

SEARCHERS BOARD OFFICERS

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- 2nd VP: Andrew Bloxorn
- Director: Doug Flaugh
- Secretary: Jamie Cassidy -Curtis
- Treasurer: Charlotte Spalding
- Federation Delegate: Charles Walker
- Committee Chairpersons
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- Historian:
- Hospitality: Lorri Renck
- Library: Inez Flaugh
- Monthly Drawing:
- Sunshine:
- Veteran Liaison : Charles W.
- Website: Steve Duncan
- Workshop: Adrian Callard

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The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 7



JULY 2020

The President's Message

Hello Searchers,

I hope this message finds you healthy and doing well. We are now entering the fourth month of dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic. The State of California and Orange County have taken steps to reopen some aspects of our economy but the battle against the Coronavirus is not over. For the foreseeable future, we have been educated on the importance to continue to maintain a 6-foot physical distance from others, wear a face covering when in public and avoiding group events. We do this not only to protect our own health but the health and life of our loved ones as well as other people we may come in contact with.

The Board has continued to discuss how and when to reinstate club activities. The Anaheim Community Center is beginning to prepare for re-opening by writing policies that will govern everyone who uses the facility when it does reopen. Those policies will address personal distancing, face coverings and other requirements. As of June 24, there is still no scheduled re-opening date for the Community Center. For now, our club activities cannot include face to face meetings.

I am pleased to announce that our club will hold a "virtual" general meeting on July 14 at 7pm that will be held over the internet using "Zoom" software. You will need a computer or smart phone with internet access to participate in this meeting. More details on the July program will be available soon.

The Board has continued to meet via Zoom web conferencing software. We are continuing to review possible changes to our Bylaws that will be presented to membership later this year. We are close to finalizing arrangements for a new way for members to acquire club logo T-shirts and other club logo gear. Watch for a separate announcement with more details in the near future.

That's all for now Searchers. Stay healthy and stay tuned for more details on the club's re-opening!



| *Please remember to save slab donations for the vets.

Searchers Club Meetings and Presenters

Board Meeting-

Member Meeting– July 14th ZOOM meeting See below

NOTE: All meetings including the workshop are Canceled Until further notice.

For July we will have a zoom meeting. Margaret Hogarth will be the point of contact for setting up the meeting. Our guest speaker will be George Rossman, President of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California. His talk will be on Synthetic Diamonds. - History - production methods - study of color, not so much on gems specifically (of course, they would be included) but more broadly including technological diamonds, natural diamonds made by non-standard methods, current production methods.

See Page 6 for more information.

When the Anaheim Downtown Community Center reopens and we can resume general meetings the program for the first meeting is going to be a Silent Auction. Please start thinking about some of your treasures you are willing to donate.

Searchers will have the July **general meeting by Zoom, July 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

Zoom is dependent on a computer/tablet/phone with a microphone and camera, and Zoom loaded on it.

If you need to download Zoom, do so at <https://zoom.us/>

We would set an appointed day and time (have Zoom downloaded) and then click on the meeting link below. Then you would click the "join meeting" button, then enable your microphone and enable your video.

If you are using an iPad you might have to touch the screen to see the speaker and video options at the bottom.

NOTE: for those who can't use Zoom, call us, we would love to have you!

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 220 276 8016

Topic: Searcher's Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tcc-services.zoom.us/j/2202768016>

Meeting ID: 220 276 8016

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,2202768016# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,2202768016# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 220 276 8016

Find your local number: <https://tcc-services.zoom.us/u/>

Field Trips

Due to the current COVID-19 virus issue, all field trips are canceled until further notice.

We will be back looking for those rocks as soon as possible!!

The Trip I Wish I Had Taken This Summer

In July, 2014, Searchers took an extended trip to Davis Creek, California for obsidian and to the McDermitt, Nevada area for several types of rock. We had a nice group of people and the campground at Davis Creek was shady due to the coniferous forest, with a small creek running through it. It was enough to get our feet wet. We went to several sites in the area for obsidian, and, like good Searchers, spent the better part of a day at one site digging a massive obsidian boulder out of the bowels of the earth for sphere material for Jimmy. It took four strong men and a lot of digging to get that puppy out. Lots of people told us that nearby Davis Creek Mercantile held a weekly barbeque. The store is a charming antique. The food was delicious and generous. We naively ordered one of each kind of meat and received a plate with a twelve inch pyramid of barbequed meat. We ate the first inch, and, not having an ice chest, gave the rest to the local firefighters for lunch leftovers. It was fun! I think Robert took Anna's grandson fishing one day. We also stopped at friendly Frank's Rockhound shop nearby where we stocked up on even more obsidian.



Next, we headed toward McDermitt, Nevada. We drove for a long time through rolling sagebrush and saw some wild horses far in the distance. 140 was beautiful; often we were the only car in the vast expanse of blue-green sage with mountains in the distance. In McDermitt, we met a pre-arranged local guide who had access to the Caldera Mercury Mine and other sites. He was very knowledgeable. The mine had all kinds of interesting minerals and we found some fossilized reeds. Jimmy was looking for cinnabar (couldn't find any), and I saw a large lizard catch a horned lizard and eat it like a hamburger under Jimmy's Jeep. We also went to a site out in the sagebrush that had small pieces of yellow agate, and another site with petrified wood. The rocks looked exactly like pieces of tree, not good lapidary material, but I had fun picking up small pieces for wind chimes.

After dinner at a small casino across the street, we stayed at an RV park in McDermitt. It had a nice restroom with a washer and dryer, but the only shade in the blindingly bright gravel lot was a group of very large cottonwood trees near the yard of the owner's son, and we weren't allowed to use the shade. The non-RV campers were suffering mightily. The owner was a hard woman, it was hotter than hell, and we bailed a little early. Even so, I would love to take that trip this summer if only we could!

Keep on rocking,
Margaret Hogarth

For field trip
information
contact:
Andrew
Bloxom Field
Trips,
Searchers
Gem and
Mineral
Society,
andrew.bloxom@gmail.com

Davis Creek



Frank's Rock Shop

Mercantile BBQ



McDermitt



Mercury Mine



Diamonds

By George R. Rossman

Professor of Mineralogy, California Institute of Technology



Diamonds have long been of interest both for their emotional and gemological value, and for their technological importance as abrasives and optical elements. Historically, most diamonds have come to us through big holes in the ground where massive amounts of earth are moved and crushed to obtain the low concentration of diamonds contained within. But for hundreds of years, scientists have tried to synthesize diamonds. Early claims of synthesis by crude methods were put forth. It was only in 1955 that scientists at the General Electric Corporation found a catalyst that made diamond synthesis practical. Now, many ways have been found to make diamonds along with new sources in nature which have been discovered. Also new understanding of the source of color in fancy colored diamonds has come about with expanded diamond research. These stories will be the topic of Professor Rossman's presentation.



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Saw Oil Available

The club supplies saw oil at a good price. It is located at Jim Peterson's home. Bring your own 5 gallon container. The cost is \$60 for 5 gallons. Call 714 904-8573 and make a check payable to "Searchers"

Illustrious Opals – Sneak Peek

My name is Tracy Alvarez and I am the advertising executive for Rock & Gem magazine (official AFMS magazine). I wanted to take a moment to reach

out and to let you know we are thinking about you. We realize clubs, just as many individuals, organizations and businesses, have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In adherence to lockdown and quarantine safety regulations, we know clubs are not holding monthly in-person meetings and many have had to cancel or reschedule shows. While we don't have the answers or ability to fix these situations, we can and are striving to serve, support, and partner and promote clubs and their activities in a variety of ways. We believe in clubs. We know rock and mineral clubs and shows are a cornerstone of our community, and we have faith that brighter days are ahead.

In addition, we invite you to sign up for our FREE weekly e-newsletter. To subscribe, please visit www.rockngem.com On the **HOME** page, top right corner, it says: Be in the Know and there is a spot to enter your email.

We have a very exciting new limited edition series entitled **Illustrious Opals** coming out soon that is free for the first 6 months on our website and free to subscribers and I am trying to get the word out. Thank you very much! Illustrious Opals – Sneak Peek The team at Rock & Gem magazine are producing a new multi-medium series of references entitled, Illustrious Opals. This limited-edition series includes four digital issues, available at the end of June, August, October, and the middle of December. Each issue will contain a unique mixture of feature articles that discuss the science of opals, mining history, the present-day market, and operations involving opal extraction, and a gallery of various types and presentations of opal gemstones. Each issue in the series also will include columns about working with opals as a lapidary material, a recap of recent sales of opals at auction, plus profiles of sponsor businesses that specialize in opals as part of their operation. Visit www.rockngem.com July 1 to download Illustrious Opals. In addition to the digital issues, beginning with the August print issue of Rock & Gem, there will be a two-page glimpse at the gallery section of the upcoming Illustrious Opals issue. Last, but certainly not least, every issue will be available for single-copy purchases; however, as a token of appreciation, every digital issue of Illustrious Opals will be sent to current subscribers for free.



Upcoming 2020 CFMS Gem Shows

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

Due to the ongoing virus check to see if any shows are still on. Most all have been canceled

August 15 – 16; TEHACHAPI, CA
Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
500 East "F" Street, Tehachapi
Hours: 9 am – 5 pm
Contact: (661) 972-1117
Web site: <http://www.tvgms>

September 12-13; ARROYO GRANDE, CA
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
South County Regional Center
800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm
Admission: \$5, children 12 and under free
Email: show@slogem.org

September 26-27; LANCASTER, CA
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Ave H, Lancaster
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Allison McClung; 661-839-7403
Email: ali_cares@aol.com
Web site: palmdalegemandmineral.org

September 26 – 27; LODI, CA
Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
413 East Lockeford Street, Lodi CA 95240
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm daily
Earth's Treasures; Gems, Minerals and Jewelry show
Web site: <http://stocktonlapidary.org>

October 10 – 11; TRONA, CA
Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society
13337 Main St., Trona
Gem-O-Rama Hours: Sat 7:30 am – 5 pm, Sun 7:30 am – 3 pm
Contact: Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356
email: slgms@iwvisp.com
Web site: <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/>

October 11: FALLBROOK, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W Alvarado St
Hours: 9-4
Contact: Michelle Shearer; 760-805-2184
Email: info@fgms.org
Website: www.fgms.org

October 17-18: SANTA ROSA, CA
Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society
1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Hours: Sat 10 am – 6 pm, Sun 10 am – 5 pm
Contact: 1 707 849-9551, santarosarock-show@hotmail.com
Website: <http://SRMSG.org>
Flyer: [agate-one.jpg](#)

October 24 – 25: SACRAMENTO, CA
Sacramento Gem & Mineral Society
Scottish Rites Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-2604
84th Annual Sacramento Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show
Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm
Contact: (916) 662-5819, gem-show@sacramentomineralsociety.org
Web site: <http://sacramentomineralsociety.org>
Show web site: <http://sacgemshow.com>

November 14 – 15: YUBA CITY
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
442 Franklin Hall, Yuba City, CA 95991
Hours: Sat. 10 am – 5 pm, Sun. 10 am – 4 pm
Contact: (916) 677-6696, horita@comcast.net
Show web site: <http://sutterbuttesgemmin.org>

November 21-22; ANAHEIM
American Opal Society
Business Expo Center, 1960 S. Anaheim Way, Anaheim 92805
Adults – \$5, Students and children under age 15 are free; Free parking
Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm
Contact: (714) 501-9959, aos.editor02@gmail.com
Website: <http://opalsociety.org>
Show Flyer: [2020Flyer.jpg](#)

July Birthstone: Ruby



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 5:30 to 10:00 PM and Saturday 2:30 to 7:00 PM

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

Valid Jan.1-Dec.31, not prorated

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 editor:

Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

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