

# The Rock Slab News

OCTOBER 2007 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 10

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## The Purpose of the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

*By-Laws, Article 1, 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 Again Searchers,

Well, October is officially here, far too early to suit me, but such is life. The upside to it is that it is cooling off enough to get back out to the desert once again and live to tell about it. Ahhh, more rocks, the thing we rockhounds can't seem to get enough of. And who really cares if there's no room left for more, after all, furniture is highly overrated and expendable!

Is everybody ready for the upcoming Trona adventure? I'm really looking forward to it. I have been trying to make the Trona field trip for years but something has come up or it's slipped my mind each time so far and I have yet to make it. But this year I will be there no matter what happens!

Don't quote me on this, it may just be rumor, but I have heard this may be the last chance to collect at Trona. Like I said, don't quote me on that because I am not sure how reliable that info is. If anybody out there knows the real skinny on it, please let me know.

Well, sorry this message is so short, but you're probably tired of my babbling on anyway. If not, well, you're some kind of a glutton for punishment, that's for sure.

Take Care, God Bless, and hope to see you in Trona!

Clarke

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule! [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

- General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Board Meetings:** 6 PM, 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Workshop:** Thursday, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.  
Saturday, 3 – 7 PM Free silver-smithing class 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.searchersrocks.org)
- Membership Dues:** Individual \$20  
Couple \$25  
Junior (17 & under) \$2
- Bulletin:** Submissions due 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month via e-mail to: [editor@searchersrocks.org](mailto:editor@searchersrocks.org).  
Bulletin distributed 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** April 20, 1958
- Affiliations:**
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
  - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

## SEARCHERS BOARD

### Officers

President	Clarke Benich	714/552-7336
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. (Programs)	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Robert Burson	562/860-5938
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	909/393-2186
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	Patricia Underwood	714/293-2940
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	Karen Martinez	562/423-2832
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

## OCTOBER PROGRAM

by Walter Mroch

Mike Eubank and the local Gold Prospectors Association of America chapter will be giving a presentation on gold mining and history. In addition they will have a full setup for gold panning where members can pan for gold, or they can also buy some concentrates and take them home to pan. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime event so please plan to attend. We sponsor the GPAA at our annual Show by providing them with space to demonstrate and promote the hobby and their unique gold sniping skills. It is a valuable addition to our Show and gives adults and children alike the chance to pan for their own gold and learn about the hobby.

## LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

By now all of us who attended September's meeting will agree that Larry Richey is a great teacher. Larry's workmanship is stupendously overwhelming to a lot of us and his knowledge and teaching abilities are nonpareil. Whatever it takes to achieve a method or an end, he'll find a way to help you. And the best sign of a wonderful teacher is that he is never condescending or obnoxious and always patient.

Here is a recap of Larry's presentation on using a jeweler's saw:

Using a jeweler's saw saves time, saves material, doesn't distort and saves filing.

- Rules:
1. Metal must be clean
  2. Pieces must fit tight
  3. Must be fluxed
  4. All pieces must reach soldering temperature at same time

After using tin snips to cut metal sheet, use hammer and metal plate to straighten. Hit and drag the hammer back towards edge gets rid of beating your metal back to straight.

Tools you will need:

Saw and blades (\$5/dozen for good blades)

Scribe or center punch  
Bench pin  
Drill set (high speed steel #61-80) (from Rio Grande)  
Optivisor  
Lube (beeswax, paraffin, burr life)  
Oil of wintergreen

Saw frames: small 2-3/4 inches; large 14 inches deep  
Frames available in 2-3/4-3-4-4-3/4-5-6-11-14  
Larry recommends 5 or 6 inch frame

Custom Frames: Make saw handle fit hand, use Jett Sett (an air-drying clay) that can be put around the handle grip; also Velcro or an elastic band can be used to hold the frame handle to the hand.

Lubricator: This is not necessary but sometimes speeds sawing especially on “gummy” metals such as fine silver or copper. Use beeswax, oil of wintergreen, or cut lube.

Tim McCreight’s “Complete Metal Smith” or Rio Grande will contain or have available a “jeweler’s saw blade size & use chart.” A rule of thumb is to use 2-1/2 to 3 teeth for width of sheet metal.

Blade Insertion Method:

1. Clamp one end, adjust frame “spring” of the saw frame and push on end of bench pin.

Teeth must point towards the handle. (Blade will sing in only one direction).

2. Clamp both ends of blade and adjust (pull/push frame).

Use of Bench Pins:

Wood: Must fit bench or clamp to table  
Clamps (piercers’ pleasures), spring loaded  
7 x 3 inches wide \$17  
Help start cuts, supports work, use as a straight line by using edge of pin

Location of pin? Chest high

Layout (design): White tempera, white shoe polish, layout fluid (dye kam), use label paper, white contact paper (shelf lining), photo copies, glue and tape (make extra copies), wrap with scotch tape because it’s clear

Sawing: Piece being sawn should be horizontal and blade must be tight. Teeth must point towards handle. The saw cuts on the down stroke. The blade should always travel at right angle to work piece. The saw blade goes up and down the whole length of blade (full stroke) so the blade can cool off. Turn the piece on the bench pin.

Put wax on the end of an acid brush. Hold this in other hand. When silver dust and wax builds up brush it off. When you need more lube use the other end with the wax.

Use correct blade (3 teeth in contact). Relax hand holding the saw. Do not bend wrist. Do not clutch or jerk the frame. Turn the work piece not the saw. Long slow strokes.

When done correctly, sawing is a relaxed and rhythmic experience.

Piercing: This is the term given to sawing when working within a piece. Begin drilling a hole in each compartment to be sawn (use a pin vise). Piercing is not only an extremely versatile process, but a preliminary step in many other procedures.

Coin Cutting: It is illegal to deface to defraud a coin. The artistic cutting of coins is an art and is not illegal. Coins are a great way to learn how to use your saw. Use a pencil or pen to mark lines so you don't saw past certain places. Tips: Mark areas to stop, cut around numbers and letters last, tilt saw.

Drill a hole where you want to start and stop sawing. Also by doing this you end up with a positive and a negative image creating two projects for you. There are no files small enough to get into a coin so you learn to use your saw.

Larry believes we ought to send money into space because it tells the story: metallurgy, what we look like, our beliefs, history, the year, all kinds of information about US.

Congratulations to Margaret Neeley who received a gorgeous coin with a cut out seahorse over turquoise that Larry graciously donated for a drawing held just for the ladies present.

*Watch for announcement  
of ROCK SALE on November 17  
at Margaret Neeley's  
in the November Rock Slab.*

## OCTOBER EVENTS

- 9 7-9 PM General Meeting  
13-14 October Field Trip to Trona  
17 7-8 PM Board Meeting
- 20-21 Mineral Locality Symposium in Amboy, CA  
(see enclosed flyer)

See [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org) for information and application forms for Zzyzx Camp (There will be a few application forms available at our Membership table, ask Kathy Clark)

See [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org) and [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com) for shows and events

Look up [www.amateurgeologist.com](http://www.amateurgeologist.com). A very cool website.

**Don't forget:** "Colors of Light and Stone" at Bowers Museum in Orange. Look up [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org) for information.

## OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2007

By Robert Burson

October 13 & 14, 2007 Field Trip is to Trona. This is one the most unique outdoor experiences in the field of geology. Some yearly events will attract up to 1000 participants. The time is ticking on this unique experience. The club members of the Searles Gem and Mineral Society have stated that this could be the last year. The minerals involved are fairly rare: Hanksite is a pyramidal translucent evaporite. The only other location is Saudi Arabia. Sunday's trip to the pink halite is very highly valued. There are no accommodations in Trona. Camping is \$5.00/night, 5 miles north of Trona at Valley Wells Recreation Area. Hotel accommodations are available in Ridgecrest, which is approximately 45 minutes to the west from Trona. We will meet Saturday morning at 8:00a.m. at the Gem-o-Rama building. Field trip starts at 9:00a.m. Searles Gem and Mineral website <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/> has detailed information on all aspects. Please feel free to contact me, Robert Burson on 562-860-5938 regarding any questions or concerns. There is a pancake breakfast at 7:30a.m. in town, for details go to the website. A change of clothing is an absolute must.

Directions: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=Trona,+CA,+United+States+of+America&a=X&oi=map&ct=title> exit hwy 178 to Ridgecrest then on to Trona.

*[Continues on the next page]*

**OCTOBER FIELD TRIP**

*[Continues from the previous page]*

**Clear Creek cancelled until a later date.**

SLG & MS Lapidary Show Building  
13337 Main Street (corner of Main & Trona Road)

The Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society sponsors this event at this time each year, and you are guaranteed to come away with some great stuff. They have an outstanding Gem & Mineral Show with hourly door prizes and free admission. The field trips are a real bargain. You WILL find some outstanding specimens. Bring rubber gloves and old clothes and shoes for the trips. A change of clothes is recommended for the hanksite, which is in a sticky black (smelly) mud, but the results are worth it.

Searles Dry Lake Field Trips

Registration: hours 7:30-9:00am and 1:30-2:30pm (you must register during these times to go on field trips)

Mud Trip 2-1/2 hrs – Departs Sat. 9am – Cluster & barrel hanksite, trona, borax - \$8/car  
Blow Hole 2-1/2 hrs – Departs Sat. 2:30pm – Hanksite, halite, borax, sulfohalite - \$8/car  
Pink Halite – 4-1/2 hrs – Departs Sun. 9am – Pink halite in brine, under hard salt -\$10/car

Show Activities

20 Dealers – 50 exhibits – Geode cutting and sales – Demonstrations – Games – Gem Dig - Catered cafeteria in show building – Lunch Sat. & Sun. 10am-4pm – Dinner Fri. & Sat. 5pm-7pm – Live Theater: Living History, An Evening with John Searles, Sat. 7:30pm

Other Activities

Searles Valley Minerals' Plant Tours – Sat. 11, 12, 1 & 2; Sun. 12 and 1 – in bus FREE  
Pinnacles National Natural Landmark – self guided, info at Show – free  
History House & Old Guest House Museum – Sat. 10am-4pm; Sun. 10am-2pm  
Pancake Breakfast – Trona Community Church -2 blocks north of Show Sat. & Sun. 6am  
Trona Elks Lodge Dinner – Sat. 4pm-7:30pm – adults \$7

## **MINERAL LOCALITY SYMPOSIUM**

### **Sources of Iron (terrestrial or not) and Vanadium in the Mohave Desert**

October 20 & 21, 2007

Followed by a field trip to the Iron Hat Mine on Saturday and the Bessemer Mine on Sunday

\$20.00 Fee includes: Saturday Lectures, Coffee, Lunch, & Field Trip & the Sunday Field Trip

Sponsored By

**Southern California Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy**

Roy 's Gas & Café  
6666 National Trails Highway  
Old Route 66  
Amboy, CA 92304

Take I-15 from LA to Barstow . Gas up at Barstow . Take I-40 east past Ludlow . Exit south at Kelbaker Road to Old Route 66, then west to Amboy.

Delicious Juan Pollo chicken dinner will be served for lunch on Saturday. Please R.S.V.P. to: Jennifer Rohl, rohlon@yahoo.com or via cell phone (714) 293-0156 no later than October 5, 2007 .

#### **Saturday Symposium & Field Trip**

- 9:00 AM Registration for Symposium and Field Trips – (Coffee and snacks available)
- 9:30 Welcome, Bob Reynolds, President, SCFM
- 9:40 Stratigraphy and Structure of the Bristol & Marble Mountains —Howard Brown, OMYA
- 10:10 Iron Hat Mine, Marble Mountains —Bruce Bridenbecker, Professor, Copper Mountain College
- 10:40 Iron Ore Emplacement in the Soda Mountains — Kim Bishop, Professor, CSULA
- 11:00 Vanadium and California Vanadinite Localities—Paul Adams, SCFM
- 11:30 Meteorites in the eastern Mojave Desert —Bob Verish, SCFM
- 12:00 Trip To Bessemer Iron Mine, Upper Johnson Valley —Robert Housley, SCFM
- 12:15 – 1:30 PM  
Lunch Break  
Lunch Meeting - SCFM meeting
- 1:30 Afternoon field trip led by Bruce Bridenbecker to the Iron Hat Mine, Marble Mountains .
- 6:00 [Picnic Dinner in Twentynine Palms, location announced at symposium]

#### **Sunday Field Trip Information**

Field trip begins at 9 AM at Hwy 241 & Bessemer Mine Road. Details of the field trip will be announced at the meeting. High clearance vehicles are recommended. Maps and directions will be supplied during that time. Out of town visitors can stay in Barstow or Twentynine Palms.

Bob

Robert Housley  
210 S. Catalina Ave. #3  
Pasadena CA 91106  
626-449-6454  
[rhousley@its.caltech.edu](mailto:rhousley@its.caltech.edu)



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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please welcome our newest members of the Searchers' family:

<p>Laura &amp; Howard Hewitt 18045 Gooseberry Dr. Rowland Heights., CA 91748 626-913-1339 <a href="mailto:lehew01@roadrunner.com">lehew01@roadrunner.com</a></p>	<p>Shirley Reynolds &amp; Chris Rael 9 St. Isabella Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 949-429-2161 <a href="mailto:trailgirl888@yahoo.com">trailgirl888@yahoo.com</a></p>
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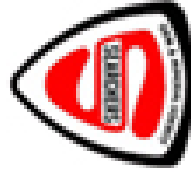


***Happy Birthday to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their birthdays in OCTOBER!***



*Printouts of the roster will be available at the next meetings. For those of you receiving the newsletter by email, the rosters will be emailed to you in PDF format and separately from the newsletter. The roster will be setup on a spreadsheet and not the usual booklet form you all have become accustomed to over the years. I've got too many jobs to do and this was the easiest way for me to handle the roster and it is cheaper too. Please look it over, and if you find ANYTHING amiss please let me know. Thank you for the patience you all have displayed over this long-awaited roster.*





Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark, *Editors*  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144



# The Rock Slab News

Volume 42 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2007



## OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE TOURMALINE

The four most common and well known tourmalines are distinguished by their color and transparencies. Elbaite is the gemstone tourmaline and comes in many varied and beautiful colors. It is transparent to translucent and is highly prized as mineral specimens and as gemstones. A beautiful blue variety is called indicolite (also known as indigolite), the pink to red variety is called rubellite, and the green variety is known as verdilite. Often a specimen can have more than one color zone in the same crystal, with the most famous variety being a pink and green combination called watermelon tourmaline. Elbaite is easily the most colorful of all the gemstones. The iron rich schorl is the most abundant tourmaline and is black and opaque. It is a common accessory in igneous and metamorphic rocks and can form nice crystals. Although too opaque to be used as a gemstone, schorl is used as an ornamental stone when found as inclusions in quartz, a stone is called tourmalinated quartz. The two other more common tourmalines: dravite and uvite are much less common than elbaite or schorl, but they are getting noticed for their beautiful specimens. Some of dravite's crystals are nicely formed, translucent brown and they can reach a rather large size. Uvite is a green translucent to opaque tourmaline that is growing in popularity and is being cut as a gemstone.