it would take the least effort for the molecules to form a sphere than the other shapes.'

Prof. Xu said running water could also be a factor why the lumps are round. He added that similar phenomena had been observed in Beidaihe, north China, and Xinjiang, north-west China.

The local Shui people consider these stone eggs to be good luck charms. They collect and sometimes worship these stones, believing they bring fortune and prosperity. The unique nature of this "egg-laying" cliff has also turned it into a minor tourist attraction, although