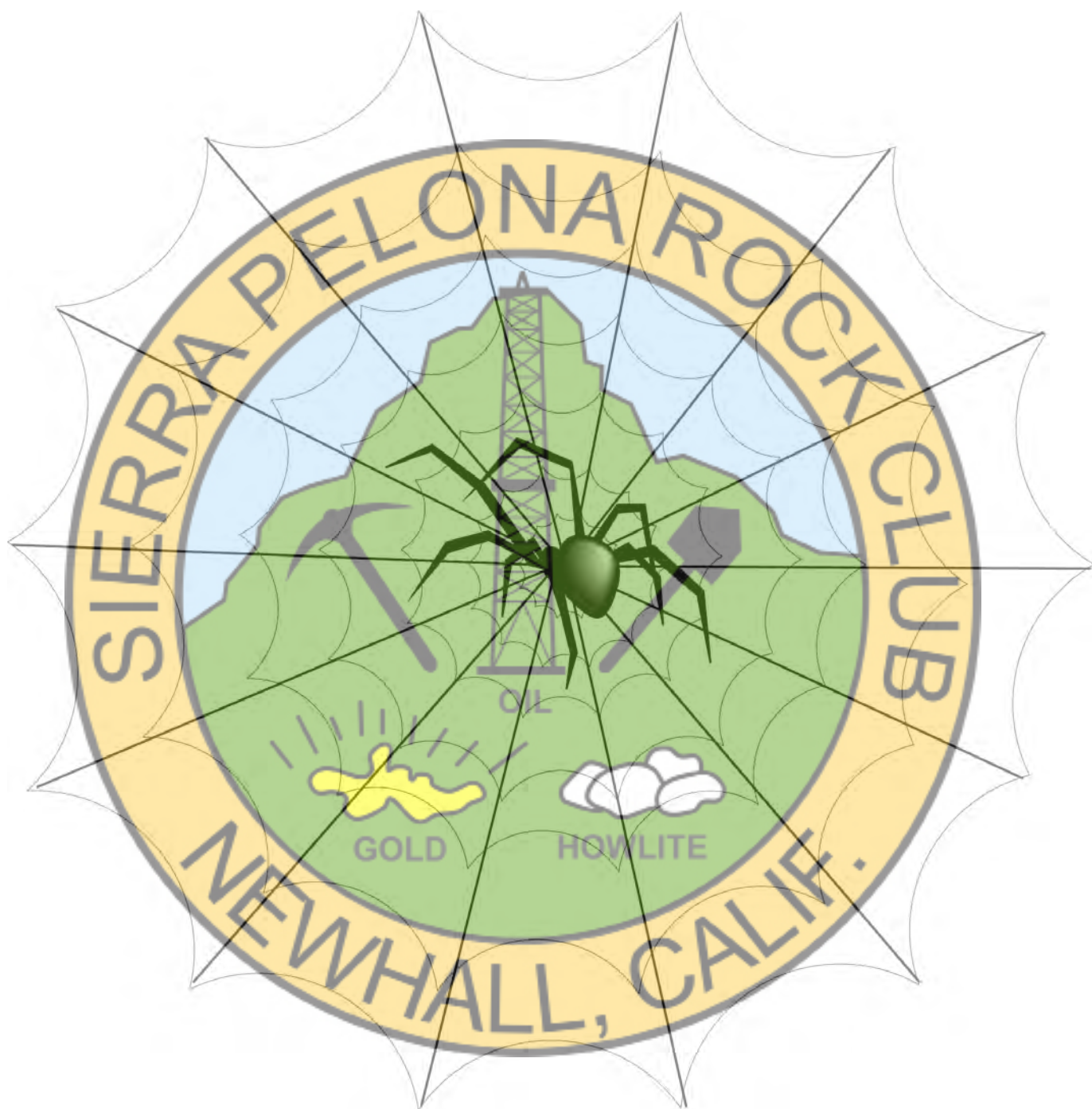


The Sierra Pelona



October 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.

SPRC Special Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2024

The Special Meeting via Zoom was called to order by President Tina White at 7:15pm.

Elected Officers In attendance:

Tina White, President
Julie Tinoco, Vice President
Ed Learn, Treasurer
Maureen Thomas, Secretary
Elected Officers Absent: Greg Mazourek,
Federation Director CFMS/AFMS
Hospitality coordinator Heidi Webber was also present.

Purpose:

- To vote regarding admittance to the club of 4 new members:
Aron and Joene Lasky
George and Marie Feneht
- As a quorum was reached, a motion to admit was carried and passed.

Heidi Webber will see to obtaining the necessary membership forms and will take care of issuing name tags and updating our membership roster.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried at 7:32 p.m.



Equipment Safety

The November program is going to be a bit different than our usual. We will meet on the back patio where the Genie will have been set up. It will not be plugged in or running, but will be there to demonstrate some basic safety instructions. Even those of us who have been using equipment like this for ages can get lax and this just seemed timely to refresh and teach everyone. We will also demonstrate use of the dop stick and anything else we can think of to make sure your adventures at the workshop or anywhere else won't end up with a bandage or worse!

Welcome to SPRC!

Please welcome our newest members: George and Marie Feneht and Aron and Jo Lasky. I know you will enjoy your membership with one of the greatest clubs on earth!



October
Omid Aeen

November
Elff
Frank Humelbaugh
Bob Peters
Satomi 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:
Sierra Pelona Rock Club
P.O. Box 221256
Newhall, Ca. 91322
Or e-mail: hwebber50@gmail.com
Visit the SPRC website www.sierrapelona.com



Hello, Rockers!

Amazingly, I'm out of town again... but I'll be back in time for our meeting on the 15th and am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

We had another fun workshop at the Webber's on Saturday the 28th. Machines were buzzing non-stop ~ except when we were enjoying the delicious Hawaiian-themed lunch Heidi had prepared for us.

I'm writing this before the hoped-for field trip to the Owens Valley on the 5th; if there are enough interested attendees, I hope you have/had a great time!

Coming up soon after is the trip to Ballarat on Saturday the 12th; review the email sent by Julie T. and be prepared for a wonderful day in the desert surrounded by gorgeous scenery and beautiful marble.

See you soon!

~ Tina White, SPRC President

SPRC BOARD Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2024

The Board meeting via Zoom was called to order at 7:19 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

Hospitality In Attendance: Heidi Webber

Treasurer's Report:

- The Club is in good shape financially and able to meet its obligations. Reminder: the Club is paying \$95 a month to store rocks – we need another storage solution.

Old Business:

- Insurance forms have been signed and sent in with a check per Ed L.
- Obtaining our business license is still an open issue Tina W. will continue to work on.

New Business:

- The club house has been secured for our holiday party on December 14th.
- For whatever reason, no one will be going to collect pink Halite (salt) at Owens Lake on Oct. 5th except Julie T.
- There is a possible field trip to Ballarat on Oct 12th – Julie will send out an email.
- October 26 & 27 will be the Gilchrist Farms fundraiser. Heidi W. needs volunteers to work the booth and to set up and break down.
- At the recent workshop, there was a complaint about the Genie wheels using sandpaper instead of diamond surface. Heidi W. advised that Johnson Bros. don't re-surface the wheels anymore as most people are using the sandpaper since there is a significant difference in price. It is not cost effective to use the diamond surface for the Club. Tina W. proposed that before the next general meeting a message should go out notifying members that sandpaper is being used and to remind users to please clean the equipment after use. Greg M. told us that he travels to Orange County often and he could swing by Johnson Bros. if the need arises.
- Tina W. proposed a motion to reimburse Heidi W. for Gilchrist Farm prize expenditures. The motion was carried and passed.
- Greg M. suggested that we speak about equipment safety at the next general meeting. Ed L. volunteered to be the teacher at the November general meeting. Heidi W. suggested bringing in the Club Genie machine to the November meeting so we can show attendees how to safely use it. Greg M. will bring a dop stick with wax.
- Greg M. advised that at the recent CFMS directors meeting a topic of importance was insurance for the various shows being put on by rock clubs. McDaniels is working with the Federation regarding providing liability insurance.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried at 8:07 p.m.

Maureen Thomas, Secretary, SPRC



SPRC General Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024

The regular meeting held at Greenbriar Mobile home Park East was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Vice President Julie Tinoco followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Elected Officers In attendance:

Julie Tinoco, Vice President
Maureen Thomas, Secretary

Elected Officers Absent: Tina White, President, Ed Learn Treasurer and Greg Mazourek, Federation Director CFMS/AFMS

Field Trip Coordinator: Julie Tinoco

Hospitality: Heidi Webber

Treasurer's Report:

- No treasurer report due to the absence of Ed Learn. Drawing and auction income is as follows: \$50.00 drawing + \$113.00 auction.

Old Business:

- None were discussed. This meeting was a simple "show and tell" of rocks collected in the past.

New Business:

- There were 4 guests at the meeting but at this point, no new members.

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

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried at 8:55 p.m.

Maureen Thomas, Secretary, SPRC

Nuggets of Information

Holiday Party

The Holiday party will be held again at the Sierra Inn (recently renamed Dawg's Roadhouse in honor of a deceased member of the club that rents the building) on December 14th. More to follow on that. This is also a great time to pay your dues for 2025. \$25.

Dues are (almost) Due

It's getting to that time of year to start thinking of paying your 2025 dues. You can pay at the General Meeting for October or November, at the Holiday Party in December or mail, Venmo or Zelle your dues to Ed Learn. We make it easy for you, so no excuses!

Gilchrist Farms

The club will have their table at Gilchrist Farms on October 26 and 27 from 9-6. We set up at 8 on Saturday and will tear down on Sunday at 6. We have decent coverage right now, but it never hurts to have extra, so let me know. This is our only fundraiser of the year.

Workshop

It was a beautiful day for the workshop at the Webber home on Saturday September 28. Around 18 of us met and got busy. Heidi prepared a Hawaiian-themed lunch and everyone ate until they were stuffed. It was a good day.





Frank Humelbaugh

For the newer members of SPRC, Frank Hummelbough is a long-time member of the club and is one of two members who hold a life-time membership. He's had some health issues this last year. Connie Flores-Reisbeck has been keeping me up to date on his latest "adventure" if you can call it that! Anyway, this is his latest update from Connie:

Last month, Frank was hospitalized for severe depletion of sodium. When admitted they also found he had a blood infection, requiring 6 weeks of continuous antibiotics via a PICC line. He will return to Topanga Terrace Rehab Facility, West Hills to complete the 6 weeks treatment.

It seems as soon as one thing is under control, something else pops up. Frank woke this morning with severe lower abdominal pain. The doctors may order a CT scan. He was tentatively scheduled for discharge today to return to the Topanga Terrace, but now it looks like that won't happen.

Our neighbor Trish, put out an SOS CALL to the other neighbors for family photographs to make Frank an awesome poster.

Such a roller-coaster ride he's on.



Cherry Blossom Stone

Cherry blossom stone, also known as sakura ishi, is a type of metamorphic rock that is found in Japan. It is named for its distinctive appearance, which is said to resemble cherry blossoms. It is a type of mica that has a unique flower-like pattern. The pattern is caused by the presence of cordierite and indialite crystals, which are arranged in a hexagonal pattern.

So-called because when you crack them open, their internal cross-sections look like tiny golden-pink flowers, cherry blossom stones (sakura ishi in Japanese) get their beautiful patterns from mica, which is a commonly found silicate mineral known for its shiny, light-reflecting surface.

These flower patterns weren't always made of mica. They started their existence as a complex matrix of six prism-shaped crystal deposits of a magnesium-iron-aluminum composite called cordierite, radiating out from a single dumbbell-shaped crystal made from a magnesium-aluminum-silicate composite called indialite in the center.



Cherry blossom stones, sakura ishi, from Kameoka, Honshu Island, Japan). Photo: John Rakovan et. al.

Hosted inside a fine-grained type of rock called a hornfels - formed underground around 100 million years ago by the intense heat of molten lava - cherry blossom stones underwent a second significant metamorphism in their geological lifespan when they were exposed to a type of hot water called hydrothermal fluids. These fluids altered the chemical composition of minerals inside the cherry blossom stones, causing mica to replace the original cordierite-indialite inclusion.

Because they have to undergo two intense and very specific types of metamorphism in

order to form, cherry blossom stones are incredibly rare, and found - rather serendipitously - only in central Japan.

Not all cherry blossom stones experienced a complete replacement of their internal minerals during their geological lifetime, but those that did are quite delicate inside, according to a study published by the journal *Rocks & Minerals* by John Rakovan from the Department of Geology at Miami University in the US. Rakovan reports:

"They can easily be snapped in half or crushed between one's fingers. Although they are delicate, complete crystals, showing well-preserved external morphology, are commonly found weathered out of the hornfels. In areas where the cordierite is completely replaced by mica the hornfels is also altered such that it is very friable and poorly consolidated."

In order to preserve the beauty of their delicate mica patterns, the Japanese locals coat them in a diluted solution of wood glue mixed with water to keep everything in place. Unlike the living cherry blossoms, or sakura, that come and go so quickly each year in Japan, these pretty minerals live on as long as the glue holds.

"Although the sakura are ephemeral in their beauty, lasting only a few weeks each year," says Rakovan, "their image has been set in stone in the sakura ishi of Kameoka."

Reference: *Geologyin.com*

