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# The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 7



JULY 2019

## The President's Message

Dear SEARCHERS

Summer is upon us, although the weather lately would suggest otherwise. I hope you all have wonderful plans to spend time with family and friends, and rockhound of course! Be sure to stay safe, always let someone know where you are headed, and be sure to have plenty of supplies and H2O.

I recently traveled to Utah to visit family and friends and took advantage of the great weather and fun locations to scout for rocks. This time around was an exploratory trip; I can't wait to return to spend more time searching for rock treasures. (The pic is a selfie of me at one of the waterfalls up Providence Canyon in Northern Utah.)

Our group has some fun events planned for July including a great member meeting and a fieldtrip or two. We have many new members who are attending workshop on Thursdays and Saturdays, including some veterans from the VA Hospital in Long Beach which we support. Please make them all feel welcome, and if you have any tips or information pass it along.

I'm looking forward to expanding our activities to include more family events, promoting the work we do with the vets, and increasing education in the community. Any ideas or suggestions are greatly appreciated, please let a board member know or bring it up at a meeting. My new work schedule keeps me from attending member meetings, and our board meetings have been relocated to our 2nd VP home on Sundays to accommodate these changes. I'm still available via email and phone, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,

Monica Dekany-Beeker

President, SEARCHERS, 2019



When I was a kid I  
always dreamed about  
being in a rock group  
and wow, look at me  
now 😊

## REMINDER:

Board Meeting- Sun. June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Lydia's house

Member Meeting- Tues. July 9th at 7pm, Anaheim Community Center

**\*Please remember to bring any slab donations for the vets, See you there!**



## Searchers Club Meetings and Presenters

Board Meeting- Tues. June 30th at 6pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Lydia's house

Member Meeting- Tuesday July 9th at 7pm, Anaheim Community Center

**Thar be  
GOLD  
in that thar  
meetin'!**



**The Route 66 Gold Miners** will be our guests this month, sharing their passion for gold prospecting & treasure hunting. They will inform us about several topics including: prospecting, panning, and metal detecting.

Much like The Searchers, they care about the right to access public lands and to keep them open to the public for everyone to enjoy. To that end, Route 66 Gold Miners actively support the Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA) and the American Mining Rights Association (AMRA).



Nugget says, "AU you should come to the meeting. It's



**Please remember to bring a rock or slab for the Veterans!**

## Field Trips

### June Field Trip Report - Himalaya Mine Tourmaline

We have 25 Searchers and friends attend the field trip. I think everyone enjoyed the day.



For field trip  
information  
contact:  
Lydia  
Pattison Field  
Trips,  
Searchers  
Gem and  
Mineral  
Society,  
lpattison@so  
cal.rr.com

**July & August – No field trips scheduled due to the summer heat.**

### Rockhound Retreats

Hi Friends-

One of the great benefits of being in the CFMS is going to what I call their Rockhound Retreats. They have 2 one week opportunities in the fall up north and 1 week in the spring at Zzyzx. I've been to Zzyzx twice and loved it. You are immersed in learning whichever lapidary field your want + field trips every day all for \$405, which covers room & board.

All with about 70 other like minded folk. I know they have rooms for married couples at Zzyzx and probably do at Camp Paradise, too. Otherwise, it's great dorm living. But it's a walk to the bathroom & showers.

Did you ever see that Huell Hauser segment on Zzyzx? It's really wonderful there. It's now operated by the CSUF Earth Science Desert Studies, and the live-in people give talks, too.

There is an application for Camp Paradise in the May & June CFMS newsletter. The other great thing is that newbies have priority!

I highly recommend going-you'll get hooked!

Nancy Bird, Federation Director



# Quartzite

The metamorphic rock composed almost entirely of quartz.

Article by: Hobart M. King, Ph.D., RPG



## What is Quartzite?

Quartzite is a nonfoliated [metamorphic rock](#) composed almost entirely of [quartz](#). It forms when a quartz-rich [sandstone](#) is altered by the heat, pressure, and chemical activity of metamorphism. These conditions recrystallize the sand grains and the silica cement that binds them together. The result is a network of interlocking quartz grains of incredible strength.

The interlocking crystalline structure of quartzite makes it a hard, tough, durable rock. It is so tough that it breaks through the quartz grains rather than breaking along the boundaries between them. This is a characteristic that separates true quartzite from sandstone.

quartz grains in this view range in color from white to gray to black, and they form a tight interlocking network.

### Physical Properties of Quartzite

Quartzite is usually white to gray in color. Some rock units that are stained by iron can be pink, red, or purple. Other impurities can cause quartzite to be yellow, orange, brown, green, or blue.

The quartz content of quartzite gives it a hardness of about seven on the [Mohs Hardness Scale](#). Its extreme toughness made it a favorite rock for use as an impact tool by early people. Its conchoidal fracture allowed it to be shaped into large cutting tools such as ax heads and scrapers. Its coarse texture made it less suitable for producing tools with fine edges such as knife blades and projectile points.

Quartzite can be a very attractive stone when it is colored by inclusions. Inclusions of [fuchsite](#) (a green chromium-rich variety of [muscovite](#) mica) can give quartzite a pleasing green color. If the quartzite is semitransparent to translucent, the flat flakes of mica can reflect light to produce a glittering luster known as *aventurescence*.

Material that displays this property is known as "[aventurine](#)," a popular material used to produce beads, cabochons, [tumbled stones](#), and small ornaments. Aventurine can be pink or red when stained with iron. Included dumortierite produces a blue color. Other inclusions produce white, gray, orange, or yellow aventurine.

**Fuchsitic Quartzite:** A specimen of quartzite that contains significant amounts of green fuchsite, a chromium-rich muscovite mica. This specimen measures about 7 centimeters across and was collected from a small abandoned quarry where the flaggy rocks were produced and cut for use as decorative stones. The quarry is in the Elmers Rock Greenstone Belt, Wyoming.



## What is Quartz?

Quartz is a chemical compound consisting of one part silicon and two parts oxygen. It is silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>). It is the most abundant [mineral](#) found at Earth's surface, and its unique properties make it one of the most useful natural substances.

### Flint, Chert, and Jasper: Names for Microcrystalline Quartz

[Flint](#), [chert](#), and jasper are names commonly used by geologists and by the general public for opaque specimens of microcrystalline [quartz](#). The same hand specimen might be called "chert" by one person, "flint" by another, and "jasper" by a third.

The name used can be influenced by the educational background of the person, the physical properties of the specimen, the geologic occurrence of the specimen, and any historic use of the material.



Chert



## "Flint" vs. "Chert"

Usage of the names "flint" and "chert" are interesting. The word used often depends upon who is talking. Geologists tend to use the word "chert", while historians and archaeologists tend to use the word "flint".

The name used also depends upon the geologic occurrence of the material or the historic use of the material by people. If the material makes up a [sedimentary rock](#) unit that can be traced from one geographic location to another, geologists are likely to call the material "chert". Some of these cherts can be thick enough and laterally extensive enough to serve as [oil and gas](#) reservoirs over a broad geographic area. An example is the Huntersville Chert, which has produced significant amounts of natural gas in West Virginia.



Flint: A specimen of brown, translucent flint from Minas Gerais, Brazil. This specimen has a fine-grained, uniform texture that should perform well in manufacturing tools. Specimen is approximately four inches across.

However, if the material comprises an artifact or is part of a rock unit that has historically been used in manufacturing weapons or tools, the name "flint" is often used. The Vanport Flint of eastern Ohio and the Alibates Flint of northern Texas are both names used for laterally extensive rock units. Native Americans mined, traded and knapped these materials to manufacture tools for thousands of years.

The name "flint" is often the preferred name used for material with a very fine grain size and a slightly higher luster. These "fine-grained" materials break with greater predictability and produce a sharper edge. Many ancient tool makers understood the quality and properties of the materials that they used. Given a choice, these expert tool makers would have selected materials to perform well during manufacturing and use.

Red Jasper: A specimen of opaque jasper found in Vermont. It has an excellent red color and might cut attractive cabochons. Specimen is approximately three inches across.



## "Jasper"

The name "jasper" is more of a gemological term than the name of a material used by geologists. The name "jasper" is most often used by people who select excellent pieces of opaque microcrystalline quartz to produce [cabochons](#), spheres, [tumbled stones](#), or other lapidary projects.

Their interest in the material is based upon its ability to be accurately cut; its ability to accept a bright polish; and, most importantly, its beautiful color, pattern or appearance when cutting is done. They intentionally select specimens from the high end of quality and appearance.

## Separating Microcrystalline from Coarsely Crystalline Quartz

Gemologists are interested in microcrystalline quartz. Something that a geologist might learn from a gemologist is how to immediately tell the difference between jasper, [agate](#) (both are varieties of chalcedony) and pieces of quartz that do not have a microcrystalline texture. Here's the procedure... look at one of the conchoidal fracture surfaces...

- A) If it has a vitreous luster on conchoidal surfaces, it is coarsely crystalline quartz.
- B) If it has a dull luster on conchoidal surfaces, it is a variety of chalcedony.
- C) If it is opaque, it is jasper, a variety of chalcedony.
- D) If it is translucent and banded, it is agate, a variety of chalcedony.
- E) If it is translucent and not banded, the name chalcedony is used.

You don't need a thin section and a microscope to tell microcrystalline quartz from coarsely crystalline quartz. A conchoidal fracture surface on crystalline quartz will be extremely smooth and reflect enough light to produce a vitreous luster; however, a conchoidal fracture surface on microcrystalline quartz will not be as smooth and will scatter more light, thus its luster will be dull or subvitreous.

**From Geology.com**

## Searcher's 2019 Show Report

Several activities were very successful at our 2019 show. Our exhibit cases, the participation of the Miss Anaheim group, the dinosaur stamp activity, and the treasure hunt were very successful. I think the participating dealers who used the dinosaur stamps had fun, too! Combining the ring making and sand sifting worked, also. We are always on the lookout for low-cost activities for children, so be sure to pass along any ideas to any member of the Show Committee.



As you are out and about, keep an eye out for materials for the Wheel of Fortune and for children's and adult's prizes. My tumbling station is running again, so I hope to contribute some beautiful stones. Set some quality material aside for the Silent Auction. That is our biggest fund-raising activity! I keep labeled boxes open at home and add some to them after each field trip. It is a good opportunity to downsize your stash. Let's try to make the 2020 Silent Auction the best one yet!

The Show Committee is considering using a food truck at the next show. Our rationale is that the kitchen only made several hundred dollars and it requires the most people and effort to run. If we could find a quality food truck that charged reasonable prices, that didn't cost the club, it would free up another dealer space and reduce our need for the hard work in the kitchen. Do you have any suggestions? If so, please pass them along.

Thanks to all,

Margaret Hogarth

[hogarth.m@gmail.com](mailto:hogarth.m@gmail.com)

## Searchers Website and YouTube Updates

We have a new Activities page on the Searchers web site! <https://www.searchersrocks.org/activities>

In addition to our annual picnic in August, the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) Earth Sciences Studies Camps are featured. Camps are run for 3 weeks each year in Northern and Southern California, are a lot of fun, and a great learning experience. Anaheim Searchers is a CFMS club; all CFMS club members are invited to attend. Topics include: Cabochon Making, Faceting, Wire Wrap Art, Soft Stone Carving, Silver Smithing, Chain Making, Lost Wax Metal Casting, Ming Trees, Beading, Glass Bead Making, Dichroic Glass Fusion, Enameling, and Precious Metal Clay (PMC). Some camp friends, Dan and Michelle Grant took videos and photos at the 2019 Camp Paradise, and their son Ryan Grant edited it into a promotional video for the CFMS Earth Sciences Studies Camps. We created a Searchers Gem and Mineral Society of Anaheim YouTube channel and posted the video. Check it out! <https://youtu.be/pmtVkU0vVKw>

We have been creating photo albums of our field trips this year and I know some folks have been taking videos, also. Let's add more!

Keep on rocking,

Margaret Hogarth

[hogarth.m@gmail.com](mailto:hogarth.m@gmail.com)



# Upcoming 2019 CFMS Gem Shows

For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

## AUGUST

**August 2, 3 & 4: NIPOMO, CA**  
Orcutt Mineral Society  
Nipomo High School  
525 Thompson Avenue  
Hours: Fri-Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Wayne Mills, (805) 481-3495  
Email: [wwmills50@hotmail.com](mailto:wwmills50@hotmail.com)  
Website: [omsinc.org](http://omsinc.org)

**August 3 - 4: SAN FRANCISCO, CA**  
San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society  
San Francisco County Fair Building  
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, S.F. County Fair Bldg.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5  
Contact: Ellen Nott  
Email: [ellel\\_nott@yahoo.com](mailto:ellel_nott@yahoo.com)  
Website: [sfgems.org](http://sfgems.org)

## SEPTEMBER

**September 21: LONG BEACH, CA**  
Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society  
Expo Arts Center  
4321 Atlantic Avenue  
Hours: 10:00 - 5:00  
Contact: Carol Kron and Karin Alvarez,  
(562) 577-9044  
Email: [lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com)

**September 21 - 22: CHICO, CA**  
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society  
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds  
2357 Fair Street  
Hours: Sat 9:30 - 5; Sun 9:30 - 4  
Lori Millard, (530) 533-2968  
Email: [lorimillard58@yahoo.com](mailto:lorimillard58@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.featherriverrocks.org](http://www.featherriverrocks.org)

**September 21 - 22: MONTEREY, CA**  
Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds  
2004 Fairgrounds Road  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311  
Email: [janisl2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janisl2@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [cvgms.rocks](http://cvgms.rocks)

**September 28 - 29: LODI, CA**  
Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club  
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds  
413 East Lockford Street  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Mike Mathis, (510) 301-3612  
Email: [mmathis@nwp.org](mailto:mmathis@nwp.org)  
Website: [stocktonlapidary.org](http://stocktonlapidary.org) [Show Page](#)

## OCTOBER

**October 5 - 6: GRASS VALLEY, CA**  
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
Nevada County Fairgrounds  
11228 McCourtney Road  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Mitchell Frank Van Hecke, (530) 575-4252  
Email: [4vanclan5@att.net](mailto:4vanclan5@att.net)  
Website: [ncgms.org](http://ncgms.org) [Show Page](#)

**October 12 - 13: TRONA, CA**  
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
Trona Gem Building  
13337 Main Street  
Hours: Sat 7:30 - 5:00; Sun 7:30 - 3:00  
Contact: Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356  
Email: [slgms@iwvisp.com](mailto:slgms@iwvisp.com)  
Website: [iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)

**October 19: WEST HILLS, CA**  
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers  
First United Methodist Church  
22700 Sherman Way  
Hours: 10 - 5  
Contact: Virginia Rotramel,  
[whrc@rockchippers.org](mailto:whrc@rockchippers.org)  
Email: [whrc@rockchippers.org](mailto:whrc@rockchippers.org)  
Website: [rockchippers.org](http://rockchippers.org) [Show Page](#)

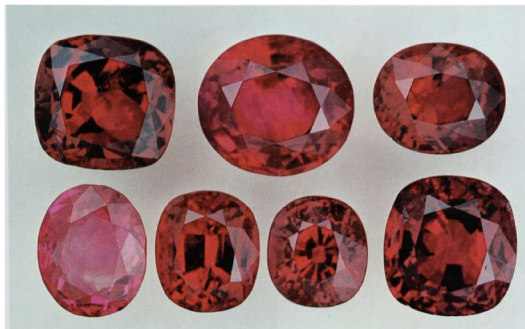
**October 19 - 20: PLACERVILLE, CA**  
El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society  
El Dorado County Fairgrounds

100 Placerville Drive  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Debbie Winterson  
Email: [info@rockandgemshow.org](mailto:info@rockandgemshow.org)  
Website: [eldoradorocks.org](http://eldoradorocks.org) [Show Page](#)

**October 19 - 20: SANTA ROSA, CA**  
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society  
The Veterans Memorial  
1351 Maple Avenue  
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5  
Contact: Jolene Coon, (707) 849-9551  
Website: [jolene4srmgs@gmail.com](mailto:jolene4srmgs@gmail.com)  
Website: [srmgs.org](http://srmgs.org) [Show Page](#)

**October 26 - 27: SACRAMENTO, CA**  
Sacramento Mineral Society  
Scottish Rite Temple  
6151 H Street  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Alyssa Meiszing, (916) 205-4441  
Email: [webad-min@sacramentomineralsociety.org](mailto:webad-min@sacramentomineralsociety.org)  
Web Site: [sacramentomineralsociety.org](http://sacramentomineralsociety.org) [Show Page](#)

## July Birthstone: Ruby



# 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 5:30 to 9:30 PM and Saturday 2:30 to 6:30 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](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

<b>Membership Dues:</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25</b>
	<b>Couple</b>	<b>\$35</b>
	<b>Junior (17 &amp; under)</b>	<b>\$10</b>

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:

Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

P.O. Pox 3492

Anaheim, Ca. 92803

**Charter Date:** April 20, 1958

**Affiliations:** California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies





# Aloha!

*You're invited...*

*To the Annual Searchers Summer Soiree...*

## Let's Luau!

*Wear your best Hawaiian Aloha shirt, or a grass skirt and coconut bra, or your most tourist-y socks and sandals. Tropical fun awaits!...*

*Location: Yorba Regional Park,  
7600 E. La Palma Ave  
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807*

*Area: Site #6 by Parking Lot #2*

*Date and Time: Saturday,  
August 3rd from 11am to 3pm*

*Parking: \$5 fee (no free re-entry)*

*Contact: Heather [hkjaeckels@gmail.com](mailto:hkjaeckels@gmail.com) or 310-686-8145*

*There will be:*

- *Terrific food - main dish proteins will be provided by our resident chef/food stylist, and all Searcher members are asked to bring something "potluck" style. See Heather for the sign up options: [hkjaeckels@gmail.com](mailto:hkjaeckels@gmail.com) or 310-686-8145.*
- *Fun & games for all ages - cornhole, kids ring toss, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, tropical photo backgrounds, "hula" hoop, and more.*
- *Prizes & Contests - win prizes for best Aloha shirt, best tropical wear, & bring slabs for the vets. Each slab gets a ticket for a chance to win a prize. The more you bring, the better your chances of winning. Be generous.*
- *Live music from an all Veteran band that play at the VA Hospital. Get ready to rock with some Beach Boys, Jan & Dean, Dick Dale surf guitar & more.*

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