



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

NOVEMBER 2021 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: ALYSON NISHIMURA



~Count Rockula's Revenge~

While scouting for the October field trip, down the proverbial road less traveled, I saw them coming. Yes, coming right at me was a beat up white Honda Civic which careened down the road, kicking up a cloud of dust. The car slowed to a crawl as it passed, and the driver gave me quick hungry look. My blood ran cold for the driver was a zombie from some horrible apocalypse. His passenger...the Joker. He half smiled at me and they made a right turn towards town. Were they heading towards civilization for a quick meal? Probably not, because they were attendees of a costume mandatory event that weekend called The Wasteland Warriors. The zombie and the joker must have been part of that scene.

I didn't really think about it much until the field trip to the same location on Halloween eve. Zombies in North Edwards? I thought about mentioning this on the waiver form, but decided to keep it to myself. No sense for people to think the trip leader was a Halloween crazy.

Continued on pg 2



Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs

Officers

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Editor: Alyson Nishimura pasadenalapeditor@gmail.com Send articles by the 15th of the previous month for publication in next month's issue. However, no article guaranteed to be published or make the next issue.

Inspiration Unearthed Coming in 2022

The committee has had its first meeting for PLS's upcoming 2022 show to be held at the Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia. The "Inspiration Unearthed" show will be on March 12 & 13. We still have much planning to do and several more meetings before the show. Look forward to more information and details.

Meetings

Board Meetings – 1st Thursday of the month. Members welcome to join. Contact Ellen Ferrell for more information.

Program Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month **This month's meeting is through Zoom.**

Contact Marcia Goetz at Joemar1@verizon.net for the zoom link.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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Count Rockula's Revenge (continued from p. 1)

Just to be safe, the field trip to North Edwards started at sunrise (when Count Rockula went to bed) and ended at 4 PM, well before the shadows beckoned the creepy crawlies of the night. Of the 28 rockhounds, were 6 minors and the aforementioned crazy trip leader.

Our first stop was an old prospector's camp near Clay Mine Road. There were agates everywhere. I can't believe they mined clay in this area instead of agates, but I guess building a city is marginally more important than rock collecting. The early morning sun lit up hundreds of pink and orange agates for we had somehow managed to park our cars on top of an agate field. We made another stop in this agate rich area, collecting more

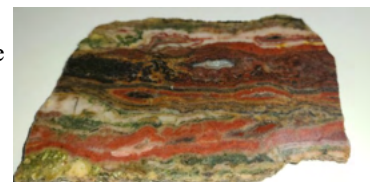


glowing agates along with more subdued gray/green jasper. The sunrise method worked great, as it was neat to see a pumpkin orange agates glowing amongst the rocks and sand. I heard Paul tell his son, "You don't have to dig because it's all over the surface everywhere!" It's

words like those that I love to hear, and that is what makes wonderful memories for families of future rockhounds.

Our next stop was a search for Halloween Castle Butte bloodstone, a material which has gotten quite rare in recent years. Still, our diligent group managed to find several gem quality pieces of bloodstone which were a very dark glossy green with burgundy bloodlines and spots throughout. Do zombies have green blood or is it just the Vulcans?

For some of us, the last stop was the Sierra Pelona travertine claim. Here the diligent were able to mine banded travertine boulders from a trench about 3' below the surface. It was hard work but a hand drill made the job a lot easier.



However, Ed pulled out his 15 pound crow bar and the race was on. Who would win, man or machine? It wound up a tie as both methods resulting in the extraction of equal amounts of sphere making boulders. Which method would I choose? Hmm. I wish I had muscles like Ed.



Yeah, I know Halloween is over, but in spite of the zombies, the trip really happened last month. There ARE real live zombies out there, and they drive junkyard Hondas. Were they playing tricks on me? Maybe or maybe not, but we were treated to a wonderful day on Halloween Eve. Trick or treat.

'til next time,

Rex

Thanks to Chui N for the photos!



Brad's Bench Notes



MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.

But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.



I formed my initials from a couple 4mm strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.

NO SCRATCH VISE JAWS

If your bench vise has replaceable jaws, there is a simple modification to customize it for bending sheet metal and holding jewelry pieces without worrying about the jaws leaving scratch marks.



I make a duplicate set of jaws from high density plastic such as Nylon or Delrin. Remove the jaws and use them as a template. Cut two pieces from a 1/2 inch sheet of scrap plastic. Then clamp the steel jaw over the plastic and drill through the steel side and into the plastic. Finally, use a larger drill to countersink the plastic for the screw heads.

Plastic can be obtained from the scrap bin at a local plastics store, can be purchased online from Ebay, or can be repurposed from an old kitchen cutting board.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems:
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

December 11 Christmas Party

In place of our regular general meeting, we will be having a Christmas Party on December 11th in the **Fellowship Room at the Santa Anita Church, 212 Colorado Blvd., Arcadia**. There will be a potluck, installation of the 2022-2023 board, and a gift exchange! Be on the lookout for an email with more information!

The Nominees for Next Year's Officers

These are the people the nominating board have found to serve on the board next year. The election will be held at the November General meeting and the installation at the December Christmas Party. Immense thanks to those nominated for their willingness to serve!

Nominees for ROTY:	
Elizabeth Weston	
Marcia Goetz	
Phil Lahr	
Rex Nishimura	
Alyson Nishimura (Junior)	

President: Marcia Goetz
 Vice President: Dean Carlson
 Secretary: David Lacy
 Treasurer: Phil Lahr
 Federation Director: Sue Pang

Member-to-Member

We have a few pieces of donated equipment still for sale to members. The HP combo unit pictured would be really happy to have a new home with someone who can bolt on a new motor. There is also a faceting trim saw, and a dry arbor.



Email Phil at plkslahr@att.net for details.

Workshop November 14, 2021

Our well equipped workshop is open the second Sunday of the month. The November workshop will be on the 14th and open at 9 am. We will be open until at least 1 pm. If you would like to use the workshop later than that, please let us know.

Bring the rock you found on a field trip or work on something you find in the bin. Slab saws, trim saws, and grinding/polishing units are available for members' use, and experienced members are happy to provide instruction and advice. Cost is \$3 for the day.

Access the workshop by walking up the alley on the west side of the building and use the sliding door there. Please do not use the door at the loading dock.

If you need the required workshop orientation or directions, contact Marcia at (626) 260-7239.

Field Trip to Baxter Wash

There will be an overnight camping field trip to the north Cady Mountains on November 26-28, 2021. We'll start the day after Thanksgiving and stay until Sunday. We will be searching for multicolored agates, fluorite, and onyx.

For more information, contact Rex by email at rexch8@yahoo.com. 4wd is required for this trip.



Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.

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Bloodstone from our trip



Thanks to Chuie Nishimura for the pictures from our October rock trip!

Friendly reminder that it's time to pay your Dues!

Membership

Membership per calendar year is \$25; for additional adults at the same address, \$15. Junior members are \$10. There is an initiation fee of \$10 per person to cover costs of name badges, etc.

Renewals are due in October and delinquent after December 31. Mail checks to PO Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025.



Dear Members,

November is here along with getting ready to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with our friends and loved ones. I hope you enjoy who, what and where you find yourself that day.

This month we will meet via Zoom again, but December's meeting will be our installation dinner at our new location in the Fellowship Room at the Santa Anita Church, 212 Colorado Blvd., Arcadia.

One of the perks of belonging to CFMS is every society receives a copy of Diamond Dan, a Rockhound publication. The Board discussed distributing this to our members electronically. So, in the future look for a mailing through the Pasadena Lapidary email delivery.

The Nominating Committee called many people but if you want to step up and serve as an officer on the Board give Marcia Goetz a call at (626) 260-7239.

Sincerely, *Ellen Ferrell, President*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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