

# The Rock Slab News

MAY 2006 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 5

## Inside This Issue

President's Message.....	1
General Information.....	2
Searchers Board.....	2
May Events.....	3
Field Trip Schedule.....	3
May Program.....	3
May Field Trip.....	4
Last Month's Program.....	4
Membership Update.....	5
A W A R D.....	6
National Veterans Creative Arts Competition.....	6
May Calendar.....	8

## The Purpose of the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

*By-Laws, Article I, Sec. 2*

*This society was formed for the purpose of banding together a group of congenial persons for the purpose of studying mineralogy and the earth sciences by means of association with other mineralogical societies and with their members; presentation of public exhibitions, lectures, and similar programs; field trips for exploration, study and collecting of specimens; the encouragement of interest among young people and the fostering of interest in mineralogy and the lapidary arts; the procurement and maintenance of collections of minerals, mineral products and related pictures, writings and other information thereof; and all other means which are appropriate to the accomplishment of the primary objectives above set forth.*

*This organization is not formed for profit and none of its assets shall be used for the pecuniary gain or profit of any individual who is or may become a member thereof.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Clarke Benich*

*The time has come upon us once again. At this writing there is one week before the Show. So let's pray and keep our fingers crossed that the magic that puts our shows together gets here quickly. We still need lots of volunteers.*

*All year we have fun and hopefully learn something at the general meetings. Those of us who participate in the field trips have a ball, and we are all so fortunate to have the equipment available to us in the workshop. None of these things would be possible without our yearly shows. Granted, the shows are a lot of work, but they are a lot of fun, too. Those of us who have been the busiest have really enjoyed it. Please attend the Show in some capacity, either as a volunteer or by supporting our vendors and our members who are selling.*

*This newsletter will be very short. Last week was the April general meeting, this Saturday is the Soiree, next Friday is the setup for the Show which is Saturday and Sunday, and two days later is the May general meeting. It has been a very long three short weeks!*

*See you at the Show.*

*Clarke Benich*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule! [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

- General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Board Meetings:** 6 PM, 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Workshop:** Thursday, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.  
Saturday, 3 – 7 PM Free silver-smithing class 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays (schedule varies).
- No workshops:** Nov 23 & 25.
- 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)
- Membership Dues:** Individual \$20  
Couple \$25  
Junior (17 & under) \$2  
Valid Jan 1 – Dec 31, not prorated.
- Bulletin:** Submissions due 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month via e-mail to: [editor@searchersrocks.org](mailto:editor@searchersrocks.org).  
Bulletin distributed 1<sup>st</sup> week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editors:  
Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144
- Charter Date:** June 20, 1958
- Affiliations:**
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
  - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

## SEARCHERS BOARD

### Officers

President	Clarke Benich	714/552-7336
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. (Programs)	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Treasurer	Patricia Underwood	562/864-4195
Federation Delegate	Patrick Freeman	714/758-9273

### Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Jenny Stavreva Kathy Clark	714/736-4345 714/639-9927
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality		
Library	Maggie Vigil	714/288-2072
Membership	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Monthly Drawing	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/827-8345
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2		
2005 Show	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Show Co-Chair	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Sunshine	Carlene Blake	714/549-0099
Veteran's Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
Workshop	Herb Beckman +?	714/778-1496
Rock 'n' Kids	OPEN	

### MAY EVENTS

- 9 7-9 PM General Meeting
- Where to Find Gold, J. Klein
- 20&21 Field Trip, Trona Field trip
- with Jimmy Peterson
- 15 Rock Slab News bulletin
- 24 6 -7PM Board Meeting

### FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
May 20,21	Trona, California	Jimmy Peterson	Onyx	Planned

### SUNSHINE REPORT

By Clarke Benich

Please keep long-time member  
 Jeri Frank who is suffering from a  
 very serious illness in your prayers.

### MAY PROGRAM

By Virgil Talbott

Our May speaker will be James Klein.

He will be telling us **WHERE TO FIND GOLD and HOW TO FIND IT TODAY.**

James Klein is an actor and writer who caught gold fever thirty years ago and has never been cured. He is the author of numerous prospecting guides, including **How to Find Gold** and **Where to Find Gold in Southern California.** Most recently he has written **Gold Rush! The Young Prospector's Guide to Striking it Rich**, which combines hands-on treasure hunting methods and history in a fun and informative way, describing prospecting in sometimes surprising localities in the United States and Canada. Mr. Klein resides in Anaheim, California.

This sounds like a good one! Don't miss it.

## **MAY FIELD TRIP**

*By Steve Duncan*

May 20 & 21, 2006

*The May Field Trip will be to Trona, CA, for Onyx. Jimmy Peterson (714-633-7573) will lead this trip, and details will be made available on the web and also at the May General Meeting. Jimmy knows two onyx sites near Trona that have very nice material. Some of this may require some hard rock work, but there is always smaller material available in float. This will be Jimmy's first trip after his road trip to Panama, so I am sure that he and Ester will have some good stories to tell. This is getting later in the year so you will need to be prepared for some warm temperatures, but that just makes the evenings better. Look for more details about the trip to be forthcoming, and we hope to see you all there.*

## **LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM**

By Kathy Clark

Our April general meeting happened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, April 18, instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, and the meeting was held outside on the patio. Because the meeting was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday it conflicted with the Faceter's Guild meeting that Clare Gagnon attends. We'll be looking forward to having Clare speak to us about faceting at a future meeting. Anyway, the evening air was nice and Virgil Talbott came prepared with a video of "Alan Revere on Goldsmithing Reticulated Wedding Bands." Virgil also passed around for our viewing a couple of samples of reticulated silver with gold that he has been experimenting on. The meeting was a success.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please note the following changes:

### CHANGES

Robert and Sharon Burson  
[bursonrocks@verizon.net](mailto:bursonrocks@verizon.net)

Clarke Benich  
949-837-6252

**We have new Searcher badges! If you are a new member or if you have lost your badge, please come to the membership table at the next meeting to see our new badges which are \$5 each. They are really nice.**

### Motorhome for sale

*25' Shasta, Class C, 1995  
Ford engine, 84,240 miles, \$16,500.00  
If you are interested please call  
Faye McDowell at 562-597-7684*

### EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR SEARCHERS J S GEMS

Barranca/Ameritool  
Diamond Pacific Tools  
Handcrafted Jewelry  
Rocks, Fossils & More



John & Susana Wease  
e-mail: [jsgems@dslextreme.com](mailto:jsgems@dslextreme.com)

Newberry Springs, CA  
(760) 257-3843  
Cell (909) 519-1545

## A W A R D

By Kathy Clark

*Our Clare Gagnon teaches silversmithing at the Searchers workshop on Saturdays and at the Brookhurst Community Center on Tuesdays. He is a member of the Faceter's Guild of Southern California where he has held the office of president and is currently the newsletter editor. Clare also participates in a mentoring program offered by the Guild.*

*But did you know that he also works with the veterans at the V.A. Hospital in Long Beach? He has been volunteering and teaching in the lapidary shop once a week for the past eighteen years. Clare has just accepted The President's Call To Service Award which is presented by The Council of Service and City Participation. This award is **ONLY** presented to someone who has served over 4,000 HOURS of community service.*

*Clare, our hats are off to you. You are truly AWESOME!*

## NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION

By Larry Richey

This year's National Veterans Creative Arts Contest was held at Long Beach V.A. Hospital on February 16, 2006. Every year the Veterans Administration has a National Contest for all patients in the V.A. Medical Centers worldwide. This contest is open to any patient receiving treatment, this means that they can do this for a living or as amateur—

all compete together in any of the given categories.

This year's judging took place in the Pantages Theater. **THANKS** to Burt for securing the Pantages. This gave everyone much more room to view the projects and allowed patients and family members access to view projects and take some pictures of projects and

*[Continue on the next page]*

participants. It also made it much nicer for the judges to view each project by itself. After the judging the Pantages Theater was open to community and staff for a few hours of viewing.

Our judges for this year's competition were Dr. Walter Johnson and his wife Donna. Donna has a degree in art, and Dr. Johnson is a gemologist, jeweler and teacher and was inducted into National Rock Hound Hall of Fame for his

jewelry in 2005. We also had two judges from Burtons Gems & Lapidary International. Steve has been a professional goldsmith for over 30 years and Robert Gullage is a certified gemologist and appraiser. One V.A. employee judge from the Long Beach V.A. Hospital, Mr. Terri Bailey, has a background in lapidary and jewelry as a past National Veterans Art Contest participant himself a few years ago. We want to thank all of our judges for taking the time to help us out this year.

We know you have a **VERY, VERY** difficult decision in the Jewelry Competition. We also know that you all have a very busy schedules and that it does cost you both time and money to do this for us. **WE THANK YOU AND SALUTE YOU ALL.**

We had nineteen categories this year to judge. This year our winners from the lapidary shop are as follows:

Special Recognition 1 <sup>st</sup>	Michael O'Connor
Mosaic 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ernest Cameron
Beadwork 1 <sup>st</sup>	Charlie C. Paxton
Beadwork 2 <sup>d</sup>	Joanne Stewart
Jewelry 1 <sup>st</sup>	John Velazques
Jewelry 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Donald N. Morgan
Jewelry 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Charles C. Paxton

All first place winners in each category have advanced to the next step: The Regional Competition.

Jewelry was a **VERY** tough category this year between first and second place. It took four (4) different judgments between these two projects to arrive at a decision. It is just too bad that we could not send both of these projects to the Regional Contest. Nice job, John and Don! Both will be back next year!

We thank all the participants in this year's contest, and we wish all the first place winners good luck at the Regional Contest and hopefully on to the National Contest in October in Rapid City, South Dakota.

## MAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Show Set-up</b>	<b>6</b> 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing <b>The Show</b>
<b>7 The Show</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 General Meeting 7PM</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>19 Field Trip</b> Steve Duncan-	<b>20</b> 3-7 PM <b>Field Trip;</b> lapidary, silversmithing
<b>21 Field Trip</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Board Meeting 6PM	<b>25</b> 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			



*Happy Birthday to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their birthdays in May!*





# The Rock Slab News

Volume 41 Issue 5

May 2006



Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark, *Editors*  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144

## TRADITIONAL MAY BIRTHSTONE - EMERALD

The name Emerald comes from the French “esmeraude,” which comes from the Greek “smaragdus,” which simply means “green gemstone.”

Centuries ago it was written that emeralds promised good luck and enhanced well being.

Emeralds were thought to block spells and give the gift of prophecy. In Revelations, Emerald is said to compose the throne of God, and the Holy Grail is said to be carved from a huge emerald that fell from Satan’s crown upon his banishment from Heaven. It was thought to protect pregnant women in ancient Egypt, and often thought to help eyesight, low I.Q., dizziness and vertigo. Isis wore a green emerald, and all who looked upon it were guaranteed a safe trip through the land of the dead.

Emerald symbolizes fidelity, goodness, love, and faithfulness.

