

The Rock Slab News

MARCH 2009 VOLUME 46 ISSUE 3

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Norbert Bernhardt

Wow! February is sure a short month. Here I am again at the P.M. page! I hope all of you are gearing up for our annual show on May 2nd and 3rd. It would be great to see some of your latest creations of jewelry, cabochons, faceted gems and silver smithing work. I am certainly looking forward to it. At the general meeting, please volunteer for a few hours at the show, either in the kitchen, grab bags, membership, wheel of fortune, children's jewelry, etc. Let's all have fun, work as a team and promote our love for rocks and minerals. Let your friends and neighbors know about our show.

I have sent out our demonstrators application to the Orange County Fair. Tentative dates are on Sunday, July 12 or 26 or August 2. Demo time is 10am-9pm. If you are interested in participating please let me know.

On a sadder note, Carl Schleiderer passed away this past February. We send our sympathies to his wife Helen. I know that all our club members will really miss Carl.

On Sunday, March 22nd we will have a Grab Bag Stuffing Party at Norbert and Ana's. We will provide a small lunch of barbecued hot dogs, chili and ????. Come, work a little, and then have some lunch on us. Remember, there will be a show committee meeting around noon and a Rock'n Kids jewelry class.

See you all at the March general meeting. Bring a friend!

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Individuals \$25

Couples \$35

Children (17 and under) \$10

If you have not paid your dues, you will be dropped from the membership roster, forfeit workshop privileges, and no longer receive the newsletter.

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: 7PM, Wed. after general meeting,
 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).

No workshops: January 1, 2009

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:
 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

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2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714-724-7102
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Workshop	Herb Beckman	714-778-1496
Rock'n Kids	Ana Lorenzo	714-734-9665

Sponsored by:
Anaheim Arts Council

MARCH PROGRAM

by Brian Kussman

Our February program was the film "Ring of Fire." Much of the reason for this choice, aside from being a great film, was to give an understanding of why so many volcanoes can be found in the Pacific Northwest. Recently a volcano in Alaska named Redoubt has been showing strong signs of an eruption in the near future. There have been countless tremors coming from under the mountain including several hours of straight tremors a few days ago. Geologists and volcanologists think this volcano will erupt in the next few months. Here is a great website that gives up-to-date information on the volcano including webcams, seismographs and status updates: <http://www.avo.alaska.edu/activity/Redoubt.php>.

The March program will feature a film about earthquakes that will run just under an hour.

PERITO MORENO GLACIER

Searcher Jim Baker sent this to us. This is an every-four-year event that has gone on for centuries. This clip is of the spectacular South American glacier, The Perito Moreno Glacier, which breaks up every four years like clockwork, give or take a week. There are photographers from the four corners of the earth that come to southern Argentina and literally camp out at the glacier site in order to get the actual breakup on film. The individual who filmed this did a marvelous job. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLazY-5zxFQ>. If you do not have a computer, ask someone who does to show you this video. It really is amazing. Thanks, Jim.

ICE AGE FOSSILS

This page was sent to us by Searcher Susan Hansen. Go to <http://cbs2.com/local/ice.age.fossils.2.937436.html>. Scientists are studying a cache of Ice Age fossils near the La Brea Tar Pits. Thank you, Susan. Please keep sending these interesting articles to us.

ROCK'N KIDS NEWS

WE ARE HAVING A GRAB BAG STUFFING PARTY MARCH 22, 9:00 AM AT NORBERT AND ANA'S HOUSE.
JEWELRY CLASS TO FOLLOW FROM 11 AM. TO 12 PM.
WE WILL PROVIDE LUNCH.
TO RSVP PLEASE CALL
ANA LORENZO AT 714-615-2184 BY MARCH 19TH

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please welcome the newest members of the Searchers' family:

John & Roberta Lane
Aaron Prah
Victoria Serna

Felyce Thomas
Larry & Thelma Thacker
Jeff Wichert

MARCH FIELD TRIPS

by Steve Duncan

The March Field trip is on **March 14th and 15th**. This a joint trip led by Karl Zeline, the field trip leader from the Indian Wells club. This trip is to Rainbow Ledge (incorrectly called Rainbow Ridge), where we will be able to collect the famous Rainbow Ledge multicolored jasp/agate. This location is a private claim that has been closed for several years due to some problems with other clubs. This is a unique opportunity; I have been trying to arrange this trip for several years. I assume we will not get another chance soon. So I highly recommend that you try to make this trip. The material is beautiful, and the collecting opportunity rare. Karl is actually the person who filed the claim, so he is very knowledgeable about the site, and should be able to show us how to find the best material. There is a \$5 per person fee donated to the Indian Wells club. This fee is used to defray the cost of their claim filing which is \$160/yr. Their claim in turn keeps the BLM from closing the road to the area. So it's a worthy cause.

There is a lot of material in float here; some people may try some digging. In addition there are huge boulders that can be worked, but this is definitely hard rock mining (sledge and gads). This can be hard work.

We will be meeting Karl at the junction of Brown Rd (shows up on some maps as Randsburg Inyokern Rd) and the power line road at 0830 on Sat AM. We will spend all day at the site, so you will want to bring lunch. The last time I was there the site was accessible by any high clearance vehicle.

We will be camping Friday and Saturday night. 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 Brown Rd (Randsburg Inyokern) road going west. Take Brown road (Randsburg Inyokern road) west for 3.9 miles and then turn left (south) on a dirt road towards Sheep Springs.

At 2.1 miles there is a quarry that is sheltered from the wind. This is our first choice but the last time it was chained off. Second choice is a few hundred yards further on the road to an abandoned building site (all that is left is the slab). This is choice number 2. Look for the Searcher signs.

Closest motels would be in Ridgecrest.

We will have or standard Sat potluck. The collecting site for Sunday is still TBD.

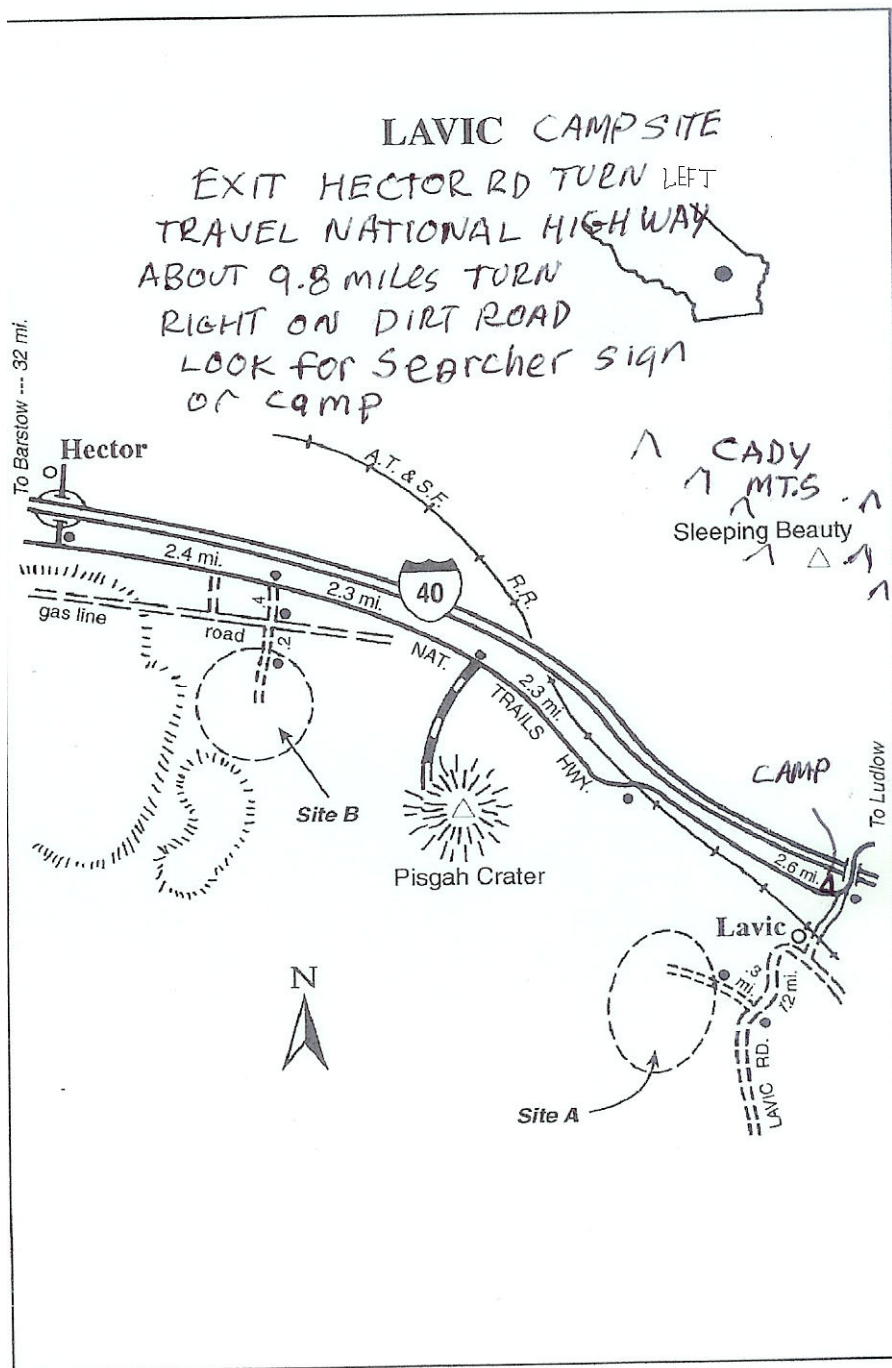
I would like to stress again that that this is a rare opportunity to collect some beautiful material, I highly recommend you join us if you can.

Saturday, March 21, there are plans for a one day trip to Tick Canyon to collect howlite. This trip would be led by Beth Pelfry, who is working to get permission to access the area. . These plans are still tentative, and I will update you as more details become available.

APRIL FIELD TRIP

by Steve Duncan

April 11th and 12th I will lead a trip to the Ludlow area. We will camp where old 66 crosses the 40 freeway, at our standard site:



The collecting will be Lavic Siding, the Cady Mountains, and the Thulite site. This will be a joint trip with the Indian Wells club; it is in exchange for our trip to Rainbow Ledge. Many of you know the Ludlow sites, they are generally quite productive. Field trips will leave from the camp at 0830 on both days.

Closest motel is in Ludlow about 7 miles away, Barstow (40 miles) has a large selection.

There may well be a second trip in April, Brian Kussman is working on putting a trip together. He has some intimate knowledge of "special sites" which are not documented in any rockhounding books, so this should be a good trip also. These plans are still tentative, and I will update you as more details become available.

All of our campsites will be dry camps, so bring what you need. Don't forget water, sunscreen and hats. Hiking boots or good walking shoes help a lot, and eye protection for when you are using your rock pick is recommended. Sat nights we have a potluck and bonfire, bring some goodies to share. As far as rockhounding tools most trips require only a rock pick and spray bottle. For the motivated, hard rock mining tools could be used at the Rainbow Ledge trip.

MARCH EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
5,12,19,26	6-10pm	Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping)
7,14,21,28	3-7pm	Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing)
10	7-10pm	March General Meeting
11	7-9pm	Board Meeting @ Norbert Bernhardt's
13,14,15	9am-5pm	Stoddard Wells "Rock Hound Tailgate" in Victorville, I-15 towards Barstow, exit 165 follow Sorrel Trail/Wild Wash Rd. 2.8 miles, Follow Sorrel Trail 5 miles, turn left at Guatala Rd/Sorrel Trail 1.2 Miles, turn right at Stoddard Wells Rd.
14 & 15	8:30am	Field Trip—Rainbow Ledge
21	TBD	Field Trip—Tick Canyon for Howlite
22	9am-noon	Grab Bag Stuffing Party @ Norbert & Ana's
22	Noon	Show Committee Meeting directly following Grab Bag Stuffing Party @ Norbert & Ana's
28	10am-5pm	South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Show—Torrance Recreational Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA Roger Mills 310-377-6226 or roger_mills@acm.org
29	10am-4pm	
29	1pm	CFMS will be at South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Show to evaluate Selected exhibit cases per the AFMS competition rules. This is a "dry run" for individuals wanting to compete at the CFMS/AFMS Show in 2010

APRIL EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
7	7pm	April General Meeting
8	7pm	Board Meeting @ Norbert's

13-24

ANAHEIM DOWNTON CENTER CLOSED

11 & 12	8:30am	Field Trip—Lavic Siding, the Cady Mountains, and the Thulite site
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2009 “ROCK N ROLL ROCK HOP” SHOW REPORT

by Jim Williamson

On Thursday, February 12th, we held the 2nd show committee meeting. Approximately 15 committee members were in attendance. The meeting was very productive, covering a lot of ground. Our show committee chairpersons need YOUR help. Sign-up sheet for all the various jobs that need to be done will be available at the March general meeting. As hard as the show committee works at putting on a great show, only the Searcher members can make it great. Now is the time to sign-up, let the committee know who is doing what and when they're doing it. All of the prime choices are still available. If you are unable to attend the March general meeting, please call the committee chairperson responsible for the show activities you are interested in and sign-up over the phone, or through an email. A list of show committee chairpersons is included in this newsletter. Get involved and see just how rewarding it can be.

ROCK N ROLL ROCK HOP SHOW CHAIRPERSONS

Show Chairman: Jim Williamson 714-995-9080 rockpick@sbcglobal.net
 Co-Show Chairman: Larry Richey 714-846-3573 sandbandit1@verizon.net
 Publicity: Clarke Benich 714-639-9927 clarkebenich@yahoo.com
 Security: Jesse Garza 714-523-2353 sirjimgarza@sbcglobal.net & Larry Richey
 Friday Night Dinner: Kathy Clark 714-639-9927 hanky1panky3@yahoo.com
 Demonstrations: Keith Droste 714-563-4754 kdroste@sbcglobal.net
 Kitchen: Beth Pelfrey 714-774-2754 pelfrey@sbcglobal.net
 Dealers: Walter Mroch 714-826-2132 hwmroch@gmail.com
 Grab Bags: Chris Edmonds 714-758-7065 christin-edmonds@sbcglobal.net
 Hospitality: Steve Duncan 714-724-7102 wsd@iteris.com
 Membership: Kathy Clark 714-639-9927 hanky1panky3@yahoo.com
 Decorations: Darshini 714-484-2766 darshini_inspirit@yahoo.com
 Layout and Electrical: Herb Beckman 714-778-1496 hbeckman@earthlink.net
 Setup and Tear Down: Norbert Bernhardt 714-734-9665 nbern@cox.net
 Hourly Door Prizes: Rachel Brophy 562-522-3667 shamrockwishes@yahoo.com
 Prom Queen: Burt Fortin 714-890-8083
 Cases and Trophies: Margaret Neeley 714-535-2030
 Silent Auction: Robert Burson 562-860-5938
 Show Secretary: Kathy Clark 714-639-9927 hanky1panky3@yahoo.com
 Show Treasurer: Pat Lynch 909-393-2186 (daytime 714-830-5607) pat.lynch@experian.com
 Wheel of Fortune: Jim Peterson & Ester Reynolds 714-633-7573 jimmypeterson@msn.com
 Signs: Terri & Glenn Benedict 714-573-1424 terri024@sbcglobal.net
 Special Exhibits: Betty Nelson 714-530-1365 betty@azteche.com
 Children's Jewelry: John O'Connor 714-669-8149 joconnor@kfengineering.com
 Anaheim Arts Council: Margaret Neeley 714-535-2030

NEXT SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next show committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 22nd, following the Grab Bag Stuffing Party that Ana and Norbert are hosting.

GRAB BAG STUFFING PARTY

by Chris Edmonds

I need people to sew up the sides of pre-cut bags. The Stuffing Party is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 9am to Noon at Norbert and Ana's. They will be providing a lunch of barbecued hotdogs. I can also use any and all little "trinkets" to imbed in some of the grab bags as prizes. Also, anyone that has a stash of tumbled rocks to donate should bring them to the March general meeting on Tuesday, March 10, or contact me and I will pick up all offerings.

DEMONSTRATORS WANTED

by Keith Droste

We want to give our members first shot at demonstration spaces at our upcoming show in May. If you make jewelry, gem carve or whatever, why not share it with the public. We would like to keep this within our club, however, we will go to the Vets and outside demonstrators if necessary. If you feel like "showing off" your skills, please call me, Keith Droste, at 714-563-4754 or e-mail kdroste@sbcglobal.net to discuss days and times. The sooner we can get this together the happier the show committee and I will be. P.S. Also need "cabbers"!

HOURLY DOOR PRIZES

by Rachel Brophy

Knock, Knock. Who's There? . . . Donut. Donut Who? Do-nut you wanna contribute toward the Searchers' annual gem show?

I know that's a lame lead-in, but it might be just lame enough to catch people's attention!

As you all know, Searchers will be hosting its 50th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, "Festival of Gems-50Years of History" on May 2-3, 2009. That's where you come in! We need items for the hourly door prizes, not to mention gift boxes to put them in and any other desirable pieces suitable for the give-away.

I've witnessed several of you will amazing talents, and I've only been a member for a month! So, please help us out by donating one of your polished gems or interesting finds for the drawing. It's a great way to showcase our best and most talented members. . .that's you!

If you are interested in donating an item for the drawing, please contact me, Rachel Brophy, at sham-rockwishes@yahoo.com. I'd be happy to help take it off your hands.

SHOW CASES

by Margaret Neeley

Have you signed up to put in a case? If not – Why not? Do it now! Since you are a member we know you have an interest in rocks, so gather them up and show them.

At our show we do not have any regulations as what must be put in a case. In past years members have displayed minerals – silversmithing – polished stones mounted or not – beading – crystals – rocks that seem to have a picture – inlay work – unusual slabs – or something you may have purchased made out of rock that you like. Don't forget we have a workshop if you need help.

If you need a case or have one that you will loan or sell, let me know. Margaret Neeley at 714-535-2030.

HOT FROM THE KITCHEN: ONLY ONE MORE MEETING BEFORE THE SHOW, PEOPLE!

by Beth Pelfrey

Show dates are May 2-3, 2009, so March and April Meetings are all we have in terms of time for planning. I would like to have a **meeting at my house on Saturday, April 18 of some of the kitchen volunteers** to make sure we do some pre-planning for this 50th anniversary show. I got some good ideas from many of you last year and maybe we can implement those. Let me know if you can come.

The show theme is "Rock n Roll Hop" so think black and white checked table covers, maybe re-use one or two of the old red and white, colored napkins – pink? 1959 style dress especially on the line, if you can – bow ties and Peter Pan collars, poodle skirts, crinolines, white socks, high-water pants, Luckies rolled in T-shirt sleeves? I don't plan to horrify anyone with a short skirt, but am planning to turn my brain back to school daze and put my thinking cap on.

I am asking for help on the kitchen this year as usual. The menu will be our signature jumbo dogs, chili dogs, 'kraut dogs, nachos, home-made lemonade, miscellaneous salads and turkey sandwiches. I need donations of pies, cakes and cookies for both Saturday and Sunday at the Show. This is the OTHER item we are famous for: fresh and delicious desserts. I would like to know who is bringing what and when, please. The best time for delivery is in the mornings on both days. I think we do need more brought in on Saturday and any not sold will be properly stored until Sunday.

I would like for two or three people to come on Friday early-ish when we can get in, that is, to help scrub down the kitchen and put away the supplies as they are brought in and unpacked from storage. Probably a run to Costco/S & F/ whatever will be necessary. Because of storage issues, I want the food to be fresh on Friday, not before. We will need three large cooler boxes for regular, diet and water drinks. I have two. We are good on coffee pots, I think, unless MY 1959 to 1964 pots died in the garage. Unlikely. The center has one we use each year as well.

We will need lots of help in 2-4 hour shifts on Saturday and Sunday. The shifts will begin Saturday: 8 a.m.-10 a.m., Show opens at 10. 10-2 is probably the busiest time in back and on the serving line both days. We will close the kitchen at 4 on Saturday and 3:30 on Sunday to clean up. Remember on Sunday, we have to pack for storage and clean and scrub the kitchen again! We MUST be out of the center by or before 7:00. That was kinda close last year.

Those of us who have cases to take down will plan on doing it promptly after the show closes then finish in the kitchen.

So join the fun and let me know when you want to volunteer and for how long. Let's help make this 50th show really rock n roll n groove. Thanks for everything, boys and girls.

Beth Pelfrey, Chair Home 714-774-2754, pelfreye@sbcglobal.net
Write me at 9612 Rosebay St, Anaheim, CA 92804

SHOW SECURITY

For Your Safety and Protection

CASES

Please remember that we do not allow any display case or exhibit to be opened or removed during Show hours.

Sunday at the close of the Show everyone will leave the exhibit hall until Security has cleared the building. This should take 5 to 10 minutes with your help. Then you will be allowed back into the exhibit hall to remove your case, or open it to remove your things.

If you need help or have a problem, please let myself or Show Chairman know. This is for your safety and protection.

NAME BADGES

Remember to wear your club name badge to the Show this year. Sunday at the close of the Show everyone will leave the exhibit hall until Security has cleared the building. This should take 5 to 10 minutes with your help. You will be allowed back in **if you are wearing your Searcher name badge**. This is to insure that all unauthorized people or leftover guests from the Show will be cleared from the exhibit hall and **ONLY** those people involved in the Show breakdown activities will be allowed back into the exhibit hall.

If anyone needs help with their display or they need help from someone other than a club member or they are non-club members picking up exhibits at the close of the Show on Sunday, they **will need a special badge**. Please see me Friday during setup, Saturday during the Show or early Sunday so I may see that they receive a badge or proper pass before the close of the Show.

Thank you,
Jesus Garza, Show Security

SUNSHINE REPORT

It was a pleasure to see Don Setto at the February meeting. Don has been absent from the club for sometime as he was the caregiver for his mother who passed away last month. Our deepest condolences go out to Don and his family.

Let's get some good vibes going towards Bob Piazza and wish him the best on his upcoming surgery.

And to all Searchers out there who are recovering from various ailments, get well and come on back to the Searchers. We miss you.

IN OUR MEMORIES

by Kathy Clark

Long-time Searcher Carl Schleiderer passed away Sunday, February 15, 2009. Eventhough knowing Carl only a few years, my husband Curt and I enjoyed him enormously and were very fond of him. He was always so pleasant and had a great sense of humor. He was young at heart and he enjoyed the Searchers. Carl was a wonderful man and he will be missed. Our hearts go out to his wife Helen at this time and would that she knows that Heaven is a brighter place now with Carl residing there.

REPORT FROM VETERANS COORDINATOR

By Larry Richey

New law allows veterans' salutes during anthem. Release No. 10-16-08 October 31, 2008.

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) – Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

“The military salute is a unique gesture that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Dr. James B Peake, secretary of Veterans Affairs. “This provision allows the appalication of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

The provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year’s provision also aplied to servicemembers while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authoriza-tion Act of 2009, which President Bush signed Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of uniform servicemembers during the raising, lower-ing or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008. (Courtesy of VA News).

For a complete listing of Gem & Mineral Shows go to www.cfmsinc.org, www.rockngem.com and www.gemfaire.com. And don't forget the Route 66 Gold Miners at www.route66goldminers.org and the GPAA at www.goldprospectors.com.

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

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 3492 Anaheim, California 92803

www.searchersrocks.org

Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT

Date _____

Name (1): _____

Name (2) _____

Jr. Member (1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone # _____ Occupation _____

Please indicate your field of interest by checking any/all of the following:

Mineralogy () Geology () Paleontology () Lapidary/Workshops () Field Trips ()

Other () _____

How did you become aware of the Searchers? Friend/Relative () Member () Internet ()

Other () _____

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization and we rely upon volunteers within our club to serve on our committees as well as our board members. This field is optional and only serves as future information. Making a checkmark in any area in no way obligates you to volunteer or serve in any of the positions or on any of its committees.

Please mark any/all fields you may be interested in, or have a special expertise in:

Anaheim Arts Council () Club Historian () Librarian () Webmaster ()

Phone Comm. () Membership Chairman () Monthly Drawings ()

Newsletter Editor () Sunshine () Hospitality () Annual Show ()

Veteran's Workshop () Silent Auction () Rock'N'Kids () Workshop ()

Annual Dues: Individual: \$25 Couple: \$35 Junior Members (17 & under) : \$10

Valid Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, not prorated. *Subject to change.*

Please make Check payable to: "The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc."

**mail to: Glenn Benedict
Membership Chairman
1202 Skyline Drive
North Tustin, CA 92705**

JANUARY FIELD TRIP TO NUEVO DUMPS



The Rock Slab News

February 2009

Volume 46 ISSUE 2



MARCH BIRTHSTONE

Aquamarine

The gemstone aquamarine is the blue-green or aqua variety of the mineral beryl. Aquamarine is the birthstone for March. The hardness and durability of aquamarine make it a fine gemstone, and its typical delicate color allows it to be used in a larger stone where its beauty can be impressive. Aquamarine is colored by trace amounts of iron, and most gem aquamarines have been heat treated to produce the popular blue-green colors from less desirable yellow or pale stones. The leading producer of aquamarines is Brazil, which has many mines. Pakistan, as well as many U.S. localities produce wonderful specimens as well. Recently, a new mine in China has produced large numbers of excellent flat hexagonal crystals, for a fraction of the price of those beautiful Pakistan specimens.



Kathy Clark, *Editor*
18661 Silver Maple Way
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144

