



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

MARCH 2024 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: MARCIA GOETZ

75th Birthday Memories — *Remembering another Great Fieldtrip*

Baldwin Lake Quartz and Copper Mine field trip (vicinity of Big Bear/Baldwin Lake); Saturday, June 15, 2013 (taken from Joe Goetz's article in our June 2013 newsletter):

Saturday was nice, sunny and cool. We were out of the house and down the street a little after 6 a.m. Seemingly in no time we were headed up Hwy 330 and at some point we pulled over to let people pass and, lo and behold, Jay and Kathy Valle with Davis Coghill as a passenger passed us! We got to the Big Bear Discovery Center a little before 8. There was a crowd of 6 or 7 people waiting to get in (all wanting to use the facilities). We bought topo maps and then it was a waiting game for everyone to show up. Rex and Chuie Nishimura and family arrived. Elizabeth Weston rode with Jennifer Jang. Chris and Marlēnē Kyte rode with us in our truck and, by a little after 9, we were headed for the quartz crystal area. When we arrived, people headed for the crystal slope. The sky was clear, with views for miles from the location.



View looking north from quartz area

In no time, our rockhounds were back and showing what they had found, including tiny, thin quartz needles. Then it was lunch time! After lunch it was decided to go to the Rose Mine which used to be mined for gold, silver, tungsten, and copper. We all hiked back to our vehicles, lined up near a sign for the PCT, then headed out. It was good going on the rough road until we crossed over Asterirre Creek - and then it became "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride"! Bumping and bouncing our way we got to the top of a ridge and wondered if Lisa and Kathleen Griffy were still with us - as they were traveling in a minivan. They were there! After a while, voices emanating from the back seat of our truck asked the infamous question "Are we there yet?". Even Marcia, who was driving, wanted to know the same thing.

There was one particularly nasty stretch in which we were seriously wondering if Lisa would manage to traverse it. I told her she did great! Yet the road seemed endless. Eventually, after passing it, we found the mine and all got out and looked around and didn't find much except for Marcia who found a couple of small nice copper coated pieces.

Lisa and Kathleen left to go home and we advised her to take a better road out. We then went looking for the mining shack that Chris said we would find - and yet is still un-found. We went back toward the first location and looked for more and we all found a little something. Since it was getting late in the day we headed out, and started down the smoother road, which became a "Super Mr. Toad's Wild Ride"! We made it our mission to try to locate the oil pan or the remnants of the minivan Lisa was driving. We never



Copper Mine entrance



Officers and Trustees

Officers

David Lacy, President deeceelink@earthlink.net

Barna Laszlo, Vice President blaszlo0911@gmail.com

Sue Dekany, Secretary PLS_secretary@protonmail.com

Philip Lahr, Treasurer plkslahr@att.net

Sue Pang, Federation Dir. sp2019pi@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

Bulletin: Marcia Goetz **Publicity/SM:** Elizabeth Weston

Display Table: Ferdie Sanchez **Sunshine:** Mona Ross

Web Editor: Elizabeth Weston **Workshop:** Phil Lahr

Membership: Sue Pang **Hospitality:** Mona Ross

Webmaster: Ben Shutman **Librarian:** Lucia Yang

Ways & Means: Curtis Schurer **Annual Show:** empty

Contact Us

Email: info@PasadenaLapidary.org **Instagram:** /PasadenaLapidary

Facebook: Pasadena Lapidary Society

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

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 new rockhound(s) join our society in February 2024. Rosalinda Gonzalez, Julia Kleindorfer (*JR), Tina Kleindorfer, Alice Miller, and Charlie Miller (*JR)
Note: *JR denotes Junior member.

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. If you haven't renewed your 2024 membership, please send in your dues ASAP, otherwise your membership will be terminated.

\$25.00+\$10.00 for adult member.

\$15.00+\$10.00 for 2nd adult member.

\$10.00+\$10.00 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®

The name Pasadena Lapidary Society (PLS) and its associated logo are registered trademarks of The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc. © 2022 The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc. Text, images, and other content in this publication are property of The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc., except for content that is in the public domain or is used with permission of the copyright holder or qualifies as fair use under copyright law. *Rockhound Ramblings* is available on the PLS website and may be freely linked to, but other distribution or re-publication, in part or whole, is prohibited unless written permission is granted by The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.

found them on the road or next to the road and the last bit was the smooth part so we knew they had made it out okay. We all met back at the Discovery Center and, while we didn't collect much, it sure became an adventure-filled day! We did check, and Lisa and Kathleen made it home safely - what great drivers!

March General Meeting

The March General Meeting will feature Dr. Nick Gessler who will present his Meteorite program. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the Santa Anita Church.

In 2002 Sr. Gessler was honored by the designation of Main-belt Asteroid "113355 Gessler." In 2017, at Duke's University Kunshan, China campus, he hosted 'Meteorites China', the first international conference and exhibition of meteoritics in that country. That was emulated in 2018 by a similar conference in Jilin, China. He has discovered 13 named meteorites in California and Nevada and recovered over 1,400 fragments. He continues to build a comprehensive private teaching collection. He has recently been involved in documenting the newly discovered, ninth largest meteorite on Earth, named EL ALI, from Somalia. It weighs in at 15.15 tonnes and is characterized as a IAB iron. "Probably no other meteorite has been so intimately connected with the life and fate of so many people as EL ALI." Although the meteorite is now for sale in China, with the help of colleagues at Almaas University of Mogadishu, scholars are analyzing 16 videos of it and plan to do some exploratory archaeology of its impact site near the Ethiopian boarder.

Workshop—A few more Facets

The next workshop will be held on Saturday March 9, 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 a half day.

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

Kevin Koppers will return to continue showing those with faceting equipment how to use it. Bring in your equipment and see what it can do. Observers are welcome; we just can't promise access to the faceting equipment.

The workshop is open to members 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 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



President's Day Weekend Fieldtrip

By Lynn Kan

Thank you to Rex and Chuie Nishimura for a fantastic rock hounding adventure over Presidents' Day weekend! Early Friday morning, about a dozen PLS members made the trek to the Turtle Mountains Wilderness just outside the western border of Arizona. We met up at Vidal Junction and made our way into the campsite. After a quick stop to get acclimated, we hopped back into our cars and drove about 15 minutes down the sandy gravel road to our first collecting site. Rex pointed to a hill in the distance and told us, "That's where the good stuff is!" Ricardo Sr and Ricardo Jr were the only ones who made it that far (besides Rex and Daniel who went even further past that hill of course). The rest of us kept busy picking up beautiful swirls of chalcedony—palm sized chunks of white, pink, peachy and even a few bluish specimens. They were easily spotted every 10 steps or so. Druzy pieces glistened in the warm sun and caught my eyes often—I couldn't resist, into my bag they went. How many times did I bend my knees to examine a specimen? There were too many times to count. It was a true work out for me— but worth every step. Our goal was chalcedony roses and they were plentiful!



Chalcedony Rose

After 2.5 hours we headed back to camp for lunch. While relaxing and chatting, we were interrupted by the pealing thunder of an A10 Thunderbolt wart hog swooping down low, turning sideways as it flew parallel beside the mountainous hillside before ascending back up into the air. In less than 10 seconds it disappeared into the sky—it was a sight to see!

After more afternoon rockhounding for chalcedony roses nearby, we came back to camp to set up our tents and prepare for the evening feast, I mean potluck. Homemade bread baked in a Dutch oven over hot coals, then toasted in a cast iron pan with fresh garlic butter! Followed by chicken spaghetti, pesto chicken artichoke wraps, white bean chili, fruit picadillo with tain and gluten free brownie bites! I was in heaven! How could camp food be so good? Our tummies were full and the rest of the evening was devoted to relaxing around the Rex's homemade triple duty outdoor camp stove/outdoor heater/trash burner! It radiated plenty of heat for everyone—all without flying embers and no smoky camp clothes!

Saturday morning we headed back to the same collecting site for more chalcedony roses. This time, after seeing Ricardo and Ricardo's finds we were all determined to make it to "the black hill" in the distance. After a few hours of collecting we completed the 2.7 mile round trip hike and it was time to head back to camp. There were so many beautiful pieces to collect—it was difficult to leave some behind!

Back at camp, we packed up our tents and started the next part of our journey. On to Arizona for a pyrotechnic treat at Lake Havasu. After setting up camp, we headed out to our special spot to watch the most spectacular fireworks show you could ever imagine! It was like watching multiple fireworks finales back to

back! Every Presidents' Day weekend, pyrotechnic vendors descend upon Lake Havasu to showcase their fireworks shows in hopes of finding would be customers (city managers from across the country) to bring their show back to their hometown Fourth of July events. It was a show like no other—the longest extended firework show you could imagine!



Jasper

Sunday morning, we packed up again and made three more collecting stops in Ludlow, before heading home. This was the day for collecting larger rocks—agates, jasper, and jasper-agates. Ricardo worked his spot and pulled out a gorgeous deep red agate specimen, while Rex uncovered a beautiful mustard yellow-green jasper-agate seam.

Finally, as our weekend rockhounding experience was nearly over, we drove to our last collecting site. Once out of our cars, we gathered at the bottom of the hillside. The ascent was slightly intimidating, but there was no turning back. With careful steps we made our way up a slightly steep, sandy, rocky hillside. Once again, we were not disappointed. Halfway up the hill, it was easy to find large beautiful pieces of brindle jasper—reminiscent of the unique, light and dark toned tiger-striped pattern of a brindle dog's coat.

After three days of perfect temperatures, wonderful company, delicious food, beautiful desert landscapes, evening fireworks, and loads of rockhounding, our hunger for adventure was satiated and we returned home, a little tired, a little sore, but more than extremely satisfied!



MEMBER-TO-MEMBER

Flat Lap Table, 24-inch for sale, \$150. Needs electrical work. Contact Armando

We still have several used tumblers for sale. Most are rotary, some vibratory. All in good condition. Can include some nice rock (needs breaking) if you like. A variety of other equipment is available, most need repairs. Contact Phil plkslahr@att.net.

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



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



President's Message

Dear Members, David is doing his civic duty this month and working with the election. His devoted wife Bonnie says she has a sighting of him briefly after he has a bit to eat and then disappears for sleep each day.

I (editor) will use this opportunity to let you know about the CFMS/AFMS Show and Convention to be held in Ventura, CA on May 24-26, 2024. Information about places to stay, things to do etc., can be found at www.2024cfms-afms.com website. The Competitive and Non-Competitive forms can be found there in addition to the Reservation form. As usual this promises to be a great show sponsored by Ventura Gem and Mineral Society. Since this is a holiday weekend you may want to reserve a room early.

Jim Brace-Thompson is in charge of the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle and is accepting donations of at least a value of \$75. Raffle tickets are \$5 for one ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets. Jim is looking for hobby-related items such as gem, mineral or fossil specimens, metal work projects, jewelry, bead projects, etc.

Sharon Rogow is in charge of the CFMS Endowment Fund Raffle and can use the same type of donations.

There will be opportunities to volunteer at the show, and that information will be available in April.

Email: info@PasadenaLapidary.org **Instagram:** /PasadenaLapidary
Facebook: Pasadena Lapidary Society

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
PASADENALAPIDARY.ORG