



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

DECEMBER 2024 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: MARCIA GOETZ

Rutile Inclusions in Quartz



What is an mineral inclusion? It is something trapped in a mineral. This happens when a mineral, organic substance, metal, gas, trapped vapor, a crack develops, or a crystal is trapped in a mineral's growing cycle.

Inclusions can be important for a gemstone or crystal although it doesn't necessarily add value. A specimen of quartz with an inclusion of another crystal can cause the value to increase. Quartz has been found with emerald, spinel, corundum and more included and are considered to have a greater value because of the uniqueness. One type of included quartz is one with mineral needles.

Rutile (titanium dioxide) forms on its own and you can find specimens of rutile, but it can also be found as inclusions in quartz. The color of the needles can be golden, copper, red or black. The rutile can be seen as separate needles, bundled, or even some forming a star.

In the large photo to the left the needles look copper in color and shimmer in the sunlight. Many small fibers capture the light.

Below is a crystal where some of the areas of the quartz are heavily included and look brassy. The smokey quartz makes it difficult to see all the of the retiles but it is still beautiful.



Specimen of the mineral rutile





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Editor: Marcia Goetz marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com Send articles by the 15th of the previous month for publication in next month's issue. However, no article is guaranteed to be published.

Membership!

We are delighted to have the following new rock hound(s) join our society in November 2024. Note: *JR denotes Junior member. *F denotes former member. Janice Cooney, Sasha Goldsmith, Adam Lehari, Helene Park and Tony Swatton

Invite a friend to join PLS! There is a \$10.00 initiation fee for new members. Please pay in person or send in via US postal service to our PO Box. Extra membership donation is always welcome.

Reminder: your membership expires in December. Please submit your 2025 Membership Dues.

\$25 for Adult member, \$15 for 2nd Adult member, \$10 for additional adult or Junior member.

~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman

Meetings

Board Meetings – 1st Thursday of the month. Members welcome.

General Meetings – Every 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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December's Holiday Party

Note: Holiday Party replaces the regular December Meeting!!

Come celebrate at our Holiday Party on December 7th in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 pm. Dinner will start serving at 6:30. As usual it is a potluck, with a gift exchange, awards, etc. to follow. Just bring food all else is provided. David addresses the information about dishes to bring in his President's message, and, also contact information for RSVPing.

*If you opt to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped rock-related gift, valued at \$10 minimum. If the gift is specifically for a male or female, please indicate clearly on the wrapping. You'll receive a ticket, so you will know when to come up and select your gift under the tree. Juniors who want to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a gift to exchange with other junior members.

*Quick note: Since this is a church facility, please don't bring alcohol. (Yes, we have weddings with alcohol involved, but wedding parties pay about \$2100 for the evening, and security people have to be hired, etc.

*If you want to bring a donation to Friends In Deed, the charity with a food bank and other services, please make your checks out to Friends In Deed, which we will collect and send to the agency. We are not collecting canned goods and other non perishable food items this year, as someone would have to load and transport them.

See you there!



DUES ARE DUE

Reminder! Your membership expires in December. Please submit your 2025 membership dues to Sue Pang General Meeting, Workshop, or send to:

Pasadena Lapidary Society
PO Box 5025
Pasadena CA 91117-0025

\$25.00 for adult member.

\$15.00 for 2nd adult member.

\$10.00 for additional adult or Junior member.



Results of rock testing from the Clear Creek Management Area

Fellow Rockhounds,
I attested at our October member meeting that I had found not one but two chunks of Jadeite during the exploratory field trip to the Clear Creek Management Area in Central California and I even put a sample slab into that month's raffle.

Club member, Paolo Sanchez, offered to test a sample of it at his Caltech lab. His analysis is done. It's not Jadeite! From Paolo:

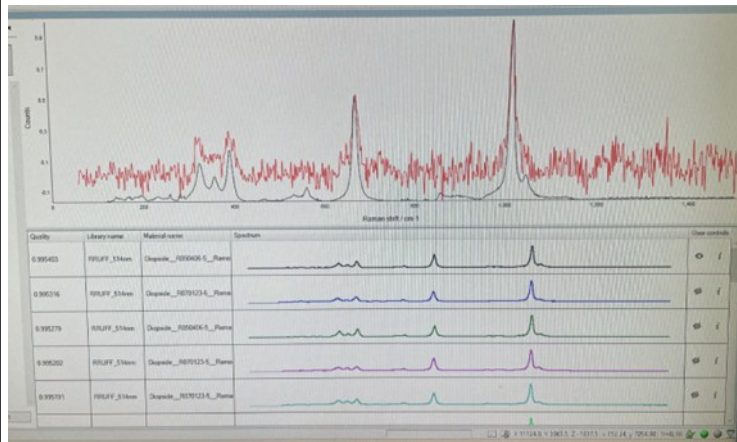
"I got some interesting results from the analyses of the samples you gave me. I conducted both Raman spectroscopy and X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyses of the samples to determine the identity of the mineral (Raman) and its chemical composition (XRF).

Turns out that the sample you gave me is not actually jadeite (a sodic aluminum pyroxene) but instead another species of pyroxene, diopside, a calcium magnesium pyroxene. This has been confirmed in both the Raman results and the major oxide chemistry. From the XRF analyses, the results show that there is considerable chromium and nickel content, which explains the green colour (either from Cr³⁺ or Ni²⁺). Diopside has a hardness of 5.5-6.5, in the same range as jadeite, which has a hardness of 6."

PLS is blessed to have an active geochemistry major!

I do have that second smaller chunk which looks a bit different. It has a more even light green color without so much striping. I haven't cut it yet, so maybe I didn't strike out entirely in the hunt for Jadeite. Fingers crossed!

Sue Dekany



December Workshop—Let's Make Gem Trees

Yes, we are having a workshop in December.

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, December 14. Door opens at 9 am and we need to be cleaned up and out by 3 pm. Cost is \$5 for the full day or \$3 for half day.

Come join in making gem trees with whoever shows. We will provide necessary supplies. No formal class planned at this time, but we walk you through the basics and you will be ready to absorb the finer points next time we have a formal class.

Saws, grinders, and other equipment and help using them will be available as usual.

The workshop is open to members age 9 and above. Minors must be accompanied by a member parent/guardian. First timers and anyone who needs an orientation or help with learning to make cabochons needs to rsvp a few days in advance to Marcia at (626) 260-7239 to get directions to the workshop and allow us to schedule an instructor. Orientation will start about 9:30 am but come a little early.

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.

Phil Lahr, Workshop Chair

Member-to-Member

Cabbing machine in very good condition. Has five 6-inch wheels in good condition. Asking \$1500. Contact Armando.

PLS has a few older grinders that would work well for someone handy, and even a sphere machine that could get you spinning with a little work. Also, a variety of tumblers ready to go, a PMC kiln, and a couple Foredoms. Contact Phil (plkslahr@att.net) if you want more information on these items or others that have been advertised recently.

Do you want to advertise your equipment here? Submittals for the next bulletin should be sent to Phil by the 15th of the month.





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President's Message

Hi rockhounds!

A couple of thoughts floating in the back of my mind for this message. First, votes for Rockhound of The Year have been received and counted. This is a chance to honor someone for their contributions to PLS over the last year (or more).

Second, Our Annual Holiday party is coming up soon, December 7th in the Santa Anita Church Fellowship Hall. To help you with enjoying this evening of celebration, here are some things to keep in mind this year: The party is potluck, so be prepared to bring food. Water, plates, napkins and utensils will be provided. You may want to bring your own dish or group with one other family to come up with a dish that feeds 6 to 8 people. Categories are: main dish - meat or vegetarian/vegan; starchy sides - like stuffing, potatoes, rice, pasta, bread; vegetables/salads; fruit/and desserts. Keep in mind that we have limited outlets to keep things hot or warm, so plan accordingly by letting Trudy Krose know. Please email her with the info on the dish you're bringing at: mikekrose@roadrunner.com, or call/leave a message on Trudy's house phone. Trudy is in charge of the food this year. Thank you, Trudy!

Note: Please email Mona Ross, mlrossbeads21@gmail.com to let her know how many people you are bringing. There are limited seats, so we will need a head count to accommodate everyone. Please indicate whether you want to help out at set up/decorating, serving, or clean up, so we can get our teams together.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the current and past Board Members for their hard work this past year. With my occasional missing of the Board Meetings and General Meetings due to circumstances beyond my control, they have done a Great Job keeping PLS functioning and having fun at the same time. Thanks Again!!

Sincerely, David Lacy, President