



The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

June 2012 - Volume 48 Issue 6




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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Searchers!

Hello Everyone! Summer is quickly arriving. Hope you all are enjoying the beautiful So Cal weather! This is also a very active time for the club and it's members. We are working diligently to bring back some of the things of the past! What you ask? In recent years the club has slipped from it's active volunteering status in the community, and we're excited to be getting back in gear! The Anaheim Arts Council has been extremely gracious to the Searchers for many years with the use of the centers for meetings, the show, our workshop and so much more...and it's time we give back and show our gratitude. Keep a look out for upcoming events to attend or participate in and all around enjoy. We have also returned to giving back to the kids of Anaheim! You can be proud to know that your club has just sponsored 10 less fortunate children for a year membership at the local Boys and Girls Club. Keith Droste is actively partnering with Boys and Girls Club to share our hobby with the kids. Again, please look forward to opportunities where you can share your knowledge with these kids and maybe plant a seed of rock hounding in a young child. Another project we are reorganizing is our Annual Scholarship for local students who are aiming toward a career in geology and related fields. A committee has just been established to organize the scholarship process. If you are interested in participating in this very worthy committee, please see Beth Pelfrey. We are also working to update our library, which is available at every meeting. If you are interested in checking out a book, please see Herbert Beckman. If you have books you'd like to donate to the club library, just let Herb know. Some fun one day trips to new locations for hounding is the works as well, keep a look out for notices and emails from Tracy Jackson. And let's not forget our upcoming Annual Picnic, which will be August 11th! We will have flyers with information, as well as sign up sheets for the potluck lunch at upcoming meetings. As you can see, we are really active and moving in many directions. Always remember, this is YOUR club! If you see something you'd like to be involved in, reach out and let someone know. If you have ideas, or suggestions, always feel welcome to bring them to one of your board members and let us know. Volunteering your time is a vital role as a member of the Searchers, so step up and get involved and let the community see what a wonderful group of rock hounds we are!

Tery-Lynn Wheeler

JUNE BIRTHSTONES Alexandrite and Pearl

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light. Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.)

A Pearl is a hard object produced within the soft tissue (specifically the mantle) of a living shelled mollusk. Just like the shell of a mollusk, a pearl is made up of calcium carbonate in minute crystalline form, which has been deposited in concentric layers. The ideal pearl is perfectly round and smooth, but many other shapes of pearls (baroque pearls) occur. The finest quality natural pearls have been highly valued as gemstones and objects of beauty for many centuries, and because of this, the word pearl has become a metaphor for something very rare, fine, admirable, and valuable.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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
Membership Dues: Individual- \$25, Couples- \$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
Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council
Web Site: www.searchersrocks.org

FIELD TRIPS

| FIELD TRIPS 2012 | | | |
|------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Date | Leader | Location & Material | Status |
| | | | |

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

CLUB MEETING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2012

| Date | Presenter | Subject |
|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| June 12 | Fred and Charlotte Ward | Opals |

Searchers “Field” Trip to Nuevo Dump, December 2011

by Norbert Bernhardt

This past December we had a great trip to an area close to Menifee called Nuevo Dump. It's real name is actually the Pacific Silica Quarry. We found rose quartz, smoky quartz, schorl and a few garnets in feldspar. The quartz in that area does show asterism and can be cut to show a six rayed star. All had a great time even with the weather on the cool and drizzly side, but as you see by the pictures below our 3 young members had a great time!



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Mine Lab Event

Dear Searchers!

Thank you so much for your participation in the Minelab National Detecting Day! We couldn't have done it without you. I hope you had a great time, and I look forward to us working together on projects in the future.

Thanks again, Rusty

Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply
Anaheim, CA
714-693-4653



UPCOMING 2012 CFMS GEM SHOWS

June 9 - 10: LA HABRA, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Loretta Ogden, (909) 598-

2456, (909) 217-5864 Cell

Email: fbriktr1@aol.com

Website: www.nocgms.com

June 16 - 17: GLENDORA, CA

Glendora Gems & Mineral Society
Goddard Middle School
859 East Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Bonnie Bidwell, (626) 963-4638

Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com

June 30 - July 1: CULVER CITY, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Culver City Veterans Memorial Auditorium

4117 Overland Avenue (Overland & Culver)

Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5

Contact: Robert Thirlaway, (310) 462-2269

Email: fiestaofgems@gmail.com

Website: www.culvercityrocks.org

July 13 – 15: RIVERSIDE, CA
CFMS GOLD AND GEM SHOW & CONVENTION
Hosted by Valley Prospectors
Riverside Municipal Auditorium

3485 Mission Inn Avenue
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 – 5; Sun 10 – 4
Contact: Steve Schubert, Show Chair,
(951) 943-0535
Email: meschubert@hotmail.com

BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

PATINAS

In a recent class we did a little work with patinas. Came across a neat web site for those of you who'd like to explore this area, especially for copper and bronze. Plenty of formulas for a variety of colors are at <http://www.sciencecompany.com/Do-It-Yourself-Patina-Formulas-W12C672.aspx>

And there's more at <http://www.brynmorgen.com/resources.html>

Small quantities of chemicals for making your own patinas are available from The Science Company at <http://www.sciencecompany.com/Patina-Chemicals-C672.aspx>

METEORITE RING

Want to make your own special "out of this world" ring? Take a chunk of Gibeon meteorite, forge it into a thin strip, and cut the strip into several short lengths. Then forge weld the lengths together, twist the resulting ingot, and finally form it into a ring shape.

See pics of this special wedding ring at <http://imgur.com/a/ZjCaW/all#0>

DRAGON'S BREATH

Here be dragons. And then here be the steam machine of the Dragon's Breath. If you like small working steam engines, you'll be impressed by this one created by Hans Meevis from Saint Martin. It's made entirely from silver, gold and hand carved gemstones. Runs on steam or compressed air.

<http://ganoksin.com/blog/meevis/2012/04/08/dragons-breath/>



STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out your silver wire and found that it's all bent up. The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit. Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band.

This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga. If you're working on thick wires and pulling hard, be sure to brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around it's base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howelite, you can use a sanding stick. But for harder cabs like jasper or agates, you have to use a diamond file or one of the ruby nail files from the drugstore.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment in the stone size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over onto the stone.

ANAHEIM ARTS COUNCIL

The Orange County Symphony, which is affiliated with our friends the Anaheim Arts Council, is having an event on July 7 called "Pops at Anaheim Convention Center ". Here is a link to an article on the Anaheim Arts Council's website regarding this event:

http://www.anaheimartscouncil.com/news_spot.php?id=170&bnr=spot

This event will include a silent auction. Carol Latham, who is currently the President of the Anaheim Arts Council and also on the board for the Orange County Symphony, is asking the Searchers for donations to the silent auction. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the community what we (the Searchers) do, and for those who have incorporated their lapidary and jewelry making into your businesses, a wonderful opportunity to get some exposure for your business. A brochure and business cards for both the Searchers and you individually (and/or your business) should be included with any items donated to the auction, along with a dollar value. And it would be great if you could make it an attractive presentation!

Searchers who are interested in contributing silent auction items should contact Carol Latham at carol_latham@juneau.com.

Carol has also indicated that they expect this to be a wonderful event, so you may also want to buy tickets and attend! This link will provide more information regarding the event if you might be interested in attending: http://www.ocsymphony.org/Pops_at_Anaheim.html

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MISSING MOON ROCKS

In 1998, a unique Federal law enforcement undercover operation was created to identify and arrest individuals selling bogus Moon rocks. This [sting operation](#) was known as Operation Lunar Eclipse. Originally two undercover agents were involved in this sting, Senior Special Agent Joseph Gutheinz of NASA's Office of Inspector General, posing as Tony Coriasso, and Inspector Bob Cregger of the [United States Postal Inspection Service](#), posing as John Marta. This sting operation was later expanded to include Agents from the [United States Customs Service](#), namely, Special Agent Dwight Weikel and Special Agent Dave Atwood. Agents posted a quarter page advertisement in [USA Today](#) asking for Moon rocks. The Agents were targeting individuals selling bogus moon rocks, which con-artists sell to the elderly and to space enthusiasts. The sting operation was led by [NASA Office of Inspector General](#) Senior Special Agent Joseph Gutheinz.^[1] For the first time in history the sting operation recovered an Apollo era moon rock, the Honduras Goodwill Moon Rock. This moon rock had been given to Honduras by President Nixon, fallen into private hands and then offered to the Agents for \$5 million dollars. In order to recover this moon rock the agents had to come up with the \$5 million dollars requested by the seller. To accomplish this task billionaire and one time Presidential Candidate H Ross Perot, nicknamed the Patriot, was asked by one of the agents to put up the money, which Ross Perot did. But for Ross Perot's generous contribution to this case the moon rock may never have been recovered. After leaving NASA for a teaching position at the [University of Phoenix](#), Arizona, Gutheinz challenged his [criminal justice](#) graduate students to locate the goodwill moon rocks. He subsequently extended this project to also cover the missing Apollo 11 moon rocks President Nixon gave to the states and nations of the world in 1969. Hundreds of graduate students have participated in this project from 2002 to present and while many moon rocks have been found, others are now known to be missing, stolen or destroyed. Gutheinz patterned this college project after Operation Lunar Eclipse, an undercover sting operation he led in 1998, while he was still with NASA. Beginning in 2002, his graduate students began reporting to him that both the [Cyprus Apollo 11](#) moon rock (which is actually a collection of lunar dust in a Lucite ball) and Cyprus Apollo 17 Goodwill Moon Rock (a pebble size moon rock) were missing.

Missing gifted rocks

United States

Alaska

Elizabeth Riker was assigned the task of hunting down the [Alaska](#) Apollo 11 Moon Rock by her professor. On August 18, 2010, in a story she wrote about her investigation in the Capital City Weekly newspaper, of Juneau Alaska, she stated that after conducting a thorough investigation for Alaska's Apollo 11 Moon Rock she has concluded that it is missing. She advised that she planned to continue to look for the moon rock and asked for the help of the citizens of Alaska to accomplish her goal of finding it.

In 1973, there was a massive fire at the Alaska Transportation Museum where the moon rocks were being housed. Coleman Anderson (a crab fishing captain who was on the TV show, Deadliest Catch) claimed to have gone to the museum to scrounge through the garbage from the fire to see if there would be anything worth saving. Anderson, who was a kid at the time, claimed to have found the moon rocks and cleaned them up over the next few years and he still has them.

To clear title to the rocks he filed a lawsuit against the State of Alaska, asking the Court to deem the rocks his sole property.

New Jersey

The experts and politicians in New Jersey including former Governor Brendan Byrne, had no idea of where it was, or of the state even receiving it.

International

Cyprus

While the Apollo 17 Goodwill Moon rock presented to Cyprus was recovered, the Apollo 11 rock given to the country remains missing. In his June 26, 2011 Op/Ed appearing in the Cyprus Mail entitled "Houston we have a problem: we didn't give Cyprus its moon rock", Joseph Gutheinz revealed that after NASA recovered the Cyprus Apollo 17 Goodwill Moon Rock over a year ago they failed to give the moon rock to its legal owner, the nation of Cyprus.

Ireland

The Apollo 11 rock presented to Ireland was accidentally discarded in a landfill known as the [Dunsink](#) Landfill after a fire consumed the room it was housed in at the National Museum of Ireland in October 1977. The Apollo 17 Goodwill Rock remains with the [National Museum of Ireland](#).

Malta

On May 18, 2004, Malta's Goodwill Moon Rock was stolen from Malta's Museum of Natural History in [Mdina](#), in the island nation of [Malta](#). According to an Associated Press story appearing in USA Today "there are no surveillance cameras and no custodians at the Museum of Natural History because of insufficient funding. The only attendant is the ticket-seller"... "A Maltese flag displayed next to the rock — which the U.S. astronauts had taken up with them — was not taken". Joseph Gutheinz, a retired NASA Office of Inspector General Special Agent who heads up a "Moon Rock Project" at the University of Phoenix (where he assigns his students the task of hunting down missing moon rocks), urged the Maltese authorities to grant an amnesty period to the thieves. He advised that only an amateur thief would have taken the Maltese Goodwill Moon Rock and left the plaque and flag behind, as all three together would have been self-authenticating and eliminated the risk of a geologist needing to authenticate the moon rock. Malta's Goodwill Moon Rock has never been recovered and continues to be actively pursued.

Romania

University of Phoenix graduate students uncovered evidence that the [Romania](#) Goodwill Moon Rock may have been auctioned off by the estate of its executed former leader, [Nicolae Ceaușescu](#). Both Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife, [Elena Ceaușescu](#), were executed by firing squad on Christmas Day, December 25, 1989, for the crime of genocide. As late as 2009, Romania believed it only received one moon rock from the Nixon Administration, the Apollo 11 moon rock, and took issue with those who argued otherwise. Joseph Gutheinz, a retired NASA OIG Senior Special Agent, now Professor, who oversees the Moon Rock Project provided Daniel Ionascu of the Jurnalul information from the U.S. National Archives which showed that the Romanian Goodwill Moon Rock was in fact presented to Romania. Romania's Apollo 11 Moon Rock is at the National History Museum in Bucharest.

Spain

Evidence surfaced that both Spain's Apollo 11 Moon Rock and Apollo 17 Goodwill Moon Rock, that were given to the General [Francisco Franco](#)'s Administration by the Nixon Administration, were missing. Pablo Jáuregui, the Science Editor of *Elmundo*, a Spanish newspaper, disclosed in a July 20, 2009 story entitled: "Franco's grandson: My mother lost Moon stone given her by Grandfather", that the Spanish Apollo 17 Goodwill Moon Rock had finally been given back to the people of Spain in 2007 by the family of Admiral Luis Carrero; and Jáuregui suggest the Spain's Apollo 11 Moon Rock, as referenced in the title of the story, was last known to be in the Franco's families hands, and is now unaccounted for. Jáuregui wrote, as translated: "As for the stone that Kissinger gave Carrero Blanco, confirmed yesterday" by "the son of ...Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco"... "the stone was in possession of the family (first in the home of his widow, and after that of his eldest son), until in 2007 they decided to donate the Naval Museum, where it is"...on display.... "today, along with a Spanish flag which traveled aboard the Apollo 17 mission to the moon. " My son told me that the gift was dedicated to 'Spanish

people', so it seemed right to donate it," recalls Luis Carrero Blanco." Admiral [Luis Carrero Blanco](#) was assassinated while in Office by the ETA, a terrorist organization.

As for Spain's Apollo 11 Moon Rock the trail is more confused. Jáuregui relates the following from Franco's grandson: "The grandson of Franco stressed that neither he nor any other member of his family"...had been told.... "that there might be some legal or ethical problem"...regarding ..."the Moonstone...." "If you get anything and it's yours, why not going (Translation) to sell?" He said. " In any case the rock never sold, but according to Franco, now" he does "not know where it is. As my mother is a woman with many things in many houses, in a move or redecorate a room, in the end had to go astray," he explains. Students assigned to the Moon Rock Project are currently looking for leads to Spain's Apollo 11 Moon Rock in Switzerland.

PtCreations

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