

February 2012 - Volume 48 Issue 2

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The club's year is off and running. Last month's general meeting was an outstanding Silent Auction. Those of you who couldn't make it, really missed out on some awesome pieces! We also had a field-trip to Burro Creek, AZ which was a huge success.. Several members decided to combine this trip with the annual Pow Wow in Quartzsite, as we did. It made for the perfect "mini-get away" for the rock hound! At Burro Creek there was a little of something for everyone to collect from drusy to real colorful agate. I can't express enough how much fun these events can be. If you have not attended a general meeting, or gone on a field-trip lately, you really should try to! I can guarantee you won't be disappointed. Our website has recently been updated, make sure to stop by and see all the information for any upcoming field-trips and other goings on in the club. Well, that's about it... Happy February everyone, hope to see you at the next general meeting on the 14th and the next field-trip on the 18th and 19th.

Thanks, *Tery-Lynn*



FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE

Amethyst

Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz often used in jewelry. The name comes from the Ancient Greek ἀ- ("not") and μέθυστος methustos ("intoxicated"), a reference to the belief that the stone protected its owner from drunkenness; the ancient Greeks and Romans wore amethyst and made drinking vessels of it in the belief that it would prevent intoxication. It is one of several forms of quartz. Amethyst is the traditional birthstone for February.

Amethyst was used as a gemstone by the ancient Egyptians and was largely employed in antiquity for intaglio engraved gems.

The Greeks believed amethyst gems could prevent intoxication, while medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle – the reason for this being that amethysts are believed to heal people and keep them cool-headed. Beads of amethyst were found in Anglo-Saxon graves in England.

A large geode, or "amethyst-grotto", from near Santa Cruz in southern Brazil was presented at the 1902 exhibition in Düsseldorf, Germany.

In the 19th century, the color of amethyst was attributed to the presence of manganese. However, since it is capable of being greatly altered and even discharged by heat, the color was believed by some authorities to be from an organic source. Ferric thiocyanate has been suggested, and sulfur was said to have been detected in the mineral.



Beautiful purple pink shade of amethyst.

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
February 18,19	Tracy Jackson and Ira Wheeler	Castle Butte/ Four Corners/Kraemer Junction	Scheduled
March 24,25	Tracy Jackson and Ira Wheeler	Cady Mountains	Scheduled

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: www.cfmsinc.org
Also see www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html.

Other websites of interest:www.firemountaingems.comwww.southsunproducts.comwww.pioneergem.comwww.route66goldminers.orgwww.auctionmasters.com**CLUB MEETING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2012**

Date	Presenter	Subject
Tuesday Feb 14, 2012	Denise Nelson	European museum collections
May 5, 6		Searcher's 53rd Annual Show

Four Corners aka Kramer Junction/Castle Butte Trip February 18-19, 2012

Leaders: Tracy Jackson/Ira Wheeler

The Searchers will be having a field trip to The Four Corners area with a side trip to Castle Butte on Sunday. We scoped the areas out last weekend and found a large agate field at both locations, as well as jasper and jasp-agate. Also there is a seam of Green White agate material with a rootbeer colored agate in the center. This requires some digging. We will be camping near the four corners area. 4X4 should not be needed but high clearance is preferred.

Directions: Take the 15 fwy north and exit the 395 just before Victorville. Take the 395 approximately 43 miles to the intersection at the 58. Just before the intersection on the 395 there is a trailer with ANTIQUES written on the side. Enter the large lot right after the trailer on the right and there is a dirt road in the corner. There will be signs posted to the camp from there. The road is a little sandy and bumpy but should be easy enough for any vehicle.

It was pretty chilly when we were there so wear layers. Most of the rock will be surface collecting but you might want to bring some digging tools and bars as well especially if you go for the root beer agate. We will have some samples at the next meeting.

Since we are combining the next two trips into one I could use some suggestions for March's trip and other trips for the year. Please let me know if you are available to lead a trip in March or any other month this year.

Tracy Jacksonoaamimi@aol.com 714-705-3445

Cady Mountains Trip March 24-25, 2012

Leaders: Tracy Jackson/Ira Wheeler

The Searchers will be having a field trip to The Cady Mountains. We will be collecting jasper and jasp-agate. We will be camping at the Lavic Crossing area. 4X4 should not be needed but high clearance is preferred.

Directions: Take the 40 fwy east from Barstow and exit at Hector Road. Make a right then a left onto old route 66. Follow 66 until it turns and crosses the 40. Just before the turn take a right onto the dirt road to the camping area.

Most of the rock will be surface collecting but you might want to bring some digging tools in the event we go to sandy wash. There is an overabundance of materials and locations in this area.

We will be having our pot luck on Saturday night. There is lodging available in Barstow if needed.

Tracy Jackson

oaamimi@aol.com

714-705-3445

UPCOMING 2012 CFMS GEM SHOWS

Website: www.Moroks.com

February 17 - 26: INDIO, CA

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society
Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg #1
Arabia Street
Hours: 10 -10 daily
Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674
Email: bert67@verizon.net

March 3 - 4: VENTURA, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Rob Sankovich, (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net
Website: www.vgms.org

March 2 - 4: NEWARK, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
Newark Pavilion
6430 Thornton Avenue
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 887-9007
Email: info@mgscv.org
Website: www.mgscv.org

March 9 - 11: VICTORVILLE, CA (Stoddard Well)

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tailgate at Verde Antique Quarry (Stoddard Well)
Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit from I-15
Phone: (760) 243-2330
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Website: www.vvgmc.org

March 3 - 4: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
LA County Arboretum
301 Baldwin Avenue
Hours: 9 - 4:30 daily
Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624
Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com

March 10 - 11: PASADENA, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Masonic Hall
3130 Huntington Drive
San Marino, CA 91108
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239
Email: joenmar1@verizon.net

March 10 - 11: SALINAS (Spreckels), CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
Veteran's Hall, Spreckels, CA
5th & Llano Streets
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Robert L. Braun, (831) 771-2089

March 10 - 11: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society
Turlock Fairgrounds
900 North Broadway
Hours: Hours 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Terry & Bud McMillin, (209) 524-3494
Email:
bud.mcmillin.b7yj@statefarm.com
Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 16 - 18: SAN BERNADINO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Ball
Park
6707 Little League Drive
9am to Dusk daily
Contact: Steve Williams, (909) 389-8680; (909) 381- 0089 cell
Email: ironelk@ymail.com
Website: www.obmsrocks.yolasite.com

March 17 - 18: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds
McCormack Hall
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 644-9764
Email: VGMS01@yahoo.com
Website:
www.vallejogemandmineral.com

March 24 - 25: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds (Frog Town USA)

101 Frogtown Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Tak Iwata, (209) 928-5579
Email: Tak2me@msn.com
Website:
www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 24 - 25: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers
Roseville-Placer County Fairgrounds
800 All American City Blvd. (off Washington)
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114
Email:
gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
Website: www.rockrollers.com

March 31 - April 1: LEMOORE, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society
Trinity Hall
470 Champion Street
Hours: 10 - 6 daily
Contact: Judy & John Pereira, (559) 924-4052

Pictures from Burro Creek



FIELD TRIPS

Hello all, I am writing in need of suggestions for future field trips for this year. I currently need a trip for the Month of April right away. I am asking our members to send me suggestions for trips and collecting areas and willingness to lead those trips if possible. My goal this year is to visit some of your favorite sites that may not have been visited by the club over the last couple years so new members can have the opportunity to collect there. I am also working on a few long term collecting trips to Nevada and Utah. These trips will be for 3 or 4 days due to the distance and drive time. If you have a suggestion for a trip would you please provide the following information:

Name of collecting area_____

Types of material found_____

Location of collecting area. (Directions if possible)_____

If there is camping and/or hotels located near by_____

What are the road conditions. (Is the area rv accessible? 4X4 required? etc.)_____

Would you be willing to lead the trip_____

What months are best for you to lead the trip_____

Your contact information_____

I greatly appreciate you help in advance and look forward to a fun and exciting year of field trips.

Tracy Jackson

Searchers Field Trip Chair 2012

oaamimi@aol.com

714-705-3445

EMBROIDERED SEARCHERS SHIRTS

Some of you may have seen older members wearing polo shirts with the Searchers logo embroidered on them. There are actually two flavors of logo, a men's and a women's (the women's is a bit more delicate). Well now you have the chance to be just as stylish. A website has been created which has an assortment of items which are available for purchase with the Searchers logo embroidered on them. There is a broad range of items from baseball caps to hoodies, along with all kind of shirts including button down. Shirts are available with and without pockets. The prices are reasonable with the embroidery cost only \$6.

The website location is <http://www.companycasuals.com/searchers/start.jsp>

At the website you will be able to view types of clothing, and check stock for available colors and sizes etc. Once you have made a decision you will fill out an on line form out indicating what you want, and you will be contacted by the clothing company to clarify details such as which logo you want, where

you want the logo to be placed, and what color you want the logo to be. Payment will also be arranged at this time.

So here is an opportunity to show off your pride in being a member of one of the finest rock clubs around. Plus it's good advertizing for the club☺

I will try to remember to wear my embroidered shit to the general meetings so you can see what they look like.

Steve Duncan

TUMBLERS

We need tumblers (people) and tumblers (equipment) and material so that we can have enough tumbled stones ready for the show grab bags. Cynthia (cdarts1@att.net) has graciously consented to head up this project. The club has procured grit, and will supply it to be used for this endeavor. I know that there are already some folks doing some tumbling for us, but we can always use more. Cynthia would also like to borrow another tumbler if someone has one she could use. And lastly we need material for this endeavor, please bring good tumbling material to the general meetings and we will get it to the right people. So if you have a tumbler to loan, or are willing to tumble for the club and need some grit or material, or have material to donate please get in touch with Cynthia.

Regards,

Steve Duncan

BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There's plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.?

INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC WAX PEN

You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at Radio Shack, a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight. Set the dimmer control just hot enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke. Look for a soldering iron of around 25-30 watts. File the tip to the shape you prefer or even better get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks.



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

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