

The Rock Slab News

AUGUST 2006 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 8

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The Purpose of the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

By-Laws, Article I, Sec. 2

This society was formed for the purpose of banding together a group of congenial persons for the purpose of studying mineralogy and the earth sciences by means of association with other mineralogical societies and with their members; presentation of public exhibitions, lectures, and similar programs; field trips for exploration, study and collecting of specimens; the encouragement of interest among young people and the fostering of interest in mineralogy and the lapidary arts; the procurement and maintenance of collections of minerals, mineral products and related pictures, writings and other information thereof; and all other means which are appropriate to the accomplishment of the primary objectives above set forth.

This organization is not formed for profit and none of its assets shall be used for the pecuniary gain or profit of any individual who is or may become a member thereof.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Clarke Benich

Hello Fellow Searchers!

August already? Time flies when you're having fun! Not much to report on this slow, sweltering summer so I'll give you some Searcher news, then a short story you may enjoy.

Member and good friend Jimmy Peterson just had surgery on his back, and I hear it went well. Great news. Also, I saw Jeri Frank a few days ago, and she's doing good. Hopefully she will be back with us soon. Our By-Laws/Standing Rules Review Committee almost met after our last board meeting. Although it had been announced at our last general meeting, many of our members who had agreed to be on the review committee were not present, and with my failure to notify them personally prior to the set date, well, let's just say it wasn't a very large showing of members. Sorry about that – my fault – let's try again immediately following the board meeting in August. So August 23 at 7 pm. Searchers picnic – August 27 – be there. See Events or Calendar for details.

Here's your short story. I feel like a blooming idiot right now for not seeing this on-coming miserable heatwave we have. I should have seen it coming. I'd been given all the signs. In fact it was pretty much spelled out for me, and yet my conscious mind never grasped onto it and the heatwave caught me by complete surprise. First off I drive a dark blue T-Bird with a dark interior so, of course, it's extremely hot inside when closed up even on fairly cool days. My driver-side power window motor failed due to worn brushes. Being the procrastinator that I am, months went by as I endured dealing with the heat even during the winter days. My air conditioner was the next to go kaplooeey. All it needs is a recharge, however, it's the old AC system. The only problem with that is that R12 is no longer available which means converting over to a new system. Awesome. The next thing (you'll love this one) should have hit me like a brick, and yet I never so much as blinked when the passenger-side window died. You can now compare this to a hotbox in a Nazi prison camp on wheels.

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In comes the heatwave (we're talking triple digits here), not good. Believe this or not, I can show you the proof, the screens on the speakers in the back window popped out of the risers when they melted from the extreme heat. I now have the finances together to make life livable again while driving, however there was one other slight problem which needed immediate attention as well. Four tires later I ended up opting for safety rather than comfort. There is a bright side to this however. After only a few more days of this sweltering heat and a little more driving I should be able to see my belt buckle again without using a mirror. Life is good!

See you all soon, until then, be safe!
Clarke



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

By Kathy Clark

Congratulations, Searchers!!! The two cases entered in the Orange County Fair under Gems and Minerals/Gem-Educational or Club Exhibit took second and third place ribbons! **ALRIGHT!!** Clarke Benich arranged the cases consisting of jewelry, artifacts and rough material loaned by Skip Cone, Chuck and Karen Edmonds, Herb Beckman, Bob Gilland, Jeri Frank, Betty Nelson and Jimmy Peterson.

Also, our treasurer, Patricia Underwood, took third place for her chocolate fudge with nuts and 2 second place ribbons for her holiday tablesettings.

WAY TO GO, SEARCHERS!!!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule! www.searchersrocks.org

- General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Board Meetings:** 6 PM, 4th Wednesday 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).
- No workshops:** Nov 23 & 25.
- 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
- Website:** www.searchersrocks.org
- Membership Dues:** Individual \$20
Couple \$25
Junior (17 & under) \$2
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 editors:
Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark
18661 Silver Maple Way
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144
- Charter Date:** June 20, 1958
- Affiliations:**
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

SEARCHERS BOARD

Officers

President	Clarke Benich	714/552-7336
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Treasurer	Patricia Underwood	562/864-4195
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900

Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Jenny Stavreva Kathy Clark	714/736-4345 714/639-9927
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality		
Library	Maggie Vigil	714/288-2072
Membership	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Monthly Drawing	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/971-6789
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2		
2007 Show	Betty Nelson	714/530-1365
Show Co-Chair	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Sunshine	Carlene Blake	714/549-0099
Veteran's Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Workshop	Herb Beckman +?	714/778-1496
Rock 'n' Kids	OPEN	

AUGUST EVENTS

- 8 7-9 pm General Meeting
- 23 6-7 pm Board Meeting
- 23 7 pm By-Laws/Standing Rules
Review Committee Meeting
- 27 11 am Searchers Picnic Potluck at
Pearson Park

AUGUST FIELD TRIP

There are no scheduled field trips for August. It's just way too hot!

Ever had a meeting and no one showed? By-Laws/Standing Rules Review Committee will attempt to meet on Wednesday, August 23, at 7 pm. Thank you for your support, Clarke Benich.

AUGUST PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Because it's summer and so many Searchers are vacationing and busy with family and friends, Virgil Talbott has scheduled another super video of Alan Revere on silversmithing. We will be conducting our usual business meeting and hopefully some gracious members will remember to bring some cookies or something to munch on during the break. Please attend the meeting; we always have a great time no matter what's on the docket.

SUNSHINE REPORT

By Kathy Clark



Get well wishes and all kinds of good vibes are extended to Jimmy Peterson who is recovering from back surgery. HURRY UP AND GET WELL, JIMMY! We're wishing you a speedy and painless recovery.

If you know of any of our Searchers who need cheering up, please contact Kathy Clark at 714-639-9927 or hanky1panky3@yahoo.com or Carlene Blake our Sunshine Chairman at 714-549-0099 or cblake@promogiant.com.

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Long-time Searcher member, Clare Gagnon, was our July speaker discussing faceting and explaining the machinery and the stones used for faceting. As a mentor for the Faceter's Guild of Southern California (FGSC), Clare encourages new club membership as a great way to get faceting guidance from an experienced cutter and to take advantage of club equipment.

Clare uses a faceting machine made by the Jarvi Tool Company in Anaheim, California, which manufactures the most complete line of gem cutting equipment in the world. The fundamental pieces of a faceting machine are the staff, quill and lap. The quill pivots on the staff with a vertical angle that can be set to the nearest tenth of a degree and also has 90 rotational positions making it remarkably accurate. This machine can be adjusted once, changed to new settings, then returned accurately to the original settings allowing it very important repeatability. The variable speed motor allows flexibility in workmanship. The lap provides the cutting power. A coarse 360 grit lap might be used for rough cutting and preliminary cutting, and a 1200 grit lap could be used for pre-polishing. After this reset the machine and use finer laps for polishing. Tin oxide and diamond laps are used for polishing. In cutting about 25% of the gemstone material is lost. If a diagram is followed strictly and executed in the correct order, the faceting design will emerge correctly.

Stones are adhered to the end of a dop with a minimal amount of hard wax. The dop is then fitted into the quill and locked in place. It is very desirable to have a mechanism to remove the stone and then replace it. After replacement it must be precisely in the same relationship to the quill as it was originally.

Clare brought several samples of stones to pass around for us to see and touch as he talked a little about the types and qualities of stones for faceting.

The international faceting competition is held every two years. For the first time in several years, the U.S. team won this year's competition. Members of the U.S. Faceter's Guild have to be rated a master faceter to compete in the national and international competitions.

Clare says that faceting is not complicated. To someone who knows nothing about faceting, it seems fairly mind boggling. The art of faceting encompasses a wide field of endeavor. Some gems may be produced with very little effort; others may require many hours of tedious work. The cutting of faceted gems is an exacting procedure. The good facet cutter is concerned with the precise placement, shape, size, and polishing of the facets that completely surround what is known as a faceted gem. Basically, faceting can be defined as cutting multiple flat planes on gemstone material to enhance its light reflecting properties. The learning curve never ends.

Any and all mistakes written here are entirely the fault of the note-taker, Kathy Clark, and are definitely not the responsibility of Clare Gagnon.

BEGINNER SCRIMSHAW

Shop Notes By Karen Fox

The newest project underway in the workshop under the tutelage of Clare Gagnon is ‘scrimshaw’. This is a type of folk art dating from at least the 17th century in which whale teeth, whale bones and walrus tusks are engraved or lightly carved with a picture or design. Obviously beginners won’t be using such precious materials, so we are starting out with slabs of white Corian, the material used to make high-end countertops. A brief description of the procedure we are using follows:

1. Find or draw a picture to be transferred and resize it as required (e.g. with a photocopier).
2. Tape a piece of carbon paper face-down onto the Corian, then center and tape the picture on top.
3. With a very hard sharp pencil (e.g. 4H), trace the picture to transfer it to the Corian.
4. Remove the carbon paper and spray the transferred image with a transparent acrylic spray to prevent smudging. Allow to dry.
5. Use an engraving tool (such as a sharp triangular sail needle imbedded in a dowel) to carve the lines into the Corian. One technique involves holding the tool and applying downward pressure with one hand while pushing the tool forward with the thumb of the other hand.
6. When most of the pattern is engraved, use a Q-tip to apply waterproof ink to the grooves. Wipe off with a paper towel, leaving ink in the grooves.
7. Deepen the grooves, complete the pattern, correct mistakes and add detail as required.
8. Recoat with ink and use a steel pad to scour away the residue and clean the surface.
9. Trim, frame or shape the slab as required to finish the piece.

It’s surprising how quickly this project can progress, and the outcome is limited only by your own imagination!



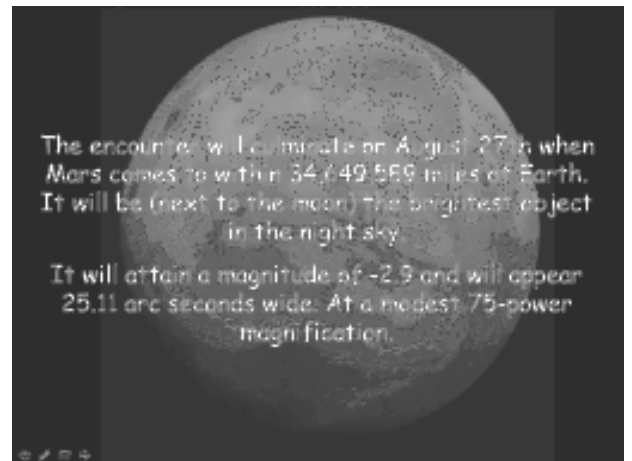
This wonderful picture was taken during our show and it is a very good example of the scrimshaw work of our friends from Carvers Guild.

MARS



MARS

Known as the Red Planet, it's about to appear in spectacular fashion!



AUGUST CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
6	7	8 7PM General Meeting	9	10 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	11	12 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
13	14	15	16	17 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	18	19 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
20	21	22	23 6-7 PM Board Meeting 7 PM By-Laws/ Standing Meeting	24 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	25	26 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
27 11 AM Searchers Picnic at Pearson Park	28	29	30	31		

Happy Birthday to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their birthdays in AUGUST!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please welcome the newest members of the Searchers' family and note the following changes:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>New Member</u></p> <p>Karen Edmonds (Christine Edmonds' daughter) 3490 Del Rey Street, #11 San Diego, CA 92109-5713 714-758-7065 cedmonds1@att.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pat's back</u></p> <p>Patricia Lynch 3272 S. Downs Dr. Chino Hills, CA 91709 909-393-2186 pat.lynych@experian.com</p>
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SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Kathy Clark
 18661 Silver Maple Way
 North Tustin, CA 92705-2144
hanky1panky3@yahoo.com
 714/639-9927

Please Print!

Date: _____

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Jr. Member 1: _____ 2: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____

2006 dues are valid January 1 through January 31.

- Individual: \$20
- Couple: \$25
- Junior members (17 and under): \$2

Please indicate the club activities that interest you:
 Minerology () Geology () Lapidary () Fossils () Other _____

- Meet other Searchers and volunteer to help a committee(s):
- Anaheim Arts Council () Historian () Library () Website ()
 - Membership () Monthly Drawing () Phone Comm. ()
 - RSN Editor () Sunshine () Veteran's Workshop ()
 - Hospitality () Workshop () Rock'n'Kids () Annual Show ()
 - Silent Auction ()



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TRADITIONAL AUGUST BIRTHSTONE -

CARNELIAN

Carnelian is commonly found throughout the world. It is comprised of silicon dioxide and is a reddish to orange form of chalcedony. Carnelian is thought to balance creativity and mental processes. It is also thought to guard against envy, rage and fear, and to help banish sorrow. Carnelian is also said to help open one's creativity, individuality, prosperity, and also to aid lower back pain, pollen allergies and even colds. It is the national gemstone of Norway and Sweden.

