

The Rock Slab News

AUGUST 2005 VOLUME 40 ISSUE 8

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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 Karen Fox

I must have blinked – here we are in August and summer's nearly over. I hope you've been able to indulge in our favorite hobby in some way over the summer. Although field trips in Southern California can be a questionable undertaking during the summer months, I was lucky enough to take a brief trip with my family to Oregon.

The scenery of this state is awesome and shows ample evidence of its volcanic origins, from crater lakes to lava-cast forests (more like 'molds' left as trees burned away when flooded by sticky molten basalt) to fields of pumice by the roadside. I couldn't resist hopping out of the car to gather a bag full of pumice pebbles for our children's programs – after all, what kid can resist a rock that floats on water?

A highlight of the trip was a stop at Richardson's Recreational Ranch near Madras to collect thunder eggs. These 'eggs' filled with gemmy vari-colored chalcedony form when mineral-rich ground water infiltrates gas pockets in rhyolitic lava flows. Richardson's is a fee-collecting locality, but you can camp for free in their grassy field and awaken to the sounds of cows lowing, roosters crowing and peacocks mewing. This farmyard life, combined with a pond filled with tadpoles and frogs at the collecting site, was incredibly exciting for the kids (and pretty pleasant for the parents)! Besides the opportunity to collect more thunder eggs than you'll ever need, Richardson's has a yard full of cutting rough and a store filled with fabulous worked material. They specialize in sphere-making and are currently doing custom jobs using semiconductor silicon and Hubble telescope glass. If you're ever planning a trip to Oregon, make it a point to stop by Richardson's Ranch!

Gateway Rt., Box 440
Madras, Oregon 97741
(541) 475-2680

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: 7 PM, 4th Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Workshop: Thursday, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.
Saturday, 3 – 7 PM (10PM if staffed). Free silver-smithing class 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays (schedule varies).

No workshops: Nov 24 & 26, Dec 24, Jan 1.

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: xemaron@worldnet.att.net
Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:
Nora O'Campo
1000 W. Broadway Ave.,
Anaheim, CA 92805-3610

Charter Date: June 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

SEARCHERS BOARD

Officers

President	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Co- 1 st V.P.	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Robert Burson	562/860-5938
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/826-2844
Treasurer	Carol Hesse	562/598-5561
Federation Delegate	Sharon Burson	562/860-5938

Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Nora De O'Campo	714/490-0416
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality	Patricia Underwood	562/864-4195
Library	Maggie Vigil	714/288-2072
Membership	Nora O'Campo	714/490-0416
Monthly Drawing	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/827-8345
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
2005 Show	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
Show Co-Chair	Robert Burson	562/860-5938
Sunshine	Sharon Burson	562/860-5938
Veteran's Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Will Shaw	949/306-7098
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714/778-1496
Rock 'n' Kids	OPEN	

AUGUST EVENTS

- 9** **General Meeting, 7-9 PM**
 Australian Opal. *Leslie Neff & Larry*
 Hoskinson
- 19** **Rock Slab News bulletin deadline**
- 20/21** **Jade Cove/Willow Cove Field Trip**
- 31** **August Board Meeting** (*rescheduled*)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

By Steve Duncan

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
TBD	Rainbow Ridge	TBD	Rainbow Jasper	Tentative
TBD	Mule Canyon	TBD	Silver Onyx	Tentative
August 20 & 21, 2005	Jade Cove, Willow Creek	Steve Duncan	Jade and agate on the beach and the stream bed	Confirmed
Summer 2005	Jalama Beach	TBD	Travertine, agate	Postponed
Sept 2005	Clear Creek	Herb Beckman	Jade, Plasma Agate	Dates TBD

AUGUST WORKSHOP UPDATE

Wire-Wrapping: Instructor Jeri Frank will be out of the workshop until around mid-August. However, there are usually other skilled members available to offer helpful hints.

Silversmithing: Instructor Clare Gagnon plans to be in the shop August 6, 13 and 20.

CHANGES TO THE BULLETIN

By Karen Fox

The first glance at this month’s bulletin will, I’m sure, have prompted many of you to say “What happened to our beautiful booklet layout?” It was indeed beautiful and even award-winning. However, for various technical reasons, we were unable to share it in softcopy form and so couldn’t distribute the workload, send it to members via e-mail, or even consider making it available on our website. Even if you could receive the files, the half-page layout takes a couple of extra steps to collate and could potentially be a source of frustration.

Ultimately, we’d like to make our Bulletin available in PDF format and easily printable by the user. But, don’t panic! Although members will have the option to receive Bulletins by e-mail, we know many of you need and rely on your printed version and so we will continue to provide it!

As we work our way through this, we’re currently trying out an 8.5” by 11” format, left-stapled. The key issue behind-the-scenes is which software to use, and that is sure to drive changes in layout and organization as we find the best approach. We’re also experimenting with including photos, but may not have used the best preparation technique for this issue. Please have patience with us and the problems that may arise in the short-term, and if you have any desktop publishing insights, we’d be delighted to learn from you.

ANNUAL DINNER

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 3 at Mama Cozza’s in Anaheim for our annual dinner and installation of officers!

RUMMAGE SALE REPORT

By Lorri Renck

We held a rummage sale to benefit the club at my house on July 9. We had a pretty good turn out. We put several signs around the neighborhood and out by the major street. There was a pretty steady stream of people all day.

I would like to thank everyone who donated items including Helen Schleiderer, Herb Beckman, Virgil Talbott, Bob and Linda Gilland, Patricia Underwood, Pat Lynch, Betty and Harry Nelson, Karen Fox, Steve Duncan, Curtis and Kathy Clark, Jimmy Peterson, Ester Reynolds and Beth Pelfrey.

Thank you so much to those who gave up their Saturday to work at the yard sale. Thanks to Carol Hesse, co-ordinator, Faye Mc Dowell, Patricia Underwood, Beth Pelfrey, Jimmy Peterson, Ester Reynolds and Clark Benich. We couldn't have done it without the charm and salesmanship of Steve Duncan; he really moved the merchandise. Bob Gilland took over the afternoon shift, kept the sale going and hauled off everything that was left.

We cleared \$282.00. We couldn't have done it without all your hard work!

Note from the President: We couldn't have done it without Lorri either. Thank you Lorri for the use of your garage and for your co-ordination effort! Judging by the photos, a good time was had by all.



Faye McDowell and Carol Hesse try out the merchandise.



Beth Pelfrey gets the party rolling!

THANKS

By Betty Nelson

I just wanted to say Thank You to the Searchers, especially to the executive board and the chairmen:

Harry and I have been Searcher members for over 30 years. It's pretty obvious that we wouldn't have stayed that long if we hadn't enjoyed our membership. Over the years, both Harry and I have held a number of positions on the executive board including club president and a number of chairmanships including show chairman. We understand the dedication and effort it takes to fill those spots. No one can satisfy all the members, but our folks have done a pretty good job. While other rock hound clubs have been struggling just to stay alive, we have continued to thrive. By maintaining our active membership in the Arts Council and their sponsorship of our club, we have an excellent place to hold our meetings and a location for our workshop at no cost to the club. We also have the Council to thank for the use of the Brookhurst Community Center for our show. Most clubs have had to give up on both workshops and shows. Few, if any, clubs have members who loyally and regularly support a workshop as foremen and trainers two days every week, giving lessons to members in lapidary, wirewrapping and silversmithing. Few clubs enjoy such a fully-maintained and well-equipped shop as ours. Our prize-winning bulletin and our Web page keep us informed. We even have an excellent library on our hobby. We have been able to continue field trips on a regular basis thanks to our field trip chairmen and we support an active junior membership. We have a reputation for our active work with youth in the community as well as for our support of veterans. It seems to me that the members take a lot of this for granted. I don't think that we as Searchers say THANK YOU enough to those

who keep our club going, so I'd like to say it now...

THANK YOU EXECUTIVE BOARD AND
THANK YOU CLUB CHAIRMEN FOR A
JOB WELL DONE.

FOR SALE

18" Raytech saw

Excellent condition

\$1500. firm

Steve Peters

Yucaipa, CA

909-797-1584 or 909-557-3112

steve-ruth@prodigy.net

Searchers T-Shirts

with club logo on front & back

Large, medium, extra large

White or red

\$7 each

Available at general meetings

SUNSHINE REPORT

Clarke Benich reports that his hip surgery was very successful and he's now free of the pain medications he previously required just to function. We all think he looks years younger!

Clare Gagnon, our cherished silver-smithing instructor, suffered a couple of 'silent' heart attacks a while ago that slowed him down and put him under a doctor's care. Happily, he's back in the shop and looking as cheery as ever. Just a reminder to us all to fully appreciate the people around us, and to say thank you whenever we can.

Milt Green and Milly Arvanites, now retired from the Searchers, are doing well, but Milt recently suffered a table-saw accident, severely cutting three fingers, one to the bone. The first bandages are now coming off, and we hope there's no permanent damage!

Conrad Cone, now deceased, was an accomplished silversmith, devoted teacher and long-time Searcher. Walter Mroch is currently preparing documentation to support Conrad's nomination to the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame.

If you know of a member or member's family in need of a little cheer, please mention it to our Sunshine Coordinator. She's there to give comfort calls and send Sunshine cards to let members know the Searchers care.

Sharon Burson

562-860-5938

ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

It was a pleasure to see Searchers out for the annual potluck picnic on July 31, including several members that we rarely meet. So glad you could make it!

Our sincere apologies to everyone who interpreted a confusing entry in the Bulletin to mean that the picnic was to be in August.

SEARCHERS WIN BLUE RIBBON

The Searchers display case at the Orange County Fair has been awarded a **1st Place Blue Ribbon** in the Club Exhibits/General Jewelry & Lapidary category. Thanks to all who loaned their works of art, and many thanks also to those who helped lay out the case and who demonstrated at the fair!

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		2	3	4 6-10 PM lapidary workshop	5	6 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
7	8	9 7-9 PM Gen. Meeting Australian Opal	10	11 6-10 PM lapidary workshop	12	13 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
14	15	16	17	18 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class (tentative)	19	20 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing Jade Cove F.T.
21 Jade Cove/Willow Creek Field Trip	22	23	24	25 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	26	27 3-7 PM lapidary
28	29	30	31 7-10 PM Board Meeting (rescheduled)			

CFMS GEM SHOWS

For a full list, go to www.cfmsinc.org

SEPTEMBER 17 - 18; PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park and Museum
2010 Riverside Ave.
Hours: 10 – 5 both days
Joyce Baird (805) 462-9544
Email: liljoysee@webtv.net

OCTOBER 2; FALLBROOK, CA
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society,
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum,
123 W. Alvarado Street
Hours: 10 – 4
FBMS Board; Email:
FGMS@tfb.com
(760) 728-1130

SEPTEMBER 23 – 25; SAN BERNARDINO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League
Park; 6707 Little League Drive
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9 – 6; Sun. 9 - 4
Mike Woolery (909) 882-6806
Email: ROCKPIK98@aol.com

OCTOBER 8 – 9; TRONA, CA
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Soc.,
Searles Lake G & M. Show Bldg.,
13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat. 7:30 – 5; Sun. 7:30 – 4
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356
Email: jbfairchild@verizon.net

SEPTEMBER 24 – 25; DOWNEY, CA

Delters Gem & Mineral Society
Downey Women's Club
9813 Paramount Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 – 6; Sun. 10 – 4
Earl Liston (562) 865-1348
Email: ejliston5@juno.com

OCTOBER 8 – 9; LAKESIDE, CA
EL Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
Hwy. 67 & Mapleview Street
Hours: 10 – 5 both days
Peggy Bowery (619) 561-1823
Email: Docsgirl9@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 24 – 25; SAN DIEGO, CA

San Diego Lapidary Society
Bernardo Winery
13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte
Hours: 10 – 4 both days
Kim Hutsell (619) 294-3914
Email: sdlapidary@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 15 – 16; LONG BEACH, CA
Mineralogical Society of Southern
CA
Long Beach Convention & Expo
Center; 300 East Ocean Blvd.
Hours: 10 – 5 both days
Jason Butts Email:
msscshow@hotmail.com

SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Nora De O'Campo
1000 W. Broadway Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92805-3610
xemaron@worldnet.att.net
714/490-0416

Please Print!

Date: _____
Name 1: _____
Name 2: _____
Jr. Member 1: _____ 2: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____

Dues are valid January 1 through December 31 and are not prorated.

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 ()



Nora De O'Campo, *Editor*
1000 W. Broadway Ave.
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August Birthstone - Peridot

August's birthstone is Peridot, a transparent lime or olive-green stone. Peridot is found in Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Myanmar, Norway, and the United States. According to lore, the effects of a drug were intensified if taken from a cup made of peridot. Pirates considered peridot powerful amulets against all evil.

Chemical Formula: $(\text{Mg, Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$

Composition: Magnesium 34.55%, Oxygen 45.49%

Molecular Weight = 140.69 gm

Locality: Mt. Somma, Vesuvius, Italy. In the U.S., peridot is

mined in Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii and New Mexico.

Cleavage: {001} good, [010] distinct.

Color: colorless, green, yellow, yellow-green, brownish

Density: 3.21 – 3.33, ave = 3.27

Diaphaneity: transparent

Crystal System: Orthorhombic

Habits: occurs as well-formed fine crystals, often short compact prisms, vertically striated..

Hardness: 6 – 7 (orthoclase – quartz)

Refractive Index: 1.654-1.690

Luminescence: non-fluorescent

Luster: vitreous (glassy)

Streak: white