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## IN THIS IS- SUE

- Field Trips 2
- Club Meetings 2
- Upcoming 4
- CFM Shows
- Show pictures 4

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### FIELD TRIPS

- June 1st & 2nd.  
Cady Moun-  
tains

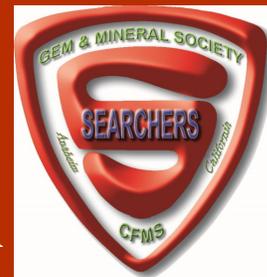
### MAY GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

- Herb Beckman

# The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 5



MAY 2013

## The President's Message



Hello Searchers and Happy May!

As I write this we are preparing for our Big Show. In less than 2 weeks all our hard work and hours of organization will come together and create what I'm sure is going to be a wonderfully successful show. I would like to thank every member for your time, your service and your dedication to seeing your club be the best it can possibly be. You all make up one of the best rock clubs anywhere!

By the time this newsletter comes out we will already have had our show and have enjoyed every moment! I want to welcome our new members to Searchers! I'm sure you'll soon find out you've joined a wonderful group of people who all

share a common love of all things rocks! We have some of the most talented, knowledgeable and friendly members, many who have been a part of the club for decades. Make sure to say hello and introduce yourself, get involved in the general meetings, work shops, field-trips and all the other fun activities we have year round. If you have any questions, always feel free to reach out to any member.

We have a fantastic field-trip in May, lead by Norbert Bernhardt. Be sure to check further down in the newsletter for all the details. Our general meeting speaker this month is our very own Herb Beckman. He is one of the

most talented and knowledgeable lapidary artists I know. He will be speaking on the shop; what it has to offer and quite a bit more. I'm more than sure you'll all enjoy it! In closing, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to be your Club President going on three years now. It's been an amazing, educating and fun ride. I have learned a great deal, and will forever be grateful for the time I have spent as President.

*Teri-Lynn*

## May's Birthstone

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word *smaragdus*, meaning *green* in Greek, was mined in Egypt as early as 330 B.C. Today, most of the world's emeralds are mined in Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

Emeralds, like all colored gemstones, are graded using four basic parameters—the four Cs of Connoisseurship: Color, Cut, Clarity and Crystal. The last C, crystal, is simply a synonym for transparency, or what gemologists call diaphaneity. Before the 20th century, jewelers used the term water, as in "a gem of the finest water," to express the combination of two qualities: color and crystal. Normally, in the grading of colored gemstones, color is by far the most important criterion. However, in the grading of emeralds, crystal



is considered a close second. Both are necessary conditions. A fine emerald must possess not only a pure verdant green hue, but also a high degree of transparency to be considered a top gem.

# Field Trips

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
5/11-12/13	Norbert Bernhardt	El Paseo Mountains, CA	Completed
6/1-2/13	Tracy Jackson	Cady Muntains	Scheduled



For a more complete listing of shows go to website:

[www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org), [www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html](http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html)

[www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com), [www.southsunproducts.com](http://www.southsunproducts.com)

[www.route66goldminers.org](http://www.route66goldminers.org), [www.auctionmasters.com](http://www.auctionmasters.com)

## Field Trip: Cady Mountains

June 1st and 2nd, 2013

Leader: Tracy Jackson

The Searchers will be having a field trip to The Cady Mountains. We will be collecting jaspers and jasp-agates in a variety of colors and patterns including moss agates. We will be camping at the Lavic Crossing area. 4X4 should not be needed but high clearance is recommended.

Directions: take the 99 freeway to interstate 15 north. Take 15 north to Barstow. Take the highway 40 east from Barstow and exit at Hector Road. Make a right and then a left onto old route 66. Follow 66 until it turns and crosses the 40 (approximately 9 miles). Just before the overpass turn right onto the dirt road to the camping area. From the Huntington Beach area it takes approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours to the camp site depending on traffic so plan ahead. We will be leaving the camp site at 8:30.

Most of the rock will be surface collecting but you might want to bring some digging tools as well. There is an overabundance of materials and locations in this area.

We will be having our pot luck on Saturday night. There is lodging available in Barstow if needed.

For those new to rock hounding here are a few helpful hints;

- Dress in layers since the temperature in the deserts can vary drastically. It is generally pretty warm to hot in the day but usually pretty chilly at night.
- Bring plenty of water and sunscreen.
- Bring a hammer or rock pick to chip the rocks you find to see the interior of the stone since the exterior usually looks nothing like the finished product.
- Bring safety glasses since when chipping rocks you might get hit by a chip.
- Bring gloves since harder rocks can chip with very sharp edges.
- Bring a spray bottle of water to wet the rocks since they will look the same when polished as when wet.
- Bring a bucket or day back pack to carry the rocks you find.
- We rarely see a snake but take caution if reaching into a hole or under a bush.
- Bring questions, eagerness, and a smile.

Tracy Jackson      oaamimi@aol.com      714-705-3445

For field trip

information contact:

David Nelson, V.P.

Field Trips, Searchers

Gem and Mineral

Society,

(714) 709-3242

(cell) or

dsnelsonsmorgan@

yahoo.com



## 2013 National Veterans Arts Contest Winners

The Veterans Creative Arts Contest is an annual contest open to all Patients from the Veterans Hospitals world-wide. Each hospital has its own contest and the 1st place winners from that contest, move up to the Regional Level, than the 1st place winners move up to the National level. There are thousands of entries from all over the world. Just to go to the National level is a huge achievement, but to win one of the top three places is an unbelievable achievement one can be quite proud of.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) is the celebration and grand finale stage and art show which are the culmination of talent competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music for the veterans treated in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Health Care System. Approximately 130 veterans will exhibit their artwork or perform in a gala show. All 1st place winners are selected to participate at the end of this long contest. This year's Gala Performance and Art Exhibit will be at Reno Nevada. The Veterans Health Care System of the VA medical facilities incorporates creative arts into their recreation therapy programs. This annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through that therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veterans after disease, disability or life crisis. This year we want to congratulate the winner of this year's first round (local) competition from Long Beach. Winners are:

Woodworking Category, 1st place: James Thorp...Project "Bino-viewer" box.

Metalworking Category, 1st place: Joseph Edwards.. "Project Therapy works".

Applied Art/Mixed media, 1st place: James Thorp ... "Inlay pen"

Personal Experience Patriotic, 1st place: Jerry Ramirez... "Always a Soldier"

Jewelry not Beads Category, 1st place: Jesus Garza -- Project. "Fiesta"

This is a tuff competition with 1880 some 1st place winners trying to get to the nationals in the final 23 categories all that entered should be VERY PROUD of your projects.

We would like to congratulate all our 1st place winners from Long Beach and wish them the best at the Regionals and wish them our best as their projects move forward going to the national level.

Great Job! And good luck.

For all of our Supporters:

VA medical Center (VRT) this has been a life changing experience. We want to thank you for your support. Your support for our Long Beach program is the only reason this program is still available to these veterans today. Without your support this program would not exist today as it is the only one of the two Lapidary classes in the VA System. With your support Long Beach has won nineteen (19) of the top three places and one (1) Special Recognition award at the nationals over the last twenty-two years. We thank you for all that you do to support this program at Long Beach.

We THANK YOU AND SALUTE YOU ALL!

*Larry Richey*

### Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
April 2013	Cancelled due to building maintenance	Cancelled
May 14	Herb Beckman	Safety & Equipment Demo
June 11	Conrad Grundke	Diamonds: Two Tales!

## Upcoming 2013 CFMS Gem Shows



**May 31 - June 2: VENTURA, CA** Annual CFMS SHOW & CONVENTION, "California Rocks" Sponsored by: Conejo, Oxnard, & Ventura Gem & Mineral Societies Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Boulevard Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
 Show Chair Rob Sankovich  
 Email: rmsoca@adelphia.net, (805) 494-7734  
**June 8 - 9: 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  
 Email: donogden@aol.com, fbrik-tr1@aol.com  
 Website: www.nocgms.com  
**June 14 - 16: WOODLAND HILLS, CA**  
 Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society  
 Pierce College Farm  
 20800 Victory Blvd  
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
 Contact: William Rucker, (818) 428

-7834  
 Email: rockhound@rockatomics.com  
 Website: Rockatomics.com  
**June 28 - 30: SAN BERNARDINO, CA**  
 Orange Belt Mineralogical Society  
 Western Regional Little League Ball Park  
 6707 Little League Drive  
 Hours: 9 am to Dusk daily  
 Contacts: Ken & Jessica Gard, (909) 624-1782, (909) 887-5507  
 Email: kengard@roadrunner.com  
 Website: http://

### SEARCHERS BUSY IN THE COMMUNITY

In the early afternoon of Tuesday, April 9, 2013, organized by Robert Burson who is himself a very long-time member of our club, Francisco Torres, Jimmy Peterson and I were happy to participate in one session of a Teach-In at Cypress Community College where Robert works. The class was held in one of the galleries of the Art Department and led by Edward Giardina, an art professor.

We set up some 8 foot tables, a large batch of samples and a four foot display case. Francisco brought his skills for a professionally produced slideshow. He and Robert had worked together to produce a wonderfully colorful and coherent lapidary to geology to field trip lesson including specimen, locations and natural flora in the collecting sites. Robert narrated the show. I introduced the club history and mission and pointed out how much fun all the facets of our hobby are.

Jimmy brought wonderful eye candy: fabulous shiny spheres, finished belt buckles and cabochons to further entice and romance the tyro. Robert brought a varied selection of rough material from most of the sites he showed in the slides.

The class (and us!) pictured above enjoyed the Teach-In and we were told by several students that some form of our hobby would interest them. One guy said the field trips seemed to him to be the most fun; I had to agree. Several who were interested in making and designing jewelry expressed interest in the shop.

It was such fun to do this: win-win! We get to share and they get to explore. This could be something we all could enjoy doing. Thanks to Robert, Jimmy, Francisco and Cypress College, we had a great day.

Beth Pelfrey, Participant.



Teach-In at Cypress Community College

## Congratulations Jesus Garza

CONGRATULATIONS! JESUS GARZA, YOUR ART PIECE "FIESTA WAS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE TOP THREE ENTRIES IN IT'S CATEGORY. THERE WERE OVER 1,600 ENTRIES IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NATIONAL COMPETITION AND YOUR ART PIECE HAS EARNED A PLACE IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE 2013 NATIONAL VETERANS COMPETITION.

WE WISH JESUS THE BEST AS HE MOVES UP IN THE COMPETITION TO THE FINAL PHASE. BY THE END OF JULY WE SHOULD HAVE THE WORD ON THE WINNERS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THE FIRST PLACE WINNER WILL BE INVITED TO THE FESTIVAL IN RENO NEVADA AT THE END OF OCTOBER 2013.



## Bench Tips

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

### BEZEL SETTING PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

### CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the often found brown grime floating on the top of a pickle pot.

### NEWS ITEM - Trillions in Diamonds

Russia has just declassified news that will shake world gem markets to their core: the discovery of a vast new diamond field containing "trillions of carats," enough to supply global markets for another 3,000 years.

The Soviets discovered the bonanza back in the 1970s beneath a 35-million-year-old, 62-mile diameter asteroid crater in eastern Serbia known as Popigai Astrobleme.



# Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

## General Information



Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

[www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

**General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

**Board Meetings:** 6PM, 1st 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

**Website:** [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

<b>Membership Dues:</b>	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](mailto: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



## PtCreations

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

[www.ptcreations.net](http://www.ptcreations.net)

## THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>

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Ph. 714-633-1549

## Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply

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