

The Rock Slab News

OCTOBER 2009 VOLUME 46 ISSUE 10

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

Hello to all Searcher's.

The year is coming to a close once again and the holidays are just around the corner. With that comes some cooler weather, making it field trip season again! Let's get out there and find some real beauties.

On another note, make your plans to get together at the Searcher's Christmas Party on December 5th. Please see Jimmy Peterson and sign up at the October or November meeting. Let him know that you are coming and what meal selection you will want. Don't forget to bring something for the Holiday Gift Exchange.

Our next General Meeting will be on October 13th. Jimmy Peterson will have a fun activity for all to participate in!

Hope to see you there!

OCTOBER PROGRAM

by Jim Peterson

The program for the October 13th meeting will be a rock swap. This is an opportunity to get rid of some of those extra slabs and rocks we all have hanging around and get some good ones in return. Everyone bring lots of good rocks and make this a rocking good swap.

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, 3rd Tuesday 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: 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

SUNSHINE REPORT

by Kathy Clark

Last month I erroneously reported that Mike and Michele Lee had moved to Oklahoma when, in fact, it was Frank and Cheri Gray who had moved to Oklahoma. Their new email address is: fracher123@rocketmail.com.

I am pleased to report that I really have nothing to report and hope that no news is good news.

SEARCHER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The December meeting is the installation of New Officers and Holiday Season gathering to be held on:

**Saturday, December 5, 2009, at Marie Callendar's
in the Garden Room, 540 N. Euclid Avenue,
Anaheim, California, (just North of the Frwy.)
from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. max.**

The cost will be \$25 per person which includes tax and gratuity.

Dinner will be served at 6:30pm and includes:

Caesar salad

Cornbread

**Fountain drinks, iced tea or coffee (any other drinks such as wine or beer
must be purchased by member)**

Meal Selections: (includes mixed vegetables)

1. Pepper Crusted Hand Carved Tri-Tip Steak

2. Fresh Lemon Pepper Crusted Salmon

3. Artichoke Mushroom Chicken

Apple, Chocolate Cream or Lemon Meringue Pie

The Garden Room holds 60 people maximum, so make your reservation soon. To make your reservation, please mail a check to Jimmy Peterson (18611 Silver Maple Way, North Tustin, CA 92705) or bring a check and sign up at the General Meeting in October or November.

Please designate your meal selection for yourself and your party.

Cash or checks are made out to Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

There will also be a Holiday Gift Exchange. Please bring a gift valued at approx. \$10.00.

OCTOBER EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
1,8,15,22,29	6-10pm	Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping)
3,10,17,24,31	3-7pm	Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing)
10 & 11		Field Trip to Chuckwalla Springs (see pages 5 & 6)
10 & 11		Non-Searcher Field Trip to Trona (see page 5)
13	7pm	October General Meeting
20	7pm	Board Meeting at Norbert's house

NOVEMBER EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
5,12,19	6-10pm	Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping)
7,14,21,28	3-7pm	Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing)
7	10am	Afton Canyon Wedding & Field Trip (see page 5)
7 & 8	10am-6pm 10am-5pm	American Opal Society 42nd Annual Opal & Gem Show (new location) White House, 1238 S. Beach Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92804 http://opalsociety.org or http://whitehouseeventcenter.com
10	7pm	November General Meeting
17	7pm	Board Meeting at Norbert's house

ANAHEIM DOWNTOWN CENTER CLOSED—THURSDAY, 26TH
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

28 & 29 Field Trip to Burro Creek, Arizona

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 October!!!

2009 FIELD TRIP STATUS

by Steve Duncan

DATE 2009	LOCATION	MATERIAL	LEADER	STATUS/COMMENTS
Oct 10 & Oct 11	Chuckwalla Springs	Flame agate, plume agate, amygdules	Robert Burson & Jay Valle	Confirmed Joint trip with North Orange County club and Whittier club
Oct 10 & Oct 11	Trona	Hanksite, halite etc	Non Searcher trip	Confirmed Non Searcher trip, very unique. If you can't make it to Chuckwalla Springs you should try this. Info at http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/FLYER.htm
Nov 7	Afton Canyon	Agates and Jaspers. Plume agate	Adam Dean	Confirmed Rockhound wedding, Adam is getting married and then leading a field trip. All CFMS members welcome. Adam is one of the current CFMS field trip leaders. More info to follow.
Nov 28 & Nov 29	Burro Creek AZ	Pastelite, opalite, purple agate	Steve Duncan	Tentative Long distance trip the weekend after thanksgiving
One day during the last week of December	Lavic Siding	Jasper and jasp-agates	Steve Duncan	Tentative One day trip to Lavic Siding

IT'S A ROCKHOUND WEDDING!

On November 7, Adam Dean (the current CFMS Field Trip leader) and Teresa Felix are getting married at Afton Canyon Campground. A ceremony at 10 am will be followed by a potluck lunch. At noon sharp we will line up for a field trip to rockhound at one of Adam and Teresa's favorite sites near the campground. This is a little-known area with many kinds of rocks in float. There will be agates, jaspers, and even a wonderful plume agate. Easy walking and beautiful rocks! This will be a come-as-you-are event. We would like to welcome all CFMS Members. Members will need all the typical collecting equipment as well as cameras, a chair and a dish for the potluck lunch after the wedding. Please come and celebrate with us at our favorite place. We do not have a registry. If you feel inclined, we will have a money tree at the luncheon.

Directions: to Afton Canyon Campground if coming from the south (Barstow) go North on Interstate 15. Exit on Afton Road and make a right. Follow the dirt road 3 miles until you come to a rise in the road. The campground is on the right side just over the rise.

Program GPS: Dunn, California, will get you to Afton Road exit.

Field Trip October 10&11, 2009

Chuckwalla Springs

by Steve Duncan

There will be a field trip on Oct 11&12 to Chuckwalla Springs (between Desert Center/Blythe). This will be a multi-club trip, combining the Searchers with members of the Whittier Club and the North Orange County Club. The trip will be led by Searchers Robert Burson and Jay Valle. We will be collecting agates (plume, moss, fortification, and banded), and Jaspers of many colors. Sagenite is found here too. There are also agate filed geodes and amygdules.

The camp will be accessible by RVs and cars, although the last stretch of the road may need to be driven carefully. This will be a dry camp, bring what you need. Don't forget sunscreen and hats, lots of water. It could be hot during the day and cold at night. Gas and simple supplies are available at Chiriaco Summit, Blythe has anything you could need, including motels. We will be having our traditional potluck on Sat night, so bring something good to share. Telling lies around the campfire is also on the agenda.

We will leave the camp every day at 0830, a high clearance vehicle will be necessary to reach the collecting sites. We will carpool as required. You will want to take lunch. Standard rock tools should suffice rock pick and spray bottle. You may want a small sledge and gad.

Directions:

Take I10 east to Ford Dry Lake off ramp (exit 217) east of Desert Center. Turn right onto Chuckwalla Rd (which parallels the freeway), and go back west for 2.9 miles to the junction with Graham Pass Road. This road has a sign (BLM vertical type). Turn right and go south for 5.9 miles to the junction with Chuckwalla Springs Rd, there should be a sign here. Take the right fork and continue 5.1 miles to the campsite (camp 1 in the book). Chuckwalla road is paved but very tore up and rough. Graham Pass road is a good graded dirt road. From the Chuckwalla Springs turn off to camp is washboardy. We will put out some Searcher signs to help you find your way. These directions are mostly taken from the Desert Gem Trails book, and the original info is copied below. Without traffic it is about 3 hours from Anaheim to the freeway turn off.

If you have any questions about the trip you can contact the leaders; Robert at 562 860 5938, or Jay at 626 934 9764. Or you can contact me (Steve Duncan) directly at 714 724 7102, or wsd@iteris.com.

Here are some links to geode sites in this same area. Within each link you can link up to other sites in this same area:

<http://www.desertusa.com/mag07/aug07/raineyswell.html>

<http://www.desertusa.com/mag07/jan/blackag.html>

<http://www.desertusa.com/mag06/nov/blkagatehills.html>

Nevada Mineral & Book Company located at 342 S. Tustin Street in Orange, CA 92866 (714-633-1549) will have two well-known gem & jewelry authors in the store in October for "Meet the Author/Book Signing" events.

Saturday, October 10, 1-3pm Renee Newman

Author of a number of gem & jewelry books, including: **Emerald & Tanzanite Buying Guide; Diamond Handbook: A Practical Guide to Diamond Evaluation; Ruby, Sapphire & Emerald Buying Guide: How to Evaluate, Identify, Select & Care for These Gemstones; Gold & Platinum Jewelry Buying Guide: How to Judge, Buy, Test & Care For It; The Pearl Buying Guide; Gemstone Buying Guide: How to Evaluate, Identify, Select & Care For Colored Gems.**

Saturday, October 24, 1-3pm Fred Ward

Author of "The Fred Ward Gem Books" series: **Emerald, Opal, Diamond, Pearl, Ruby & Sapphire, Phenomenal Gems, & Gem Care.**

Renee and Fred will be in the store for several hours each, giving people plenty of time to meet and talk to the authors, as well as purchase signed copies of some great gem books. If people cannot attend, they can call in to the store to order signed copies, which they can pick up after the event.

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**Ken Nelson has an 18" Great Western Slab Saw and a
Richardson Ranch Dry Polisher for sale.**

Members can contact him at 562-431-7382

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**

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OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE—Opal

There are 2 distinct types of opal, common and precious. The way the silica particles form determines which type. In precious opal, silica particles are packed in regular rows and layers. Moving the stone causes light to diffract, or split, as it grazes the opal surface. This light diffusion shows iridescent flashes of green, blue, aqua and sometimes yellowish or red colors which are referred to as “fire.” Black Opal comes from the Lightmight Ridge region of Northern New South Wales, Australia. It is the rarest and most valuable opal. Fine quality black opals often cost more per carat than diamonds. The term black opal is misleading because the opal is not actually black, but instead has a very dark base. This dark base enhances the brilliant colors known as “fire.” Boulder opal occurs in the boulder opal belt, an area between the New South Wales border and the Northwest Queensland, Australia. Boulder opal forms on a dark ironstone base (the host rock) and occurs as a thin uneven layer adhering to the ironstone. Queensland Boulder Opal accounts for a small percent of the world market, and because of its brilliance and rarity can bring up to \$1,000 a carat. Light opal is the most common type of opal found and refers to both the crystal type opal (translucent) and the milky opal (opaque). It is the most common variety of opal and is generally less expensive than gem quality light opal. Brilliantly colored light opals may be quite expensive with a value exceeding some Black and Boulder Opals. Brilliance or luster is one of the primary factors that determine an opal’s value. An opal with strong intensity and color play adds more value. Australian opal is not porous and will not absorb moisture. To change the water content locked in an opal’s tiny voids it must be heated to extreme temperatures.



Kathy Clark, *Editor*
 18661 Silver Maple Way
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