

# The Rock Slab News

Volume 47 ISSUE 12



DECEMBER 2010



DECEMBER

BIRTHSTONES



## Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise

The three birthstones associated with December are *Tanzanite*, *Zircon*, and *Turquoise*.

Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, *tanzanite* exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices. As tanzanite can be less expensive than sapphire, it often was purchased as an alternative. However, it has increased in popularity and now is valued more for its own beauty and brilliance than as a sapphire substitute.

Derived from the Arabic words *zar* and *gun*, meaning *gold* and *color*, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep. Major sources of zircon are the Chanthaburi area of Thailand, the Palin area of Cambodia, and the southern part of Vietnam.

The name *turquoise*, from the French expression *Pierre tourques* or *Turkish stone*, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes. It is most often used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and inlays. Although its popularity fluctuates in fashion, it is a perennial favorite in the American Southwest.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Norbert Bernhardt*



Hello Searchers!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

What a great year for the Searchers! We accomplished many good things this past year. A scholarship was given out for the first time in many years, we came together to donate rocks to the "Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center", we participated and donated to a "Make a Wish Foundation" project, and a few of us participated in the "Anaheim Children's Festival".

The Searchers also put on a great show this year. So many of our show guests just rave about how much fun they have. They especially love our great Silent Auction.

Field trips? Wow! One, sometimes two every month.

All these great activities can only happen when club members join together and volunteer to help with club activities.

Thank you to the board members that will be continuing on into 2011 and congratulations to our 2011 President, Teri-Lynn Wheeler. Veronica, Steve and Kim, thank you all for stepping up to the plate. I know that the club will be in good hands!

As President, for the past two years, I am proud of our club and its members. When I asked for your help, you were there for your club. I really had fun and enjoyed serving as your President. Have a great holiday season!

Sincerely,

*Norbert Bernhardt*

## 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:** 7PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).

**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 \$25  
Couple \$35  
Junior (17 & under) \$10  
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 editor:  
Yery Camacho  
13900 Studebaker Rd, #4  
Norwalk, CA 90650

**Charter Date:** April 20, 1958

**Affiliations:**

- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

### Searchers Board Officers

President	Norbert Bernhardt	714-734-9665
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. (Programs)	Keith Droste	714-563-4754
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714-724-7102
Director		
Secretary	Kathy Clark	714-639-9927
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	714-829-4737
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714-871-7900

### Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Beth Pelfrey	714-774-2754
Editor	Yery Camacho	714-952-5804
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714-774-2754
Hospitality	Lorri Renck	714-397-3584
Library		
Membership	Glenn Benedict	714-573-1424
Monthly Drawing	Skip & Connie Cone	714-827-8675
2010 Show Chairman	Robert Burson	562-860-5938
Show Co-Chair	Beth Pelfrey	714-774-2754
Sunshine		
Veterans' Coordinator	Larry Richey	714-846-3573
Website	Gary Grayson	714-593-6488
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714-778-1496
Rock'n Kids	Ana Lorenzo	714-734-9665

Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council

## FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIPS FALL 2010/SPRING 2011			
Date	Leader	Location & material	Status
Sept 25&26	Robert Burson	Mule Canyon –agate and jasper, also possibly silver onyx	Done
Oct 9 &10	Norbert Bernhardt	Lucerne Valley-orbicular rhyolite and ??	Done
Nov Dates TBD	Steve Duncan- Joint trip with the Indian Wells club	Sheep Springs and Rainbow Ledge- agates and famous Rainbow Ridge jasp- agate	Done
Dec 12 Sunday 2010	Steve Duncan	Sierra Pelona claim for banded onyx. Due to the busy holiday season this will be a one day trip	Planned
Jan 21,22&23 2011	Steve Duncan	Burro Creek AZ-agate, jasper, pastelite	Planned
Feb 19&20 2011	Jimmy Peterson	Siam Siding-Chapenite Cadiz-trilobite fossils	Planned
Mar 2011	Robert Burson	Chuckwalla Mts-agate	Tentative
April 2011	TBD	Goldfield Nevada-agate	Tentative
May 2011	TBD	Greenhorn Mt-rose quartz	Tentative

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)  
Also see [www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html](http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html).

### Other websites of interest:

[www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com)

[www.southsunproducts.com](http://www.southsunproducts.com)

[www.pioneergem.com](http://www.pioneergem.com)

[www.route66goldminers.org](http://www.route66goldminers.org)

[www.auctionmasters.com](http://www.auctionmasters.com)

## GENERAL MEETING

*By Keith Droste*

There is no December general meeting. In its place we have the Christmas banquet.

## UPCOMING CFMS GEM SHOWS

**January 15-16, 2011 - Exeter, CA**

Tule Gem & Mineral Society

Exeter Memorial Bldg.

324 N Kaweah (Hwy 65), Exeter

Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4

Marshall Havner (559) 562-4133

Charles Reed (559) 784-6394

Website: [www.tulegem.org](http://www.tulegem.org)

**January 28-30, 2011 - Redlands, CA**

Mineralogical Society of Southern California  
 Micromounters Symposium  
 San Bernardino County Museum  
 2024 Orange Tree  
 Hours: Fri. 5pm - 10pm; Sat. 9am - 10pm  
 Sun. Field trip time to be set  
 Dr. Robert Housley (714) 697-4435  
 Email: [rhousley@its.caltech.edu](mailto:rhousley@its.caltech.edu)  
 Website: [mineralsocal.org](http://mineralsocal.org) (click on micromounters)

**February 18-27, 2011 - Indio, CA**

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society  
 Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival  
 Gem amp;& Mineral Building Bldg #1  
 46-350 Arabia Street  
 Hours: 10 am - 10 pm  
 Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674  
 Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)

**February 25-27, 2011 - Newark, CA**

Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley  
 Newaro Pavilion  
 6430 Thornton Avenue  
 Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10:00 am to 6:00 pm - Sun.  
 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 Lary Ham, show chair - (510) 887-9007  
 Email: [showchair@mgscv.org](mailto:showchair@mgscv.org)  
 Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

**February 25-26, 2011 - Northridge, CA**

Del-Air Rockhounds  
 Northridge United Methodist Church  
 9650 Reseda Blvd.  
 Hours: Fri. 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Sat. 10:00 am  
 to 5:00 pm  
 Chris S. Ward  
 Email: [chris\\_ward678@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_ward678@yahoo.com)  
 Website: [delairrockhounds.blogspot.com](http://delairrockhounds.blogspot.com)

**March 5-6, 2011 - Arcadia, CA**

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.  
 Los Angeles Co. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens  
 301 Baldwin Ave.  
 Hours: Sat. & Sun. 9-4:30  
 Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624  
 Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)  
 Website: [www.moroks.com](http://www.moroks.com)

**March 5-6, 2011 - Ventura, CA**

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
 Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds  
 10 W. harbor Blvd.  
 Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
 Andy Anderson (805) 987-0043 /  
[lilliananderson@juno.com](mailto:lilliananderson@juno.com)  
 Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)  
 Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**March 11-13, 2011 - Stoddard Wells, CA**

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
 Stoddard Well Tailgate (Stodard Wells)

Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit from I-15  
 Hours: 8-5 daily  
 Brett Ward (760) 954-4323  
 Email: [Bretts88@verizon.net](mailto:Bretts88@verizon.net)  
 Club (760) 243-2330  
 Website: [www.vvgmc.org](http://www.vvgmc.org)

**March 12-13, 2011 - Turlock, CA**

Mother Lode Mineral Society  
 Turlock Fairgrounds  
 900 N. Broadway  
 Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
 Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494  
 Email: [Bud.mcmillin.b7y@statefarm.com](mailto:Bud.mcmillin.b7y@statefarm.com)  
 Website: [www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

**March 12-13, 2011 - San Marino, CA**

Pasadena Lapidary Society  
 San Marino Masonic Center  
 3130 Huntington Drive  
 Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4  
 Joe & Marcia Goetz (626) 260-7239  
 Email: [joenmar1@verizon.net](mailto:joenmar1@verizon.net)

**March 12-13, 2011 - Salinas (Spreckels), CA**

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club  
 Veteran's Hall, Spreckels, CA  
 5th & Llano Streets  
 Hours: Sat. 10-5 daily  
 Karen Jones (831) 678-0337 /  
[KenKaren0337@att.net](mailto:KenKaren0337@att.net)

**March 19-20, 2011 - Bakersfield, CA**

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society  
 Kern County Shrine Club  
 700 south P. Street (P & Bell Terrace)  
 Hours: 9-5 daily  
 Lewis Helfrich - Home (661) 323-2663  
 Cell: (661) 378-4450  
 Email: [lewsrocks@bak.it.comt](mailto:lewsrocks@bak.it.comt)

**March 26-27, 2011 - Angels Camp, CA**

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society  
 Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds (Frog Town USA)  
 Hwy 49 in Angels Camp  
 Hours: Sat. 9-5 - Sun. 9-4  
 Tak Iwata (209) 928-5579  
 Email: [Tak2me@msn.com](mailto:Tak2me@msn.com)  
 Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

**March 26-27, 2011 - Roseville, CA**

Roseville Rock Rollers  
 Roseville (Placer Co.) Fairgrounds  
 800 All American City Blvd.  
 Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4  
 Glori Marie (530) 367-2262  
 Email: [gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com](mailto:gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

**April 8-10, 2011 - Vista, CA**

San Diego County Council  
 Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
 2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue  
 Hours: 9-5 daily

Ray Pearce (769) 726-7570  
Cathy Davis (858) 278-9987  
Simon King (619) 991-2226  
Email: [raysrocks@cox.net](mailto:raysrocks@cox.net)

**April 9-10, 2011 - Mariposa, CA**

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
Mariposa Co. Fairgrounds  
Hwy #49, 1.8 miles South of Mariposa  
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5  
Diane (209) 742-7625  
Email: [mineralmuseum@sti.net](mailto:mineralmuseum@sti.net)  
Website:  
[www.thematrixmariposagemineralclub.info](http://www.thematrixmariposagemineralclub.info)

**April 9-10, 2011 - Paradise, CA**

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society  
Elks Lodge  
6309 Clark Road  
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4  
Manuel Garcia (530) 877-7324  
Email: [mmpg@earthlink.net](mailto:mmpg@earthlink.net)  
Website: <http://paradisegem.org>

**April 15-17, 2011 - San Jose, CA**

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
334 Tully Road  
Hours: Fri 9-5, Sat & Sun 10-5  
Frank Mullaney (408) 265-1422  
Email: [info@scvngms.org](mailto:info@scvngms.org)  
Website: [www.scvngms.org](http://www.scvngms.org)

**April 23-24, 2011 - Santa Cruz, CA**

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society  
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium  
Corner of Church and Center St  
Hours: 10-5 both days  
Dean Welder (408) 353-2675  
Email: [wdeanwelder@yahoo.com](mailto:wdeanwelder@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.scmgs.org](http://www.scmgs.org)

**April 30 - May 1, 2011 - Anaheim, CA**

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun 10-4:30  
Beth Pelfrey (714) 774-2754  
Email: [martin.swiderski@jacobs.com](mailto:martin.swiderski@jacobs.com)  
Website: [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

**May 13-15, 2011 - Anderson CA**

Northern California Treasures  
Sponsored by:  
Superior California Gem & Mineral Society  
Shasta Gem & Mineral Society  
Paradise Gem & Mineral Club  
Shasta District Fairgrounds - Anderson, CA  
Near Redding, CA - Off Highway 273  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4  
Show Chairman: Steve Puderbough -  
[steve@applyaline.com](mailto:steve@applyaline.com)  
Website: [www.superiorcal.com](http://www.superiorcal.com)

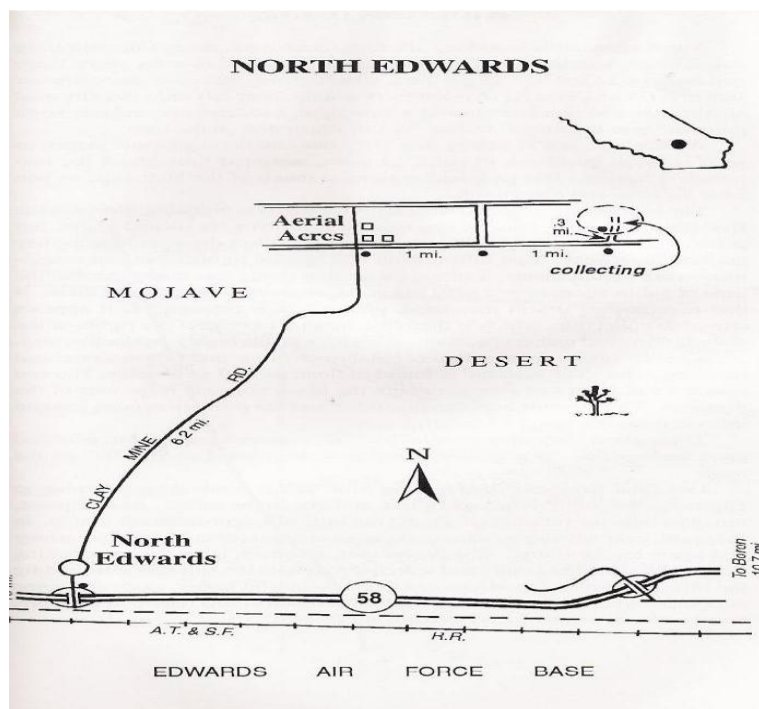
## SEARCHERS DECEMBER FIELD TRIP SUNDAY DECEMBER 12TH 2010 THE SIERRA PELONA CLAIM

Steve Duncan will lead a one day field trip on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> to the Sierra Pelona claim, near Edwards AFB. The material is North Edwards Onyx, some call it banded travertine. The colors run from vivid red/yellow/green/black "stripes to black and white to red and white and everything in between, it just depends on which vein you dig. That bring up the second big item: The best material is found about 2 to more feet down, so be prepared with picks, shovel to remove loose stuff, small sledges and chisels, gads, gloves, eye protection, pry bars (like tire tools!) etc to break it loose.

The onyx is not hard like agate so it is not difficult to wedge a chisel in and break off pieces any size you want to take home. I recommend team digging; the results will be better and it is more fun.

Don't be alarmed if this sounds daunting, there are lots of smaller pieces lying around which can be picked up.

There is plenty of material here. The colorful onyx is perfect for bookends, paperweights, spheres, and much more. You can make lovely jewelry as well, but do bear in mind it is not as hard as agate and jasper and though it works up faster and shines well; it would scratch if you tried a belt buckle or ring.



As this is a one day trip, there will be no potluck. You will want to bring lunch, and lots of water, sunscreen, etc. We will meet at the site, the target time will be 0900, but because we collect where we meet late arrivals will not be a problem. Directions: 395 to Kramer Junction, then go west on 58 to Clay Mine Road. After that follow the map below, the only tricky turn is the final one into the claim, I will have a Searchers sign there to help. You can access this claim in any vehicle, although there is a bit of dirt road driving. One hint, when you turn right at Ariel Acres there will be a chain link fence on your left. I will have a sign there also. This is really

quite easy to get to, and quite easy collecting for some very colorful material. I hope to see you there; if you have any questions email me at [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com) or call me at 714 724 7102.

## JANUARY FIELD TRIP JAN 21, 22, & 23, 2011 BURRO CREEK, AZ

*Leader Steve Duncan*

The Searchers will have a field trip to Burro Creek Jan 21-23. . We will be camping at the Burro Creek Campground, off of I93 south of Wikieup AZ. This camp has a minimal fee, and has rest rooms. This campground is a very nice one, with scenic views of the river gorge. The trip will target agate, jasper, pastelite, and anything else we can find. This will be an exploratory trip, we will be spending time looking for new locations, so we will not always be going right to a known collecting area. This trip is requires 4 wheel drive, so if you don't have a 4x4 please arrange your rides before the trip.

The trips will start at 1000 on Friday, and 0900 on Sat and Sunday. We will be having our normal Sat night potluck.

Limited supplies and gas are available at Wikieup. There is also a small motel there, depending on whether or not it is hunting season they can fill up.

Because it is winter dress in layers, you will still want sunscreen and lots of liquid. Some sites may require some hard rock mining, but not all.

This weekend is the same weekend of the Quartzsite Powwow, you may want to include that in your plans, it starts on Wed Jan 19<sup>th</sup>. Google maps says it takes 2.5 hours from Quartzsite to Wikieup.

If you have any questions call me at 714 724 7102, or email me at [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com)

**Directions:**

**From Orange County:** 15N to 40E to 93S, past Wikieup to the campground. Google maps says it is 6 hrs to Wikieup.

**From Quartzsite:** 10E to 60E (exit 31) to 71N to 93N to campground (a few miles before Wikieup. Google maps says it is 2.5 hrs to Wikieup.

**To Quartzsite from Orange County:** Take 10E. Google maps says it is about 3.5 hrs to Quartzsite.

## **FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2011 SIAM SIDING AND LATHAM SHALE, CADIZ, CA**

*Leader Jimmy Peterson*

The Searchers will have a field trip to Cadiz, Feb 19&20, 2011. Siam Siding is famous for Chapenite, brecciated jasper. Small pieces are everywhere, but if you want any size you will need to be prepared to dig. You will be digging in soft sand, but it is still digging. The shale cliffs above camp contain trilobite fossils; we will spend some time there showing everyone how to collect trilobites.

We will be camping near Cadiz, directions to camp are below. This is a dry camp, with no amenities. Bring what you need, including lots of water and sunscreen. Also bring something for the Sat night potluck

The trips will start at 0900 on Sat and Sunday. Limited supplies and gas are available at Amboy (~8 miles from camp?). There is also a small motel there, which may or may not be open; there is a motel in Ludlow which is a bit further away.

Because it is winter dress in layers, you will still want sunscreen and lots of liquid.

Google maps says 3.5 hours from Orange to Chambless (right next to Cadiz).

If you have any questions call me at 714 724 7102, or email me at [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com)

### **Directions from Orange County:**

Take 15 North to Barstow, then 40 East to Ludlow. Exit Ludlow, right at the bottom of the exit, then left at the stop onto Nat'l Trails Hwy (old route 66). Go East on Nat'l Trails Hwy past Amboy (this is the last gas and supply stop) to Chambless, turn right on Cadiz Rd. Cadiz Rd goes straight southeast for ~3 miles, and then bends sharply to the left. It goes a little less than a mile, and then turns right and crosses the tracks. DO NOT cross the tracks. You will turn left off Cadiz Rd onto a dirt road a couple of hundred yards before the turn towards the tracks. Camp is ahead a ¼ mile. There should be Searcher signs at the turn off, and at camp. You should be able to see the vehicles at camp from the paved road. Any vehicle should be able to make it to camp, and to the collecting spots, although there is some dirt road driving.

## **CHRISTMAS BANQUET - DEC. 4TH.**

The Christmas banquet was a great success. Besides the great company and good food, we also had a chance to sing Christmas carols accompanied beautifully by Keith Droste on the piano.







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## MONTHLY BENCHTIP ITEMS

By Brad Smith

### PICKLE PROBLEMS

Dropping a hot item into the pickle after soldering causes a hiss that sends small droplets of the acid pickle into the air. This will rust your nearby tools and can't be all that good to breathe either. My solution is to use a coffee cup of water next to my solder block to quench the piece and then decide if I want to drop it in the pickle.

Also, a hot pickle pot gives off fumes that bother me in my home workshop. I get around that by using my pickle cold. I mix it a little stronger than with a hot pot so that it works just as quickly. I keep it in a large-mouth peanut butter bottle and cap it off whenever I'm done using it.

### PROTECTING FINISHED SURFACES

I figure that any accidental scratch I make on a piece means about 15 minutes of extra sanding and polishing. So after finishing major surfaces, I typically cover them with some masking tape to avoid any scratches when doing final work like cleanups and setting of stones. The blue masking tape used by painters is best because it doesn't leave a sticky residue when removed.



### THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>  
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Ph. 714-633-1549

### Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply

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714 693-GOLD (4653). St ore hours: Tu - Sat 10am - 6pm