

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas Searchers!

Soon we will all be gathering to enjoy a little Christmas cheer at Marie Calendars. I look forward to seeing everyone there, enjoy a great meal and celebrate Christmas. Whether or not you can make it to the dinner, I personally wish you all a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends. While your busy enjoying your holidays, take time to remember how nice it is that we have this community within our club. We all share a common bond through our love of rocking and all things rock related. Searchers is full of amazing members who each bring a little something special to the group we are as a whole. This past year we've joined together to go on field trips, throw one of the best Rock Shows anywhere, gather for a group picnic and give back to the community. Thank you for allowing me to be part of such a wonderful community club. Merry Christmas Searchers!

Seri-Lynn Wheeler

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONES Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise

The three birthstones associated with December are *Tanzanite*, *Zircon*, and *Turquoise*. Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, *tanzanite* exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices. As tanzanite can be less expensive than sapphire, it often was purchased as an alternative. However, it has increased in popularity and now is valued more for its own beauty and brilliance than as a sapphire substitute.

Derived from the Arabic words *zar* and *gun*, meaning *gold* and *color*, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep. Major sources of zircon are the Chanthaburi area of Thailand, the Palm area of Cambodia, and the southern part of Vietnam.

The name *turquoise*, from the French expression *Pierre turques* or *Turkish stone*, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes. It is most often used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and inlays. Although its popularity fluctuates in fashion, it is a perennial favorite in the American Southwest.



Address Correction Requested



DECEMBER 2012

The Rock Slab Files

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FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIPS 2012			
Date	Leader	Location & Material	Status
January 23-24	Burro Creek		scheduled
January 25-27	Quartzsite Show		scheduled

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

UPCOMING 2013 CFMS GEM SHOWS

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society
 Riverside County Fair & National Date
 Festival
 46-530 Arabia Street
 Hours: 10 - 10 daily
 Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674
 Email: bert67@verizon.net

Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily
 Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624
 Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com
 Website: www.Moroks.com

March 1 - 3: NEWARK, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro
 Valley
 Newark Pavilion
 6430 Thornton Avenue
 Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
 Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 305-4196
 Email: Cdmiller59@gmail.com
 Website: www.mgscv.org

March 2 - 3: VENTURA, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
 Ventura County Fairgrounds
 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
 Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725
 Email: abaris2007@gmail.com
 Website: www.vgms.org

March 2 - 3: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
 The Arboretum & Botanic Gardens
 301 Baldwin Avenue (Ayers Hall)

March 9 - 10: SAN MARINO, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
 San Marino Masonic Center
 3130 Huntington Drive
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
 Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239

Email: joenmar1@verizon.net

March 9 - 10: SPRECKELS, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
Spreckels Veteran's Hall
5th & Llano Streets
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Karin Salomon, (831) 375-5233
Email: kcbakes27@yahoo.com
Website: www.salinasrockandgem.com

March 23 - 24: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds
101 Frogtown Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277
Email: amy95247@yahoo.com
Website:
www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 9 - 10: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
900 North Broadway
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494
Email: terry_mcmillin@yahoo.com
Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 23 - 24: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds
800 All American City Blvd
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Gloria Marie, (530) 367-2262
Email:
gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
Website: www.rockrollers.com

March 16 - 17: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds
900 Fairgrounds Drive
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 745-1816,
cell (707) 334-2950
Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net

March 23 - 24: TORRANCE, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Bill Sudduth, (310) 787-7851
Email: Sudduth3@msn.com
Website: www.palosverdes.com/sblap

SUNSHINE REPORT

By Beth Pelfrey

Our own Burt Fortin has had knee surgery at Los Alamitos Medical Center. Burt continues to improve and is working hard to get back home very soon. Please let her know you are thinking of her. Cards and calls will be appreciated.

Any notes and cards you send to her home will be taken to the care center until she can be there to get them herself.

Burt's address and phone number for cards and calls is: 14352 Beach Blvd, Space 123, Westminster, CA 92683 (714) 892-6457.

PICTURE FROM OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER





New Board Officers (some officers missing)

BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

CUTOFF WHEELS

Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.

OCHRE APPLICATOR

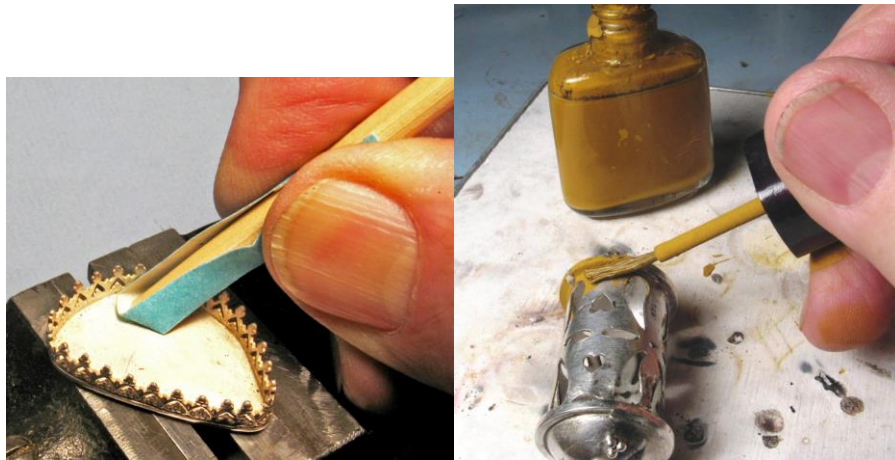
Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder will not flow onto an area of your piece while you're soldering on another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it. I like recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.

SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES

Often you'll need to sand or polish an area that's impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a

flexshaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or inside bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick.

I've found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45 degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of vaseline or oil. Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.



PtCreations

2812-B Walnut Ave.
Tustin, Ca 92780 714-904-2181

Classes, jewelry, faceted stones, rocks, slabs and minerals.
Now open Wednesdays 11am-4pm and during classes and events.
Check the "Calendar" on our web-site for schedule.

www.ptcreations.net

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

Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply

Club members show your ID card and receive a 10% off purchases over \$100
Authorized dealer for Garrett, Fisher, and Tesoro metal detectors
5642 E. La Palma Ave., #208, Anaheim, CA 92807 (corner of La Palma and Imperial Hwy.)
714 693-GOLD (4653). Store hours: Tu - Sat 10am - 6pm

SCOOP MARKS IN THE SAND AT 'ROCKNEST'

From JPL, California



Date added:

2012-12-03

Target:

Mars

Mission:

Mars Science Laboratory (MSL)

Spacecraft:

Curiosity

Instruments:

Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI)

Size:

1234 x 860 pixels (width x height)

Image credit:

NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS

This is a view of the third (left) and fourth (right) trenches made by the 1.6-inch-wide (4-centimeter-wide) scoop on NASA's Mars rover Curiosity in October 2012. The image was acquired by the Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) on Sol 84 (Oct. 31, 2012) and shows some of the details regarding the properties of the "Rocknest" wind drift sand. The upper surface of the drift is covered by coarse sand grains approximately 0.02 to 0.06 inches (0.5 to 1.5 millimeters) in size. These coarse grains are mantled with fine dust, giving the drift surface a light brownish red color. The coarse sand is somewhat cemented to form a thin crust about 0.2 inches (0.5 centimeters) thick. Evidence for the crusting is seen by the presence of angular clods in and around the troughs and in the sharp, jagged indentations and overhangs on one wall of each trench (the walls closest to the top of this figure).

Beneath the crust surface, as revealed in the scoop troughs and the piles of sediment on the right side of each, is finer sand, which is darker brown as compared with the dust on the surface. The left end of each trough wall shows alternating light and dark bands, indicating that the sand inside the drift is not completely uniform. This banding might result from different amounts of infiltrated dust, chemical alteration or deposition of sands of slightly different color.