



Hopper Crystals



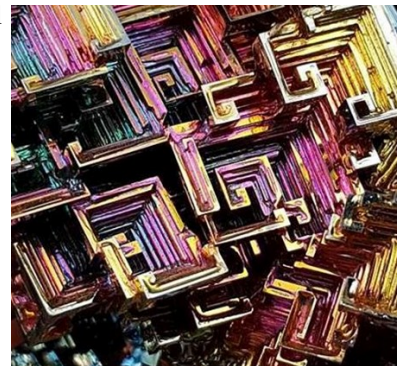
Halite with hopper crystal formation from Searles Lake, San Bernardino Co., California.

Wikipedia says: 'A hopper crystal is a form of crystal the shape of which resembles that of a pyramidal hopper container.' Well, that didn't help me visualize what a hopper was, so looking up the word hopper I found it is basically a circular tub with a funnel at the base.

Several minerals can grow as a hopper type of crystal. The explanation is that the crystal grew so fast that the outer edges grew faster and the center section didn't grow at all, thus looking like a series of stepped down edges.

Wikipedia further explains that: "Hoppering occurs when electrical attraction is higher along the edges of the crystal; this causes faster growth at the edges than near the face centers. This attraction draws the mineral molecules more strongly than the interior sections of the crystal, thus the edges develop more quickly."

You can find hopper crystals in some minerals, two of which are pictured. The halite (salt) and the bismuth often have the hopper; on occasion you can find hoppers in quartz, gold, galena, pyromorphite, and calcite.



Hopper crystal formation on man-made bismuth.



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Membership!

We are delighted to have the following new rockhound(s) join our society in April 2025: Keith Hiorns, Shari Roulin, and Noah Urbina.

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.

PLS 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 at the Santa Anita Church, 226 W. Colorado Blvd., Arcadia, CA 91007

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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May General Programs, Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 PM

Geode Presentation

PLS member **Armando Pedroza** has been cutting geodes for over 15 years at gem shows and club presentations. In our upcoming May general meeting he will be presenting and demonstrating his geode program. Geodes will be available for purchasing and he will be cutting them for those who wish to see the magic inside. Geode prices range from \$10 to \$90. The geode program will be outside on the patio!



Paolo Sanchez will present a program on the Clear Creek Management area in San Benito County, California. It has been a popular spot for geologists, mineralogists and rockhounds alike for over a century.

Part of a large geological feature known as the New Idria Serpentine Intrusion, this area is home to various rare and interesting minerals such as demantoid and melanite varieties



of andradite garnet, plasma agate, jadeite, uvarovite, zeolites, as well as asbestos and mercury minerals. It is also where twenty new minerals were first discovered, including the California state gemstone, benitoite. With such a bounty of mineralogical wealth, what makes the New Idria Serpentine Intrusion so special? This talk will delve into the underlying geologic history of the area as well as the interesting minerals that make New Idria a unique place in the mineral world.

Photo from Christian Schulze taken on the Clear Creek

PLS Gem Show Preparation Update September 20-21, 2025, Arcadia Masonic Lodge

What a delightful presentation by Mary Pat Weber at our April member meeting! She gave us lots of great ideas for informative and fun displays of a curated portion of our rocks and gems. Sign up for a case today (form is on our website) because we have a limited number available and want new displays to engage the public.

Mark your calendars - May 10th will be your opportunity to learn how to make your case liners at the workshop!

PLS has received some fabulous donations recently and we've put aside some of the choicest pieces for our Gem Show raffle. Curtis and Lynn Kan are our raffle chairs this year. They are collecting donations now, which allows them time to add the item to the master list and prepare a case label. Please donate early. If you want a charitable gift receipt for your donation, just ask.

As many of you know, I lost my house and rock collection in the Eaton fire. It's made me rethink having tons of rough. I had so many rocks, I couldn't think what to take when we evacuated! If you have more rocks than you'll be able to use in your lifetime, donating some to our bargain stop, or to the CFMS show are good decluttering options and helps us out.



Show Continued....

Soon you will start to see signup sheets at our meetings and workshops — we depend on our members to volunteer in one way or another to support our show.

- If you would like more cabbings time, sign up for one of the demo spots.
- If you love seeing kids “dig” rocks, helping at the kids area will be very rewarding.
- If you love looking at rough and imagining what it can make, help at the bargain stop.

Have any questions? Email me,
Sue Dekany, pls_secretary@protonmail.com. I'm happy to help.

Next show meeting will be May 31st at 10am in-person at Moffett's Family Restaurant and Chicken Pot Pie Shoppe located at 1409 S. Baldwin Avenue. Open to all members. We share a meal, then talk show business.

FIELD TRIP report by Daniel Nishimura

A couple of weeks ago, I was able to go on a trip to Clear Creek near Coalinga. Clear Creek is a beautiful place to both rock hunt and camp. There is lots of greenery here. There are patches of wildflowers that grow so thick that they actually color the ground. In places where there is no vegetation, the ground itself would actually be colored with the minerals the soil contained. There are several camp sites which have fire rings, tables, and bathrooms which is pretty much all you need for camping. You are required to bring your own water and supplies such as food and camping equipment.

We left around 3 o'clock Sunday morning for Hart Park in Bakersfield. The main activity here was a flint knapping class. We left early so we could fish for an hour or so in a lake just a couple minutes away from the class. Unfortunately we didn't catch anything-- or did we? It turned out that we didn't catch any fish but instead caught a turtle! The flint knapping class was great and several people were successful in making a couple nice arrowheads.



We had to leave immediately after the class so we could get to Clear Creek while it was still light. We got there with just enough time to get camp set up before dark. I know I sure don't like setting up camp in the dark



The next day, we went to a spot along the creek. There is nice stuff to be obtained along the creek, but to get the good stuff takes a little more effort. There is a long hike to a claim way up in the hills on a nice easy path along the creek. Our family was a little more ram-bunctious, though. We hiked along several ridges and it was pretty easy going for the first half hour. After that a problem arose. We were trapped by bushes. The next 3 hours were spent clearing a path so we could get through to the claim. When we finally got to the spot though, the results were rewarding. We got several nice chunks of jade that will make beautiful cabochons.

On the way back, we took the path along the creek, and our progress was swift. We got back to the cars within half an hour, tired but satisfied. There was one more stop but it was easier than the last one. However, it was extremely close to where we were. All we had

to do was drive down the river for about 2 minutes, and there you were. Again, here some people looked along the river, but our family and a couple of other PLS members took a hike up into the hills to a couple of prospects. There wasn't much here, just a couple piles of serpentine but the hike was nice and the rest found some nice stuff down by the creek. By the time we got to camp, there was only about a half of an hour of light left and so we had dinner and went to bed. The next morning, we got ready to go. Clear Creek is a beautiful place to camp and I look forward to going there next year.



Christian Schulze managed to get the rock in the car

May Workshop—Display Case Liners

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, May 10. 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.

Those who wish to make case liners for display cases at the show can meet at the tables and help each other put them together. We have detailed instructions and will try to have someone with experience there to advise. Contact Phil, plkslahr@att.net for a digital copy of the instructions and materials to bring.

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

Lortone combo unit with 5-inch saw and space for two wheels. This unit runs, but you will need new grinding wheel, expanding drum, water supply, and misc. items to get it into service. Will require changing belts between smoothing and polishing steps, but is still probably the least expensive, smallest footprint cabbings solution beyond doing it all on a small flat lap. Asking \$150.

We also have Lortone inclined flat lap with 6-inch disks. The spin-on foam-covered head could be used with sanding disks for polish stages and hard lap disks can be used with the primary head. No disks included. Foam pad and water tubing need replacement. Asking \$60.

We also have a PMC kiln, a couple tumblers, a Frantom Combo unit, and a two-head sphere machine that would be good projects for someone willing to do a little mechanical work. 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.

NEXT FIELD TRIP!

Please join us on the next PLS Field Trip on Saturday, May 17, 2025. We will be taking a day trip to Ludlow, CA and stopping at two popular locations. Our first stop will be for thulite just outside of Ludlow. Thulite is a pink variety of the mineral zoisite that is mixed into a light green matrix. There is plenty of surface material (both small and large) all



around. For the more adventurous, we will hike up the hill and search for red and brown agate. There are large seams trapped in the hillside and digging tools will be needed. We will then head over to Lavic Siding to have lunch and to search for beautiful pieces of red, yellow, green and orange jasper (see samples below). If you are lucky, you might also find some blue agate. The jasper is easily found as float and no digging tools are needed.

If you are interested in joining us or if you have any questions, please contact either Bill Walls or Curtis Kan.



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President's Message

Hi Rockhounds! This is going to start out with a Big Shout of Thanks for all those who were instrumental in making the April General Meeting go as well as I heard it did. Being out of the loop was rough for me, but they did the job and well also.

Speaking of doing a job for PLS, we are looking for some member to help digitize the Society's historical records - both photographic and correspondence. Last word I got was that the job was done to about 2010, so we can do this one step/year(?) at a time (Hmm, that may be a good title for a song). Anyone interested in doing this job can touch base with any Board member or Sue Dekany or Marcia Goetz.

Looking for something to do on Mother's Day Weekend? Visit the CFMS Convention being held at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on May 10-11, 2025. Admission and parking are free. The Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club is sponsoring the show.

Old Business time:

Speaking of Hot-Looking Rocks, the West Coast Gem & Mineral Show is May 2-4, 2025 in Santa Ana. It is free, but I am Sure you could find something to spend money on, as the description of participants looks interesting. More info at MineralShowsLLD.com.

This Gem Show email & postcard brought up the thought that planning for the next PLS Gem Show has started. Those of you who might be interested in helping set up, participate in the Show, or just help break down the Show can start thinking about where you would be interested in helping. Next Show meeting is on be May 31st at 10am in-person at Moffett's Family Restaurant and Chicken Pot Pie Shoppe and is open to those who want to get involved.

Next General meeting is on May 20th and, according to the Birthstone list for Rock & Gem magazine, the Birthstone of the month is emerald. Anyone with a good looking stone is welcome to bring it and show it on the Display Table. 'Course anyone with a emerald of any size larger than +/- 1/16th" might just bring a magnifying glass or loupe so those of us with close focus issues can see it!

As was said in my last Message, openings for a 30-45 minute talk on a rock/mineral/stone/mineralogical processes/History of minerals or mineralogy/etc. are available and anyone interested is welcome to talk to Barna Laszlo, our Vice President, to schedule something. Speaking of the next meeting, I would also urge anyone who has a favorite rock/mineral/stone to give a talk on said rock/mineral/stone. It needs to be a short talk, just five minutes (or thereabouts) and PhD-level descriptions need not apply. It doesn't hurt and you can tell us what makes that rock/mineral/stone special to you.

Sincerely, David Lacy, President

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