

The Rock Slab News

Volume 47 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010



JANUARY BIRTHSTONE Garnet



Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. *Garnet*, derived from the word *granatum*, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry. *Garnet* is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites. Today, the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka, and India.

JANUARY 2010 CALENDAR

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|--|-----------|--|------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 Happy New Year | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 6-10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping | 8 | 9 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing Sandy Wash Field trip |
| 10 Sandy Wash Field trip | 11 | 12 7- 9 pm General Meeting | 13 | 14 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping 7- 9 pm Show Committee Meeting | 15 | 16 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing |
| 17 | 18 | 19 7- 9 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 | 29 | 30 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing |
| 31 | 1 JUNE | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

The Rock Slab News

JANUARY 2010 VOLUME 47 ISSUE 1

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 Norbert Bernhardt

I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas Holiday! At this time, I would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Thank you to my board members and all the members who helped our club this past year. I look forward to working with all Searcher members in 2010. We have a fantastic club and I hope to make our club even better during the coming year.

Let's enjoy an upcoming year of great field trips, exciting general meetings, using our well equipped workshop, and doing some fun promoting of our club so that more people can enjoy our hobby. In May we will have our 51st annual show, so let's have a goal of displaying as many new polished gems and handcrafted jewelry as possible.

The show has always been good a good way to promote the Searcher's. My goal, this past year, was to promote our club at other locations and to advertise our monthly meetings thus increasing guest attendance and future membership. We did increase attendance in 2009 mainly by having great programs, silent auctions, rock swaps and having a monthly updated Rock Slab News.

So it's on to 2010! Look forward to many great field trips and fun activities!

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 Thursday 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: Jan 2, 2010

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 | Keith Droste | 714-563-4754 |
| Secretary | Kathy Clark | 714/639-9927 |
| Treasurer | Pat Lynch | 714-829-4737 |
| Federation Delegate | Virgil Talbott | 714/871-7900 |

Committee Chairpersons

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Anaheim Arts Council | Margaret Neeley | 714/535-2030 |
| 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

JANUARY EVENTS

| | | |
|---------------|---------|------------------------|
| January 9, 10 | all day | Sandy Wash Field Trip |
| January 12 | 7 pm | General Meeting |
| January 14 | 7 pm | Show Committee Meeting |
| January 19 | 7 pm | Board Meeting |

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

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

By Jimmy Peterson

The program for the January 12th meeting will be a silent auction. There will be many polished cabs, slabs and even a nice sphere. So bring your check book and have a great time. All proceeds go to the club. Remember that the meeting is at Anaheim Downtown Community Center.

NOVEMBER 2009 FIELD TRIP REPORT

Burro Creek AZ

November, 2009

by Steve Duncan

We had a very good turn out for such a long trip, with 17 Searchers or friends participating. And it was a great trip. We stayed at the Burro Creek campground which is a beautiful place, as well as being quite civilized with flush toilets and sinks. In addition to the "regulars" we saw some Searchers that haven't been able to make trips for a while, like Craig and Charlotte Bluel. Also old friend and previous Searcher Cat Van Kampen stopped by for a day.

We had great collecting, On Friday we started with Vern's canyon for pastelite and agate, including pastelite in shades of purple. We like the purple agate, and were mourning the loss of access to our old purple motherload. But Sat PM we found a new place to pull purple agate from tailings, and everyone who worked at it left with some nice purple. This purple is not quite as dramatic as our old one, but it is still very purple and this one is more transparent, and could be wonderful when cut. Sunday we went to a traditional pastelite site, and again found lots of material. In fact at both pastelites sites the challenge was picking through all of the material that was there to find the best. As usual the further you walked from the road the better things got. In the afternoon we went to a location which Robert had located the day before (using info from Jay Valle, who couldn't make it). There we found a fine yellow brecciated jasper, it looked kind of like Stone Canyon jasper. There were boulders of it to work on, and it did require work, but the material is beautiful. Others who

didn't want to work quite so hard explored the area and were soon digging out purple agate from the hill side.

All in all to say we found too much good material is an understatement, when I got home just unloading the truck took a while. And reviewing the finds at home showed that they pretty much all looked good. This was a fine trip. I assume that The Searchers will be going back again sometime, and I highly recommend you join us, this is very good rockhounding.

In a side note Jimmy Peterson twisted his ankle Friday, and had to sit out the collecting Saturday, but Sunday he was hoping around and collecting. Here's wishing Jimmy a full and speedy recovery.

DECEMBER 2009 FIELD TRIP REPORT

Lavic Siding

December 27, 2009

by Steve Duncan

We had a good turn out for this trip, I guess everyone wanted to walk off some of the holiday treats. We had approximately 20 people, including some members out on their first trip, and some guests from the Santiago College Gemology class. Lavic Siding has been worked for years by a multitude of rockhounds, so the jasper wasn't going to jump into your pack. But with some diligent looking and by hiking a ways from the road a lot of good material was found. And for anyone who likes to tumble, the tumbler sized pieces were everywhere. All in all it was a good day; everyone got a chance to find some nice material.

Norbert and Ana left a bit early to scout Sandy Wash for the January trip, and reported that the road is fine, so the trip is a go. This trip is for the weekend of Jan 9 & 10. Jimmy and Ester also left early to do some scouting, this time for the February trip. Jimmy reports that the collecting at the Vulcan mine was underwhelming, and he will be moving the Feb trip to the Bristol Mountains. More details will be forthcoming.

A THANK YOU TO THE KAHRS FAMILY

The Searchers Gem and Mineral Society would like to thank the Kahrs family for their most generous donation of lapidary equipment, slabs, jewelry making supplies, rough materials and some really nice smaller stones like opals, chrysoprase, goldstone, tigers eye, turquoise, crazy lace agate, etc.

Many of these items will be brought to the general meeting in January for a fantastic Silent Auction. A good amount of slabs will be donated to the Veterans program and the balance of the slabs will be available in the workshop for your cabbing pleasure. There will be pictures of the equipment at the meeting that will be auctioned off.

Thank you again to the Kahrs family! Please join us as our guest at our meetings or on one of our field trips.

*Norbert Bernhardt
President*

LIFE AND STORY OF A LAPIDARY MAN



“Life is filled with many traditions, memorable events, significant moments, friends, family and the many memories long after we leave.”

To honor their father, the Kahrs family has donated to our society, all his lapidary materials, so others, young and old can continue to enjoy!

Mr. William T. Kahrs of Garden Grove, California, passed away in April 2009 at age 91. Born in Long Beach, California in 1919, he grew up in both Yorba Linda and Long Beach. Graduated from Poly High School in 1936. Worked at Douglas Aircraft 1939-1952, Hughes Aircraft, Fullerton Electronic Division and retired in 1976.

It all started in the spring of 1969 with excitement and anticipation of collecting lapidary material, vacation trips, field trips, runs to the many rock shops at the time, like Compton's, Gordon's. Gem Dandy in Las Vegas and San Simeon Gems.

To his little workshop behind the garage, it was all new, exciting, togetherness with his son, the long cold nights in winter, to the satisfaction of finishing a stone ring to show off.

It was all a fun time and a great hobby!

Enjoy:

The Kahrs family.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

None at this time.

ROCK'N KIDS NEWS

BY ANA LORENZO

WE HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP TO NEVADA MINERAL AND BOOK COMPANY. THE ROCK'N KIDS WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH ALL THE MINERALS, GREAT BOOKS AND SHARK'S TEETH. THEY LEARNED A LOT. WE WANT TO THANK WALT AND JOHN FOR A GREAT TALK AND FOR ALL THE GIFTS THE KIDS RECEIVED.

DECEMBER'S EVENT WAS ALSO GREAT. THE KIDS PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM AT THE SEARCHER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DID A GREAT JOB SINGING AND DANCING HULA. THANKS TO JAMES AND ELLIE KOCI, JULIA, LAUREN, AUDREY BENEDICT, AND JULIA SERNA. YOU ALL DID A GREAT JOB!! THE JANUARY FIELD TRIP WILL BE TO SANDY WASH JANUARY 9TH& 10TH. FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK THE BULLETIN OR E-MAIL ME AT

keki1026@gmail.com.

BE PREPARED TO HAVE LOTS OF FUN. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A JEWELRY CLASS, PLAY GAMES, AND HAVE PRIZES FOR THE BEST RIDDLE. SO, START TO GET READY FOR ALL THE FUN !!!!!!!
ENCLOSED ARE PICTURES OF THE NOV. FIELD TRIP.



Dear Mr. Lombardo and John

Thank you very much for taking the time to talk to us about rocks, minerals and fossils. We learned a lot of interesting information, were amazed at everything you showed us and look forward to many more visits.

Also, thank you for the turtle coprolite and pyrite. These will be treasured for years and are a great addition to our growing collection!

Sincerely,

The Searcher's Rock'n Kid

THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>
342 S. Tustin Street • Orange, CA 92866
Ph. 714-633-1549

The Nevada Mineral & Book Company is a new store in town. We believe that it is going to need our support to get going. Norbert has visited it and says it's really nice; lots and lots of minerals and specimens on display and for sale besides all the books. Walter, the owner of the store presented our November program which was very well received.

How to Field Trip

by Steve Duncan

Here, in no particular order, are some thoughts about field trips:

- Most trips are for the weekend, although there are some 1 day trips, and some longer ones
- Most campsites are dry campsites (no facilities, no water etc)
- Campsites are usually accessible by any vehicle
- Some people tent camp, some sleep in their pickups, some sleep in their RVs, and some sleep back in town at the nearest motel
- Sat night there is a potluck and campfire.
- Collecting trips may require high clearance or 4x4 vehicles, if you don't have one we will carpool you with someone
- Your most used tools will be a rock pick and a spray bottle, this is enough for most trips
- When this is not enough you may want sledges, gads, shovels etc.
- I have found that backpacks are the most convenient way to carry rocks, although you will see many other methods being used
- I like shoes with stiff soles (as compared to soft soled running shoes), but the soft soles will work
- Hats are good
- Gloves are good
- Glasses to protect your eyes from flying rock chips are good
- Sun screen and water are good
- Snacks when out collecting are good
- You won't see many critters, and most want nothing more than to be left alone, be careful reaching into holes, under bushes etc
- Many places have been picked over some, that just means that you need to work harder to find good stuff
- Look under bushes, on the side of steep hills, etc. Wherever no one looked before.
- Not sure what you are looking for? Ask someone. We will all be glad to help you.
- It never hurts to follow the field trip leader's recommendations about how and where to collect.
- Realize that although finding rocks is certainly the goal, half the fun is in just being out there and spending some time with friends.
- Leave the collecting site cleaner than you found it
- Fill in holes, if that is not possible slope the sides so that a critter that falls in can get out.
- Don't pick up or bother a tortoise, you will literally scare the pee out of them, and with the loss of that liquid they run the risk of dying of dehydration
- Drink lots of water, and pace yourself. It is easy to become dehydrated yourself.
- Don't mess with a rattlesnake
- Do show your rocks to others, at the trucks, at the campsite etc. We do like to look at rocks
- Bring along friends. You do not have to be a Searcher to come on one of our trips
- You will need to sign a waiver

- Once you have found all these cool rocks there is the question of what to do with them. You can certainly have the coolest yard in the neighborhood (or at least the most rocky), but learning to work the rocks will increase your enjoyment of them
- The club workshop is the perfect place to learn how to work with rocks
- When you are out collecting in the desert you may notice the lack of something: noise. Pause for a moment and enjoy it. Take a second to renew your connection with Pachamama (the earth Mother)
- It is nice to find a great rock, but it is really nice to give that rock to a youngster or rockhounding newbie and watch their eyes light up.
- Spending time with your friends is good
- Breaking out of your everyday routine, and getting out of the city is good
- Finding rocks in the parking lot is good
- Finding rocks in the road is good (literally “in” the road)
- Telling stories about the nice rocks you have found is acceptable, telling stories about the great rocks is encouraged
- I find that when I arrive at a site I am not “seeing” the rocks well, but as some time goes by, and my mind slows down, and I find a few examples, all of a sudden it seems like I can see all the good ones
- The driving can be exciting, collecting requires a different pace
- Field trips are one of the great things the Searchers has to offer you
- You really ought to take advantage of them, we have a lot of fun

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

AVAILABLE



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**