

The Sierra Pelonagram



November 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.



Hey, Rockers!

As the year is getting closer to the end we've still got some fun things planned. Unfortunately, we've not had enough folks interested in going out collecting the past couple of months, but I'm sure some of you have picked up a cool rock or twelve on your own wanderings, wherever you may have gone. Our November meeting (11/19) will provide you the chance to show them to the rest of us to earn those well-deserved Oohs & Ahs!

The meeting will include our usual presentation on something rock-related. If you've not nodded off as I prattled on, Field Trip Maven Julie will update everyone on our scheduled outing to Stone Femme in early December, and we'll start the first round of signups for our Holiday Party Potluck to be held on December 14th. And of course there will be a drawing for cool stuff, and an auction of rocks/jewelry/whatever others are willing to part with. And yummy snacks ~ that's my kind of evening!

I will be sending out an email to this effect, but let me use this space to urge members to run for positions on the SPRC Board. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and CFMS Director. It can be your opportunity to be more involved in the event planning, field trip scouting, and terribly complex financial decisions (not) we make regularly!

I look forward to seeing you soon ~ SPRC President Tina White

SPRC BOARD Meeting Minutes November 5, 2024

The Board meeting via Zoom was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tina White

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

Elected Officers In attendance:

Tina White, President

Julie Tinoco, Vice President

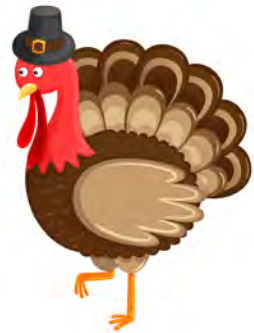
Maureen Thomas, Secretary

Ed Learn, Treasurer

Greg Mazourek, Federation Director CFMS/AFMS

Absent: None

Hospitality In Attendance: Heidi Webber



Treasurer's Report:

- The Club is in good shape financially and able to meet its obligations. Gilchrist was a successful fund raiser. Reminder: the Club is paying \$95 a month to store rocks.

Old Business:

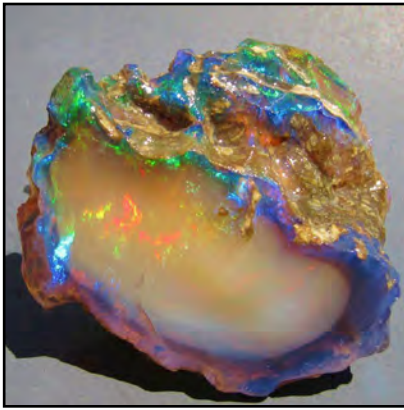
- At our November club meeting it was suggested that we approach Elff regarding her offer to store our rocks in her shed – we just need volunteers to help clean it out first. This will replace the \$95 a month public storage facility and save us some money.
- Obtaining our business license is still an open issue Tina W. will continue to work on.

New Business:

- The capacitor on our Genie machine is worn out – it will cost \$50 for a new one and this expense has been approved.
- The spinning wheel used in our public events is warped and will need to be fixed as this is a popular feature.
- Julie T. has yet to contact Stone Femme regarding a time for our December field trip and whether or not we will receive a discount on purchases. Julie will get this information out to club members. Greg M. will get the names of popular restaurants in the Montrose area for lunch that day to Julie T.
- Heidi W. will bring a pot-luck sign up sheet to the November meeting for the holiday party.
- We also need items to auction at the holiday party so this will be brought up at the November meeting as well.
- Tina W. will send out via email an officer election sheet for 2025.
- As the club is low on rocks after the Gilchrist event, there will possibly be a trip to Saddleback Butte to collect jasper, agate and bloodstone. This will be discussed at the November meeting.
- The club is out of gem trail books for our drawings. Since Heidi W. gets a 40% discount, she will order 12 Gem Trails of So. California, 3 for Arizona plus a few GPS Guides to Western Gem Trails. To round things out, she will also order 6 Gem Trails of No. California and 4 each for Oregon and Nevada. A motion was passed authorizing the expense. Greg M. suggested we offer the discount to members who don't want to wait upon the vagaries of the drawings to obtain any of these books.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried at 7:30 p.m.

Maureen Thomas, Secretary, SPRC



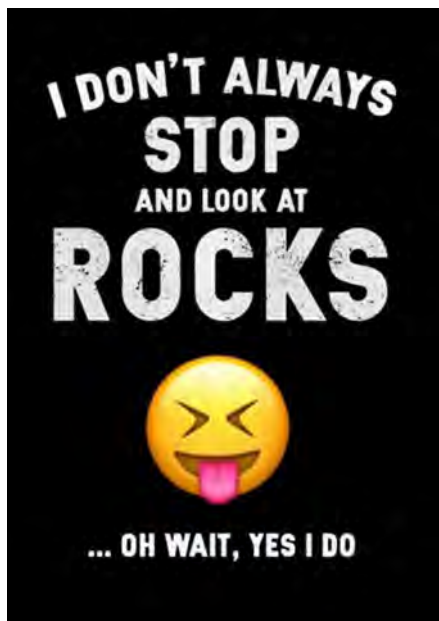
Rare Fossil Wood Precious Opal From Nevada. Credit: 1mcmurdo

Rare Opalised Wood From Nevada

Nevada is famous for its beautiful, colorful black Opal. The state contains some very rich precious opal beds and has produced some spectacular and extremely valuable specimens.

The Virgin Valley opal beds in northwest Humboldt County are perhaps the most famous gemstone locality in Nevada. High quality precious opal emitting a multihued rainbow of color is found replacing wood or other plant material in this remote location.

This is a large, fiery, and rare specimen of Precious Opal fossilized wood out of the Miocene epoch (20 M.Y.A.), and comes from the famous Virgin Valley Opal area in Humboldt County, Nevada. It features a large intact section of fossilized wood that has been replaced with beautiful "Honey, and Jelly" Precious Opal. Make no mistake this piece is gem/museum quality displaying every color of the rainbow throughout the large section.



November

Elff
Frank Hummelbaugh
Satomi Tani

December

Dianne Hellrigel
Dante Tani



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:
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Or e-mail: hwebber50@gmail.com
Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com

**SPRC General Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2024**

The regular meeting held at Greenbriar Mobilehome Park East was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Tina White followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. Drawing and auction income is as follows: \$70 drawing + \$85 auction. Note: the Club is still paying \$95 a month to store rocks. Really need someone to volunteer to store our rocks so we can eliminate this expense.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Last meeting there were 4 guests who have since become new members and they are Aron & Jo Lasky and George & Marie Feneht – welcome!
- Desert Gem Trail 1971 is available for download to anyone interested, just contact Tina W. with your email address.
- Tina W. came across an interesting website called rockchasing.com.
- A film presentation was shown titled “59 Legitimate Spots to Find Agates in California”. The film explained what an agate is composed of plus the many different types and where they are to be found.
- The Webbers, who store the Club's equipment, brought in a Genie rock polishing machine (inoperative) and a rock cutting machine as well as necessary items like a dop stick necessary in polishing rocks so as to protect your fingers. Bill W. and Greg M. explained how the machines worked.
- Reminder – Oct 26th and 27th is the Gilchrist Farms Harvest Festival which is our only fundraiser. We have our shifts covered however this is a fun family event so members are encouraged to come check it out. Note – there will be an auction at our Holiday party in December.

The silent auction and drawing proceeds were paid to Heidi Webber.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried at 8:38 p.m.

Maureen Thomas, Secretary, SPRC



California Geological Survey

Geologic Facts about California



California's geology is varied and complex. The high mountains and broad valleys we see today were created over long periods of time by geologic processes such as fault movement, volcanism, sea level change, erosion and sedimentation. Below are some facts about the geology of California and the California Geological Survey (CGS).

General Geology and Landforms

- 1 California has more than 800 different geologic units that provide a variety of rock types, mineral resources, geologic structures and spectacular scenery.
- 2 Both the highest and lowest elevations in the 48 contiguous states are in California, only 80 miles apart. The tallest mountain peak is Mt. Whitney at 14,496 feet; the lowest elevation in California and North America is in Death Valley at 282 feet below sea level.
- 3 California's state mineral is gold. The Gold Rush of 1849 caused an influx of settlers and led to California becoming the 31st state in 1850.
- 4 California's state rock is serpentine. It is apple-green to black in color and is often mottled with light and dark colors, similar to a snake. It is a metamorphic rock typically derived from iron- and magnesium-rich igneous rocks from the Earth's mantle (the layer below the Earth's crust). It is sometimes associated with fault zones and often has a greasy or silky luster and a soapy feel.
- 5 California's state fossil is the saber-toothed cat. In California, the most abundant fossils of the saber-toothed cat are found at the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles.
- 6 California state gem, benitoite, was discovered in 1907 in San Benito County. Crystals are typically light to sapphire blue, but can also form in a wide range of colors. Although benitoite is found in several places worldwide, large gem quality crystals are found only in California.
- 7 The Mendocino Triple Junction is located off the coast of northern California, where three tectonic plates (Pacific Plate, Gorda Plate, and North American Plate) meet.
- 8 The San Andreas Fault forms a transform plate boundary where the Pacific Plate meets the North American Plate south of the Mendocino Triple Junction.
- 9 Geologic hazards in California can consist of earthquake shaking and fault movement, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions, floods, and exposure to hazardous minerals.
- 10 Floods in California occur along the flood plains of streams and rivers, and also in desert washes and alluvial fans. Alluvial fans form at the mouths of canyons in California's deserts and semi-arid environments from floodwaters depositing sediment as the water velocity decreases.
- 11 The Salton Sea was created in 1905 when several floods inundated a bypass in irrigation canals and diverted the entire Colorado River for nearly two years. Currently, the Salton Sea is maintained by water diversions from the Colorado River.
- 12 Salts are found throughout California's desert areas in basins that have periodically filled with water that subsequently dried up or evaporated. Evaporation of freshwater in Mono Lake, thought to be the oldest lake on the North American Continent, has left behind salts and minerals making the water three times saltier than sea water.



What is Druzy; and How Does it Form?

Druzy refers to a layer of tiny, sparkling crystals that form on the surface of a rock or mineral. These crystals can appear as a glittery, sugar-like coating and are often found inside geodes or on the surface of other gemstones.

Druzy (also spelled druse or drusy) is sets of tiny crystals of minerals that form on the surface of another stone. These crystal inter-growths or clusters can be formed by many different minerals. The mineral species and shapes of crystals formed are dependent on fluid composition. Crystal size is a function of fluid temperature and pressure.

There are many types of druzy, because there are many types of minerals. Each type of druzy has particular characteristics, such as crystal size, luster and color. Druzy can form from minerals like quartz, calcite, chalcedony, malachite, azurite, garnet, hematite, cobalt calcite, and uvarovite Garnet, each creating unique colors and textures.

Quartz is one of the most common druzy types because of the prevalence of silica throughout the world. No matter what mineral forms the druzy, the overall appearance usually resembles that of sugar. The tiny crystals are considered beautiful because, like large gemstones, they glitter and catch rays of light.

The term "druzy" comes from the German word "Druse," which means "a heap or cluster, like a drupe."

Druzy Formation

Druzy is formed when mineral-rich water flows over or around a rock surface. When the water evaporates, cooling occurs and the minerals are left behind to form crystals on top of the rock. Depending on the minerals, druzy gemstones can be almost any color of the rainbow, including white, pink, blue, purple, green or black.

Most drusy forms as cavity lining in geodes. In most druzy, the terminations of crystals appear random and stones glitter like a fistful of tiny diamonds as the viewing angle changes with movement. Some rare formations of druzy occur in which the alignment of the crystal faces are uniform across the surface and the glitter turns to a flash.

Druzy Colors

Druzy comes in a wide range of colors, both natural and enhanced. The color of druzy depends on the type of mineral it's formed from and any treatments it may have undergone. Here's a breakdown of druzy colors:

Natural Druzy Colors

- White/Clear: Quartz and calcite druzy.
- Gray: Light to dark shades, often quartz.
- Brown/Beige: Earthy tones in chalcedony druzy.
- Blue: Pale blue in chalcedony; deep blue in azurite.
- Green: Vivid green in malachite and uvarovite.
- Yellow/Golden: Citrine druzy, ranging from light yellow to deep gold.
- Purple: Amethyst druzy, from lavender to violet.

- Red/Burgundy: Deep red in garnet druzy.
- Black: Hematite druzy, black or metallic gray.
- Pink: Vibrant pink in cobalt calcite.

Treated Enhanced Druzy Colors

Colors of natural druzy vary widely and enhanced variations are infinite. These coatings and dyes are popular for improving the less attractive colors of naturally brilliant druse crystal aggregates turning shades of gray and brown into “cobalt blue” and “titanium purple”.

- Bright Blue: Dyed to a vivid blue.
- Vibrant Purple: Enhanced for striking purple hues.
- Iridescent/Rainbow: Metallic coatings create multi-colored effects.
- Gold: Metallic coatings for a gold finish.
- Turquoise/Teal: Achieved through dyeing or using chrysocolla.

Types of Druzy

- While druzy formations can occur in various minerals, quartz is the most prevalent due to its abundance and the conditions under which it forms, so >95% of the Druzy on the market is quartz.
- **Druzy Quartz:** This is the most widely encountered type of druzy, with the tiny crystals being composed primarily of quartz. Quartz druzy can exhibit a vast spectrum of colors, ranging from clear and colorless to vibrant hues like purple, pink, and yellow.
- **Druzy Amethyst:** This stunning variety features a base of amethyst, a purple quartz gemstone, adorned with a layer of sparkling quartz crystals. The combination of the deep purple hue and the glittering crystals creates a truly mesmerizing visual experience.
- **Malachite Druzy:** Malachite druzy has a vibrant green color with a druzy surface of tiny malachite crystals.
- **Agate Druzy:** Agate druzy forms when agate, a type of chalcedony, has a druzy surface covered in small quartz crystals. It often displays colorful patterns.
- **Druzy Pyrite:** Pyrite, also known as fool's gold, can also form druzy structures. These formations exhibit a metallic golden luster on the druzy surface, creating a visually striking and distinctive appearance.
- **Druzy Garnet:** This variety showcases a base of garnet, a group of silicate minerals known for their various colors, covered with a layer of tiny crystals. Garnet druzy can come in a range of colors depending on the specific garnet type, such as the vibrant red of pyrope or the deep green of tsavorite.
- **Druzy Calcite:** Calcite druzy can occur in various colors, including clear, white, yellow, green, and blue. It is known for its transparency and can be used in both jewelry and decorative items.
- **Druzy Chalcedony:** Chalcedony is a variety of quartz, and when it forms with a druzy surface, it can exhibit various colors and patterns. Blue chalcedony druzy, in particular, is popular in jewelry.
- **Druzy Hematite:** Hematite is an iron ore that can form druzy coatings, often in silver or metallic black hues. Hematite druzy is known for its shiny and reflective surface.

Uses of Druzy

- **Druzy is popular for:**
- Jewelry making: Used in necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings due to its beauty and variety of colors.
- Home decor: Used in decorative objects, sculptures, and coasters for their visual appeal.
- Mineral collections: Appreciated by collectors for their unique formations and aesthetics.

In addition to their visual appeal, druzy are believed to have metaphysical properties, making them popular in spiritual practices and crystal healing. They are said to enhance intuition, promote tranquility, and provide a soothing and calming effect.

Reference: GeologyIn.com

