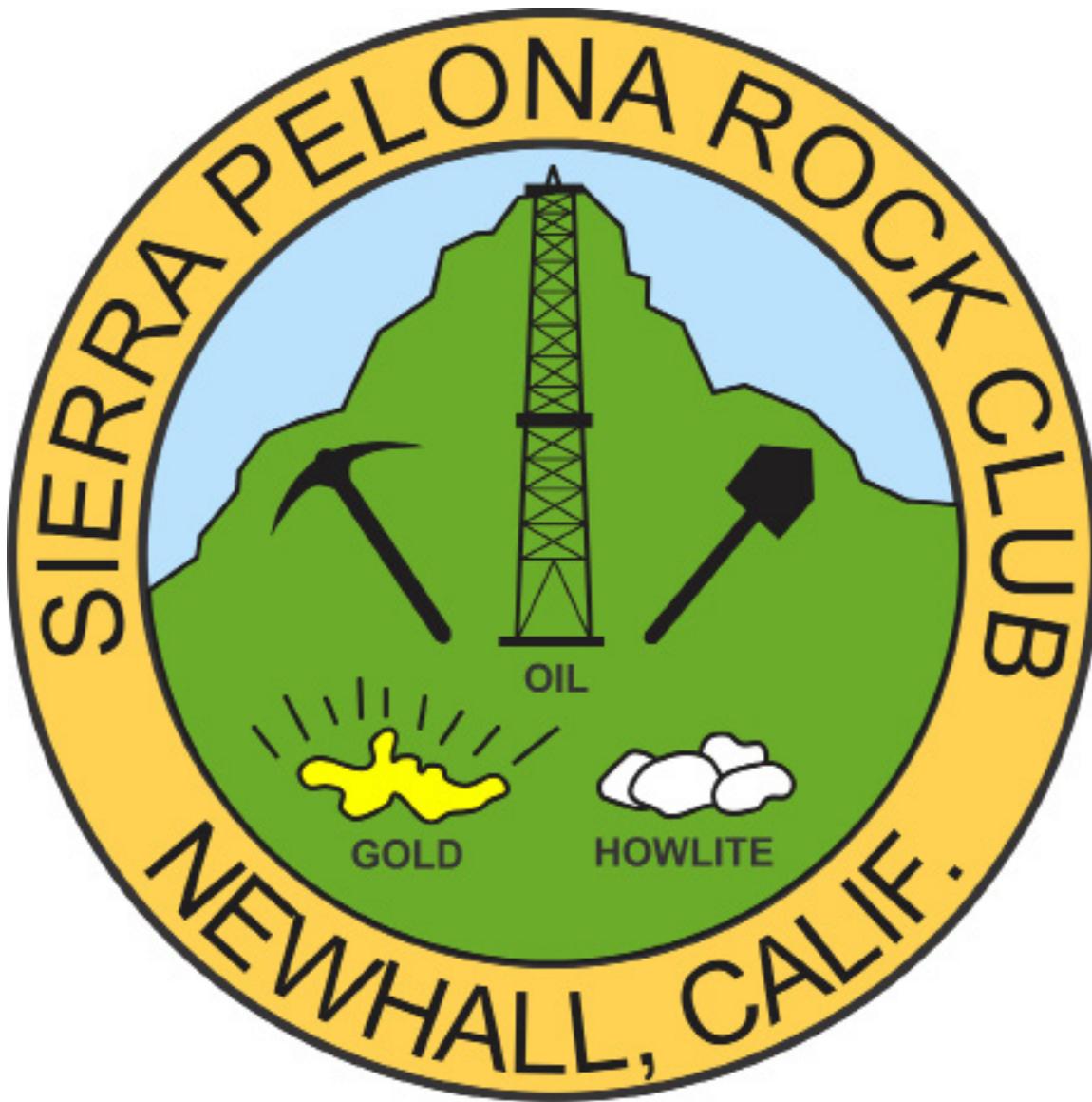


The Sierra Pelonagram



January 2026

... 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.



President's Message:

A new year, and a new start... Although one with an obstacle or two for the SPRC. As our usual meeting place will be unavailable for a few months due to water damage, we've had to find a new place to gather. So, our January meeting and presumably those for a few months after will take place at the Santa Clarita Lanes, the bowling alley just a block or two farther down Soledad Canyon Rd. The good part of that is pizza for everyone on the 20th!

The other issue has been the weather; it has not been particularly cooperative the last couple of months. While it is warm and sunny today, who knows what the future holds. Julie T. is busy making plans for us to go to some great places, so let's keep our fingers crossed and our rain jackets at hand as we embark on a new year of rockin' adventures!

Tina White
SPRC President

**Sierra Pelona Rock Club
Holiday Meeting and Elections
December 14, 2025
Sierra Inn Clubhouse**

After a nice potluck holiday lunch, the final meeting of the year was called to order at 1:30pm. Board members Tina White, Julie Tinoco, and Heidi Webber were in attendance. Absent were Ed Learn and Greg Mazourek. Around 30 club members were also in attendance. A quorum was met.

After Tina White's introductory comments, our annual elections and committee chairpersons were made by a show of hands, our board and committee chairs are as follows. Only the change in a committee chairperson is noted.

The Board remains unchanged for 2026. Tina White-President, Julie Tinoco-Vice-President, Ed Learn-Treasurer, Heidi Webber-Secretary and Greg Mazourek-CFMS Representative.

The new committee chairs are as follows: Merritt Kent-Publicity, Jaclyn Wright-Hospitality, Jo Lasky-Drawings.

The Board of SPRC wishes to thank all the outgoing committee chairs and welcome the new committee chairpersons.

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm for the auction and the rest of Holiday Fun!

Note: Heidi completed the Officer Change Form and emailed it to Pat LaRue at CFMS on 12/20/26.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi Webber, Secretary, SPRC

**SPRC Board Meeting
January 6
Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 7:14pm. In attendance were Merritt Kent, Heidi Webber, Greg Mazourek and Tina White. Absent were Ed Learn and Julie Tinoco. A quorum as met.

It was noted that a sympathy card was sent to Connie Reisbeck in memory of Frank Hummelbaugh.

A donation tax letter was emailed to Michelle Ormonde for the beautiful specimen rocks she donated to the club. Tina and Heidi will do an inventory. We are still deciding on how the rocks will ultimately be used.

We discussed a possible visit to the claim but in Julie's absence there was no definite date set. She did say later that a trip would be happening soon as weather permits.

Quartzite is January 21-25. Julie will send an email with details about visiting. This will not be a club outing, just informational.

Heidi said that the next workshop can be held March 21 or 28 or April 11 or 18. We didn't set a date yet as we need to make sure we don't interfere with any field trips Julie will be making. Date should be set at the February board meeting.

Tina brought up the subject of where we can meet while the clubhouse is being repaired from the flooding that occurred. Several members had expressed discomfort in driving to the Sierra Inn clubhouse at night as it is a winding road and no lights. She investigated the bowling alley and they have two rooms available for meetings. One holds 30 people tops and costs \$40 per hour. The other, in the bar area, can hold triple that at no cost but we need to buy food and drink. Also, they have screens that can accommodate Tina's programs via her laptop. She was told that Tuesday nights there are no leagues playing and the bar area is basically empty, making it perfect for us. We voted to try this option out and go from there. We also voted to provide pizza and pitchers of sodas to members for the first meeting of the year. Vincinzo's Pizza is the provider of the pizzas. Tina motioned/Greg seconded, passed.

Heidi motioned to adjourn the meeting as all our business was concluded. Tina seconded/passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi Webber, Secretary, SPRC



The Los Angeles History Museum

The Los Angeles History Museum outing on January 3, 2025 was very enjoyable. It was a member only event. While waiting for our host and guide Dr. Aaron Celestian PH.D. to arrive, some of us went into the museum gift shop to look around at the wonderful items available for purchase. Photos were taken as Dr. Celestian arrived, and introductions were made. Tina White and Julie Tinoco presented Dr. Celestian with a thank you card signed by the club members in attendance. A sample of Travertine from the Sierra Pelona Rock Club claim and a specimen of Howlite, the club rock, was also presented to Dr. Celestain in appreciation for taking our group on the behind-the-scenes tour of the Unearthed: Raw Beauty exhibit.

Our group was able to observe some of the machines used to determine rock and mineral content and density, with more areas that are not normally viewed by visitors.

After the tour it was lunch time. Members ate in the cafeteria where the food was good. The club members were invited to enjoy the other areas of the museum. At that point some of us went to explore the museum a little more, purchase something from the gift shop and then headed home. It rained on and off, which made it a perfect day for an inside field trip experience.

Thank you Jo Lasky for setting up this wonderful day!



Dues Are Due

For those that haven't paid their 2026 dues yet, they are due. Please mail, Zelle, Venmo or pay at a meeting asap. The club has to pay insurance, and dues to our parent organization CFMS, along with other things to keep the club running smoothly. For those that have paid already, Thank You!



January
Larry Holt
Martin Schreiner

February
Brigitte Mazourek
Alan Pollack
Tina White
John Wheeler

Officers:

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

Chairpersons:

Donation Rock Table--Jo Lasky
Equipment--Bill Webber
Field Trips – Julie Tinoco
Historian -Open
Hospitality –Jaclyn Wright
Membership – Heidi Webber
Website-- Larry Holt
Pelonogram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs –Tina White
Publicity –Merritt Kent
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 Pelonogram 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



Gallium: Metal That Melts in Your Hands

Gallium is a fascinating metal with a low melting point of about 29.76°C (85.57°F), which means it can melt in the warmth of your hand, transforming from a solid, silvery metal into a liquid puddle due to human body heat.

What is Gallium

Gallium is a soft, silvery metal that is in the post-transition metals category on the periodic table, symbolized by Ga with an atomic number of 31. It is not found in its free elemental form in nature, but rather as a trace element in various minerals like bauxite and sphalerite. Gallium can be extracted as a byproduct during the refining of other metals, such as aluminum and zinc.

Very pure gallium metal has a silvery color and its solid metal fractures conchoidally like glass. Gallium liquid expands by 3.1% when it solidifies; therefore, it should not be stored in glass or metal containers because the container may rupture when the gallium changes state.

Gallium shares the higher-density liquid state with a short list of other materials that includes water, silicon, germanium, antimony, bismuth, and plutonium.

The melting point of gallium, at 302.9146 K (29.7646 °C, 85.5763 °F), is just above room temperature, and is approximately the same as the average summer daytime temperatures in Earth's mid-latitudes.

The melting point of gallium allows it to melt in the human hand, and then refreeze if removed. The liquid metal has a strong tendency to supercool below its melting point/freezing point.

Gallium is one of the four non-radioactive metals (along with caesium, rubidium, and mercury) that are liquid at or near typical room temperatures. Of these, gallium is unique for being neither highly reactive like rubidium and caesium, nor highly toxic like mercury, making it suitable for use in metal-in-glass high-temperature thermometers.

Gallium does not crystallize in any of the simple crystal structures. The stable phase under normal conditions is orthorhombic with 8 atoms in the conventional unit cell. Within a unit cell, each atom has only one nearest neighbor (at a distance of 244 pm).

Gallium does not exist as a free element in the Earth's crust, and the few high-content minerals, such as gallite (CuGaS₂), are too rare to serve as a primary source.

Uses of Gallium

Semiconductors and Electronics: Gallium is widely used in the production of semiconductors, such as gallium arsenide (GaAs) and gallium nitride (GaN), which are crucial for making light-emitting diodes (LEDs), solar panels, and high-speed electronics.

Thermometers and Thermostats: Gallium has a low melting point (around 29.76 °C or 85.57 °F), allowing it to be used in high-temperature thermometers as a non-toxic alternative to mercury.

Medical Applications: Gallium isotopes are used in medical imaging and as a therapeutic agent to treat certain cancers and inflammatory conditions.

Alloys: Gallium is used to create low-melting-point alloys, such as galinstan (gallium, indium, and tin), which are used in thermometers and cooling systems.

Solar Cells: Gallium arsenide-based solar cells are used in space applications due to their high efficiency and durability.

LEDs and Laser Diodes: Gallium compounds are crucial for producing blue and violet LEDs, laser diodes, and other optoelectronic devices.

Facts About Gallium

Amphoteric Nature: Can act as both an acid and a base in reactions.

Discovery: It was discovered by the French chemist Paul-Émile Lecoq de Boisbaudran in 1875 through spectroscopy.

Named After France: The name "Gallium" comes from the Latin word "Gallia," meaning France.

Non-toxic and Non-hazardous Metal: Unlike other metals like mercury, gallium is non-toxic, though it can stain the skin.

Supercooling Property: Gallium can remain in the liquid state below its freezing point if cooled carefully, a property known as supercooling.

How To Melt Gallium: Simply place the piece of gallium in the palm of your hand and let the warmth of your body heat do the work!

Gallium's unique properties and versatility make it valuable in various high-tech industries, from electronics to medicine.

Two Upcoming Shows for Those Interested

They are both great shows and fairly local. You won't be disappointed.

