

April 2012 - Volume 48 Issue 4

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### Searchers Board Officers

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2nd VP: Tracey Jackson  
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Secretary: Suzanne Alsky  
Treasurer: Jay Erb  
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Robert Burson  
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Beth Pelfrey  
Sunshine  
Veteran's Coordinator:  
Larry Richey  
Website: Gary Grayson  
Workshop: Adrian Callard  
Rock's Kids:  
Terri Benedict

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone!

It's a busy time of year for the club, and it's members. The big Annual Show is only a few weeks away and things are starting to move quickly. If you haven't yet contacted either Norbert or Steve to see where help is needed, please do it soon!! The club depends on it's members to make this show a success. So many times we find members wondering how they can get involved in things, how they can feel more connected - well, here's a GREAT avenue to join in on! The commitment only needs to be a couple hours, so you can come, enjoy the show and spend a couple hours helping out in some way. You'll not only help the club make the show a complete success, you'll get to know your fellow members better and maybe learn something really fun along the way! The club also enjoyed a fun field-trip to Lavic Siding a couple weekends ago. What a great turn out with over 25 people in attendance, we had families, new members, and visiting folks from the Pasadena club. Some beautiful material was gathered, some new spots were checked out, and the pot luck was outstanding! I strongly encourage you to join us on these trips. It's a great opportunity to get to know other members better and learn. The next trip is to Sperry Wash on April 14th-15th, with Robert Burson leading. Look for email blasts, or check the website for more information. In closing this month, I just want to remind everyone that the club is what you make it! We are all enthusiasts of rocks and the lapidary world, with varying levels of knowledge. The more you get involved by volunteering in functions, participating in field-trips, the more you'll get to know your fellow members and grow in your love of all things rocks. This is a great club filled with some of the finest folks around...make the most of it and enjoy!

Happy Easter everyone, we'll see you at the General Meeting on April 17th

*Tery-Lynn*

### APRIL BIRTHSTONE Diamond

As the April birthstone, diamonds are the ideal gift for a loved one. And now you have more choices than ever. Get creative and give the ultimate gift of beauty: a fancy-color diamond. Fancy-color diamonds are natural, rare and truly exotic gem of the earth.

Diamonds in hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green range in intensity from faint to vivid and generally the more saturated the color, the higher the value. In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size.

Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory. These are correctly called color-treated diamonds. When purchasing a fancy-color diamond, the shopper should ask if any enhancements or treatments were used to improve its color and/or clarity. In mineralogy, diamond (from the ancient Greek ἀδάμας - adámas "unbreakable") is an allotrope of carbon, where the carbon atoms are arranged in a variation of the face-centered cubic crystal structure called a diamond lattice.

12.76 carat pink diamond- the largest of the rare and precious stones ever found in Australia



## GENERAL INFORMATION

General Meetings: 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov  
Board Meetings: 7PM, 3rd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov  
Workshop: Thursday, 6 - 10 PM, free wire-wrap class, Saturday, 3 - 7 PM  
Free silver-smithing class 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays (schedule varies)  
Location: Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 East Center St, Anaheim, CA 92805  
Mailing Address: Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc, P.O Box 3492, Anaheim, CA 92803  
Membership Dues: Individual- \$25, Couples- \$35, Junior (17 & under)- \$10  
Valid Jan. 1-Dec. 31, not prorated

Bulletin: Submissions due 3rd Friday of the month via e-mail to: editor@searchersrocks.org.  
Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:  
Yery Camacho, 13900 Studebaker Rd, #4, Norwalk, CA 90650  
Charter Date: April 20, 1958  
Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council  
Web Site: www.searchersrocks.org

## FIELD TRIPS

| FIELD TRIPS 2012 |               |                            |           |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Date             | Leader        | Location & Material        | Status    |
| April 14, 15     | Tracy Jackson | Sperry Wash                | Scheduled |
| May 12           | Steve Duncan  | Jarupa Mts Cultural Center | Scheduled |

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

Also see [www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html](http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html).

**Other websites of interest:**

[www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com)

[www.southsunproducts.com](http://www.southsunproducts.com)

[www.pioneergem.com](http://www.pioneergem.com)

[www.route66goldminers.org](http://www.route66goldminers.org)

[www.auctionmasters.com](http://www.auctionmasters.com)

## CLUB MEETING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2012

| Date     | Presenter               | Subject                                 |
|----------|-------------------------|---|
| April 17 | Lothar Vallot           | "Everything SiO <sub>2</sub> " (Quartz) |
| May 5, 6 | ALL                     | Searcher's 53rd Annual Show             |
| May 8    | Walt Lombardo           | Corundum                                |
| June 12  | Fred and Charlotte Ward | Opals                                   |

## Sperry Wash/Baker Field Trip April 14 & 15, 2012

**Leader: Tracy Jackson**

Approximate distance from Anaheim is 240 miles. Take the 91 freeway, east to the 15 northeast to Barstow/Baker. From Baker take Hwy 127 north to Tecopa. Travel time is approximately 4 to 5 hours. We will rally at Old Spanish road and Hwy 127 in Tacopa at 9:00 a.m. We will wait until 9:30 for all to show up. At 9:30 we depart to Western Talc Road. We will be camping near the Talc mine.

Sperry Wash is an incredible outside museum, it contains a tremendous quantity of petrified organic materials. Petrified woods, palm, cycad, and a variety of roots and twigs. This was riparian environment, probably a glaciated fed swamp. Colors of material are gray, orange, red, and pink. If you enjoy hot springs, Tecopa Hot Springs gives us the opportunity take a warm mineral bath. This might be a consideration if the majority wishes. To the south end of our collecting area is the Amagosa River. There are pools that are inviting deep enough for a few hearty individuals. Of course you will have to share tadpoles and pupfish, but this can be very delightful on a warm day. The road into the south end of Sperry Wash is challenging as well as scenic. It is hard to imagine that this was once a paved road in the 30s. Ruins of mining operations and camping during the depression consisted of many of the manmade sights. Those looking for gold and silver settled for borates, talc and gypsum.

This is an environmentally sensitive area. No driving is permitted off the road because of its Wilderness status. Walking is required. I suggest you wear good walking shoes, and bring a backpack with the necessary provisions, rock pick, spray bottle, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, snacks and plenty of water. There are no restroom facilities in this area. This area is a badland topography.

Also in the area is the Dumont Sand Dunes which are not only spectacular but they are composed of white gypsum, which makes this a rare feature. I hope that you will find this a fascinating area. It truly has the characteristics of a great field trip. Other locations for collecting are Tecopa Hot Springs for fire opal reeds, somewhat rare but well worth it. Kingston Mountain for amethyst, Halloran Springs for turquoise. Don't forget the pot luck on Saturday night. A few motels are as follows but they are an hour away from our campsite:

Bun Boy Motel  
72130 Baker Blvd.  
Baker, CA  
760-733-4363

Holiday Inn Express  
430 Main Street  
Baker, CA  
Hotel Front Desk 1-225-771-1123

Arne's Royal Hawaiian Hotel  
200 W. Baker Blvd.  
Baker, CA  
760-733-4326

Will's Fargo Motel  
72252 Baker Blvd.  
Baker, CA  
760-733-4477

There is also a motel in Tecopa as well as Shoshone. They are expensive and primitive and both approx. \$100.00 per night. If you need additional information feel free to call Robert at 562-706-4892.

## **Searchers "Field" Trip to the Jarupa Mts Cultural Center Saturday, May 12th, 2012**

On Sat May 12th the Searchers will have a one day field trip to the Jarupa Mountains Cultural Center in Riverside. This is a different kind of trip, as it will be a fee "dig". Over the years many collections have been donated to the center, and they make the material available to rockhounds, and use the moneys to fund the museum. However the prices are quite friendly, normal prices for rough are \$1.50/lb, however the nice folks at the museum have indicated that we will get special pricing coming as a club. They have even offered to have some refreshments for us.

I made a trip there recently to scout it. They had probably 8 rows 40" long and 4' wide of rough. It has been picked over well, but in a short time I found a very nice piece of Dino bone, and also several worthwhile agates and jasp/agates. Then they have an area around the side of the museum where there is more material, this is kind of sorted into containers, here I remember obsidian, chrysocolla, more agates, rhodonite, maybe psilomolene.

Inside the museum they have a lot of specimen type material in boxes, and also a cabinet full of slabs (which will cost a bit more than rough). I also saw a 50 gallon drum full of large plates of amethyst, again I am sure more expensive than the rough, but the prices on everything are very fair.

For those that don't mind getting a bit dirty they have other slabs in a warehouse (without lights). If you would like to see these slabs you will need to bring a good flashlight.

No matter what you will need to bring a spray bottle, a rock pick, and maybe sunscreen and a hat and drinking water. We will meet in the parking lot at 0900, and you can leave when you wish.

The address is 7621 Granite Hills Drive, Riverside, CA

Call me at (714) 724 7102 or email me [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com) if you have any questions.

## **UPCOMING 2012 CFMS GEM SHOWS**

### **April 13 - 15: VISTA, CA**

San Diego County Council of Gem & Mineral Societies  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily  
Contacts:  
Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7570

Simon King, (619) 991-2226

Cathy Davis, (858) 278-9987

### **April 14 - 15: MARIPOSA, CA**

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
5005 Fairgrounds Road  
(Hwy 49, 1.8 miles South of Mariposa)  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4

Contact: Randy Bolt or Chel Bebernes, 209)  
742-7625

**April 20 - 22: SAN JOSE, CA**

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
334 Tully Road  
Hours: Fri 9 – 5; Sat & Sun 10 – 5  
Phone: (408) 265-1422  
Email: info@scvgms.org  
Website: www.scvgms.org

**April 20 - 22: INDIO, CA**

Shadow Mountain Gem & Mineral Society  
Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center  
46500 Van Buren Street  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily  
Contact: Darlene Bjork, (760) 328-6916  
Email: daBjork@dc.rr.com  
Website:  
www.shadowmountaingemmineral.org

**April 21 - 22: THOUSAND OAKS, CA**

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchard Park Community Center  
190 Reino Road (at Borchard Rd.)

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734

Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net

Website: www.cgamc.org

**April 28 - 29: LANCASTER, CA**

Antelope Gem & Mineral Society  
Lancaster High School  
44701 - 32nd Street West  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily

Contact: CJ Quitoriano, (661) 209-9092,  
cjq\_62@yahoo.com

Contact: Rod Skillings, (661) 400-5198,  
rodneyskillings@ymail.com

Website: www.avgem.weebly.com

**April 28 - 29: SANTA CRUZ, CA**

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society  
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium  
307 Church St (corner Church & Center)  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Dean Welder, (408) 353-2675

Email: wdeanwelder@yahoo.com

Website: www.scmgs.org

**ALL ABOUT THE SHOW, ONE MORE TIME!****The Searchers need your help**

The show is rapidly approaching, this is the probably the last Slab you will be receiving before the show. Anyway, it is time for one (maybe) final appeal. Now is the time to bring donations for the club. We need prizes for the door prizes, and material for the silent auction. Prizes can be cabs, jewelry, mineral specimens etc. For the silent auction rough or slabs or specimens. Only very nice material please folks, we have a reputation for having an excellent silent auction, and I would like that to continue.

You can bring your donations to the next General Meeting, which you know is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month this month only. You can also always bring them to the show, but if we get them in advance it helps us see what we have to deal with.

Don't forget we still need people to help with the show.

Thanx,

Steve Duncan

**Friday setup and/or Sunday teardown:** Contact Steve Duncan (wsd@iteris.com) or Norbert Bernhardt (nbern@cox.net)

**Show Grab Bags:** contact Lydia (714) 453-8984

**Show Cases:** Charlotte Spaulding (714-531-4058), e-mail her miz\_storm@sbcglobal.net

## BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

[groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/) or [facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)

### DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling or burring to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. A quick solution is to hold the workpiece with a pair of pliers or your ring clamp. Another alternative is to clamp your piece to the bench pin or a thin board. If using pliers, you can avoid scratches by putting a little tape over the jaws.



### DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've found these often break or burn up. The reason I think is that the drill pivots on the piece of diamond on the drill tip. By pivoting the diamond does not cut. When it doesn't cut, you tend to add more force, and the drill is damaged by excess heat.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are reasonable in price, for instance \$6 for 2mm diameter.

Chuck up the core drill in a drill press or a Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to break through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.



## ROCK ART

Via PGGG Petrograph

The rock art found in the Big Horn Mountains are considered part of a much larger Central Montana Abstract Tradition, which included several styles. In 2001 the taxon was redefined and called the Foothills Abstract Tradition, which included eight figure categories or motifs, two of which are finger lines and smears.

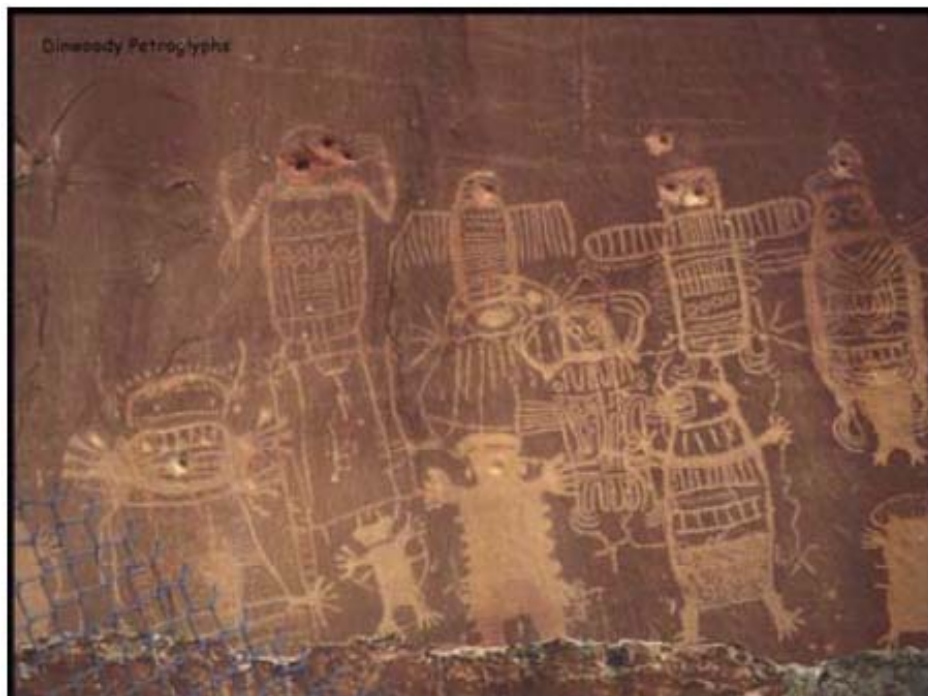
While the newly recorded Notches Dome represents the Foothills Abstract Tradition on the southern end of the mountain chain, one long known site, Frozen Leg Cave, at the northern end of the Bighorn Mountains, also contains early Foothills Abstract figures and confirms that the Tradition extends to the Big Horn River. Like many rock art sites, Notches Dome is an eye-catching location, within the southern foothills of the Bighorn Mountains in central Wyoming. The site is on the southwest side of a distinctive topographic feature where sandstone formations rise from the surrounding plains on a pine-covered ridge system that separates

broad gentle tributaries to the South Fork of the Powder River.

Once there, the paintings are not readily visible. The Notches Dome Pictographs are a series of paintings, finger lines and smears in small rock shelters. Researchers from New Mexico's Office of Archaeological Services became suspicious of abstract paint smears found on ledges of one cave found near a historic shepherds' camp. X-ray fluorescent spectrometer analysis revealed that the blue, green, and red paint on the rock projections was chemically very similar to paint used in a woman's portrait on a barn wall at the sheep camp painted with the paint for marking ewes for breeding or branding purposes. Ewes so marked may, while sheltering in the rock cave, have left their record in 'art'

Ref: J Pinkowski, Archaeology, jan/feb 2009.

[http://greerservices.com/Assets/Publications\\_pdfs/2004\\_Greer\\_Plains\\_NotchesDome.pdf](http://greerservices.com/Assets/Publications_pdfs/2004_Greer_Plains_NotchesDome.pdf)





**Brookhurst Community Center**  
2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Anaheim, CA

**Saturday, May 5 Hours 10AM - 5PM**  
**Sunday, May 6 Hours 10AM - 4:30PM**

free admission



www.searchersrocks.org

## PtCreations

2812-B Walnut Ave.  
Tustin, Ca 92780 714-904-2181

Classes, jewelry, faceted stones, rocks, slabs and minerals.  
Now open Wednesdays 11am-4pm and during classes and events.  
Check the "Calendar" on our web-site for schedule.

[www.ptcreations.net](http://www.ptcreations.net)

## THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>  
342 S. Tustin Street • Orange, CA 92866  
Ph. 714-633-1549

## *Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply*

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Authorized dealer for Garrett, Fisher, and Tesoro metal detectors  
5642 E. La Palma Ave., #208, Anaheim, CA 92807 (corner of La Palma and Imperial Hwy.)  
714 693-GOLD (4653). Store hours: Tu - Sat 10am - 6pm