

The Rock Slab News

SEPTEMBER 2006 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 9

Inside This Issue

President's Message.....	1
General Information.....	2
Searchers Board.....	2
September Events.....	3
Field Trip Schedule.....	3
September Field Trip.....	3
Last Month's Rogram.....	3
September Program.....	3
The Searchers' 2007 Show Is On Its Way.....	4
Sunshine Report.....	5
Membership Update.....	5
Searchers' Picnic.....	6
Unauthorized Field Trip.....	8
September Calendar.....	9

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

Well, summer's end is upon us and rockhounding weather is just around the corner. I sincerely hope our new members will be joining us this season on our field trips. It would be nice to have the chance to become acquainted. Jimmy Peterson is recovering from his back surgery just in time for the rockhounding weather -- almost as if he'd planned it that way, eh?

We will be having a live auction at October's general meeting, as well as a silent auction, so you don't want to miss this one! Our auctioneer is none other than our 1st vice president and program director, Virgil Talbott.

Back to the subject of field trips, since our club had none planned for July due to the heat, I had to cheat and horn in on a trip to the Thursday Mine just out of Julian hosted by the Diehard Rockhounds. Actually, my infidelity is all Curt and Kathy Clark's fault -- they dragged me kicking and screaming into the Bronco, Curt stayed to take care of his folks and before I knew it I was at the mine. It was a night dig (due to the heat) and was a lot of fun. We met some really nice people, learned more than I'll ever remember about pegmatites, and even had a light show in the sky (meteor shower) compliments of Mother Nature. We had a great time in the mine with Tom talking and digging. When he brought out the high pressure sprayer to dig with, he began unearthing some green material that Kathy was really excited over. Every time she'd get excited, he'd begin teasing her, then I joined in and we had a lot of laughs. We left with some real nice pieces of lepidolite. It will be interesting to see how it comes out polished.

See you at the next meeting,

Clarke

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:** 6 PM, 4th Wednesday 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).
- 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
- 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: editor@searchersrocks.org.
Bulletin distributed 1st 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:** June 20, 1958
- Affiliations:**
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

SEARCHERS BOARD

Officers

President	Clarke Benich	714/552-7336
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Treasurer	Patricia Underwood	562/864-4195
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		
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		
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
Rock 'n' Kids	OPEN	

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 10 2 pm Show Meeting at Betty Nelson's house
- 12 7-9 pm General Meeting
- 23-24 Greenhorn Mountains Field Trip
- 27 6 pm Board Meeting
- 27 7 pm By-Laws/Standing Rules Review Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

By Steve Duncan

The September field trip will be the weekend of September 23 to the Greenhorn Mountains for rose quartz. This may also include a stop at a tungsten mine for garnet, epidote and scheelite. This will be a multi-club trip, including the Sierra Pelona club. Details to be forthcoming, when available they will be put on the website www.searchersrocks.org, as well as discussed at the September general meeting. You can also call me, Steve Duncan, at 714-724-7102 if you have any questions.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
September 23, 24	Greenhorn Mountains	Steve Duncan	Rose Quartz	Planned

LAST MONTH'S ROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Because it is summertime and lots of Searchers are out of town vacationing and also because it's been so hot, it was anticipated that attendance at the general meetings would be low. Instead of hosting a guest speaker who would be missed by so many of us, we watched a video instead. "The Complete Metalsmith with Tim McCreight" is a valuable learning tool for those who are interested in silversmithing. This video talked about basic jewelry making, joining, cutting, forming and surface techniques. Tim McCreight being a fabulous jeweler, personable and very organized is superb on his teaching videos and books. I hope we are able to obtain more of his work.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

By Virgil Talbott

Bill and Isabella Burns who hail from Monterey Park, California, will be presenting our September program on Virgin Valley Opals which are found in the northwest corner of Nevada. Bill and Isabella are active in several mineral and gem societies. Both are Past Presidents of CFMS and have held responsible chairmanships in CFMS shows, including the 60th Anniversary "Diamond Daze" CFMS/AFMS Show. Isabella is also a Past President of AFMS and was the moving force in establishing the CFMS Earth Science Studies. Sounds like we don't want to miss this one! We'll probably have lots of questions following the program. Please attend and get reacquainted and inspired after this long hot summer.

THE SEARCHERS' 2007 SHOW IS ON ITS WAY

By Betty Nelson

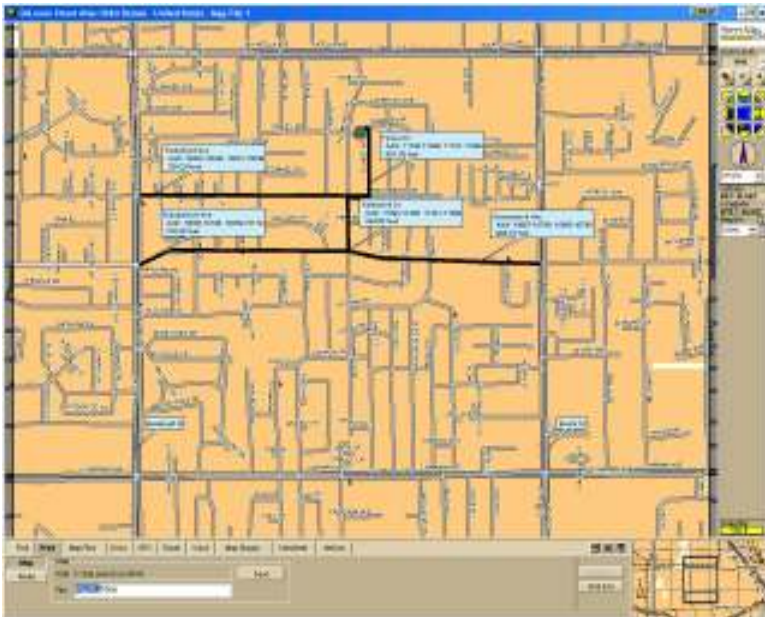
The Show dates are May 5th and 6th. The Brookhurst Community Center has already been reserved. The first Show meeting will be at the Nelson's home on Sunday, September 10, at 2 PM. A map is in the bulletin. My phone number is 714-530-1365. Future meetings have been scheduled for 7 PM in the Board Room of the Anaheim Downtown Center on the third Wednesdays of October, January, February and April.

Sadly, we no longer have Ken Landers who has been responsible for our grab bags for so many years. A new member, Christine Edmonds, has volunteered to take this over. She is going to need lots of help from the rest of us. Grant Miller has started us off with the first bag of tumbled stones. Thank you, Grant! We need Searchers to bring in tumbled stones and small colorful rocks for Christine. We will have a box available at all meetings for your donations.

We are looking for Show ideas from everybody. Things you especially liked or didn't like about past shows. Things you saw at other club shows we might consider, or any original ideas you have for making our show better. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have an idea, but do it SOON. Changes take time to implement.

Remember, our show has several purposes. It lets people know the Searchers exist and what we do. It attracts new members. It is our ONLY FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR. Dues don't begin to cover the Searchers' expenses and contributions. This means the participation of every Searcher is vital. There are still five show positions open. Please talk to either me, Betty Nelson, or Kathy Clark about them if you are interested.

With everyone's help, we are planning on another successful Show in 2007.



Betty Nelson
10571 Overman Drive
Garden Grove, CA 92640-1220
714-530-1365
betty@azteche.com

SUNSHINE REPORT

By Kathy Clark

All of our well-wishes are extended to Grant Miller who is having gallbladder surgery on Tuesday, September 5. Grant, you are in our thoughts and prayers for a successful surgery and a very speedy recovery.



If you know of any of our Searchers who need cheering up, please contact Kathy Clark at 714-639-9927 or hanky1panky3@yahoo.com or Carlene Blake our Sunshine Chairman at 714-549-0099 or cblake@promogiant.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please welcome the newest members of the Searcher's family:

Cengiz & Pamela Dogan
1681 W. Tedmar Ave. Apt. 29
Anaheim, CA 92802
714-717-2872
pamspillane@yahoo.com

Also, we've heard from our past president Karen Fox. She and her family have moved and are getting settled into their new home in Canada. Karen reports, "No great rocks to report – some basic mineral types to rebuild my children's program supplies, and some Ordovician corals and stromatoporoids from Manitoulin Island."

Karen Fox
309 Bushwood Ct.
Waterloo, Ontario
N2T 2E5
Canada
519-884-2702]
the_rox_fox@yahoo.com

SEARCHERS' PICNIC

By Kathy Clark

Quite a few Searchers attended the potluck picnic on Sunday, August 27, at Pearson Park. BUT NOT ENOUGH!! The food was great. We had grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and chicken and ribs. Lots of salads and even two homemade desserts – a cheesecake and Mixed Berry Terrine! Can you believe that?! The weather cooperated so it wasn't quite as hot as it had been, and we had a marvelous location along Harbor Blvd. under large shade trees. It was a lazy afternoon with plenty of time to talk and get to know each other better. Where were YOU?





UNAUTHORIZED FIELD TRIP

By Kathy Clark

While at the Searchers' workshop Clarke Benich learned of a DIEHARDS field trip scheduled for August 12 to the Thursday Mine. So, Clarke and I loaded up everything we could think of, left Curt in charge of looking after his elderly parents, and took off for the mine. The traffic was incredibly bad, but we were the first ones to arrive at the meeting place, Banner Corner which is 7 miles east of Julian. We were an hour early and then had another thirty minutes before we were all gathered and ready to go to the mine. I had had plenty of time to shop in this special little boutique in Julian that I was dying to get to, so I guess somebody was looking after Curt's credit card. Anyway, we caravanned up to the mine and every one except us proceeded to set up tents. Not only did we get the meeting time wrong but the trip was scheduled for 2 days. Oh, well.

It was just about dark when Thomas Hess, a co-owner of the Thursday Mine and DIEHARD sponsor, arrived in camp. He showed us some absolutely gorgeous pieces of lepidolite from the mine that had been polished and cabbed ready for jewelry. I had never seen lepidolite and was stunned by its lavender beauty. Thomas gave us a little talk about what was expected of us and what was going on with some other mines, and then we walked over to the mine. The mine is about 30 feet deep with a tarp covering and generator-powered lights, high pressure sprayer and swamp cooler.

The DIEHARDS worked in the mine for a couple of hours and then sat outside to watch the meteor shower. Spectacular!! After everyone had gone to bed except Thomas and his digging partner, Ellen Moe, Clarke and I got down to the serious business of mining because we had to drive home that night. We ended up with 2 big buckets of gemstone-quality lepidolite. We left the mine about 2 am, did some 4-wheeling down to the main highway, got lost in heavy fog along the way, and got home about 6:30 am Sunday morning. We had a very enjoyable experience and learned a lot. We are very happy and are looking forward to some polishing, cabling and carving.

Thomas Hess has had some criticism in the past; but Clarke and I had a very enjoyable time getting to know him, and he taught us more than we ever wanted to know about pegmatites. If you are interested in becoming a DIEHARD or want to know more about the Thursday Mine contact Thomas Hess at thomascarlhess@yahoo.com.



Gorgeous lavender lepidolite and Me (Kathy Clark) trying to get a good chunk of lepidolite

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
3	4	5	6	7 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	8	9 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
10 2 pm Show Meeting Betty's house	11	12 7PM General Meeting	13	14 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	15	16 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
17	18	19	20 6-7 PM Board Meeting 7 PM By-Laws/ Standing Meeting	21 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	22	23 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing Field Trip
24 Field Trip	25	26	27	28	29	30

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

SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Kathy Clark
18661 Silver Maple Way
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144
hanky1panky3@yahoo.com
714/639-9927

Please Print!

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

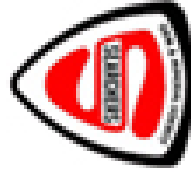
2006 dues are valid January 1 through January 31.

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 ()

For a list of CFMS Gem Shows, please go to www.cfmsinc.org



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

TRADITIONAL SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE -

SAPPHIRE/PERIDOT

Sapphire is commonly said to bring divine favor and to repel envy. The blue color is often associated with heavens; and Pope Innocent III gave all his Bishops sapphires. Sapphire is believed to bring protection to the wearer from spells, and give the ability to discern the truth and the future. The most powerful are star sapphires which are sometimes called Stones of Destiny. The rays of a star sapphire represent Faith, Hope and Destiny. The Bible states that the tablets of Moses were written on sapphires. Natural healers use sapphires to help rid unwanted thoughts, bring joy, peace and wealth. It also thought to heal blood problems. Sapphire represents Chastity and Hope. During the Roman Empire, peridot was called “olivine” since Italian peridot is olive in color. At that time peridot was worn as protection from enchantment, melancholy, and to ward off nightmares. According to ancient legend, people who wear peridot will be protected from evil spirits. Peridot symbolizes Success, Peace and Luck.

