

The Rock Slab News

SEPTEMBER 2005 VOLUME 40 ISSUE 9

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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

Fall is here, vacations are over, the kids are back to school and college classes have started. This activity on all sides is enough to inspire some attempts at self-improvement! Aside from the excellent hands-on instruction in silversmithing, wirewrapping and lapidary provided by our own members in our workshop, rockhounds may find several of the options available from Orange County colleges to be quite tempting.

Fullerton College, Santa Ana College/Santiago Canyon College (SAC/SCC) and Irvine Valley College (IVC) all offer a variety of fairly typical full-semester courses in topics such as physical and marine geology. Some of the Historical Geology courses incorporate a little Paleontology into the study plan. Of particular note however, are the 'Geology Field Study' programs consisting of one to four day trips to geologically noteworthy sites, generally augmented by orientation and wrap-up sessions. This fall semester IVC is holding a National Parks and Monuments Field Study Program October 13-16, meeting at Great Basin in Nevada. An earlier trip visits the Eastern Sierra Sept 16-18. Similar programs offered by Santa Ana College visit San Diego County (Sept 30 – Oct 2), Joshua Tree National Park (Sept 30 – Oct 2), and Orange County (Nov 5 and Nov 12). This last is probably accessible to many of us.

Moving from the purely academic to incorporate a little art and aesthetics, Santiago Canyon College is unique in that it is the only public college or university offering classes and a certificate program in Gemology. This term SCC offers the following courses meeting two evenings per week: Introduction to Colored Stones; Diamonds; Antique and Period Jewelry; and Pearls.

On to the purely artistic, Fullerton offers ART classes in Jewelry Casting and Jewelry Fabrication, from basic silversmithing to advanced techniques.

By no means exhaustive, the tidbits above serve purely as a reminder of the resources available to us here in Orange County.

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@sbcglobal.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	

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 13** **General Meeting, 7-9 PM**
 Art Clay Silver, *Karen Pester*
- 16** **Rock Slab News bulletin deadline**
- 24/25** **Field Trip - Rainbow Ridge/Sheep Springs**
- 28** **August Board Meeting**

PROGRAM LOOK-AHEAD

Date	Topic	Speaker
Oct 11, 2005	Fossils	Joel Cocke
Nov 8, 2005	Fun With Gemology	Lothar Vallot
Dec 3, 2005	Holiday Dinner/Installation of Officers	At Mama Cozza's, Anaheim

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
Sept 24&25	Rainbow Ridge And Sheep Springs	Steve Duncan	Rainbow Jasper, Moss Agate and more	Confirmed. Permission granted from Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society, \$5 per person fee
Oct 2005	Clear Creek	Herb Beckman	Jade, Plasma Agate	Planned. Postponed to late October due to BLM closure. Dates TBD
Nov 2005	Wiley Wells?	Robert Burson	Geodes	Planned, final location still TBD

We still need input from members. Tell us about places you would like to go, regardless of whether you have been there before. In the case of places with which you have some experience, we need you to share your knowledge. Maybe you could even lead or co-lead a field trip. Please contact Steve Duncan at (714) 724 7102 or wsd@iteris.com

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Art Clay Silver

This month Karen Pester will speak to the Searchers about Art Clay Silver. This material is made of finely powdered pure silver, water and binders. When heated to 800-850 degrees C, the organic binders burn off, leaving a pure silver piece.

Karen has been involved with art for as long as she can remember, from childhood when she watched her artist grandfather paint through 20 years of teaching art to children in Palos Verdes and Los Angeles Unified School Districts. She got her first kiln for firing ceramics, but quickly developed a passion for working with glass using the same tool. Art Clay is clearly a natural extension and Karen has been an Art Clay Silver Senior Instructor for several years. She teaches both glass and Art Clay classes at her studio, finding the two compliment one another well.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

Sept 24 & 25, 2005

Rainbow Ridge and Sheep Springs

By Steve Duncan

The planned September trip to Clear Creek has been postponed to the latter half of October due to the fact that the BLM has closed the area until October 15th. This closure is due to concern over wind blown, naturally occurring asbestos (???). Yes, this is a real phenomenon; however it seems very unlikely that limited exposure (such as our field trip) would be a concern. It is also curious that the re-opening of the area coincides with the beginning of hunting season. Do you think the NRA has more clout than the rockhounds? Anyway, being good law-abiding citizens we are rescheduling for October, dates TBD.

Instead, in September we will go to Rainbow Ridge and Sheep Springs in the Inyokern/Ridgecrest area. Rainbow ridge is a famous location for multi-colored jasper. This location is a private claim held by the Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society, but we have their permission to collect at their claim; there is a \$5 per person fee. Sheep Springs is known for high quality moss agate.

We will be camping Friday and Saturday night at a location called the Quarry, which is on the road to Sheep Springs (directions follow). This is a typical desert camp with no facilities, so bring what you need, including lots of water. It can be hot in the daytime and cool at night. This location should be accessible for RVs. The collecting areas will probably be best accessed by truck, but 4-wheel drive should not be a necessity (at least that's what we understand today). If we learn differently, we can always carpool (truck pool?). We will have our traditional potluck and campfire on Saturday night. Non-campers will find motels in Ridgecrest, about 10 miles away.

To get to the campsite, take 395 north towards Inyokern. Approximately 16 miles past Red Mountain you will come to a junction with South China Lake Blvd going east and the Randsburg Inyokern road going west. Take the Randsburg Inyokern road west for 3.9 miles and then turn left (south) on a dirt road towards Sheep Springs. Go 2.1 miles and the campsite is on the left (east) side of the road. These directions are taken from the Gem Trails of Southern California, page 142 & 143. We should have some Searchers' signs out to help you. Anyone who is planning on going up early Friday, please contact me so you can help with the signage.

Both of these sites have a good reputation for high quality material and our gatherings are pretty much guaranteed to be a lot of fun, so I hope you have an opportunity to join us. For field trip newbies, you don't need much. A

rock pick, a spray bottle and something to carry your rocks in is all you need. You will find the scenery great, the companionship excellent, and you may get to hear something too seldom heard in the city, silence.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Jade Cove and Willow Creek

August 20 & 21, 2005

By Steve Duncan

While everyone was suffering through the heat down in Anaheim, a group of Searchers was enjoying cool weather and unbeatable scenery on the Willow Creek field trip. Jimmy Peterson, Ester Reynolds, Herb Beckman, Beth Pelfrey, Karen Martinez, Steve Duncan, Marcia Duncan, Robert Burson, Sharon Burson, and Sharon's brother Gordon all tried their hand at locating some of the elusive Monterey Jade. We may have needed some of Larry Ritchie's expert help, as pickings were a little slim, at least from what I saw of the Searchers' bounty. We did find some small pieces (pebbles?) of jade, and some beach agate. Other rockhounds did show us some of their finds, and some were quite fine, one being a piece of beautiful blue green jade 3"x4".

We also collected at Sand Dollar beach and if you wanted shiny green serpentine, there were boulders of it, but again the jade proved hard to find.

Adding to the rockhounding, the Bursons visited Hearst's castle and along the way did some more collecting with significant success. Beth, Karen and the Duncans stopped off to see the elephant seals at the preserve near Piedras Blancas. The Willow Creek area is beautiful in a Big Sur kind of way, with steep hills and cliffs dropping into the sea. It made for a very pleasant camping and collecting trip. The less than spectacular finds at the main site proved again that there is more to rockhounding than the finding and it never hurts to explore a little. A good time was had by all.

LAST MONTH Opal in Australia

By Karen Fox

At the August meeting Larry Hoskinson and Leslie Neff presented a fascinating program covering their experiences as ‘occasional’ collectors in the opal fields of Coober Pedy, Australia. In fact, they visit regularly and enjoy the collecting and the friendliness of the locals so much that they say “Everyone should try it!”

Much of the opal is mined underground using a jackhammer to loosen the rock. Once the opal has been removed, the detritus is sucked to the surface through pipes attached to tremendous blowers. Not only do these blowers remove scrap rock and clay, they can also, Larry warns, suck up your lunch, your leg or your poodle. The abandoned pile of debris is referred to as a ‘mullach’ heap and is a favorite place for the amateur ‘fossicker’ (opal-collector) to investigate. In general, heaps near the edge of a field of mullachs should be avoided, because the miners obviously kept looking, and heaps showing three colors of dirt may indicate opal present at three levels in the rock. Much of the hunting can be done at night with the aid of a UV lamp. Opal fluoresces white and phosphoresces green, while scorpions and toilet paper don’t phosphoresce. Just be cautious – old mine shafts and holes don’t light up at all!

Less than 1% of the mines are currently under claim, but if you visit, do watch for pegged claims. Various ‘warning’ and ‘keep out’ signs abound but are meaningless because this is Crown Land and open to anyone; they were placed to scare away tourists after a visiting lawyer’s wife fell down a mineshaft and he attempted to sue. Australia does not charge to take the opal off the ground and export it, and doesn’t care how much raw rock you remove. However, if you want to stay and work a claim there will be fees. Should this suit your fancy, it’s often possible to buy a mine at a reasonable

price – when people finally decide to get out, they want to do it immediately.

The Outback of Australia needs tourist dollars. Coober Pedy caters to tourists and can be a fascinating place to visit as long as you do your homework, prepare adequately and use caution!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kathy Clark (714-639-9927) will head the committee responsible for the nomination of officers for the 2006 Searchers Board. She will be supported by Beth Pelfrey and Clarke Benich. This is ***your*** opportunity to support and influence the development of our Club. Please take a moment now to check page 2 of this bulletin to decide which Board or Committee position(s) would interest you – then be sure to talk to Kathy, Beth or Clarke.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

By Karen Fox

Last month was our first recent attempt to produce our Bulletin in PDF format and e-mail it to members. We managed, but revealed several problems associated with the quality of photo reproduction, file size and computer compatibility between pc and Mac. Next month we will try out PageMaker software in the hopes that it will solve some problems.

Ultimately we expect to offer members a choice between softcopy or printed versions of the Bulletin, in the hopes that some will choose softcopy and thus help us reduce printing and mailing costs. Further steps will introduce the capability to download the Bulletin from our website. But remember, **IF YOU WANT A TRADITIONAL PRINTED BULLETIN, WE PROMISE TO PROVIDE IT!!!** Please think of this as progress, not just change!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please help us welcome the newest members to the Searchers' family, and take note of changes to add to your 2005 roster.

New Members

Nugent, Jim, Denise &

Kendra- Jr. Member

521 Iris Ave.

Corona del Mar, CA 92625-2224

(949) 759-9003

Scott, Lynda & **Marshall**, Ross

1290 Baltimore Cr.

Corona, CA 92882

(951) 895-4632

Changes of Address

Nichols, Audrey **PHONE TREE**

200 N. Dale Ave. # 225

Anaheim, CA 92801-4809

nicholsa@webtv.net

(714) 827-8345

O'Campo, Anastacio, anastacioocampo@sbcglobal.net

O'Campo, Nora, xemaron@sbcglobal.net

Pittman, Raymond L.

1454 Bunker Hill Cr.

San Jacinto, CA 92583

r66dog98@aol.com

(951) 487-8611

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	2	3 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
4	5	6	7	8 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	9	10 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
11	12	13 7-9 PM Gen. Meeting Art Clay Silver	14	15 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	15 Bulletin deadline	17 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
18	19	20	21	22 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	23	24 3-7 PM lapidary, Field Trip Rainbow R...
25 Field Trip Rainbow Ridge/Sheep Springs	26	27	28 7-10 PM Board Meeting	29 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	30	

Congratulations to all those Searcher members who celebrate their birthdays in September. May you receive a nice rock as a birthday gift!

Have you noticed that specific birthday greetings were absent on the last 2 calendars? That's partially because concerns have been raised over 'insult by omission' and information security. If you miss them, please let us know.

CFMS GEM SHOWS

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

SEPTEMBER 17 - 18; JACKSON, CA

Fossils for Fun Society
5th Annual Tailgate Gemboree
Kennedy Mine in Jackson, CA
Hours: Both days 9 – 5
Dan Brown (209) 296-6466
Email: danbrown@volcano.net

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

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

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 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

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

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

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@sbcglobal.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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September 2005



September Birthstone - Sapphire

Sapphire is the term used for all gem-quality corundum that is not red. However, as late as the Middle Ages, the name referred to a stone now known as Lapis Lazuli. Although sapphire comes in a rainbow of shades, the most recognized color is blue. The coloring agent in blue sapphire is iron & titanium; in violet stones, vanadium. A small iron content results in yellow and green tones; chrome produces pink. It is found in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and elsewhere.

Chemical Formula: Al_2O_3

Cleavage: none

Fracture: small conchoidal, uneven, splintery

Color: blue, colorless, pink, orange, yellow, green, purple, black

Density: 3.99 – 4.00

Diaphaneity: transparent, opaque

Crystal System: Trigonal

Habits: dipyramidal, barrel-shaped, tabloid-shaped

Hardness: 9

Refractive Index: 1.766 – 1.774

Double refraction: -0.008

Dispersion: 0.018

Luminescence: variable

Luster: vitreous (glassy)

Streak: white