

# The Rock Slab News

APRIL 2006 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 4

## Inside This Issue

President's Message.....	1
General Information.....	2
Searchers Board.....	2
APRIL Events.....	3
Field Trip Schedule.....	3
APRIL Program.....	3
APRIL FIELD TRIP.....	4
Membership Update.....	5
SHOW REPORT.....	6
SHOW SECURITY.....	8
LAST MONTH'S PROGRAMS .....	8
MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORT .....	10
APRIL Calendar.....	11

## 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*

Dear Fellow Searchers,

Today is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the rest of your life - so why not live it as such?

I know I sound like a broken record here when I once again bring up the subject of field trip participation, but I would feel guilty if I did not take every opportunity available to get everyone interested in becoming involved with the fun times that some of us are out there having.

Last month's Lavic Siding Field Trip was yet another good trip, a little chilly, yes, but once again filled with warm memories. Ever seen somebody try opening a can of beef stew with a gad and rock hammer? Thank you Marcia and Lorri for saving the day with the food you brought for the potluck. I'm telling you, you're missing out if you're not there to enjoy it, but remember not to trust your President's cooking!

Memories are the one thing that cannot be taken away from us in this life, so why not get out there and help us build on some good ones? Hope to see more of you on the next few trips, which will be good ones!

See you out there!

Clarke

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule! [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

- General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Board Meetings:** 7 PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Workshop:** Thursday, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.  
Saturday, 3 – 7 PM Free silver-smithing class 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.searchersrocks.org)
- Membership Dues:** Individual \$20  
Couple \$25  
Junior (17 & under) \$2  
Valid Jan 1 – Dec 31, not prorated.
- Bulletin:** Submissions due 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month via e-mail to: [editor@searchersrocks.org](mailto:editor@searchersrocks.org).  
Bulletin distributed 1<sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> V.P. (Programs)	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	Patrick Freeman	714/758-9273

### 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	714/827-8345
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2		
2005 Show	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Show Co-Chair	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Sunshine	Carlene Blake	714/549-0099
Veteran's Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
Workshop	Herb Beckman +?	714/778-1496
Rock 'n' Kids	OPEN	

## APRIL EVENTS

- 18 7-9 PM General Meeting  
Faceting, Clare Gagnon
- 14-17 Field Trip, Holbrook Field trip  
with Steve Duncan
- 15 Rock Slab News bulletin
- 26 6 -7PM Board Meeting
- 26 7 - 9PM Show Meeting

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
April 14-17	Holbrook Petrified Wood	Steve Duncan	Different material	Planned

**IMPORTANT**

**HOLBROOK FIELD TRIP  
UPDATE  
By Steve Duncan**

All,  
I received the following information in an email today, I guess I must believe it is true. The owner of the property has decided to add a \$50 per person fee to the trip. As the email suggests you make your own decision about whether this affects your desire to go. I still plan to go, but I do consider this an unpleasant development.

Regards,  
Steve

## APRIL PROGRAM

By Virgil Talbott

So you want to learn how to facet.

Our very own Clare Gagnon will be our April speaker. He will be discussing theory and diagrams on faceting and explaining the machinery and the stones used for faceting.

After retiring as a civil engineer with the Metropolitan Water District, Clare took up faceting, silversmithing and gem carving. He and his wife spent a year in Australia touring and rockhounding.

He is a member of the Faceters Guild of Southern California where he has held the office of president and is currently the newsletter editor. Clare also participates in a mentoring program offered by the Guild. He teaches silversmithing at the Searchers workshop on Saturdays and at the Brookhurst Community Center on Tuesdays.

Please come to the meeting and enjoy and learn something from this wonderful source of knowledge we have in Clare Gagnon.

**APRIL FIELD TRIP**

April 14 – 17, 2006

By Steve Duncan

IMPORTANT FIELD TRIP UPDATE: The collecting day for the field trip to Holbrook, AZ, has been changed to the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, making the trip April 14-17. This is due to situations beyond our control (the trip on the 22<sup>nd</sup> was full), as this is a joint trip with other clubs. The good news is that this will have us collecting the weekend before the others allowing us first pick. The bad news is that this is Easter weekend. Hopefully that will not be a problem for people.

We will meet at the International Petrified Forest Museum of the America's at 8:00 AM. The museum is on the south side of Hwy. 40, exit #292, about 3 miles east of Holbrook.

Whatever you put into your vehicle must be removed for weighing. Sizable pieces, which are guesstimated at a lesser weight, do not have to be removed. There is a charge of \$1.00/lb. For the stuff you want to keep from logs to dinosaur dung.

Some Searchers will be staying at the Wigwam Motel (928) 524-3048. Lodging can be found in Holbrook for the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>. We have arranged a discount rate of \$32.00 + tax = \$35.54 for 2 people per night at the Best Inn, 2211 Navajo Blvd, Holbrook, AZ (I confirmed rate 2/1/06). Call 928-524-2654 and tell them you're with the Rock Club. (Buzio, the Polish guy, knows us). If you go to Google.com and enter their phone number in the search field, you can follow a link to Mapquest.

Other motels in the close vicinity are (this is old info I did not call):

Super 8 (928) 524-2781 (list cost is \$49)

Motel 6 (928) 524-6101 (list cost is \$36)

Econo Lodge (928) 524-1448 (list cost is \$45)

*Hello all: I spoke to Marion Hatch the owner of the property today and 3 days ago he decided to charge the \$50.00 Per person. He says looks like this will be the last time to collect on his property. You make the call if you want to go. I am now out of the picture.*

*From Kurt yesterday (Marion's helper):*

*To whom it may concern: My name is Kurt and I work very closely with the owners of this 60,000 acre ranch in regards to these digs as well as attend to help keep everything flowing as smoothly as possible. The dates for the April digs are: Saturday, April 15th and Saturday April 22nd. Charges are \$50.00 PER PERSON+ \$1.00 per pound. All wanting to go, on either or both of the two digs, need to meet between 7am and 7:30 a.m., exit 292, Keams Canyon, at Musuem of Antiquities/Dinosaur Park. There you will be signed in, charged per person, and taken out in 2-3 groups to the dig sites. Any further info, please email me. Regards, Kurt [kurtsrocks@frontiernet.net](mailto:kurtsrocks@frontiernet.net)*

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please help us welcome the newest members of the Searchers' family, and take note of changes to add to your 2005 roster until you receive your 2006 roster.

### New Members

Albert (Al) and Annette Flack  
Scott, Amanda & Melissa (Jr.  
Members)  
12271 Meade Street  
Garden Grove,  
CA 714-537-1957  
[flack@dslextreme.com](mailto:flack@dslextreme.com)

Baby Ito  
6741 Lincoln Ave. Space 82  
Buena Park, CA 90620  
714-827-8675

Cyrise M. Smith and Tim Oull  
6718 Palma Circle  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886  
714-970-8785  
[whackette@yahoo.com](mailto:whackette@yahoo.com)

Stephanie Smith  
450 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street #6  
Tustin, CA 92780  
818-235-2738  
[stephela@hotmail.com](mailto:stephela@hotmail.com)

### Address Changes

Jim Baker  
[afarmerjim@yahoo.com](mailto:afarmerjim@yahoo.com)

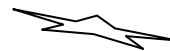
Walter Mroch  
[hwmroch@comcast.net](mailto:hwmroch@comcast.net)

Skip (Shailer) Cone  
[MrSkip8@msn.com](mailto:MrSkip8@msn.com)

Sonya and Grant Miller  
[sonvaandgrant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sonvaandgrant@sbcglobal.net)

## Motorhome for sale

*25' Shasta, Class C, 1995  
Ford engine, 84,240 miles, \$16,500.00  
If you are interested please call  
Faye McDowell at 562-597-7684*



EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR SEARCHERS

J S GEMS

Barranca/Ameritool  
Diamond Pacific Tools  
Handcrafted Jewelry  
Rocks, Fossils & More



John & Susana Wease  
e-mail: [jsgems@dslextreme.com](mailto:jsgems@dslextreme.com)

Newberry Springs, CA  
(760) 257-3843  
Cell (909) 519-1545

## SHOW REPORT

By Beth Pelfrey

Folks, we are down to the wire! I hope I saw lots of you at the March 22 meeting and will see more at the LAST FINAL meeting before the show, Wednesday, April 26, at 7:00 PM at the Downtown Community Center.

I don't hear the stampeding feet of volunteers yet. We really need to know what committee you want to work on and when. Here is a list of the committees for you to call, write, or walk over there and say, "I want to work on Saturday for 2 hours from 2 to 4 and Sunday from 10 to 2" and so on.

By the way – when you e-mail me, please put "Searchers" as the first word in the subject line. I am having a little issue with some spam. Thanks.

Committee	Name	Phone	Contact
Show Chair	Beth Pelfrey	714774 2754	<a href="mailto:beth714@aol.com">beth714@aol.com</a>
Show Co-Chair	Amastacko O'Campo	714490 0418	<a href="mailto:was2@rockslab.net">was2@rockslab.net</a>
Bead Building By Kids	Cathy O'Campo	714490 0418	<a href="mailto:was2@rockslab.net">was2@rockslab.net</a>
Cases	Cathy O'Campo	714490 0418	<a href="mailto:was2@rockslab.net">was2@rockslab.net</a>
Club member Badges	Kathy Clark	714639 9927	<a href="mailto:kathy1park@jll.com">kathy1park@jll.com</a>
Dealers	Walter Mroch	714825 2122	<a href="mailto:waltmroch@comcast.net">waltmroch@comcast.net</a>
Decorations	Margaret Nozley	714255 2636	no e-mail
Demonstrators	Clare Goggin	562594 3928	no e-mail
Electronnet	Herb Beckman	714778 6496	<a href="mailto:hbeckman@earthlink.net">hbeckman@earthlink.net</a>
Financial	Patricia Underwood	714293 2940	no e-mail
Friday Night Dinner	Kathy Clark	714639 9927	<a href="mailto:kathy1park@jll.com">kathy1park@jll.com</a>
Grab Bags	Ken Landers	714255 5126	no e-mail
Hospitality	Steve Duvvan	714724 7882	<a href="mailto:sdv@steris.com">sdv@steris.com</a>
Kitchen	Sharrn Bursen	562560 5938	<a href="mailto:sharrn@rockslab.net">sharrn@rockslab.net</a>
Membership	Nora De O'Campo	714490 0418	<a href="mailto:norad@rockslab.net">norad@rockslab.net</a>
RocknKids Program	Karen Poo	714832 3588	<a href="mailto:karen_poo@yahoo.com">karen_poo@yahoo.com</a>
Security	Larry Richey	714846 2573	<a href="mailto:larryr@rockslab.net">larryr@rockslab.net</a>
Set Up/Clean Up	Virgil Talbot	714871 7900	<a href="mailto:virgil_talbot@rockslab.net">virgil_talbot@rockslab.net</a>
Silent Auction	Robert Bursen	562560 5938	<a href="mailto:rob@rockslab.net">rob@rockslab.net</a>
Special Exhibits	Cathy O'Campo	714490 0418	<a href="mailto:was2@rockslab.net">was2@rockslab.net</a>
Trophies and Ribbons	Cathy O'Campo	714490 0418	<a href="mailto:was2@rockslab.net">was2@rockslab.net</a>
Wheel of Fortune	Ann Bernhardt	714734 9665	<a href="mailto:abern@co.net">abern@co.net</a>
Local Publicity Signs - April and Days of show			NEED VOLUNTEERS
All Drawings			NEED VOLUNTEERS

See the list? Call and offer help to more than one person on the list – please, now. It's the right thing to do. We have to give of our time and company in this as in any social and educational club. This is our one big fund raiser that supports all or programs for the year.

Remember: You **MUST** have a **Searchers name badge** for each club member in the family. If you have helpers who are working in the show who are not club members, you must get a temporary badge for the duration of the show from Larry Richey. We are serious about security for our and the dealers' sakes.

We will need strong willing helpers to load the show inventory at storage and unload it at the BCC and then take it all back Sunday. We may need trucks as well. Call Virgil.

Need to have a job where you do less standing and more sitting? Hospitality, Membership Table, Wheel of Fortune, Grab Bags and Bead Building all fit the bill. Call the chairs and offer a specific time to volunteer.

**Get your case NOW** so you can personalize it and put in your collection, found or bought, lapidary items made or purchased, an educational case about how to hound rocks or make jewelry or sit arounds. We all enjoy the unique creativity of each member and do not criticize each others' choices of content. If you know an organization that would put in an interesting case, contact them and let Cathy O' know.

**BRING your beads, old jewelry** to the next club meeting, please! We need to be able to take it apart so we have enough beads for the Bead Building by Kids events. Let Cathy O' know if you have some to donate! We will need buckets of beads for this.

Anyone know where we can get cheap butcher paper rolls? Really cheap, 24-inch paper, white. Let Anastacio know, please.

**Have an opinion you'd like to offer? I'll listen! Got a job you'd like to take on? I'll take it! See you at the Show Meeting.**

Beth Pelfry  
Show Chairman

Are you going to camp overnight? I need your vehicle description, license numbers, ASAP, please. Maximum 2 per family: car and trailer; motorhome and dinghy; donkey and cart; and so on.

**Kitchen:** You must offer some help on Friday to clean the kitchen, unpack, and put away the goods and food. Sharon cannot get Fridays off as a rule and **MUST** have a team to do it for her. Kathy will need help Friday night for the dinner and to clean up afterwards. If everyone in the club offers a two-hour shift for one day, it is an easy job to do. And we all know how much we like to eat the food, right? Well, somebody has to make it and serve it! Just like home.

All knitters, crocheters, crafters, quilters: Kathy needs items for the opportunity drawing to help defray the cost of the Friday Night Dinner. Remember how much fun it is to get a ticket or two or three and get a fabulous wonderful handmade afghan, quilt, framed art, jewelry, whatever? Donate! Donate!

Who can help put up and take down signs Saturday and Sunday? Call Virgil now.

**ARE YOU MAKING GRAB BAGS?** Ken Landers needs 300 of them by the April meeting. Call Ken at 714-535-5126.

Finally, I want to reiterate how important it is to **VOLUNTEER, DONATE and HELP**. April is the critical month. The show runs so smoothly if we all pitch in.

## SHOW SECURITY

By Larry Richey

### 1. CASES

For your safety and protection please remember that we do not allow any display case or exhibit to be opened or removed during show hours.

Sunday 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 Beth Pelfrey (Show Chairwoman) know. This is for your safety and protection.

### 2. BADGES

Remember to wear your club badge to the show this year. Sunday when the Show closes everyone will be required to leave the show exhibit room to insure only those involved in the show breakdown activities will be allowed back into the exhibit room. After the room has been cleared of all unauthorized people or leftover guests from the Show, you will be allowed back in if you are wearing your Searcher name badge.

If anyone is in need of help with your display and you will need help from someone other than a club member or any non-club members picking up exhibits at the close of the Show on Sunday, you will need a special badge. Please see me Friday during set-up, Saturday during the Show or early Sunday so I can issue the proper badge or pass before the close the Show.

Thank you,  
Larry Richey  
Show Security

## LAST MONTH'S PROGRAMS

By Kathy Clark

### FEBRUARY

Have you ever looked up silver wire or silver plate in a catalog and wondered how they reached a total? Do you feel intimidated when ordering silver because of the complicated formulations used to arrive at a total? I know I have, and because of this I've been very hesitant to order from a catalog. Well, our February speaker, Liz Gayle, was able to shed some light on how to buy silver from various silver companies.

This will be a very brief explanation, because there's not room here to explain the complexities of the NYSE and buying from one company when its prices are down and the other company's prices are up. First, check the daily market "spot prices" for silver in the newspaper. You will only find Handy &



Harman (only a daily quote) and N.Y. Merc (spot Monday). Then you can look up “Live Market Quotes” on the internet and see how the NYSE compares with LONDON PM (LPM). Handy & Harman are usually a few cents lower than the LPM, so Rio Grande and Indian Jewelers Supply Co. buy their silver from Handy. Fire Mountain and Metalliferous are also good catalogs.

There is also a fabrication cost. When the raw metal is manufactured into sheet, wire, etc. each company has its own formula to arrive at a fabrication cost. This and a certain percentage are passed onto us. Stuller takes the NYSE or LPM price (base price) and multiplies this by 2% and adds the fabrication cost to this plus shipping.

Watch out for shipping prices. Rio Grande requires “overnight” shipping for large orders. This just made the price per ounce go way up.

So, the formula we need to worry about is Base Price

$$\begin{array}{r} \times \text{Percentage} \\ + \text{Fabrication} \\ + \text{Shipping} \\ \hline \text{TOTAL} \end{array}$$

## MARCH

Dick Flaherty, our March speaker, presented a slide program showing some of his sapphire mining adventures at Castles, Eldorado Bar and Spokane Bar in Montana. Castles was a dry camp in an open valley. Shovels of material are placed in a shaker box which has a half-inch mesh and shaken into another box, the riffle box. After 8 buckets of this concentrate was obtained it was taken to the concentrator which was a metal sided box. The concentrate would then be washed and the good stuff would go to the bottom of the concentrator while the sludge would continue on down a ramp. Eldorado Bar had electricity so it was a little more comfortable. There they also found hematite and Herkimer diamonds amongst the sapphires. Spokane Bar claims now to be the only mine left where digging is allowed. Insurance companies would no longer insure the other camps.

Sapphire mining is not unlike gold panning. Another method Dick talked about was “puddling.”

This method requires that the shaker box be turned 90 degrees and shaken back and forth then turn again and keep repeating. Then put a thick piece of foam rubber over the top and turn the box upside down. If you did a good job the sapphires would be clustered together in the center of the foam. We also learned that sapphire mining doesn't work well after a rainstorm as the sand does not sift well when it's wet.

Dick's other hobby is taking pictures of people wearing hats at Quartzite.

If you are interested in sapphire mining contact:

L-Diamond-E Mine  
c/o Dan or Retta Ekstrom  
24210 Bonita R/S Rd.  
Clinton, Mt 59825  
406-825-6295 or 888-725-8747  
[info@diamonde.com](mailto:info@diamonde.com)  
[www.1diamonde.com](http://www.1diamonde.com)

## MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Steve Duncan

A hardy group of Searchers spent the weekend exploring Lavic Siding and the Green Ash Hills near the Early Man Site. What was the weather like? **It was COLD!!!** Saturday night the campfire seemed like it was just for show, it didn't seem to be putting out any heat at all. But the good news was that at least we didn't get rained on. And, as usual for a Searchers' trip we had a great time. We had 14 people on Saturday exploring Lavic, and everyone found some interesting material. Lorri Renck rejoined the field trips for the first time since her hip injury, and Al Flack and his son, Scott, and daughter, Amanda joined us for the first time and brought some enthusiasm with them. Scott's trip was dampened by the loss of his favorite hat, but the good news is that after they left the hat was found and will be returned to him. Saturday's potluck and campfire was a lot of fun, even though as reported earlier it was **COLD!**

Sunday morning we got an early start at 0800, and on our way to the Green Ash Hills the 9 of us stopped off at the Pisgah Crater. This was an enjoyable side trip, and we spent some time exploring lave tubes, and just when we started to leave we started finding nice multi-colored cinders, so we spent a few minutes collecting these. My son, Diego, said that he would find me the best cinder of the trip if I agreed to buy it for \$5. I agreed, and he searched diligently. He did not find any great cinders, but while he was searching he did find a weathered \$5 bill. Go figure.

We then proceeded to the Green Ash Hills, where the excitement began quickly as Karen Martinez decided to take her "off-road" Toyota up the steep hill to the collecting area. She made it about 4/5ths of the way up, and then started spinning her tires. When we went to check on her we decided that with the ground clearance she had it might be better to back down. Unfortunately backing up is not her favorite thing, so I backed it down for her. The extra weight really didn't help the ground clearance situation, but we made it. Excitement over, everyone did some collecting. There is a lot of material there, and the trick is finding some nicer pieces. A lot of rock was collected, including the behemoth piece that Beth took. Time will tell how much of it is high quality.

All in all an enjoyable trip, good collecting, great company, nice potluck and good weather, although did I mention that it was **COLD!**

By Beth Pelfrey

Since I was merely an enthusiastic participant, I can't offer a report, but more like notes and impressions. I arrived Saturday about an hour late but found the group easily since Steve, our intrepid chief, had given good directions to the location. We walked a lot and collected a lot of really good material – Lavic jasper and some agates in beautiful red and yellow colors. There is no such thing as a site being picked over: you may just have to walk further! We saw unmarked Marine vehicles carrying wheeled cannons moving them from Lavic to ? – pretty interesting. The weather was windy, chilly – did I say windy? But, as usual in the Mojave, no rain. The vistas were sensational. Diego, Steve and Marcia's son, offered help to this ol' lady and toted heavy rocks I was beginning to dislike. What a guy, thanks so much. New member Al had his young son and daughter with him. Scott lost

his fishing hat in the wind, but Lorri found, so there are happy endings. Clarke will bring it to the April meeting. Al Cary got stuck in the soft sand – it was deep and soft, a frustrating combination. Searchers being who they are, he got dug out in no time and he and Hue were on the road to dinner and the campfire in short order.

The campfire and potluck was fun, very cold, very windy, but lots of excellent chow and good conversation. I heard the next morning that our campers – Steve, Marcia, Diego, and Lorri almost became popsicles, but by the time I saw them they had thawed to Searchers again. Sunday started out a beautiful temperate and sunny day. Steve took us all to Pisgah Volcanic Crater on the way to our next site. What a treat! Exploring lava tubes, collecting iridescent volcanic cinders and hiking into the cinder cone of the volcano. All us kids loved it. The next stop was the Green Ash Hills area off Minneola Road. That ridge Steve took us to has so much beautiful red, pink, brown and beige agate, jasper and jasp-agate – plenty for everyone! Several folks had to leave early and since it started to rain around one or two, it was time to head home from the Mojave. What a fun trip, thanks again, Steve.

I'm telling you, you are missing all the fun not going out to our wonderful desert!

## APRIL CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>14</b> <b>Field Trip</b> Steve Duncan-	<b>15</b> 3-7 PM <b>Field Trip;</b> lapidary, silversmithing
<b>16</b> <b>Field Trip</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Field Trip</b>	<b>18</b> <b>General Meeting</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Board meeting</b> <b>Show Mtg</b>	<b>27</b> 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

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



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

# The Rock Slab News

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## TRADITIONAL APRIL BIRTHSTONE - DIAMOND/SAPPHIRE

The name diamond comes from the Greek word “adamus,” meaning unconquerable and indestructible. Diamonds were worn to give the wearer strength, invincibility, courage, and magical powers over the dark side of life. Diamonds were the symbols of kings and the very wealthy. Legend states that Europeans first found diamonds in a shaman’s leather pouch who used them as other shaman would use quartz crystals. They were thought to drive away devils, beasts, the evil eye, madness, to protect one from the plague, and if dipped in wine and water had healing properties. It was once believed that diamonds were fragments of stars and the gods’ teardrops, therefore they possessed magical qualities of the gods beyond the understanding of mortal men. Westerners believe that diamond engagement rings symbolize eternal love. Diamond is said to be an amplifier. If a person is good, it amplifies their goodness. If the wearer is selfish, evil, egotistical, it will also amplify these traits. Diamond symbolizes power, purity, strength, commitment, health.

