

The Rock Slab News

Volume 47 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			29	30 6-10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	1	2 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
3	4	5	6	7 6-10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	8	9 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
10	11	12 7 pm General Meeting	13	14 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	15	16 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
17	18	19 7 pm Board Meeting	20	21 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	22	23 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
24	25	26	27	28 6-10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	29	30 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONES

Tourmaline & Opal



October is another month with two birthstone choices – *Tourmaline* and *Opal*.

Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These *bi-color* or *tri-color* gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as *watermelon tourmaline*, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.

The name *opal* derives from the Greek *Opallos*, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Norbert Bernhardt

Hello Searchers!

The Searcher's 2010 year is slowly coming to an end and soon we will be electing new officers and board members. Sharon Burson, Ana Lorenzo, Susan Alsky have agreed to be this year's nominating committee. Our Beth Pelfrey will be guiding them through the process. We have a fantastic club! Help us out and volunteer for a position. It's fun!



Just a reminder, our November meeting will be our elections and pie night. Bring a pie to share! See you at our October 12th General Meeting!

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).

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:
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 st V.P. (Programs)	Keith Droste	714-563-4754
2 nd 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			
Date	Leader	Location & material	Status
Oct 9 & 10	Norbert Bernhardt	Ord Mountain / Lucerne Valley Trip	Scheduled
Nov 6 & 7	Steve Duncan-Joint trip with the Indian Wells club	Sheep Springs and Rainbow Ledge-agates and famous Rainbow Ridge jasp-agate	Scheduled
Dec 12 Sunday	Steve Duncan	Sierra Pelona claim for banded onyx. Due to the busy holiday season this will be a one day trip	Scheduled
Jan 2011	TBD	Burro Creek AZ	Tentative
Feb 2011	TBD	Siam Siding-Chapenite Cadiz-trilobite fossils	Tentative
?	TBD	Baxter Wash	Tentative
?	TBD	Chuckwalla Mts	Tentative

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: www.cfmsinc.org

Also see www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html.

Other websites of interest:

www.firemountaingems.com

www.southsunproducts.com

www.pioneergem.com

www.route66goldminers.org

www.auctionmasters.com

GENERAL MEETING

By Keith Droste

Our next meeting, Oct. 12, will be a ROCK SWAP. Bring all of those goodies you found on your field trips and trade with your fellow rock-heads!

UPCOMING CFMS GEM SHOWS

Oct 16

West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

First United Methodist Church

22700 Sherman Way

Hours: 10 - 5

Oct 16 & 17

Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society

El Dorado County Fairgrounds

100 Placerville Drive

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

- Oct 16 & 17 Cayucos, CA**
 San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
 Cayucos Vets Hall (next to Cayucos Pier)
 10 Cayucos Drive, Cayucos, CA
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
- Oct 16 & 17 Whittier, CA**
 Whittier Community Center
 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
- Oct 16 & 17 Santa Rosa, CA**
 Santa Rosa Mineral and Gem Society
 Veteran's Memorial Auditorium
 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
- Oct 23 & 24 Los Altos, CA**
 Peninsula Gem Geology Society
 Los Altos Youth Center
 1 North San Antonio Road
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
- Oct 30 & 31 Lakeside, CA**
 El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society
 Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
 12584 Mappleview Street
 Hours: 10 - 4 daily

ORD MOUNTAIN / LUCERNE VALLEY TRIP OCTOBER 9-10, 2010

By Norbert Bernhardt

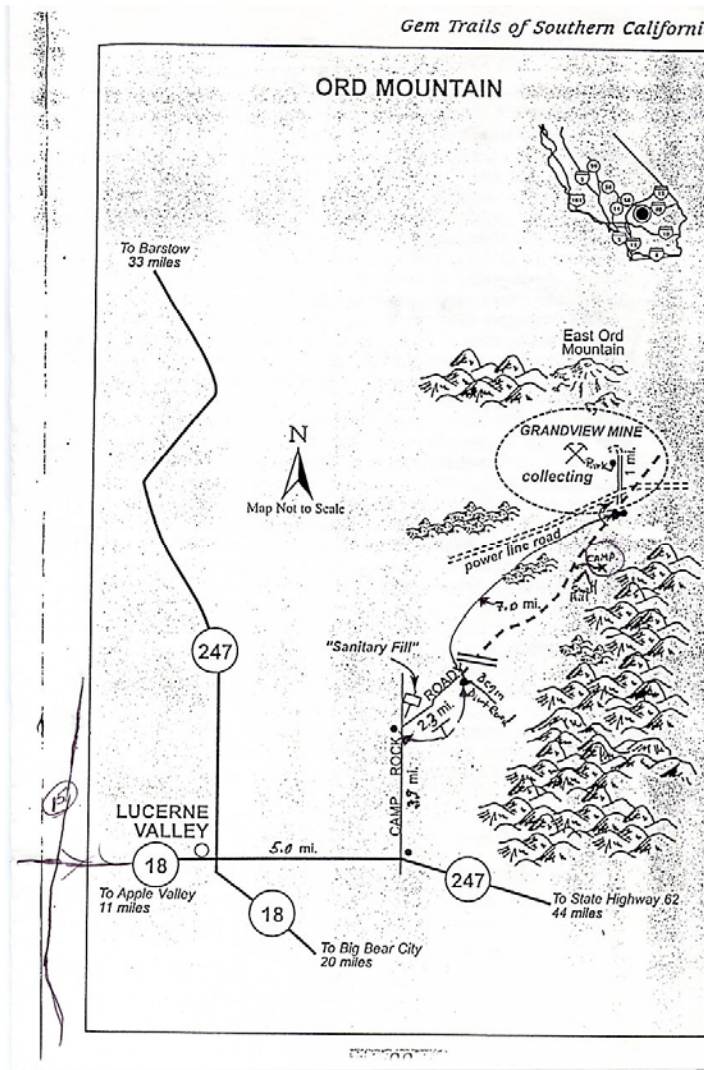
Our field trip will be to Ord Mountain, Lucerne Valley, CA. This area is just east of Victorville. On Saturday and Sunday we will be searching for orbicular rhyolite which has a wide range of colors and is filled with "eyes". There is a lot of material to be found, but you have to be very selective, some of the material can be pitted.

There is a CFMS field trip the same weekend led by Adam Dean to an area close to Ludlow. That is a one day trip, on Saturday. My suggestion is that you go to the CFMS/Adam Dean trip and in the afternoon drive to Lucerne Valley and join us for potluck on Saturday night 6:30pm and of course to the orbicular rhyolite on Sunday at 9:00am.

Ord Mountain is about 2 hours from Orange County and is easy to get to. No 4 wheel drive to camp but it would be easier to have a 4 wheel drive to the dig site or share a ride!

Directions: Take 15 towards Barstow, exit at Bear Valley Rd. and go east towards Lucerne Valley. When Bear Valley Road ends, turn right onto 18. Keep driving and when you get to the Big Bear Lake turn-off just keep going another 5 miles. (Do not turn right towards Big Bear)! Turn left on Camp Rock Road and drive 3.9 miles, right at Sanitary Fill sign and drive

2.3 miles more. At this point the road turns to dirt. Drive 4.7 miles and turn right around a small hill with gray and black boulders. This will be our camping area. Dry camp!! Dig site is 3.7 miles from camp. Remember we will camp for the dig site by 9:00 am. Please see map attached or the newsletter.



**SEARCHERS NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP
NOV 6 & 7, 2010
SHEEP SPRINGS AND RAINBOW RIDGE**

The Searchers' November trip will be to the Sheep Springs area, with a trip to Rainbow Ridge on Sunday. The Sunday trip will be in conjunction with the Indian Wells club (it is their claim). This weekend is also the weekend of their show in Ridgecrest, so you may want to visit their show sometime during the weekend also. Info for the show is available at <http://indianwells.weebly.com/gem--mineral-show.html>

Sheep Springs is an agate site, we will be collecting on the hillside. Normally a rock pick is enough equipment, but you may want some heavier artillery like a small sledge and gad. Rainbow Ridge is famous for multicolored jasp-agate, again some heavier equipment might come in handy, but you will also be able to surface collect.

We will be camping near the quarry on Terese Rd, this campsite is a dry camp (no amenities) and is accessible by RVs. Bring everything you need, don't forget lots of water and sunscreen, hats and rock tools. Saturday night we will have a potluck, so bring some goodies to share.

Directions:

Take 395 north until the 3 way junction where Brown Rd goes left, 395 continues straight, and S China Lake Blvd goes to the right to Ridgecrest. Turn left at this intersection onto Brown Rd. Continue straight on Brown Rd for a little over 2 miles where it will bend to the right. Approximately ¼ mile past this turn there will be a T intersection going off to the left. Turn left onto this dirt rd, I think it is called Terese, and there will be a Searcher sign at the intersection here. There is a sizeable shooting range at the beginning of Terese Rd. We will be camping off of this road, hopefully near the quarry, but if that site is full somewhere nearby. Look for the Searcher signs.

Saturday's trip to Sheep Springs is high clearance vehicles only, 4x4 recommended. Saturday's trip will leave at 0900. We will be out all day, bring a lunch, and lots of water, sunscreen, etc.

Sunday's trip will meet at Brown Rd and the Power line rd (back on Brown road, about half way back to 395). We will meet the folks from the Indian Wells club here. There is a \$5 fee per person to dig at Rainbow Ridge, this helps the club defray the cost of maintaining their claim. This trip has been passable in the past with standard vehicles if you take it easy, high clearance is preferred.

If you have any questions about this trip email me (Steve Duncan) at wsd@iteris.com, or call me at 714 724 7102.

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

Steve Duncan will lead a one day field trip on Dec 12th 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.

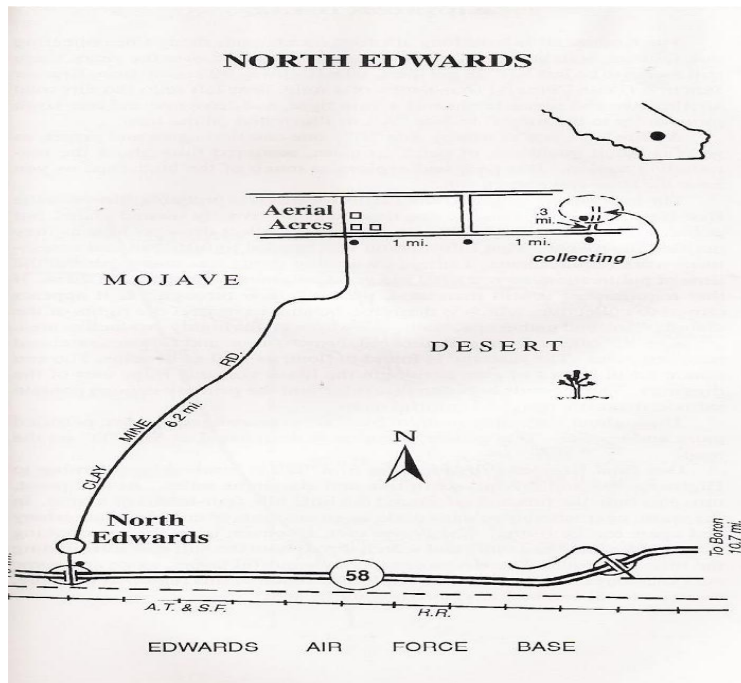
The onyx is not hard like agate so it is not difficult to wedge a chisel in and break off pieces any size you want to take home. I recommend team digging; the results will be better and it is more fun.

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 or call me at 714 724 7102.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Glenn Benedict

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of our Searchers Family!

Irene Asencio
Steven Fibel
Nicholas Pittenger

Kathy Denham
James Gabrisch
Betty Woody

Albert Elizarraras
Aaron Howard
Charles Woody

Silversmithing Help

Hello fellow Searchers, my name is John OConnor and a year ago this October, Clare Garson asked me to cover for him at the Saturday workshop for teaching silversmithing. Unfortunately instead of coming back in after a minor surgery he passed away. I now find myself unable to come in every Saturday and due to other scheduling conflicts I cannot guarantee which Saturday I will be able to make it in. In the event that any member of the Searchers would like help on a silversmithing project and would like to make sure that I will be in on a particular Saturday I can be reached at 714-586-0552 or e-mail me at jwoc1269@gmail.com.

Also if there is anyone who would like to help in teaching silversmithing at the workshop (3-7pm) please contact me at the above number.

Government soliciting ideas about the great outdoors

by Steve Duncan

In the new information age there is an online initiative from the government to solicit ideas about how to manage the great outdoors. At this website you can vote for (promote) or against (demote) proposals by other people, as well as create your own proposals. You will find proposals about land access and land use, there is even some rockhound proposals. It is not clear how effective this forum will be, but it is there and we should use it. Please take the time to go to:

<http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/>

and see what it is all about. You will no doubt find proposals you like and others you don't. This is a chance to get your voice heard. Please give your opinion by voting.

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