

The Rock Slab News

MARCH 2008 VOLUME 43 ISSUE 1

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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

Wow! It's March already! We've had some problems with getting the newsletter out and the website is a mess. Otherwise, everything is perfect. Kathy is on top of the newsletter again and I'm making progress straightening out the website, so we are gradually improving. This weekend is the **Tailgate in Victorville** and you should make it if you can. This will be my first time there, but I hear there are good rocks to be had at reasonable prices. Looks like the weather should be good, too. Still need members to help with various things with our Show and **we are in great need of a librarian**. Looking forward to Jim Peterson's presentation at our March meeting; a good time will be had by all. Have a good month and see you at the meeting.

Rock on!

Keith Droste, President

DON'T FORGET!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Same rates:
\$20 for individuals
\$25 for couples
\$2 for children under 17

NAME BADGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$5 EACH

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: 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

Membership Dues: Individual \$20
Couple \$25
Junior (17 & under) \$2

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 editors:
Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark
18661 Silver Maple Way
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations:

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

SEARCHERS BOARD

Officers

President	Keith Droste	714/563-4754
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Clarke Benich	714/552-7336
Director	Clarke Benich	714/552-7336
Secretary	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	909/393-2186
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900

Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality		
Library		
Membership	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Monthly Drawing	Skip & Connie Cone	714/827-8675
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/971-6789
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2	Karen Martinez	562/423-2832
2008 Show	Betty Nelson	714/530-1365
Show Co-Chair	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Sunshine		
Veterans' Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Keith Droste	714/563-4754
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714/778-1496

Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council

MARCH EVENTS

March

- | | | |
|----------|--------|--|
| 13 | 7-9 pm | General Meeting |
| 14,15,16 | | Orange Belt Mineralogical Society's "Spring Tailgate" at Little League Regional Ballpark, 6707 Little League Dr., San Bernardino, CA Two dozen or more tailgaters, Open 9am to dusk. \$50 fee to tailgate. If interested in selling contact: Lyle Strayer at 909-887-3394. Free admission and parking. |
| 18 | 7-9 pm | Show Meeting |
| 20 | 7-8 pm | Board Meeting |
| 20 | 7:30pm | Vista Gem & Mineral Society's Annual Silent Auction at Brengle Terrace Park, Gloria E. McClellan Senior Center, Azalea Room, 1400 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista, CA |

For more information about Shows see www.cfmsinc.org. Also see www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html.

APRIL EVENTS

The Anaheim Downtown Center will be closed for maintenance from March 31 through April 7. Therefore, our monthly meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday, April 18.

The Show Meeting is scheduled for the Boardroom on Tuesday, April 18. The Show Chairmen are asked to leave the general meeting at 8 pm and attend the Show Meeting in the Boardroom. All Show Chairmen should be at this Show Meeting as it is the last meeting before the Show the first weekend in May.

DON'T FORGET!!!!

APRIL MEETING IS 3RD TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

MARCH PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

The March program will be a slide presentation and exhibit by Jim Peterson about his 3-month rock collecting trip to the east coast and back again.

Jim has been my friend and neighbor for 29 years, and I can verify that he has been on some great trips and has an extensive collection of nice material. I am really looking forward to this meeting!

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

By Walter Mroch

The February program was a presentation on opals by David Kramer of Huntington Beach. If you'll remember he also did a program for us last August which was very well received. At that time he also spoke about opals and how to correctly mount them for cutting. We all enjoyed David's last program so much that we are very much looking forward to this next one. See you Tuesday night.

MARCH FIELD TRIP

PALEN MTS. AND OROCOPA MTS.

March 29 – 30, 2008

By Jimmy Peterson and Norbert Bernhardt

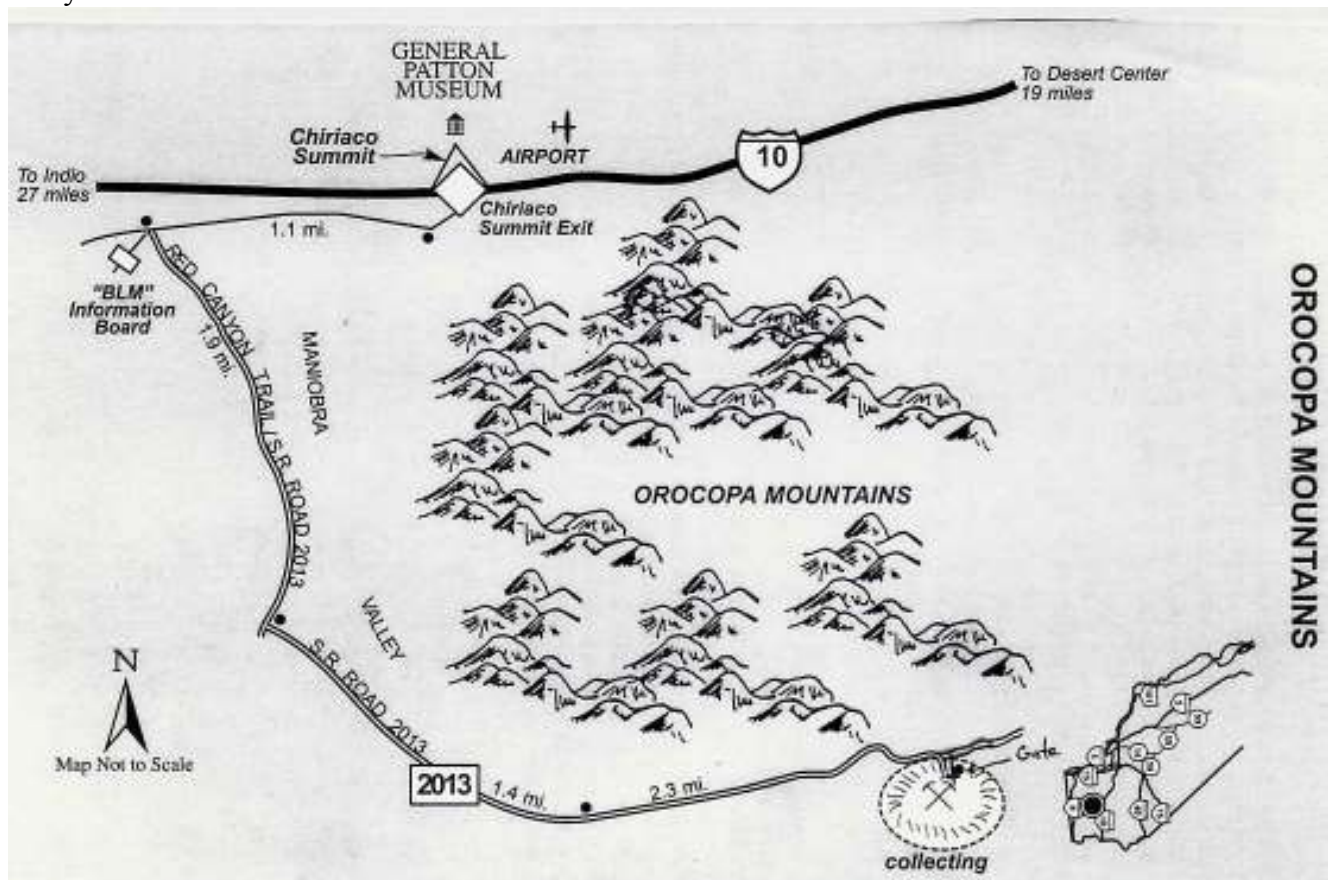
Our field trip, on Saturday, will be to the Palen Mountains for quartz crystals and chrysocolla. We will go to the Orocopa Mts. For fluorite on Sunday. Camping will be behind the General Patton Museum located at the Chiriaco Summit Exit. The campsite is about 2.5 hours from Orange County, CA. This is a dry camp with no fee. The closest motels are in Indio 27 miles before our campsite.

We will leave by 9:00 am for the field trips. Bring your lunch because we will not go back to camp till late afternoon. Bring rock hammers, picks, gads, good shoes, water, and layered clothing. Be prepared for cool or warm weather. 4-wheel drive recommended on Saturday.

Directions: Head toward Palm Springs/Indio I-10 towards Blythe. Exit at Chiriaco Summit Exit and go over the freeway to the General Patton Museum. There is a dirt road right next to the museum. Follow it around to the back of the museum.

Please contact Norbert or Jimmy so we know how many people will be going. Norbert at 714-904-2181 or E-mail at nbern@cox.net. Jimmy at 714-904-8573.

See you there!



2008 SHOW

by Betty Nelson

The next Show meeting March 18 at 7 pm at the Anaheim Center. We still need someone to do Friday Night Dinner. We also need small attractive rocks for Grab Bags and Hourly Drawing donations. Bring them to our March meeting or to the Grab Bag stuffing. Only small size attractive or interesting stones, please. Tumbled stones are especially appreciated. Our theme is Western like last year. If you have western items you would like to loan for the Show, please let Kathy or me know or bring them to a meeting. We would also appreciate dried weeds and dried flowers to put in western boots for decoration.

We need more members to sign up for 2-hour stints both Saturday and Sunday. We also need to know who will be putting in cases. A list will go around at the meeting. (Betty Nelson betty@azteche.com) (Kathy Clark hanky1panky3@yahoo.com).

GRAB BAG STUFFING

SATURDAY, MARCH 15 @ 10 am

Norbert and Ana's house
1161 S.E. Skyline Drive, Santa Ana 92705
714-734-9665 or nbern@cox.net

SHOW SECURITY

CASES

For your Safety and Protection

Please remember that we do not allow any display cases or exhibit to be opened or removed during Show hours.

Sunday at 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 Show Chairwoman know. This is for your safety and protection.

Thank you.

Larry Richey
Show Security

SHOW SECURITY

Name Badges

Remember to wear your club name 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. This should take 5 to 10 minutes with your help. After the room has been cleared of all unauthorized people or left over 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 **will need a special badge**. Please see me Friday During set up, Saturday during the Show or Early Sunday so I may see that they have a badge or proper pass before the close of the Show.

Thank you.

Larry Richey
Show Security

SEARCHER NAME BADGES

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

\$5 EACH

See membership chairman Kathy Clark at a meeting, during the Show, or call or email me and I will send you a name badge. Kathy Clark 714-639-9927 or hanky1panky3@yahoo.com.

SUNSHINE REPORT

By Kathy Clark

Please keep Chris Droste (wife of our new President), Steve Duncan and Sarah Harris in your thoughts as they recover from surgeries and treatments. Also, Ester Reynolds' daughter is recovering from surgery and undergoing treatment. We wish you all well.

And to all Searchers who have had a terrible cold or the flu this season, a speedy recovery is wished upon you all.

Sadly, Robert Burson's father passed away suddenly on January 28. Also Sharon Burson's 92-year-old mother is in poor health. Sharon and Robert, may it comfort you and your families to know that you are in the thoughts and prayers of lots of Searchers at this time.

Best wishes for speedy recoveries are sent to past Searcher members Nancy and Jerry Norlund who are undergoing surgery or treatment.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please welcome the newest members of the Searchers' family:

New Members:

Jeff Renck 930 Felicidad St. Anaheim, CA 92801 714-397-3584 takme2rvr@sbcglobal.net	Mai Tran Graham Frisby 9649 La Mora Circle Fountain Valley, CA 92708 714-962-1093 mtran_nj@yahoo.com gfrisby1@yahoo.com	Monica Maxwell 21109 Dalaman Ave. Lakewood, CA 90715 562-865-2101 maxsquare@aol.com
Pete & Sasana Konovalov 10335 Valley View Ave. Whittier, CA 90604 562-903-5930 generic00100@verizon.net	Glenn & Terri Benedict Lauren & Audrey Benedict (Jr. Members) 1202 S.E. Skyline Dr. Santa Ana, CA 92705 714-573-1424 terri024@sbcglobal.net	Everett & Darlene Bedley 10101 Van Ruiten Bellflower, CA 90706 562-866-3906 darlenesta@earthlink.net
John & Judy Carson 1429 E. Albion Lane Orange, CA 92866-3401 714-926-1144 jcarson@socal.rr.com	John & Cathy Grigg 7860 E. Amanda Circle Anaheim, CA 92807 714-970-9120	

Everyone, please check the roster. Let me know if I need to make corrections. I will update the roster and email it to you monthly. There will be a few hardcopies of the roster available at meetings. If you have an email address, please, please give it to me. Email saves the club so much money and saves me an enormous amount of time.

Also, name badges are available immediately (no waiting for engraving) at \$5 each.

2008 LONG BEACH V.A. MEDIAL CENTER CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST

by Larry Richey, Searchers Veterans' Coordinator

The Veterans Creative Arts Contest is an annual contest for all patients from the Veterans Hospitals worldwide. Each hospital has its own contest and the 1st place winners from this contest move up the Regional Level, then the 1st place winners from regional move up to the National Level. The National Veterans contest will be some time in October or November. This year the finals will be held here in Riverside, California. Please keep this in mind because one day during this week it is open for the general public to see. This would be a rare chance to see some amazing work our Veterans are doing.

We would again like to thank our outside Expert Judges this year: Dr. Walter Johnson and his bride Donna, and Robert Gullage Certified Gemologist from Burton's Gems and Opals, Anaheim, California. This year's judging was a very difficult task. It took seven different judges and four ties in three different categories to make the final decision for the 1st place winners. This was a very close contest.

This year's contest had 27 entries in 12 different classifications; from the Vocational Therapy Rock Shop we have first place winners in the Special Recognition Category, Jewelry Category, Beadwork, and Applied Arts Mixed Media. These four winners now continue on to the regional contest. We wish all of our participants the best at the next level.

A special congratulations to our new member Jesus (Jesse) Garza who is also a Searcher member. He has been in the program almost one year and took 3rd place in Beadwork with a knapped arrowhead necklace and 1st place in the Applied Arts Mixed Media Category with his slush box project. And this boy can put a polish on any stone or cab. We wish Jesse the best as he moves up to the regional level.

JANUARY PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Our First Vice President of Programs Walter Mroch presented our January program entitled “What’s New at the Oceanview Mine, Pala District, California.” Walter gave us an overview of a real operating pegmatite mine with local geology, history and minerals.

Jeff Swanger is the owner of the Oceanview Mine. He has all the government permits required to operate the mine and has certified trainers in mining and safety. Almost all the other mines in the area are inoperative because they have not kept up with the legalities.

It’s a lot of hard work and planning to start up a new mine from scratch. (A typical rule is that 10% of what is mined is saleable, and of that 10% is gems). A swipe of the bulldozer gives a starting place. Drilling, using compressors, blasting, mucking out debris after blasting and core drilling come next. Vent lines are used to force air under ground to get rid of the dust. Battery packs for helmet lanterns are good for 16 hours underground. Cables draw the slusher bucket back and forth, but using a bobcat is the easy way for removing muck. For blasting, holes are drilled and debris blown out. A typical round is 14 holes. Tamp explosive charges in holes with newspaper and loose gravel packed tight. After blasts wait an hour for the dust to settle and then blow out.

The Oceanview Mine is open on weekends to screen mine the rough for gemstones at \$60 per person. Apatite (not common), feldspar, goshenite, morganite, kunzite, all kinds of quartz clusters, elbaite tourmaline, columbite and aquamarine are to be found here. Lots of world-class stuff is coming out of this mine. Mine safety items have been added in the last year. For more information see www.digforgems.com

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DESPERATELY SEEKING . . .

By Kathy Clark

As you know, we have not had a newsletter since November. Two different times I thought I had someone to take over the newsletter, but each time it didn't work out. Then I got bronchitis and asthma which has devastated me for the last **three** months. I have never been so sick for so long.

Thinking I would find someone to do the newsletter, I agreed to become the club's secretary for 2008. I am membership chairman, secretary (I take minutes at general meetings, board meetings and the Show meetings), Show co-chairman two years running because no one else would volunteer, and now I have the newsletter, too. Plus, we moved my husband's elderly parents to a residential care facility a mile from our home so we can readily oversee their care. Then we've got to clear out and clean up their house to get it ready to sell. My own home is a shambles because when I am home I've got other things to tend to besides housekeeping. And we can't afford a housekeeper because my husband quit his job two and half years ago to take care of his parents and we've been living off our savings. As my dad would say, if I didn't have bad news I wouldn't have any news at all. By the way, Jenny Stavreva has been doing the newsletter setup after I do the writing. Jenny is on vacation now. I know, because I frantically emailed her asking (begging) her to help me once again get the newsletter out, and she wasn't there. So if you find things amiss or just a little bit different in this newsletter, it's because **I** did the setup.

I AM DESPERATELY SEEKING A NEWSLETTER EDITOR. Please, please give this some serious thought. It really is a fun job. There is always room to get your two cents in. And if I can do the setup, believe me, anyone can. It doesn't have to be fancy. The point is to get the information out there. Please help me out here; I REALLY REALLY REALLY need someone to take over the newsletter. Don't let me down. Someone please volunteer.



Happy Birthday to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their birthdays in MARCH

MARCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing Opal&Gem Show
2	3	4	5	6 6-10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	7	8 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing Field Trip
9	10	11 7-9 pm General Meeting	12	13 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	14	15 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
16	17	18 7-9 pm Show Meeting	19	20 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping 7-9 pm Board Meeting	21	22 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
23	24	25	26	27 6-10pm Lapidary	28	29 3-7pm Lapidary Field Trip
30 Field Trip	31					

SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Kathy Clark
18661 Silver Maple Way
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144
hanky1panky3@yahoo.com
714/639-9927

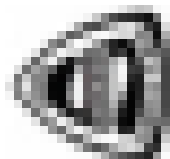
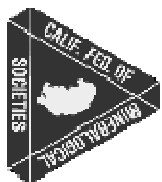
Please Print!

Date: _____
 Name 1: _____
 Name 2: _____
 Jr. Member 1: _____ 2: _____
 Address: _____

 E-mail: _____
 Occupation: _____ Phone: _____

Individual: \$20
 Couple: \$25
 Junior members (17 and under): \$2

Please indicate the club activities that interest you:
 Minerology () Geology () Lapidary () Fossils () Other _____
 Meet other Searchers and volunteer to help a committee(s):
 Anaheim Arts Council () Historian () Library ()
 Website () Membership () Monthly Drawing ()
 Phone Comm. () RSN Editor () Sunshine ()
 Veteran's Workshop () Hospitality () Workshop ()
 Rock'n'Kids () Annual Show () Silent Auction ()



Kathy Clark, *Editor*
18661 Silver Maple Way
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144

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Volume 43 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2008



MARCH BIRTHSTONE AQUAMARINE

Aquamarine is the traditional birthstone for March. It is also the accepted anniversary gem for the 19th year of marriage. Aquamarine is mined primarily in Brazil, Nigeria and Zambia. To dream of aquamarine signifies the making of new friends. To wear aquamarine brings love and affection. To give aquamarine is to offer the gift of knowledge, foresight and individual inspiration. It is a universal symbol of youth, fidelity, hope and health. Ideal for carving into cameos and beads, the “blue sea” stone is said to aid seafarers so it is a wonderful gift for sailors, fishermen, and everyone who spends time at sea. A gift of aquamarine symbolizes safety and security, especially within long-standing relationships. Surprisingly, unlike other coveted gemstones, the majority of aquamarines are flawless. As a gift, aquamarine is unsurpassed in its legendary abilities to preserve and enhance mutual love, to ensure truth in relationships and to maintain a good marriage.

