

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



May 2012

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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.

## CFMS Shows

Check the CFMS website for  
details and locations

**May 12 - 13: JACKSON, CA**

Fossils For Fun Society

**May 12 - 13: RENO, NV**

Reno Gem & Mineral Society

**May 19 - 20: YUCAIPA, CA**

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral  
Society

**May 26 - 28: JUNCTION CITY,  
CA**

Trinity Gem & Mineral Society

**June 1 - 3: WOODLAND**

**HILLS, CA**

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral  
Society

**June 9 - 10: LA HABRA, CA**

North Orange County Gem &  
Mineral Society

**June 16 - 17: GLENDORA, CA**

Glendora Gems & Mineral Society

**June 30 - July 1: CULVER**

**CITY, CA**

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

**July 13 - 15: RIVERSIDE, CA**

**CFMS Gold and Gem Show  
and Convention**

**Hosted by Valley Prospectors**

**August 3 - 5: NIPOMO, CA**

Orcutt Mineral Society

**August 31 - September 3: FORT  
BRAGG, CA**

Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral  
Society

**September 8 - 9: DOWNEY, CA**

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society

**September 15 - 16: BORON, CA**

Mojave Mineralogical Society

**September 15 - 16: PASO**

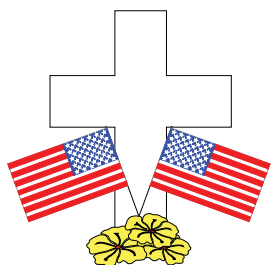
**ROBLES, CA**

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

**September 15 - 16: REDWOOD**

**CITY, CA**

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society



**Spring is in the air and so are**

**Birthday Balloons for:**

Colleen Clough, May 4

Mike Moreno, May 18

Iony Panaitescu, May 5

Mike Serino, May 26



### **Officers:**

President – Ron Lawrence

Vice-President – Bill Webber

Secretary: Heidi Webber

Treasurer – Greg Mazourek

Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

### **Chairpersons:**

Claim - Mike Serino

Donation Rock Table - Akiko Strathmann

Facebook--Greg Langewisch

Field Trips – Greg Langewisch

Historian - Frank Humelbaugh

Hospitality – Evelyn Velie

Membership – Janelle Williams

Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber

Programs – Shep Koss

Publicity –Open

Storage - Vlad Litt

Sunshine - Brigitte Mazourek

Website – Greg Mazourek

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 7:30 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: [hwebber@pacbell.net](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

Visit the SPRC website <http://www.sierrapelona.com/>

## **President's Message**

Ron Lawrence

In all the years I've been with the club I've missed very few meetings or field trips because I've enjoyed the fellowship of my fellow club members and of course the programs and the outdoors. Unfortunately I will have to miss both the General Meeting and the field trip this month. The club will be in very experienced hands and the program is one I know you will enjoy attending. We will have a guest speaker and I'm sure he will have beautiful material to go along with his program.



We covered many items at the business meeting so review the minutes in this newsletter. We talked about future programs like silver smithing and ice cream socials and over the summer break at least one club dinner like we did in the past. At the business meeting we voted in three new members so the club continues to grow.

I want to again thank all of you that worked so hard behind the tables at the AV show Saturday and Sunday. The show was a success bringing in more money than we have at any other time we did the AV show. It was a fun two days and now we can look ahead to Lombardi in October.

The weather has been so erratic we have no idea if the date for this month's field trip will be a hot day or rain. Greg planned a great field trip to the Wiley's Well area for geodes and fire agate but it may be too hot. We've talked about a beach collecting trip but no decision yet. Watch for emails and check the Face Book page.

Speaking of Face Book, it's easy for us to post pictures or write-ups on our club page and I've done it a number of times. So even if you're one of those that have a FB page but don't go on often, go on and LIKE our page and check it out from time to time. If you're not on Face Book yet it's easy and even if you don't use it for anything else then getting info about the club, it will be worth it.

Have a great month and I will see you in June

Ron

## **SPRC General Meeting**

**April 17, 2012**

### **Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. 27 members and 4 guests were in attendance.

Ron explained the purpose of the coin jar for the CFMS Endowment Fund.

The Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral show is April 28 and 29. We need coverage.

This weekend's field trip will be to the North Edwards claim and others nearby.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm, followed by the April program.

The April program was on metal detectors given by Janelle Williams and D.J. Gervais.

## **Welcome New Members**

We are pleased to welcome to the club new members Trina MacDonald, Omid Aeen and Candice Jones. Trina and Omid are already very active with field trips and other activities.

**SPRC Business Meeting**  
**May 1, 2012**  
**Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse**

Attending were Bill and Heidi Webber, Shep Koss, Diane Southwell, Greg Mazourek, Evelyn Velie, Greg Langewisch, Ron Lawrence, Janelle Williams and Frank Humelbaugh. A quorum was met and the meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Ron said that 26 club members showed up to help at the Lancaster Gem and Mineral Show held the 28th and 29<sup>th</sup> of April. He said it was our most profitable weekend with that show ever.

Greg L. asked advice on several collecting spots, especially as summer heat becomes an issue. One suggestion was a beach trip to the Cambria area. The May trip hasn't been determined yet, but will be announced at the General Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Shep said that Dick Flaharty will give a slide show on collecting in the south-east corner of Oregon at the May general meeting. Plum agates, obsidian and many other rocks and minerals will be shown.

Ron said that we need to promote the Face Book page. Even if you don't use Face Book much, if you go to the site and "Like" it, then those numbers will be added to the site. At a certain number of "likes", then the page will start generating activity reports to Greg L. So far, we don't have enough numbers.

Trina McDonald, Omid Aeen, and Candice Jones were voted in to the club.

The End of Year Picnic will be held June 10, a Sunday. Evelyn will have a sign-up sheet for pot luck. Activities start at 11am; she will be there about 9am to hold the spot for us. She will be sending out a flyer with the place and directions.

Ron asked about having an August dinner meeting as we have had for many years. The place and actual date still needs to be determined.

A Bylaw Committee will be appointed by the end of the year for the 2013 year.

From now on, an agenda will be presented at the Business Meeting. This way a person knows if a topic they want to discuss will be presented. If anyone wants to have a particular topic discussed, they need to contact Ron with the request by the Friday before the meeting, else it will be held over until the following month, unless time permits—Ron's discretion.

Greg M. said that he would like to start selling items from the shed each month at the General Meeting. We have lots of specimens. They will be priced and on display at a designated table.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm. The next Business Meeting will be June 5.

Respectfully submitted

Heidi S. Webber  
Secretary, SPRC

## ROCKHOUNDING WORLD CLASS SMITHSONITE at CERRO GORDO

**WHEN:** Sunday, June 24

**MEET:** Leave from Lee's Frontier Chevron, South end of Lone Pine @ 8:30 a.m.

**WHAT TO BRING:** High Clearance Vehicles recommended. Graded mountain dirt road, 9 miles. 5000' elevation gain, rock bag or bucket, rock pick, hand rake, squirt bottle, sun screen, hat, gloves, camera? *2 gallons of drinking water minimum and 6 pieces of firewood.* More of each will be welcome. Mineral collecting at this site can be quite rewarding. **This is a fee dig @ \$5.00 per person,**

Cerro Gordo is world renowned for:

anglesite, anhydrite, argentite, atacamite, aurichalcite, azurite, barite, bindheimite, bouronite, calcite, and caledonite, cermrgrite, cerussite, ceruante, chrysocolla, dufrenoyite, dufrenoyite, fluorite, galena, eothite, greenockite, hemimorphite, hollosite, hydrozincite, jamesonite, leadhillite, limonite, linerite, lironite, malachite, mimetite, plumbgumite, pyrite, quartz, silver, smithsonite, sphalerite, tetrahedrite, willemite and wulfenite.

*Of special interest to rockhounds is the smithsonite, which is world class.*

**A Little History:** Nestled high in the Inyo Mountains east of the Sierra Nevada, at an altitude of 8,500 feet, Cerro Gordo, Fat Hill, was discovered to be rich in silver deposits by a group of Mexican miners led by Pablo Flores. The year was 1865. By 1866, Victor Beaudry, a French Canadian, now a merchant at Fort Independence in Owens Valley, realized there were opportunities at the Cerro Gordo mining camp, and opened a general store on the mountain. He began acquiring mining properties in lieu of overdue accounts and by January of 1868 arranged with Pierre Desormeaux to build ore furnaces. By April of 1868, Beaudry acquired more properties which included the richest claims on the hill, the Union, the San Lucas, the San Felipe and more.

That same April, Victor Beaudry claimed more and more properties around Cerro Gordo, Mortimer Belshaw came in to town. He became part owner of the Union Mine, as well. June 1868, Belshaw processed ore in one of the Mexican furnaces, and then brought the first wagon load of silver into the sleepy pueblo of Los Angeles.

He built the Yellow Grade road from Owens dry lake to Cerro Gordo, in July of 1868, so equipment could be taken to the mines, and the ore taken down the mountain. He also built his own smelters to process that ore, in much larger volumes than Victor Beaudry was capable of.

By December of 1868, regular shipments of silver bullion were going to Los Angeles. Silver ingots 18 inches long, and weighing 85 pounds, were worth from 20-35 dollars. Cerro Gordo was being hailed as another Comstock.

**For more information about the field trip, call Dana @ (760) 876-5020. You may have to leave a message or call Francis @ (760) 876-4319.**

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*Some of the following information was in the April Pelonagram, and Ron asked me to repeat the article again in case you missed it the first time:*

### ENDOWMENT FUND - CFMS

By CJ Quitoriano, Chair

The Half a Million Nickel Drive seems to be going well, there are some rivalries kicking up between clubs/societies, so it's getting interesting! So far, I only know of 5 clubs/societies that are collecting nickels. *There are over 100 clubs/societies in the federation! Come on, we need your nickels!*

There are going to be PRIZES for the winning club ~ AWESOME prizes!! If your club/society collects the most nickels, your club/society will win some awesome prizes to auction, sell, raffle, etc., for yourselves!

I am still accepting donations for prizes, and will have a list by the Riverside Show, so if you would like to donate something special, let me know!

~ SOME WAYS TO RAISE THE NICKELS

\* Put a jar out at your general meetings and board meetings

\* Put a jar out at your show.

\* Collect bottles and cans and turn them in for, you know, nickels! The bigger ones get dimes! *Woohoo!*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Send the final amount of your nickel donations in the form of a check to Pat LaRue with a note saying the check is for the Nickel Drive. If you don't do this it won't be counted as such. (Not in a box full of nickels.)

The drive ends in November, and the winner will be announced at the Director's meeting in Visalia.

*There is still plenty of time to collect!*

## Meteorite identification

### Properties of meteorites that are useful in identification

#### Meteorites are:

**HEAVY:** Most meteorites contain a significant amount of Fe-Ni metal, and are thus heavier (high-density) than rocks typically found at the surface of the Earth. There are exceptions to this rule. Some meteorites contain no metal at all, and are about as heavy as the dark volcanic rocks found in Hawaii and the Columbia Gorge.

**SOMETIMES MAGNETIC, SOMETIMES NOT:** Most meteorites contain a significant amount of Fe-Ni metal, and are attracted to a magnet. But there are many exceptions of stony meteorites that contain no metal and are not attracted to a magnet. Conversely, many terrestrial rocks and artificial rocks do show magnetic tendency. Therefore, although often quoted by laypeople as the main reason they think a rock is a meteorite, magnetic property alone is not an indicator for a meteorite.

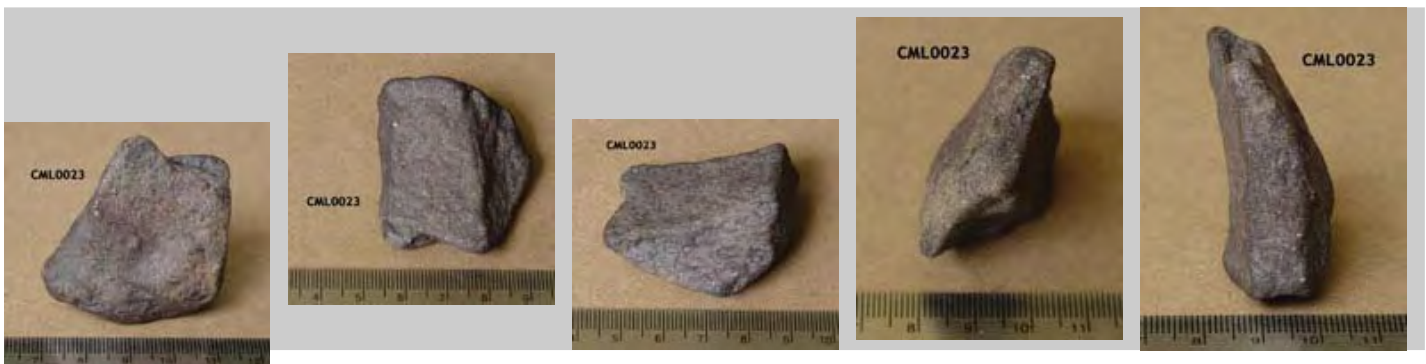
**IRREGULAR IN SHAPE:** Meteorites aren't round. If a meteorite has entered the Earth's atmosphere without rotating, it can develop a conical shape similar to the reentry capsules used in the Apollo space missions, although this is not typical. Most meteorites are irregularly shaped, as shown by the five views of CML 0023 (an unclassified North African meteorite) below. The second image from the right shows the start of what could be considered an aerodynamic shape.

**COVERED BY A FUSION COATING:** When a meteorite enters the Earth's atmosphere, friction raises the surface of the meteorite above its melting temperature. As the meteorite descends, it slows down, frictional heating decreases, and the melt quenches to form a fusion coating, a thin layer of dark glass. The fusion coating may be black or brown, dull or shiny on a recently fallen meteorite. After the meteorite has been on the Earth's surface for a while, the fusion coating may rust, giving the outside of the meteorite a reddish-brown coloring, or the fusion coating may erode off partially or completely. The fusion coating is a thin, discrete layer surrounding an interior that looks quite different from the fusion coating. Many Earth rocks can develop a weathering rind (from chemical weathering) on their exteriors that is similar in appearance to a fusion coating. However, there is rarely a sharp boundary between a weathering rind and the interior of the rock. In addition, tiny shrinkage cracks (too small to be visible in the images below) are fairly diagnostic for fusion crusts and are generally absent for weathering rinds. The surfaces of many meteorites develop shallow pits during entry into the Earth's atmosphere. These pits, known as regmaglypts, resemble thumb prints, and are usually better developed on iron meteorites than on stony meteorites.

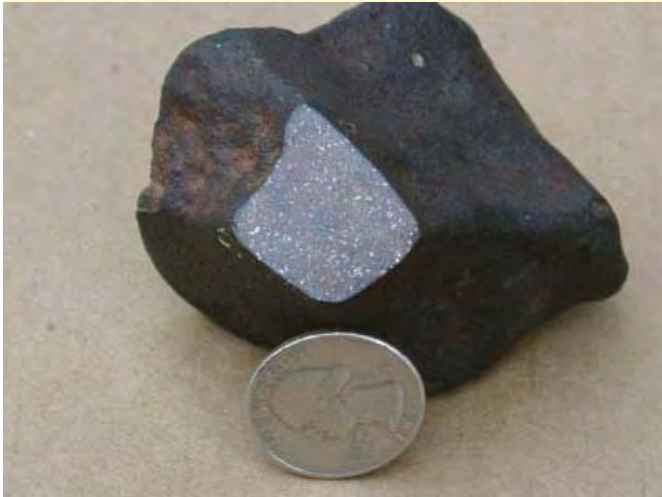
**SOLID AND COMPACT:** Most meteorites do not have the bubbly texture (vesicular) that is often found in many volcanic rocks on Earth. There are a few exceptions to this rule.

**DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ROCKS IN THE AREA:** Many meteorites are composed entirely or in large part of metal. These are obviously different from the rocks found on the Earth's surface. The stony meteorites are different in appearance from most types of Earth rocks, but unfortunately are similar in appearance (at least with a fusion crust) to the dark volcanic rocks that are common in Oregon and Washington.

*Reference Portland State University, Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory*



*Forest City (H5 ordinary chondrite, below) is covered by a fusion coating. In the picture below, one tip has been cut off, exposing the lighter gray and speckled interior of the meteorite. It is evident that the fusion coating is very thin.*



*Another view of Forest City (above), showing that a small ridge of metal is protruding from the fusion coating (slightly to the right of the center of the image). There are small indentations or pits on the surface of the meteorite.*

*Below is the Gibeon (IVA) iron meteorite, showing well-developed regmaglypts (thumbprints) on the surface of the meteorite.*



*Above is Allende (CV3 carbonaceous chondrite). Patches of the fusion coating have worn off, exposing the lighter gray and speckled interior.*



*Below is the rust-colored weathered fusion coating on the Millbillillie (eucrite achondrite) meteorite. Unweathered achondrites tend to have especially shiny fusion crusts.*



*Above is the interior of the same sample of Millbillillie as at left. Notice again the thinness of the fusion coating and the distinctly different interior.*

## April Field Trip *Greg Langewisch*

Our April field trip was to several spots around the club claim near North Edwards. On a warm Saturday morning we headed out from our usual meeting place on Mammoth Lane. We stopped above a dry lake bed and searched for small chalcedony, agate and jasper amongst the lava rock. On top of the hill were the ruins of an old homestead long since weathered away so that just the foundation remained. We hung around for about an hour before heading deep into the desert to our second destination.

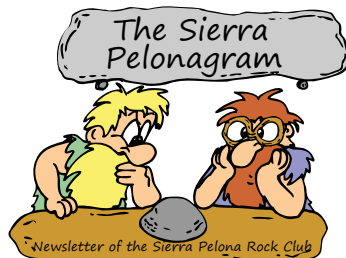
Far into the desert, we gathered at a location full of agates and jaspers of various sizes from pebbles to boulders. As the temperature climbed, we spread out from the dry stream bed we parked in to collect from the surrounding hillsides. About an hour later we were ready to move on to the next collecting spot.

This time, our caravan led to an area that had opalite of varying shades of green. There was quite a bit of this brittle material to be had, either laying on the surface as float or in veins along the sides of the hill. A bit of digging along the veins could produce some larger pieces of the waxy looking material. At this point, the temperature was noticeably hotter with little breeze to offer relief.

After collecting the opalite, it was time to head to the claim and eat some lunch. On the menu were hot dogs, sausages, chips, baked beans, potato salad and various cookies. It was definitely time to relax and take a break from the heat. People roasted their hot dogs quickly then retreated to the shade of their cars, canopies or wherever they could find some relief from the sun. So, with another successful SPRC field trip under our belts we go home with some nice rocks, full stomachs and great memories of another day in the desert under open skies. Can't wait till the next one...



For more photos, go our Facebook page.  
Greg Langewisch, photos



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**P.O. Box 221256**  
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