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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 1



JANUARY 2015

The President's Message



Hello Searchers and Visitors!

Happy New Year! Welcome to the new 2015 version of the Searchers' Gem and Mineral Society.

Let me introduce myself to those of you who are new to the Rock Slab. My name is Jay Erb and I'm the recently re-elected President of the Searchers.

Last year was an excellent year. The 2014 Show was an outstanding success. Our field trips were fun and fruitful and our speakers were not only educational, but very entertaining as well. 2015 promises to be even better.

Last year, however, we stumbled with our Youth Program. This year, rather than placing the program on the shoulders of one of the parents, I'd like to find one or more volunteers to act as a mentor for the program. In 2015 we will definitely be creating opportunities to earn the youth badges offered FREE by the AFMS. Please let me know if you are interested in working with the parents of our younger members to create an Earth Sciences program.

As always, I am going to seek out volunteers. There are a few people out there who know the joys of volunteering just for the sake of doing neat stuff. I want to recruit people who are tired of sitting on the sidelines in a narrow area of competence and who want to spread their wings and try something new, interesting and maybe even - Fun.

Happy New Year,

Jay

2015 President, Searchers Gem and Mineral Society

My New Year's resolution is to go on more field trips.

Become a rockhound activist. We're not asking you to "rock the world", but protect what you love.

Jay

Quartzsite this month
see page 2 for details.



Trip Report page 3 for details



Field Trips

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
1-2015	None	Quartzsite	Planned



Field Trip Quartzsite

Searchers January field trip will be a self guided trip to the QIA Pow Wow in Quartzsite AZ. Field trips are courtesy of the local club, Quartzsite Roadrunners. Usually there are two field trips per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The cost to participate in a field trip is typically \$2.00 per trip/insurance. Check at the membership booth for the schedule of the field trips. More details will be provided at the January General meeting.

See [Page 6](#) for more information on Quartzsite.



**For field trip
information**

contact: Robert

Burson V.P. Field

Trips, Searchers

Gem and Mineral

Society,

[bursonrocks@verizon](mailto:bursonrocks@verizon.net)

on.net

Quartzsite Schedule

January 02 - January 14, 2015 Prospectors Panorama
 January 01 - February 28, 2015 Desert Gardens -Gem & Mineral
 January 02 - January 11, 2015 Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show
 January 05 - January 25, 2015 Main Event
 January 16 - January 25, 2015 Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama
 January 17 - January 25, 2015 Big Tent Sports, Vacation & RV Show
 January 21 - January 25, 2015 Pow Wow - Gems, minerals & jewelry



Planning Ahead

Searchers,

It's never too early to start saving material for the Show silent auction. When you are collecting, collect a piece or two for the silent auction. When you are slabbing set one aside for the silent auction. This is an easy way for you to give something back to the club. We have a reputation for having the best silent auction around and we want to continue that tradition. Normally I collect material for the show in the spring, but if you have things cluttering up the house that you want to get rid of you can always bring them to the club meetings and I will store them until the auction. Thanks in advance for helping out the club.

Regards, Steve Duncan 714 724 7102 (cell)

Trip Report: Colosseum and Copper World Mines



The Dec. Searcher field trip was on Dec13, 14, led by Jimmy Peterson. The trip was just outside of Primm, Nevada to 2 different mines. Everyone met just out off the 15 Freeway near the new Electric Generating plant. From there we went up a fairly rough dirt road to the Collosseum Gold mine to find Pyrite and Chalcopyrite. It was over 5000 feet high and we got a light dusting of snow at the top. It was cold and cloudy all day but everyone had a great time looking for the shiny stuff and even breaking up some very big rocks. The temperature up there was only about 25 degrees. What a great ending to go back to a warm room and a hot shower before the "potluck" around the Buffet table. Everyone ate too much but it was all very good. Many went home the next morning so only 2 vehicles headed for the Copper World Mine. That was even a rougher road, mostly needing good clearance. More good material was found there before all headed home.



January Guest Speaker Gabriel Mosseson will be doing a talk on Ethiopian Opals. A bit about the history of their discovery, the development of the market and about the opals themselves. He'll even bring some sell.

Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
1-2015	Gabriel Mosseson	Ethiopian Opals

For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site:
www.cfmsinc.org

Upcoming 2014 & 2015 CFMS Gem Shows

2015

JANUARY 2015

January 17 - 18: EXETER, CA Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia Exeter Veterans Memorial Building 324 N Kaweah Avenue, Hwy 65 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Bill Bingaman, (559) 741-6381 Email: bandgbing@aol.com Website: www.tulegem.com

FEBRUARY

February 13 - 22: INDIO, CA San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Cabazon Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival 82-503 Highway 11 Hours: 10 - 10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674 Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 27 - March 8, IMPERIAL, CA Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society Imperial Valley Expo 200 East 2nd Street/dd> Hours: Weekends noon - 10 pm; Weekdays 4 pm - 10 pm John Pyle, Jr. (760) 562-3453 Email: jcwus@sbcglobal.net Website: www.IVGMS.org

February 28 - March 1: VALLEJO, CA Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society Solano County Fairgrounds, Mc Cormack Hall 900 Fairgrounds Drive Hours: 10:00 - 5:00 daily Contact: Dan Wolke, 707 334-2950 Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net Website: www.vjgems.org

MARCH 2015

March 6 - 8: 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) 887-9007 Website: www.mgscv.org

March 7 - 8: ARCADIA, CA Monrovia Rockhounds Los Angeles Arboretum 301 Baldwin Avenue Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624 Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com Website: www.Moroks.com

March 7 - 8: VENTURA, CA Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 West Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725 Email: info@VGMS.org Website: www.vgms.org

March 14 - 15: 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 Website: www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org

March 14 - 15: TURLOCK, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494, cell (209) 484-4416 Email: terry_mcmillin@yahoo.com Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 21 - 22: LEMOORE, CA Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society Trinity Hall 470 Champion Street Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Keith Olivas (559) 622-9440 Email: georger-silva@sbcglobal.net

March 28 - 29: 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 28 - 29: ROSEVILLE, CA Roseville Rock Rollers Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds 800 All American City Blvd Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114 Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com Website: www.rockrollers.com

January Birthstone - Garnet

The word garnet is derived from the Greek word "granatum" which means "pomegranate seed" which reflect the shape and color of the crystals. Garnets are a group of hard glassy minerals (silicates of various metals) used as gemstones and as an abrasive. Pure crystals of garnet are used as gemstones. The garnet family contain 7 major types: almandine, andradite, demantoid, grossularite, pyrope, spessartite, uvarovite stones. Crystal structure of the garnet, the



January birthstone Isometric, rhombic, dodecahedron.

The January birthstone is not just confined to the deep red color, garnets can be found in nearly all other colors including orange, yellow, green, purple, brown, black, and colorless.

Garnet is found in the following countries: Sri Lanka, Malaya, India, Africa, Uruguay, U.S. and Brazil .



In the Shop: Cleaning Rock and Mineral Specimens

GEODES

First inspect the inside of the geode looking for microscopic minerals like goethite, millerite, or kaolinite that are very tiny and easy to overlook. Small crystal inclusions will be damaged by these cleaning processes. Scarce crystals like goethite, Smythite, siderite, millerite, and strontianite are often destroyed when cleaning the specimen with a brush and water. If the interior of the geode has iron oxide stain, a brown mud coloring the interior, these crystals most likely have already been destroyed. Whichever method you use be careful in the cleaning process, follow the instructions for all chemicals, and wear proper protection.

•EASY METHOD

Wash the geodes in plain water with a bit of laundry detergent or dish soap. Then soak them, completely covered, in a tub of water with 1/4 cup of ordinary household bleach for two days. This removes most of the heavy grit. Next use a toothbrush and ordinary denture cleaner to brush away the remaining grit. Make sure to cover all the crevices with the denture cleaner and carefully brush until all the grit is removed and the crystals are clean and bright. Wash with warm water to remove any remaining bleach solution and allow to dry.

•OXALIC ACID METHOD

This method is more effective if there is iron staining in your geode. Be aware that oxalic acid can harm calcite crystals and carbonates. Oxalic acid (also called wood bleach) is toxic. Make sure to wear proper eye protection, gloves, and a NIOSH-approved respirator mask and follow all safety precautions and instructions on the oxalic acid. Do not use this method in metal containers as it is corrosive and will eat through metal containers.

General precautions to take when working with any acids include:

1. Only use clearly labeled chemicals and store them in a secure area away from pets and children.
2. Keep a large container of clear water handy to wash off any chemical spills.
3. **ALWAYS** wear safety goggles & rubber gloves.
4. **Never** pour water into acid - always add acid to water.
5. Don't work alone.
6. Work carefully to avoid splattering. Protect your work area.
7. Keep an ample supply of baking soda handy for acid spills.
8. Keep an ample supply of vinegar for alkali spills.
9. Rinse specimens well.
10. Dispose of all left over solutions properly.



To Prepare Your Oxalic Acid Solution: 1. Purchase a one pound box of oxalic acid.

2. Fill a plastic one gallon container 3/4 full with distilled water.
3. Pour in the oxalic acid crystals being careful not to inhale the powder.
4. Stir for five minutes until the crystals are dissolved.
5. Add distilled water to create a full gallon.

Your oxalic acid solution can be reused many times. When it turns a deep green, it is time for a new batch. Neutralize the old solution by adding baking soda until the mixture no longer bubbles and then dispose properly.

Rinse the geodes using a high pressure spray, removing all mud and dirt. Place your specimens in a plastic container and add enough of the oxalic acid solution to cover them and soak. The amount of time depends on the degree of staining. You may only need to soak them for a few hours or up to several days. When they are clean, remove them from the oxalic bath and wash thoroughly with warm water. If you have hard water in your area, it is smart to use distilled water for rinsing. For geodes containing calcite or carbonate crystals, you can brush on some diluted solution and as soon as it is clean wash and soak with warm water.

Taken from <http://www.inlandlapidary.com/content/cleaning.asp> Next month Quartz

January and it is Quartzsite Time Once Again

History

In 1856, settler Charles Tyson built a fort at the present site of Quartzsite to protect his water supply from attacks by Native Americans. Fort Tyson soon became a stopover on the Ehrenburg-to-Prescott stagecoach route, eventually becoming known as Tyson's Wells. After the stage stopped running, it became a ghost town.

A small mining boom revitalized the town and it became known as Quartzsite in 1897. It remained a mining town until 1965, when the Pow Wow Rock, Gem & Mineral Show initiated the rockhound winter migration to Quartzsite each year. These days, the population can swell to almost a million during January and February as rockhounds, jewelers and vendors, mostly in thousands of RVs, attend the eight major gem and mineral shows. (From desertUSA.com)

There is one motel in Quartzsite with online reservations - Super 8 Motel - [click here](#). (Rates, availability and reservations online)

There are other hotels and motels in nearby (about 20 miles) [Blythe, CA](#) and one in [Ehrenberg, AZ](#). For more information and a complete list, [click here](#). (Rates, availability and reservations online.)

Click on the city names for reservations in: [Indio CA](#) - [Yuma AZ](#) or [Lake Havasu City](#). (Rates, availability and reservations online.)

Camping & RV Parks

There are camping and a plethora of RV accommodations in and around Quartzsite. For more information, contact:

Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce 495 Main Event Lane Quartzsite, Arizona 85346 928-927-9321

Arizona State Parks 602-542-4174

Arizona National Forests 800-280-CAMP

From Desert USA <http://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html>

From the QUARTZSITE ROADRUNNERS GEM & MINERAL CLUB website <http://qrgmc.org/index.html>

The club also takes interested visitors out on field trips to look for rocks of every variety. Trips are arranged twice a day during the Pow Wow. Visitors can buy a temporary membership for \$2/trip. For insurance reasons, only members and those buying a temporary membership are allowed to go on the field trips.

The club also staffs a booth at the Pow Wow with demonstrations emphasizing some of the skills learned at the club. Knapping, faceting, cabbing and silversmith skills are demonstrated. Those volunteers who work at the booth meet hundreds of people from all over the country. A fun time is had by visitors and members alike.

Kid's Corner

This is the section for new and upcoming Searchers. The information will be coming from a newsletter for kids called *Mini Miners Monthly* by Diamond Dan Publications. He is kind enough to allow us to use parts of his newsletter. This is from Vol. 8 No. 11.

Luster

The luster of a mineral is a description of the way light bounces off of the surface of a mineral. The words used to describe luster are pretty easy to understand.

There are two main groups: metallic minerals (those minerals that look like shiny metal) and non-metallic minerals. The lusters for non-metallic minerals are:

A. Vitreous. Also called glassy.
Quartz

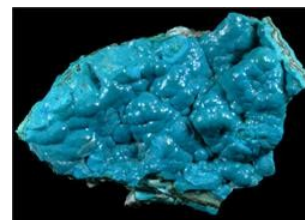


C. Pearly. Minerals with a pearl-like, iridescent luster. Muscovite



B. Resinous. Minerals that look like resin (a little bit like the look of plastic). Sphalerite

D. Greasy. Some minerals look like they have a thin layer of oil on them. Chrysocolla



F. Adamantine. This describes minerals with a brilliant luster, sometimes with colors flashing in the mineral. Diamond is the best example. Some clear lead minerals, like cerussite and anglesite, also have adamantine luster.

E. Silky. Minerals that look like fibers of silk. Fibrous gypsum and malachite have this luster.



Colorful Mineral Word Search

Here is a word search of some of the mineral kingdom's most colorful species. Remember the words can be left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top and diagonally. If you don't know what one of these mineral names is, look it up! Good luck!

A	L	M	S	M	I	T	H	S	O	N	I	T	E	O
F	Q	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	H	A	N	N	A	E
L	O	U	W	U	L	F	E	N	I	T	E	C	G	T
U	R	E	A	L	G	A	R	T	R	Y	G	J	T	I
O	P	L	Z	M	M	A	S	S	R	U	F	L	U	S
R	I	A	U	U	A	P	S	P	I	N	E	L	R	O
I	M	D	R	X	C	R	O	C	O	I	T	E	Q	R
T	E	D	I	U	B	A	I	M	N	Z	I	O	U	H
E	N	L	T	O	B	Q	L	N	C	A	O	L	O	C
O	T	A	E	Z	P	Y	R	C	E	P	T	I	I	O
P	Y	R	O	P	E	T	F	E	I	O	I	V	S	D
A	X	E	T	E	N	R	A	G	Y	T	N	I	E	O
L	S	M	P	F	U	C	H	S	I	T	E	N	N	H
A	M	E	T	H	Y	S	T	C	E	R	B	E	I	R
E	L	B	A	I	T	E	T	I	H	C	A	L	A	M

Amethyst, Aquamarine, Azurite, Benitoite, Calcite, Crocoite, Diamond, Diopside, Elbaite, Emerald, Fluorite, Fuchsite, Garnet, Malachite, livine, Opal, Orpiment, Pyrope, Realgar, Rhodochrosite, Ruby, Smithsonite, Spinel, Sulfur, Topaz, Turquoise, Wulfenite

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Darryl Powell, editor Emma Fajcz, contributing editor

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

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: 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

Membership Dues:	Individual	\$25
	Couple	\$35
	Junior (17 & under)	\$10

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