



Steven Felsch *Anaheim Bulletin*

Marvin Mog displays two halves of a Septarian Nodule, which he likes for the horse head shape in the middle. His wife is holding an Agate Nodule, which is brilliant blue in the middle.

Rock hounds gather to show their wares

Erik Hamilton
Anaheim Bulletin

ANAHEIM — At least once a month Marvin Mog can be found scrounging through the Mohave Desert, scrutinizing the sand with eagle-eyed accuracy in search of rocks.

But Mog is not working for a university or college gathering rocks for geological studies. He's searching for gems and minerals that he will cut, polish and mount.

Mog is part of a world wide group of individuals known affectionately as "rock hounds," who look for precious and semi-precious stones as a hobby. Rock hounds will be in Anaheim for the 28th annual Gem and Mineral Show which begins Saturday and ends Sunday.

As a member of The Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, Mog will gather with other members as they present their

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wares, demonstrate jewelry making, lapidary and faceting to club members and the general public.

Mog, when he isn't hunting for stones in the desert, works as an underwriter supervisor at State Farm Insurance, is a guide and field trip planner for the 135-member Orange County chapter of the society. The Anaheim resident said the rock hounds don't confine their trips to weekends alone but sometimes visit places such as Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

"We're going to take a week to 10-day trip to Nevada and into Utah with a group of people to look for topaz crystals," Mog

said. On these field trips, Mog said the rock hounds travel to the planned campgrounds and are equipped with all the necessary tools to find the elusive stones.

"Sometimes you can find these stones by just looking, but sometimes you have to do a little bit of digging with a shovel to find what you're looking for," he said.

The rock hunter said gem and mineral searching is among the most popular hobbies in the world. In Orange County, the society offers weekly workshops to teach eager rock hounds how to cut, polish and mount their finds and speakers

are lined up occasionally to tell fellow rock fanatics about their hobby.

For most people, retirement is a time to take that long fishing trip to Baja or a Mediterranean cruise. But for Mog, the outback of Australia is his planned getaway.

"When I retire, I plan to take a trip to Australia for six months and spend all my time looking for opal," Mog said. "In Australia, you can find all kinds of gems — they're everywhere."

The two-day event, which is sponsored by the Anaheim Arts Council, will be held at the Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave. Activities begin at 10 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, May 3. Along with plenty of food and drink, free door prizes will be given away hourly and admission and parking is free.