

# The Sierra Pelonagram



**December 2024**

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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.



## What do you mean it's December already?!

Another year has flown by, and whatever else we may have to show for it, we do have ROCKS. That means we have rocks to talk about, to show others, and to creatively turn into works of art, jewelry, or pretty thing-a-ma-jigs. (Or if you're like me, to wash and then put on display.)

Over the past 11 months we've collected in some cool places and have plans for more fun in December. We hope you'll join us at Stone Femme on Saturday the 7th, and that we'll see you again at our annual Holiday Dinner on the 14th. Check your email for details and be ready to visit, eat, and bid on cool auction items.

Here's to a Rockin' Ho-Ho-Holiday!

~ Tina White, SPRC President

## SPRC BOARD Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2024

The Board meeting via Zoom was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Tina White. A motion was passed to accept the minutes from last month's meeting.

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

Elected Officers In attendance:

Tina White, President

Maureen Thomas, Secretary

Ed Learn, Treasurer

Greg Mazourek, Federation Director CFMS/AFMS

**Absent:** Julie Tinoco, Vice President

**Hospitality In Attendance:** Heidi Webber

### Treasurer's Report:

- The Club is in good shape financially and able to meet its obligations. Joe and Aron Lasky volunteered their shed for club rock storage so we no longer are paying \$95 a month to warehouse them. Julie T. took the club shelves that were not needed by Aron & Joe.

### Old Business:

- The Stone Femme outing will be Dec 7th at 10am. It is undecided where to have lunch afterwards. Also on Dec 7th is the gem & mineral show in Ventura from 10 to 5.
- Obtaining our business license is still an open issue that Tina W. will continue to work on.
- Heidi W. will send out an email asking for main dishes for the holiday party to fill in any holes in our potluck menu and she will include the address of the venue 13800 Sierra Highway, Agua Dulce).
- There was a motion passed to buy poinsettia plants as table centerpieces which can be the prizes in a drawing at the party.
- Greg M. volunteered to be the auctioneer at the party.
- Tina will send out an email asking for officer nominations for the 2025 board.

### New Business:

- Remind Julie T. to plan club outings in 2025 with plenty of notice to members – some possibilities are Davis, Death Valley, Ridgecrest, Blythe and the Boron mine.
- Joe and Aron Lasky have lots of ideas for the club (blog, calendar, mentor program etc.) which can be discussed at the holiday party.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried at 7:42 p.m.

Maureen Thomas, Secretary, SPRC



## Sierra Pelona Rock Club Holiday Party

By Heidi Webber

December 14 dawned pretty chilly (for Southern California). I was up early and had the turkey in the oven by 5:30. By 9:30, Bill and I were on the way to the clubhouse with the bird and ham and gravy ready for consumption. We got the wood stove and space heaters going to get the clubhouse as warm as possible in an uninsulated 100-year-old building. Members had been told to dress warm, so all was well.

SPRC members started arriving around 11am with their various scrumptious dishes.

Appetizers were set out and people started snacking. By noon, we were lined up and filling our plates. Everyone filled up on a delicious spinach salad, cranberry relish, ambrosia, mashed potatoes, corn pudding a veggie/grain casserole, deviled eggs, dressing, pumpkin pie and a tiramisu cake.

After we were properly stuffed, Tina led the elections. Greg and Ed weren't there, so of course they were elected in absentia. The board membership didn't change except for me becoming secretary, replacing Maureen. (Maureen, you did a fantastic job as secretary, thank you so much for the last year). Jo Lasky will be co-chair with Julie for the silent auction rock table, so thank you Jo, who will also be working on our FaceBook page..

Then time for the auction! It is always fun bidding on new stuff that we can't live without. I couldn't live without a bunch of stuff, especially the coprolite t-shirt Tina bought from the Pooseum in Williams, Arizona. If Martin Schreiner had been there, it would have been a great bidding war I imagine!

Lastly, everyone got a ticket and drawings were made for the seven yule logs that my granddaughter and I made for centerpieces.

After we were done with the drawing, time for cleanup which went quickly and by 3:30, we were headed for home and probably a nap.

It is always a great and fun day with my rocky friends. See you in the New Year!

### Dues are Due

It's that time of year again. Membership dues are due in January, and late by the February board meeting. Membership is dropped at the end of February.

Don't worry about forgetting, Heidi will be in touch a few times. You can mail a check to the club at PO Box 221256, Newhall, CA 91322-1256, or Zelle or Venmo Ed Learn—or mail directly to him, his address is on the roster. And you can pay by cash or check at the January meeting.

So don't delay please. We need to pay the CFMS dues, insurance and so on to keep the club up and running.



### December

Dianne Hellrigel  
Dante Tani

### January

Larry Holt  
Robin Shane  
Martin Schreiner

### 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

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](mailto:hwebber50@gmail.com)

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

## SPRC General Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024

The regular meeting held at Greenbriar Mobilehome Park East was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Tina White followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a motion to approve October's minutes (posted in the Pelonagram).

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

### Elected Officers in attendance:

Tina White, President  
Julie Tinoco, Vice President  
Ed Learn, Treasurer  
Maureen Thomas, Secretary  
And Greg Mazourek, Federation Director CFMS/AFMS

**Elected Officers Absent:** None

**Field Trip Coordinator:** Julie Tinoco

**Hospitality:** Heidi Webber

### Treasurer's Report:

- The Club is financially able to meet its obligations. The income from our only fundraiser, Gilchrist, was \$885. Auction, dues and drawing income was as follows: \$ 20 auction, dues \$125, 0 drawing. Note: the Club is still paying \$95 a month to store rocks. We really need someone to volunteer to store our rocks so we can eliminate this drain on our finances.
- REMINDER: The \$25 dues for 2025 are due.

### Old Business:

- Tina W. thanked all those members who pitched in to work our table at Gilchrist.
- Instead of purchasing new equipment, our genie is being re-built.

### New Business:

- New members Aron & Jo Lasky and George & Marie Feneht received their membership packets and name tags.
- Ed L. shared that SCE is putting in transmission lines thru our claim – they apparently have a right-of-way.
- Greg M. recommended that the club buy or build a shed for storage.
- Heidi W. advised that the next workshop would be in January or February depending upon the weather.
- A buffer and saw machines were donated to us but they need a lot of work.
- Julie T. reminded us that on December 7th there will be an outing to Stone Femme rock shop in Montrose followed by lunch – she just has to firm up the arrival time (email to go out). Note, this is the same date as the Great Junk Hunt in Ventura. Any discounts at Stone Femme will be up to the owners.
- There may be an outing to our claim – weather permitting.
- Our holiday party is December 14th at 11am. Heidi W. will send out an email closer to the date. There was a potluck sign-up sheet for side dishes and paper goods since the club provides a ham and a turkey. An auction is a highlight of the party so be sure to bring any items you feel people would want (no clothing) to the party. Zelle, Venmo and small bills will be accepted. Proceeds benefit the club. Tina W. will bring club T-shirts and she can take orders for specific sizes.
- 2025 Officer nominations are welcome for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and CFMS Director – these positions must be filled for our club to function so please step up and volunteer!
- There was a snack and drink sign-up sheet for 2025 at the meeting.
- There was no drawing as Diane was not able to attend.
- Tina W. put together a short program on gems from around the world.

The silent auction proceeds were paid to Ed Learn.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried at 8:32 p.m.

Maureen Thomas, Secretary, SPRC

*To finish up the meeting notes for the year 2024, I will add the minutes to this, the December Pelonagram, instead of waiting for January.*

## 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 Taylor 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





## Jasper

Jasper is an opaque variety of silica with a diverse range of colors and patterns. Jasper is an opaque, fine-grained variety of chalcedony, which itself is a cryptocrystalline form of quartz. This means that jasper is composed of microscopic quartz crystals intermixed with various impurities, which give it its distinctive coloration.

### Properties of Jasper

**Composition:** Silicon dioxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) with various mineral impurities like iron oxides, clay minerals, and chalcedony. These impurities shape its color and characteristics.

**Color:** Incredibly diverse! Jasper can be found in vibrant reds, oranges, yellows, greens, browns, blues, and even black. Often multi-colored with intricate banding and patterns.

**Luster:** Ranges from dull to waxy, depending on the type and density of inclusions. Polished jasper can achieve a beautiful vitreous (glassy) shine.

**Crystal System:** Microcrystalline, meaning it lacks a defined crystal structure.

**Streak:** White, like regular quartz.

**Hardness:** 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, making it a relatively hard and durable stone.

**Cleavage:** None, unlike most crystalline minerals.

**Transparency:** Can range from opaque to translucent, depending on the density and type of inclusions. Some varieties, like Moss Agate, can be semi-transparent.

**Fracture:** Conchoidal, similar to regular quartz, meaning it breaks with smooth, curved surfaces.

### Jasper Types and Colors

Jasper is a fascinating gemstone known for its wide range of colors and patterns. While most people associate it with red, the reality is much more diverse. It's important to note that some popular "jaspers" aren't technically true jaspers. Here's an overview of the different types and colors of jasper:

### True Jaspers

**Red Jasper** is an opaque, microcrystalline variety of chalcedony, which is itself a cryptocrystalline form of quartz. Red Jasper obtains its rich red hue from the presence of iron oxides. Its formation often occurs in association with volcanic activity, where iron-rich minerals interact with the surrounding sediments. The color can range from a light pink to a deep, brick red. Major occurrences of Red Jasper can be found in regions with a history of volcanic activity or sedimentary rock formations. Notable deposits include areas in Australia, India, Brazil, Russia, and the United States.

**Yellow Jasper** is also an opaque, microcrystalline variety of chalcedony. Yellow Jasper, with its sunny and vibrant yellow coloration, is typically attributed to iron oxide, but in this case, the dominant oxide is limonite or sulfur impurities. It may display variations in shade, from pale lemon yellow to deep golden hues, often accompanied by subtle banding or mottling patterns. Yellow Jasper is found in many locations around the world, including the United States, Australia, and Brazil.

**Green Jasper**, like the other varieties, is an opaque, microcrystalline chalcedony. Green Jasper, characterized by its verdant green tones,

owes its coloration to various mineral inclusions, such as chlorite, actinolite, or hornblende. The shade of green can vary depending on the specific mineral present and its concentration. It may exhibit swirling patterns, veining, or dendritic formations, adding to its visual appeal. Green Jasper is found in many locations around the world, including the United States, Australia, and Brazil.

### Jasper-like Stones

**Bloodstone** is a variety of microcrystalline chalcedony characterized by its deep green color with red spots. The green color comes from chlorite, while the red spots are caused by inclusions of hematite. It is often used for jewelry and carvings. Bloodstone is found in many locations around the world, including India, China, and Australia.

**Picture Jasper**, a captivating gemstone with intricate patterns and vibrant colors, Picture jasper is not a true jasper but a microcrystalline quartz like other members of the chalcedony family. Its captivating "picture-like" patterns and images that resemble landscapes or other scenes, make it a sought-after material for jewelry, carvings, and decorative objects. Picture Jasper is found in many locations around the world, including the United States, Mexico, and Russia.

**Imperial Jasper** is a rare and valuable variety of jasper known for its vibrant green and yellow colors with intricate patterns. While classified as a "jasper," it's not technically a true jasper. Instead, it's a microcrystalline quartz. It is often used for decorative purposes due to its beauty and rarity. Imperial Jasper is found in only a few locations around the world, including Russia and South Africa.

**Leopard Jasper**, stunning for its "spots," isn't a true jasper but a chalcedony formed through a process called orbicularization. It's known for its distinctive "leopard skin" pattern. Minerals like manganese and iron diffuse into a base of silica, forming concentric circles and crystallizing, creating the distinctive pattern. Leopard Jasper is found in many locations around the world, including the United States, Mexico, and South Africa.

**Dalmatian Jasper**, despite its name, is not a true jasper. This unique stone is actually a type of igneous rock called perthite. Its distinctive speckled appearance, reminiscent of a Dalmatian dog's coat, is caused by a mixture of minerals within the perthite. The white spots are formed by inclusions of feldspar. The black spots are composed of the rare amphibole arfvedsonite. Dalmatian jasper is primarily found in Mexico, particularly in the Chihuahua and Durango states.

Dalmatian stone has a hardness of 6-7 on the Mohs scale, making it slightly softer than true jasper.

**Ocean Jasper** is a variety of jasper with swirling patterns and colors reminiscent of the ocean. While commonly referred to as a jasper, Ocean Jasper technically falls under the umbrella of orbicular chalcedony. This means it's composed primarily of microcrystalline quartz with some additional minerals like feldspar and iron oxides.

**Kambaba Jasper**, also known as Kabamba Jasper, is a mesmerizing gemstone characterized by its vibrant green background and distinctive black orbs. While often referred to as a "jasper," it's not a true jasper but rather a stromatolite, a fossilized structure formed by blue-green algae in shallow seas millions of years ago. Kambaba Jasper is found almost exclusively in one location: the Bongolava region of western Madagascar. This region boasts several small mines where the stone is extracted.

**Mookaite Jasper** is a captivating gemstone known for its unique patterns and vibrant colors. It is known for its reddish-brown to yellow colors with swirling patterns. While often referred to as a "jasper," technically it's a silicified radiolarite, a rock formed from the fossilized remains of microscopic sea creatures called radiolarians. It is often used for jewelry and carvings.

**Brecciated Jasper** is a fascinating gemstone characterized by its unique "broken" appearance. It's not a true jasper but rather a breccia, a rock formed from fragments of other rocks cemented together. These fragments can be a variety of minerals, including jasper, chert, quartz, and even fossils. This can result in a variety of colors and patterns depending on the specific types of jasper involved.

**Kaleidoscope Jasper**, despite its name, isn't a true jasper. It's actually a microcrystalline quartz, meaning it's composed of tiny quartz crystals visible under magnification. This unique stone is prized for its captivating colors and swirling patterns resembling a kaleidoscope. It's formed through a complex process involving petrified wood, rhyolitic ash, and various minerals.

Others prefer the term "rhyolite jasper" to emphasize the influence of volcanic ash. Kaleidoscope jasper is found primarily in one location: the Ochoco National Forest in Oregon, USA.

**Zebra Jasper**, despite its name, is not a true jasper but rather a type of chalcedony. This fascinating stone earns its name from its distinctive zebra-like stripes, featuring alternating bands of white, cream, black, or red. The formation of Zebra Jasper involves a process called orbicularization.

**Bumblebee Jasper** is a unique and captivating gemstone known for its vibrant color combinations and distinctive patterns. Despite its name, it's not a true jasper but rather a carbonate-rich rock with a primarily calcite composition.

Reference: *Geology In*

