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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 3



MARCH 2018

The President's Message

Hello fellow Searchers

The February field trip to Lavic Siding with CFMS was a good one. Though it was only a day trip, it was well attended and the guides selected a good spot for lots of good jasper. On the way out however I took a different route than the rest of the crowd. It was still early afternoon when I spotted a passenger car where a passenger car should not be. A woman who had missed the rendezvous in the morning had decided to strike out on her own and had gotten her car stuck in the sand. She was alone and attempting to dig her car out with a rock hammer. Of course I used my winch to free her car and got her pointed toward solid road. But this incident is a good reminder that it is never a good idea to go exploring off road in a passenger car. Though there is good cell phone coverage at Lavic Siding, it not easy to find a tow truck willing to go off highway. Use good judgment. Travel in pairs when you can. Carry enough water and supplies to stay the night if you have to. Leave word where you are going and when you expect to return, and do not substantially deviate from the plan. Stay out of the desert during the heat of Summer and Fall. The desert is no place to fool around. Stay safe Searchers!

Doug Flaugh – President of Searchers Gem and Mineral Society



NOTE: We are looking for a volunteer door greeter for the monthly membership meetings. It is an easy but important job. Anyone willing to step up and take over this position can see me or Heather at the next meeting.

Please remember to bring a rock or slab for the Veterans!

Note: We just discovered that the VA lapidary shop has a faceting machine and now has someone available to teach them. Any faceting rough you could donate would be a great treat for them.

For field trip
information

contact: Matt

Buchanan V.P.

Field Trips,

Searchers Gem and

Mineral Society,

mattdbuchanan@gmail.com

[mail.com](mailto:mattdbuchanan@gmail.com)

Field Trips

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
3- 2018		Baghdad Chase Mine	
4-2018		Trilobites	

Field Trip Report to Lavic Siding

The field trip to Lavic Siding on February 17th was very well attended with over 20 vehicles lined up South of the Hector off ramp of the I-40 freeway. After everyone signed in and got the briefing, the group drove the seven miles to the railroad crossing then followed the South side of the tracks to Lavic Road. We turned South for three quarters of a mile then headed west toward the lava flows for half a mile and parked. Good Jasper and some agate was plentiful and rockhounds can afford to be selective here. Last season's rains made the washes especially productive. After a couple hours of collecting the group more or less assembled for lunch.

Many rockhounds began to sign out and call it a day, and one group took a drive to Christmas Tree Hill in the South Cady's on the other side of Highway 40.

Overall it was a very good day trip with several Searchers in attendance. The buckets filled easily and everyone made it out safely.

Doug



Planned Field Trips:

2 trips are in the planning. In March will be a trip the Baghdad Chase Mine near Ludlow. The other be will be for Trilobites also in the Calif. Desert.

Field Trip Information

Two new people have decided to take on the task of organizing field trips.

If you have an idea for a field trip, or would like to help lead one, please contact our co-field trip chairs:

Linda Jensen linda.askjaer@gmail.com

Matt Buchanan mattdbuchanan@gmail.com

Story of Estwing

Article • Stephen P. Mulqueen

Estwing Manufacturing Company

Estwing Manufacturing Company was founded in 1923 by Ernest O. Estwing. Mr. Estwing's first tool was the one-piece steel carpenter claw hammer that he designed and began manufacturing in the basement at his home in Rockford, Illinois. The claw hammer was constructed of forged high-carbon steel with tapered wood grips that were inlaid into the steel shank and fastened with two inset rivets.

Estwing's carpenter hammer sold in the mid-1920s for \$2.00, twice as much as a commonly available carpenter hammer manufactured with a standard solid wood handle. This early superior design of his hammer was not enough to make the product a huge success with the higher price. In 1925, Estwing advertised his hammer by placing a full-page ad in "The Carpenter Magazine", which first appeared in the July issue. The immediate response was overwhelming and he was faced with the inability to keep pace with demand, while continuing to manufacture the hammers by himself in his basement. Estwing saw the need to expand his operations and to build a machine shop. The early machine shop was constructed on property he purchased in Rockford, Illinois. The property is still owned and operated by Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc., located at 2647 8th St. in Rockford. With the building, he equipped the machine shop with drop-forge presses, grinding machines and ovens. He also began hiring employees and trained them with special attention to fabricating a quality product. Mr. Estwing realized that he was only able to compete in the striking-tool market with products that were superior to that of other suppliers. During the late 1920s, sales of hammers declined drastically due to the Depression Era economic downturn. Estwing was able to keep the machine shop from going under during this difficult time in American history.

The Estwing Geology Pick, A Legend Was Born, 1934

In 1934, Estwing received a note attached to an order for carpenter hammers sent by a mining engineer from Arizona:

"My blacksmith has been welding pick points to the claws of your hammers, but that still doesn't do the job where busting rocks is concerned. Have you ever considered manufacturing a special hammer-pick for prospectors and mining men? There might be a market for such a product."

It didn't take very long for Mr. Estwing to see the opportunity for an entirely new line of tools. He immediately began designing the new product, experimenting with methods of manufacturing the tool and the legendary Estwing geology pick was born during 1934. His initial design featured the familiar short blunt square head, long sharp four-sided pick end, one-piece forged steel, thin shank between the head and the handle and the distinguished laminated-leather grip. After finalizing his design and manufacturing method for the geology pick, Estwing applied for a patent to protect his interests. His initial design has not changed very much since those early years of the mid-1930s. To introduce his new product, Estwing sent complimentary rock hammers to the geology departments of several leading colleges during the mid-1930s. Geology students armed with these new "rock smashers" demonstrated the new tool's abilities while in the field. *Ernest Estwing* Word of the tools' durability began spreading like wildfire.

After the Depression Era economic downturn and the War Years had passed, the Golden Age of Rockhounding began emerging and the demand for the geology hammers increased. The sale of Estwing rock picks really took off during the Uranium Rush beginning in the early 1950s. Uranium prospectors throughout the Western States included Estwing geology picks in their list of essential prospecting equipment. The rock hammer was also a very important survival tool and could be relied upon for everything from digging holes and pounding tent stakes to splitting firewood.

Con. On page 5



Speaker Description: Continuing from his informative presentation in January, Joe will return to do an up-close demonstration on some of his jewelry-making processes. A visual aid can be very helpful, and Joe will answer your questions on specifics in jewelry making.

Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
3-13-2018	Joe Girtner	Jewelry Demo"
4-10-18	None	Show, Tell or Sell

Upcoming 2018 CFMS Gem Shows

For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site: www.cfmsinc.org

MARCH

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: showchair@mgscv.org
Website: www.mgscv.org

March 2 - 11, IMPERIAL, CA

Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society
California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta
200 East Second Street
Hours: Weekends noon - 10 pm; Weekdays 4 pm - 10 pm
Contact: John Pyle, Jr. (760) 562-3453
Website: www.ivgms.org [Show Page](#)

March 3 - 4: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
L. A. County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily
Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624,
Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com
Website: www.moroks.com

March 3 - 4: VENTURA, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 West Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Diane Cook, (805) 312-8467
Email: info@vgms.org
Website: www.vgms.org [Show Page](#)

March 10 - 11: SAN MARINO, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Ellen Ferrell, (727) 512-0381
Email: pasadenalapidary@aol.com
Website: www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org [Show Page](#)

March 10 - 11: SPRECKELS, CA

Salinas Valley Rock and Gem Club
Spreckel's Veteran's Memorial Hall
5th & Llano Streets Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Gary Beck, (831) 679-2896
Email: garybeckpca@yahoo.com
Website: <http://salinasrockandgem.pagecloud.com> [Show Page](#)

March 10 - 11: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contacts: Terry McMillin, (209) 484-4416
Email: terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com
Website: www.motherlodemineralsociety.com [Show Page](#)

March 17 - 18: SAN JOSE, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Sonia Dyer, (408) 629-5735
Email: sonia.dyer@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.scvgms.org [Show Page](#)

March 24 - 25: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds
101 Frogtown Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Robin Williams (209)-728-8277
Email: robinski@yahoo.com
Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org [Show Page](#)

March 24- 25: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society
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 [Show Page](#)

APRIL

April 6, 7 & 8: VISTA, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 North Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Contact: Kelly Hickman, (760) 622-6501
Email: kellyhickman@hotmail.com
Website: www.vistarocks.org

April 7 - 8: MARIPOSA, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5007 Fairgrounds Road (South of Mariposa off Hwy 49)
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Meredith Meehan, (559) 868-3535
Email: mgmc@sti.net
Website: mariposagemclub.org [Show Page](#)

April 21 - 22: PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rock Hounds
Paso Robles Event Center
2198 Riverside Ave.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Tina Clark, (805) 305-0246
Email: srockhounds@gmail.com
Website: srockhounds.org [Show Page](#)

April 21 - 22: THOUSAND OAKS, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park Community Center
190 Reino Road at Borchard Road
Hours: 10 - 5 Saturday; 10 - 4 Sunday
Contact: Chuck Borchart, (805) 551-9946
Email: borchartcme@gmail.com
Website: www.cgmc.org

April 28 - 29: LANCASTER, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School
44701 - 32nd Street West Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Susan Chaisson-Walblom, (661) 406-0143
Email: slchaisson@yahoo.com
Website: www.avgem.weebly.com

March Birthstone: Aquamarine



Estwing (Con. From page 3)

High Quality Carbon Steel

Estwing's steel, applied to the manufacturing of all of the company's hammers, axes, knives, chisels, pry bars and wood splitting tools, is supplied by Nucor Steel Nebraska and is delivered to Rockford, Illinois from Nucor's plant in Norfolk, Nebraska. The steel billets are composed of high-quality carbon-steel with trace amounts of chemicals added to make the metal malleable during hot-forging operations as well as to enhance strength and durability. The steel is free of non-metallic inclusions, which insures that the solid one-piece tool will be very hard, but not brittle. When fabricating a hammer in Estwing's machine shop, a steel billet is heated to a high-temperature and then subjected to several strokes on the drop-forge equipment, set with the proper dies (based on the tool's general form and design). The forged steel is then annealed in an oven for a brief period and allowed to cool slowly. The steel is finally heat-treated for an extended length of time and quenched in oil. Some variations to this process are applied to certain tools, depending on the mass of steel being formed and the tools' design applications. Details of the metallurgical chemistry, as well as manufacturing temperatures are proprietary. After forging, annealing and heat-treating, the steel is allowed to finish cooling to room temperature. The tool is then machined into its final shape. For the manufacturing of hammers and axes, the leather or vinyl grip is formed, and the tool is then machined and polished for the removal of any burrs or upsets where the grip meets the steel. The Estwing insignia is then applied to the grip. The tool is given a final polish, coated with a clear finish and applied with an adhesive decal.

The Innovations and Improvements Never Stopped

In 1960, after years of applying laminated leather for the hammer grips, Estwing Manufacturing Company introduced a blue molded nylon grip. Over 40 years later, the chemistry of the nylon grip was improved, allowing for the absorption of 50% more of the vibration shock generated from a blow of the hammer on a hard surface. Estwing Manufacturing Company's building in Rockford, Illinois has expanded numerous times since those early years of the mid-1920s to address the increase demand for tools, to house new machinery, to upgrade new electric power requirements, to modernize the office space and to produce new product lines. Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. is still a family-owned and family-managed business enterprise. Today, the company has over 200 employees. Over fifty of their employees have been with the company for more than 25 years.

The Company's dominant product line continues to be their hammers, including geology picks, carpenter hammers, engineer hammers, crack hammers and drilling hammers. Their greatest markets include the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Norway, New Zealand and Australia. In Germany, Estwing supplies the "Latthammers", specially designed roofing hammers made to exact German specifications.

Conclusion

Ernest O. Estwing had no idea that his legendary geology pick would remain as an essential tool for so many professional scientists, engineers and hobbyists. Hand tools fabricated by Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. are still made to the quality standards specified by Mr. Estwing beginning in those early years of the mid-1920s. After numerous patents, the Estwing Manufacturing Co. continues to develop new product lines and improve existing tool designs, never deviating from the high standards that made the company successful.

Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. still operates just as Mr. Estwing envisioned, remaining as a family-owned and family operated business-enterprise staffed with dedicated employees. Estwing's company website states: *"The history of Estwing Manufacturing Company reflects the promise of the free enterprise system, that success comes to anyone who can 'build a better mousetrap' "*.

Searcher's Show Needs

Searchers-As I am sure you know the show is approaching, and with it the Silent Auction. In recent years our Silent Auction has been second to none, and we plan to continue to offer people a great Silent Auction. This year we are OK as far as volume, so we do not need a bunch of material to be donated by members. What we do need is some very high quality material. If each member would donate 1 piece of high quality material that would make all the difference. Although, of course, you are welcome to donate more than 1 piece ☺ of high quality material if you feel like it. So please take this opportunity to support your club, dig deep into your rock pile, and find something nice. You can bring your donation directly to the show. Thanks, Steve

Searchers Show Update

Join Us at the Grab Bag Stuffing Party!

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 9 a.m. to noon, at Karen Kremer's house, 2933 E Ruth Pl, Orange, CA 92869. Her email is karenandkay@aol.com and her number is 714-639-8082.

We will be having a taco potluck. It's a lot of fun! Meat will be provided; please bring accompanying food and drinks. Please bring a canopy if you have one, for rain or sun.

Questions? Please call Margaret at 909-815-3045.

Searchers Show Preparation
Searchers, our show fast approaches the weekend of May 5th and 6th, 2018. Since I missed the February meeting due to a head cold, we will need to fill out our volunteer sheets in the next two months. Think about how you can help. Here is a broad overview of all of our show-related activities:

We usually load the trailer at the storage unit on Thursday afternoon or evening.

We unload the trailer at Brookhurst on Friday morning.

Also on Friday morning we set up the electrical system, tables, table coverings, signage, showcases, silent auction materials, grab bags, Wheel of Fortune, Searchers Sale table, and Minor Miner. Friday afternoon we help the kitchen prep the food while the dealers set up.

On Saturday morning we finish setting up and then open for business at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

On Sunday we are open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After a security check, we take down the table coverings, signage, tables, chairs, and pack up Searchers equipment or supplies, and load the trailer. We also clean up the site. A day or so later we unload the trailer at the storage unit.

Throughout both days of the show we serve food, and offer activities or services. We need several volunteers at each activity all day every day. These tables include: the kitchen, security, membership, Wheel of Fortune, Grab Bags, the raffle, Hospitality, Silent Auction, and Searchers

Sale Table. As a non-profit, any proceeds from the show form the majority of our operating funds.

You can help in many ways. If you can't stand all day, sign up for Wheel of Fortune, Membership, Grab Bags, Searchers Sale table, or Hospitality. Have kids? Sign up for Grab Bags and Minor Miner. If you can tolerate walking for awhile, sign up for the kitchen and security. I plan on spending the whole weekend at the show, helping with a variety of activities. Please try to help in any way that you can.

Searchers' Sale Table

Are you a new Searcher, or a long-time Searcher with extra rocks or creations on hand? Consider helping out at the Searchers Sale Table. You can sell your rock-related creations, slabs, or rough. It's a lot of fun and a great way to make new friends. We do ask that Searchers volunteer at the table for at least a couple of hours and donate 15% of their proceeds to the Searchers.

Raffle Prizes

We are looking for raffle prizes for the show. We can provide a tax donation letter as we are a non-profit! Tools and equipment attract a lot of attention, as do showy specimens. Questions? Ask Margaret at 909-815-3045.

Our next Show Committee meetings will be at 1-2:30 p.m. at the Anaheim Center, in the Senior Center area, past the workshop, through the large wooden gate.

March 3, 2018

April 7, 2018



Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

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: 6PM, 1st 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

Website: www.searchersrocks.org

Membership Dues:	Individual	\$25
	Couple	\$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:

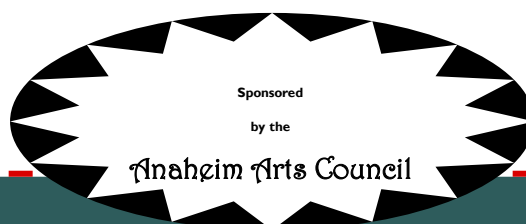
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Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies





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