



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

MARCH 2018 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY • PASADENA, CA



An arrowhead-shaped piece of brecciated jasper (natural rock, not an artifact), lilac sunbonnet, and our base camp at Lavic Siding. Photos by Elizabeth Weston.

Field Trip to Lavic Siding: You (and Your Family Car) Can Do This

by Elizabeth Weston

It's 8:30 on a sunny Saturday morning, and members of the Pasadena Lapidary Society (PLS) have gathered at a motel parking lot near Barstow to discuss their plan of action before heading east on U.S. 40 to spend the day looking for rocks at Lavic Siding. It has been an annual field trip destination for PLS, as well as many other gem and mineral clubs, for decades. Colorful jaspers and agates, as well as chalcedony rosettes, blanket the ground in this region, part of the Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM). For those who don't leave the city very often, Lavic Siding is in the Mojave Desert, near the center of San Bernardino County, between Newberry Springs and Ludlow.

At present, rockhounding in this part of the MTNM continues to be permissible. PLS and most clubs that visit this region diligently practice "pack in, pack out" and environmental awareness.

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,
In looking back, February was a good month. Didn't hear of many members suffering from colds and flu. That is a very good thing. Valentine's Day came and went, and everyone was happy.

We had a productive board meeting with a full house and accomplished many things. Our workshop was a highlight of the month with a sale in the parking lot and many deals to be had. Many members were present helping as well as buying. In the afternoon, several members worked filling grab bags for the upcoming Annual Show. We all had fun.

Our February program meeting was well attended, and everyone enjoyed hearing Jennifer Nishimura speak about her

experience in displaying her beautiful lapidary and jewelry and how it helped her to win first place in CFMS and AFMS competition.

Our Annual Show is coming up March 10 and 11, and many of our members have volunteered to work at the show. Phil Lahr will be in charge of the Raffle, Marcia Goetz, Membership applications; Jennifer Jang, Display Room; Mona Ross, Kids Corner; Janie Duncan, children's table with her educational display; Trudy Krose, Grab Bag table; Armando Pedroza, Silent Auction; Paolo Sanchez, a new table for rock and mineral identification; Joan Harrison, with assistance from Martha Wilson, Demonstrations area; Mark Nelson, hourly auction; and Cindy LaMarche will be in charge of the kitchen.

These people can use more help. Maybe this is the year for you to jump in the fray and see what happens at the Annual Show. Call or text me if you would like to

volunteer and I will get you in touch with the right member.

- Rex Nishimura is in charge of setup and takedown. He needs lots of help Friday morning setting up tables, assembling display cases, and getting electrical in place for display cases and in the dealer area. Setup will be at 8 a.m. Friday.

- Martha Wilson will be putting our Workshop Case together: to fill it, she needs items you have made at workshop. The Club Case will be for anything you would like to display. Check your item in with Ed Imlay. Martha will set up this case as well. At the end of the show, Ed Imlay will check your item back out to you.

Any questions, call or text me at (727) 512-0381.

See you at the Show! Can You Dig It!!!

– Ellen Ferrell, President

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Education Joan Harrison
Field Trips Joe Goetz
Historian Elizabeth Weston

Hospitality

TBD

Librarian

Jennifer Jang

Membership

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Publicity

Mona Ross
Elizabeth Weston (annual show)

Sunshine

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Ways & Means

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Submit articles, corrections, ads, and your ideas to PO Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025 or info@pasadenalapidary.org. NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

Membership and Meeting Information

Membership per calendar year is \$25, and \$15 for a second adult member in the same house. Junior members and the third or more adult members at the same house are \$10. Initiation fee is \$2 per person and membership badges are \$7.50. Renewals are due by the October program meeting and delinquent after December 31.

Board Meetings

1st Thursday every month.
7 p.m. at Matt Denny's Ale House,
145 E Huntington Dr, Arcadia.

All members are welcome.

Workshop

2nd Sunday every month.
Two sessions: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
and 1–5 p.m. Fees are \$3 per session, \$5 full day. Bring lunch!

Program Meetings

3rd Tuesday every month.
Meeting is 6:45–8:45 p.m.
Pasadena Central Library,
285 E Walnut St.

Guests are welcome.

Annual Show

2nd weekend of March.
Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Dr
San Marino

Opposite page, top: Linda Nelson, Marléné Kyte, Chris Kyte, and Cindy Lamarche at the Annual Show planning meeting.

Lower left: A PLS Who's Who gathered around the grab-bag table at the February workshop. Left to right are Sylvia Cliffe, the Ellens (Limeres and Ferrell), Dave Kelty (pitching a PLS booklet of collecting sites), and Carolyn Duncan.

Three Reasons Why We Have an Annual Show

One reason is: we had a show last year. And the year before that. And for quite a few years farther back. The 2018 edition of the Pasadena Lapidary Society annual show will be the 60th Annual Tournament of Gems. So we are the bearers of a tradition. We are the people who like rocks, love deserts and mountains, are curious about Earth's ancient processes, and enjoy collecting and making beautiful things. We are the people who carry buckets that are heavier than we expected.

Which leads to reason number two. The annual show is an opportunity to share with the public the pleasures and activities that make our hobby unique. There will be:

- Display cases of member-created jewelry and collections.
- Demos of wire wrapping, beadwork, cabochon grinding...

- Dealers in minerals, gems, spheres, tools, books...
- Kids Corner, with a Treasure Wheel, Sand Scoop for goodies.
- Swag: grab bags, a silent auction, a raffle with choice prizes.

A few visitors to the show will feel drawn to the idea of fun you can have away from the big-screen TV, and will think about joining our club.

Finally, reason three: the annual show is an important fundraiser for the Pasadena Lapidary Society. That's why volunteers are so important. The work you do for free makes the show possible and profitable (in a nonprofit way). Also, it makes you a nice person.

Talk to Ellen Ferrell or Marcia Goetz about volunteering at the PLS Annual Show. – Karl Stull



Right: On the Display Table at the February program meeting are exhibits shared by Carol Burton and Clyde Latimer.

Program Meeting



Hello, Turquoise

Patrick Keegan, prospector and lapidary artist, will present "Turquoise" at our March meeting, a tale of miners and dealers, past and present. Patrick will share his knowledge about today's trade in turquoise, with hints on authenticity and sources of materials you may encounter while shopping.

Patrick has been a rockhound since age 12. He is best known for jewelry made from lapis lazuli that he collects from rugged Cascade Canyon, near Mt. Baldy. He appears in a couple of youtube videos (google his name and "Cascade Canyon lapis").

Remember to bring rocks you have collected, or other items of interest, for the Display Table. Last month, Carol Burton brought in a selection of minerals, including dogtooth calcite and a chalcedony rose. Clyde Latimer brought in one of his trademark crystal lamps. Thank you, Carol and Clyde!

As always, Paolo Sanchez will be at the Display Table to identify any "What Is This" rocks. Recently he dazzled students and parents at a science event at Sierra Madre Elementary School with a lights-off display of fluorescent minerals. See for yourself as he does an encore for our March Rock of the Month.

– Mona Ross





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On today's field trip, members caravan east on U.S. 40 to the exit for Lavic Siding, turning on to a worn-out road that is part of the old Route 66/National Trails Highway. The asphalt has become quite rutty – not the smooth ride passenger cars are used to – giving the impression it hasn't been paved for 50 years. After a while, the lead vehicle turns onto a dirt road, sending up clouds of dust and adding its tread to the imprint of many vehicles previously here. Within a few minutes, everyone parks and we stumble out of our cars at base camp, blinking in wonder to find the ground profuse with chocolate, crimson, ochre, forest green, and other colors of jasper and agate.

Some folks have come out with their RVs, and others with pickups, SUVs, or sedans, as access to this area isn't limited to high-clearance vehicles. As rockhounds start walking around and exploring, a few choose to head over a slight hill on their own while others stay close to the encampment, finding treasures too plentiful to leave. There are ancient lava flows nearby, where pumice and basalt are scattered everywhere. Pisgah Crater, a volcanic cinder cone, is about a mile away. An occasional whoop or holler can be heard, signaling a great find. Some rockhounds are collecting for the mere enjoyment of discovering beautiful rocks, and others with the goal of making jewelry or other artwork.

A mild rumble builds as a freight train passes to the south, composed of so many cars that there seems to be no end; surely there must be at least 100. From a low hill close to the tracks, rockhounds wave at the engineer, and occasionally they get a wave back. After an hour or so of collecting, everyone reassembles near the vehicles, and some ride-share as we head out from the base camp to nearby areas known for prize agates and other stones.

The convoy heads west a few miles on a graded dirt road, eventually pulling over to the side, following the lead vehicle. The field trip leader gathers everyone around, retrieving several colorful agates and druzy chalcedony rosettes from his pocket to show what findings are possible in the surrounding landscape.

One particularly interesting specimen is harder to find – brecciated jasper – composed of angular pieces of jasper and

other matrix that have been cemented together to form a solid mass. In this region, the prominent color of this type of rock is ochre or mustard, joined together with a translucent, white to gray agate. It makes beautiful cabochons for pendants and rings, as well as lovely tumbled stones.

Veteran visitors to this area share their knowledge of where brecciated jasper can be found. The desert scrub, tiny wildflowers, gullies and boulders, and other intriguing features garner the attention of hopeful rockhounds in their search for a valuable specimen. The better part of 90 minutes passes; then everyone returns to their vehicles, and we head back to base camp.

Folding chairs are set up and pulled together as we gather for lunch, sharing conversation, pickled eggs, sandwich halves – and much camaraderie. Generosity abounds amongst members of this group, admiring and sharing their finds and stories of past field trips, as well as an occasional cookie. A breeze kicks up some loose dirt nearby. Several people jump up to help others reinforce anchoring on tents, chairs, and canopies. A good hour later, we're ready for another excursion, this time to the north side of U.S. 40 – to find manganese ores in the southern Cady Mountains.

A few of us have to head home for other weekend plans, while others prepare for the next leg of today's field trip. Just before the latest caravan leaves, our field trip leader presents a large chunk of brecciated jasper that he found poking out of the ground while he was scouting for promising areas. This prize piece epitomizes what we have been looking for and provides inspiration for us to keep searching.

This field trip, like so many others we enjoy throughout the year, is our opportunity to not only find beautiful rocks and future works of art, but to make new friends; learn about the geology, flora, and fauna that nature provides; experience an adventure; and have some fun.





Field Trips

Lavic Siding, March 17–18

For some, this will be their first field trip for collecting rocks. The excitement of the Annual Show may have piqued their curiosity to find out about this hobby. To help these folks get started, we go where they can easily find good material. There are few places where you can go and park, step out of your vehicle, and start collecting immediately. Lavic is one such place.

In the bowl where we set up base camp, there are small pieces of jasper in various colors and patterns. Whether you're new to rockhounding or a veteran, it is always a pleasure to collect there. On your first field trip, you'll want to pick up every little piece you see – which is fine, except you'll fill your container all too quickly and find out about leaverite. Leaverite is defined as rock that is not so good for grinding or tumbling, so leave it right there. In short order, you'll become more discriminating in the quality of the jasper you collect.

The area to explore around Lavic is quite large; it starts a couple of miles to the west. However, the jasper is more widely scattered out there. It is more concentrated closer to camp. There is a good collecting area to the south of the railroad tracks, and north across the freeway are the southern Cady Mountains and all the different materials that can be found there as well.

Besides all the great rock to collect, you'll have the chance to see the desert as it can't be seen from the freeway, and opportunities to develop new friendships with people who can help you getting started in rockhounding.

If you enjoyed the Pasadena Lapidary Society Annual Show and want to know where some of the rocks came from, and have an adventure as well, this is the trip for you.

Be at the camp site before 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and/or Sunday. Let us know you're coming.

Call or text (626) 914-5030.

If you arrive late, we'll leave a map and note as to where we went for the morning's exploration.

Somewhere in Calif.

– Joe Goetz

What should I bring?

- Hat
- Canvas bag or bucket (3 gal.)
- Lunch
- Water (a gallon per person per day)
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- First aid kit
- Rock hammer (you may be able to borrow one)

Do I need a 4-wheel drive?

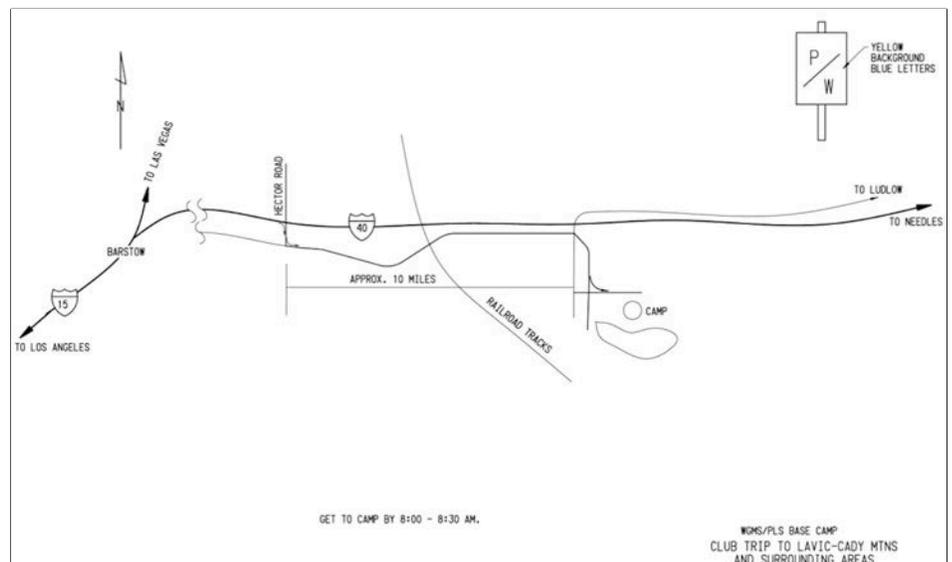
The base camp is accessible by a standard car, but a high-clearance vehicle is needed for side trips on deeply rutted roads. A 4-wheel or all-wheel drive is best for roads that may be sandy or steep in places. Your friendly neighborhood rockhounds are happy to ride-share. Ask the field trip leader for help in finding a ride for the day.

Can I stay at a motel?

If you're camping, in an RV or on the ground, you need to be self-contained, meaning bring everything you need including restroom facilities of some sort. Or you can stay in Barstow overnight and drive to base camp in the morning.



Map to Lavic Siding Base Camp



STEAM Night at Sierra Madre

by Paolo Sanchez

The PLS Education Committee was invited in late January to Sierra Madre Elementary's third annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Night, where organizations from across Los Angeles displayed exhibits.

We were assigned to a first-grade classroom. The furniture was very small, but we placed a multitude of rock and mineral specimens on each desk. Since there were five of us in the tiny room already (Joan Harrison, my sister Danielle, my mom, and my dad), I initially thought that our exhibit would be packed with children and parents. However, this was quite an underestimation. In less than a minute, a flood of eager students arrived.

I've never had a more enthusiastic crowd. Despite the turbulence, with people moving around the room, we displayed

all the interesting specimens on the desks. It was nice to see a smile or a gasp when I told a student to flip over a crystal-filled geode, or when I told them that a piece of wood was over 100 million years old. They really got a kick out of the coprolite, discovering it was fossil dinosaur poop.

The main event was the "glow-in-the-dark" rocks. Every 15 minutes or so, I would walk to the center of the classroom with a UV light and some fluorescent mineral specimens, and then we would all count down to turn the lights out. Under the UV lamp, the rocks glowed green and red in a spectacular light show that was met with "oohs" and "ahs."

Although our night at Sierra Madre lasted only an hour, the liveliness of our audience showed that we had brought an exciting geology experience to a future generation.

Seen and Heard at Quartzsite...

Photos of amethyst butterfly, Martha, and Tae-Han contributed by Martha Wilson



If you dream about a rock, it will turn up the next day.

I never cut tile with mine.

These days 40 pounds is all I can carry.

It's a Frankenstein, hard to find parts for.

Sure, it's been worked, but there's still gold being brought out of there.

I don't know about the metaphysical stuff. Crystals just make me happy.

This here is what they call old stock.

Let's use pi. Two and a half rounds of silver-filled, 9 inches across, so 2 times 3.14 times half of 9 is 56 inches, at \$1.50 per foot, and your total is...

I'll have a piece of pie and a diet coke.

Hey! Stop barking!

They're running out of turquoise is what it is.

Have you seen this wet? Get ready, it's transformation time!

Five bucks a pound, seriously.

Who wouldn't fall in love with one of these?





Workshop

Change of Date – March 4

This month's Workshop comes early due to the Annual Show (March 10–11). We will be filling grab bags for the show at the Workshop on March 4. If you're looking for an opportunity to volunteer, stop by and lend a hand. It's a great way to meet club members and catch up on everything.

Saws, Genies, and supplies will be available for members making cabochons or working on other projects.

Workshop hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Half day is \$3, all day \$5. Park on the street or in the lot on the east side of the building.

Entrance is on the west side of the building, down the walkway between buildings. Do not use the ramp in the parking lot.

For directions, please call me at (909) 593-2781 or email gem.quest@verizon.net.

– Carolyn Duncan



Education Outreach

Volunteers Needed for the Annual Show

We're signing up volunteers for our March Show's Demonstration tables. Masters and beginners with friendly smiles and an interest in people share the artistry and fun of our lapidary hobby. Contact me at (323) 640-4394 or at liveoak180@yahoo.com to sign up for a shift or two.

– Joan Harrison

Win-Win: PLS Members Buy Donated Equipment

We held a members-only equipment sale in February in the parking lot beside the workshop. The event raised money for the club and put lapidary machines in the hands of more than a dozen members.

We also sold jewelry, findings, stones, and miscellaneous items from a recent donation. Some were set aside for PLS education programs, the workshop, and the Annual Show's silent auction and kids games.

A number of volunteers pitched in to make the sale a success. Thank you! Special thanks to Mona Ross, who worked the table for most of the day, and to her son Darien, who provided much-needed help with heavy lifting.

Kudos to Paolo Sanchez for identifying a wide range of exotic stones and showing a great eye for separating costume jewelry from the quality stuff. He spotted a silver and amethyst ring by Modernist jeweler E. Silbert. Among the donated rocks he found Australian boulder opal rough, a small opal cab with lots of red fire, Mexican fire opal rough, jade rough from Jade Cove, spectrolite from Finland, crazy lace agate, chrysocolla rough and cabs, pietersite, labradorite, tiger iron, and colorful jasper.

– Phil Lahr



Howard Lu checks under the hood of a Lortone saw, called a bargain by Phil Lahr, Rex Nishimura, and Carolyn Duncan.



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Rock and Gem Shows

March 3–4 ARCADIA: Monrovia Rockhounds, LA County Arboretum & Botanical Garden, 301 North Baldwin Ave. Hours: 9–4:30 daily. www.moroks.com

March 3–4 TORRANCE: South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd (entrance on Madrona). Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4. southbaylapidaryandmineralsociety.com

March 3–4 VENTURA: Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 West Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4. www.vgms.org

March 10–11 SAN MARINO: Pasadena Lapidary Society, San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Dr. Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5. www.pasadenalapidary.org



Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
PO Box 5025
Pasadena, CA 91117-0025



Key dates

Board meeting 3/1

Workshop 3/4

Annual Show 3/10–3/11

*Gem & mineral displays, demos, vendors,
kids activities, silent auction, raffle...*

Field trip 3/17–3/18

Lavic Siding – jasper everywhere

Program meeting 3/20

“Turquoise” by Patrick Keegan

PLS Annual Show • March 10–11 • Free Admission



A host of lapidary merchants filled the main hall in 2017's PLS Annual Show. Corinne and Ed Imlay gave visitors a glimpse of how to have fun with rocks in the Demonstrations area. An exquisitely wire-wrapped cabochon by Bon Paphatsarang was one of the prizes in the raffle. Rough rocks went for a song in the silent auction.



San Marino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Dr.

Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5