

SEARCHERS BOARD OFFICERS

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- 1st VP: Sharon Burson
- 2nd VP: Andrew Bloxom
- Director: Doug Flaugh
- Secretary: Jamie Cassidy -Curtis
- Treasurer: Charlotte Spalding
- Federation Delegate: Charles Walker
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- Historian:
- Hospitality: Lorri Renck
- Library Membership:
- Monthly Drawing:
- Sunshine:
- Veteran Liaison :
- Charlees 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 4



APRIL 2020

The President's Message

Hello Searchers

I hope this message finds you healthy and doing well. These are unprecedented times that we are living through right now. I've not seen anything like this in my lifetime and you are probably thinking and feeling the same way.

As much as I'd rather be out rock collecting, working in the shop, helping plan our show and holding our monthly meetings, those things are not what is most important right now. Our State and Federal Officials have advised us to severely limit our face to face interactions due to the high risk of spreading the corona virus and the potentially severe medical complications of COVID-19. This is serious. The corona virus has shown a higher transmission rate and the COVID-19 disease has shown a much higher mortality rate than our "normal" annual flu season. The elderly and those with underlying medical conditions seem to be most at risk. For these reasons, as individuals and as a club we must do our part by observing the social distancing requirements and ban on group meetings for now. This means that we will not have regular monthly meetings for a while, club sponsored fields trips have been postponed and there is a very real possibility of having to reschedule or cancel our annual show.

The Board is still interacting via email and phone. The Searchers club will still be there, ready and waiting, when this situation passes. And it will pass, although no one really knows for sure how long that will take. For now, we should focus on staying healthy and staying in touch with family and friends through video calls, email or phone calls. I encourage everyone to stay connected and stay up to date on the latest corona virus news. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) has resources available on how we can best protect ourselves from COVID-19. It also has a page that outlines COVID-19 symptoms. If you have not visited that website, I encourage you to do so.

These are unsettling times for our country. Our best course through these difficult times is to remember to wash our hands frequently, stay informed on corona virus developments and protect our health and the health of our loved ones by observing social distancing requirements and avoiding group meeting. If you have symptoms, contact your doctor or medical provider.

That's all for now, stay healthy Searchers!

***Please remember to bring any slab donations for the vets.**



Searchers Club Meetings and Presenters

Board Meeting-

Member Meeting-

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

March 2020 Searchers board meeting

The Searchers board met on March 3. Many items we discussed (such as the show, field trips, etc) have, of course, now been affected by the coronavirus emergency. Watch for email blasts and website updates; we'll let you know as soon as we do what's happening.

We approved a schedule for reviewing the Bylaws and other Searchers documents to see if they need any updates. Comments from members are welcome. You can send your inputs to President Kim Strange or Secretary Jamie Cassidy-Curtis.

We approved a preliminary budget for 2020, with plans to review and update it as needed in the next few months.

March Searchers meeting

The Searchers meeting was held on March 10 at the Anaheim Downtown Center. This month's speaker was Walt Lombardo, who spoke about "Gemstones of California". Walt's talk concentrated on three minerals: benitoite (the California State Gemstone), vesuvianite, and lapis lazuli.

Benitoite is a bluish triangular crystal (a rare shape). Gem-quality stones were found at only one location, a mine near Hollister, close to Monterey. The mine is mostly exhausted, but part of it is still available as a fee dig.

Vesuvianite, usually a greenish stone sometimes called Californite or Pulga Jade, has been found in northern California around Happy Camp and Pulga. It's found in metamorphic rocks, sometimes with other minerals such as grossular garnets or even gold.

California's lapis lazuli is decent (although the best comes from Afghanistan). You can find it in San Bernadino County near Cascade Canyon and Stoddard Peak.

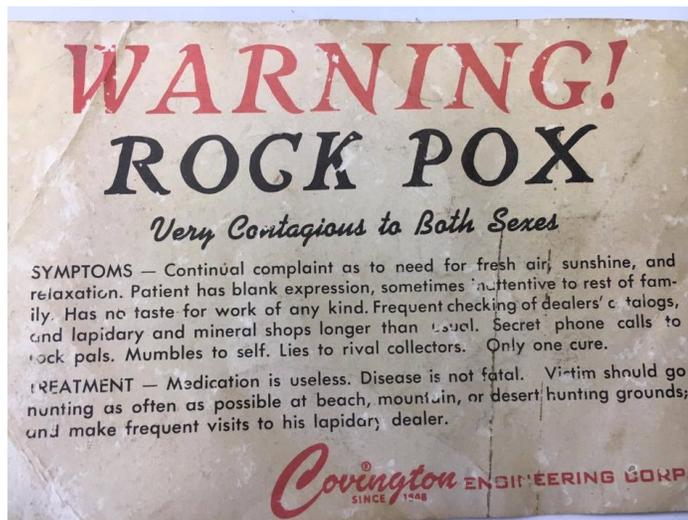
Field Trips

Anaheim Searchers 2019-2020 Field Trip Schedule			
Date	Location	Leader	Notes
10/26/2019	Sleeping Beauty	Andrew Bloxom	
11/10/2019	Holbrook, AZ	Robert Burson	
11/16-11/17/2019	Baxter Wash	Andrew Bloxom	
12/14/19	Kramer Hills	Andrew Bloxom	
1/18-19/2020	Quartzite	QIA PowWow Show, Sat. Dinner @ YachtClub	
1/19/20	Wiley Well Rd.	Andrew Bloxom	
2/1-2/2020	Chuckawalla Springs	Andrew Bloxom	
2/22-23/20	Trilobite Wilderness/Turtle Mountains	Andrew Bloxom	
3/21-22/20	Opal Mountain	Jimmie Peterson	
March	Afton Canyon	John O'Connor	
April	Sperry Wash	Doug Flaugh	
May	Lavic Siding	Bill Hogarth	
June	Clear Creek	Andrew Bloxom	
July	Northern CA, Owens Valley, Davis Creek		
Aug.	Santa Monica Mtns		

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

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

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



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Afton Canyon, CA, March 7-8, 2020

Leader: John O'Connor

We had 7 rockhounds and 3 four leggers join us for our field trip to Afton Canyon. The wonderful BLM campground was about 60% full for the weekend, which added some liveliness. There were Boy Scouts, rockhounds, conservation corp, and Inland Empire Jeep Clubs out maintaining, sharing and exploring the beautiful trails and landscape. Saturday morning, we meandered into Pyramid Canyon to scour the material along the bottom of the main wash for anything interesting. As usual, I found myself doing my best interpretation of a mountain goat and scaled the canyon walls looking for larger slab saw worthy finds. In the upper drainages, there is an amazing variety of jasp-agates in float. Sometimes you find something and you'll never see another like it. The bright orange, purple and gold jasp agate in the photo below with a red/white banded agate core is a great example of these types of finds. I found a small chip of bright orange and followed it uphill to this prize. This is one of the reasons why I love Afton Canyon so much. Ease of access, beautiful hiking away from the campground, and the trains are fun to watch crossing the trestle, too. We had a cozy dinner in Doug and Inez motorhome and then retreated to our sleeping bags for a nice night of camping.



On Sunday, Doug, Inez and I scouted campsites and petrified material at the Sperry Wash near Tecopa, CA for our then scheduled April field trip. While it's postponed for now, we'll pick up where we left on when we are able to do so. Keep an eye out for information in the Slab and by Searcher's e-mail. On the way up from Baker, we crossed over the Amargosa River which had some flow along with wildflowers blooming all around the banks.



Show Committee Update

Show News

As I write this I've been working from home for a week, with an unknown number of weeks of social isolation on the horizon. I am proceeding like the show will happen the first weekend in May while, as each day goes by, I realize that might be totally impossible. What can we do? Follow recommended guidelines and care for each other in creative ways. If you are stuck at home, turn this into an opportunity to try new things with your rock stash. No matter when our show will be, we will need lots of prizes, big and small, for young and old. If a project turned out well, make another one for the show.

I'm going to make the dinosaur eggs and kids' Starbucks bags for hauling their treasures in preparation for the show, whenever it happens. Gwen found a new pattern for a criss-crossed-back apron, and I found a few pieces of fabric in my fabric stash for these aprons. Let me know if you'd like to sew some, and I'll share the pattern with you. This apron works well with quilting fabric. I found some slightly larger grab bags in the show supplies and I'm making 36 grab bags that we can sell for \$3. As I tumble each week, I'll add some treasures to the bags. This might be a good time to review your rock stash and see if any slabs might be useful for the Veterans, prizes, or for the Silent Auction. If you have any large, solid specimens, donate them to Jimmy for sphere making. It takes a lot of solid rock to make a sphere!

I'm going to start a new bell-making project. The tumbled bottles I was using have such a low survival rate from the tumbler, I'm going to cut the bottles with a ring saw and then grind the edges smooth with my sister's glass grinder. I'll practice on some clear bottles and then work on the wine+ bottles I've been collecting. It really only takes time. Without having to drive to work, and with more daylight hours, I'm finding more time for projects like these. If you have prize-making ideas, share them with us. When we can meet again maybe we could have more prize-making workshops. It was a lot of fun to create together. Like you, I really miss seeing everyone, exploring on field trips and learning more about geology. Take care, be careful, and stay well!

Margaret Hogarth



Did you know? 2020 Bylaws, Standing Rules and Job Duties Review

February	February Board Meeting; Board decision to review club documents ourselves (not through a sub-committee). All Board Members to review documents and make list of possible changes. February regular meeting; announce review of club documents by Board and request member suggestions by March 31.
March	March Slab; membership asked to submit written suggestions to the Board by March 31. March Board Meeting; Board approves review timeline. March regular meeting; membership asked to submit written suggestions to the Board by March 31. All Board Members continue review of current documents and make list of possible changes.
April	April Board Meeting; first Board discussion of possible changes
May	May Board Meeting; second Board discussion of possible changes
June	June Board Meeting; third and final discussion of possible changes
July	July Board Meeting; approval of final proposed documents
August	August Slab; notice of final proposed documents to membership and posting proposed documents in red-line version to club website by August 1. August regular meeting; presentation of proposed documents and notice to membership that comments are due to Board by August 31.
September	September Board Meeting; review of membership comments and Board approval of final proposed documents, posting of final proposed documents to website by September 30. September regular meeting; notice to membership that final proposed documents will be posted to website by September 30.
October	
November	Membership vote on proposed documents

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

<p><i>Section 1 –</i></p>	<p><i>These By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed, or replaced by new By-Laws in accordance with the following procedures:</i></p> <p><i>The Board of Directors shall review the By-Laws, Standing Rules, and Job Duties annually. Alternately, the Board can appoint a committee to review the By-Laws, Standing Rules, and Job Duties.</i></p> <p><i>The membership will be asked to submit written suggestions to the committee.</i></p> <p><i>The committee will consider all suggestions and make recommendations accordingly to the Board.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed changes will be reviewed by the Board, then presented at a general meeting and published for review by the membership in the <u>Rock Slab News</u> and on a members-only page of the Searchers website.</i></p> <p><i>Additional written suggestions will be considered by the committee for final presentation to the Board.</i></p> <p><i>Any significant changes will be published and distributed to the membership for comment prior to the membership’s vote.</i></p> <p><i>New By-Laws or changes to existing By-Laws may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the membership present and voting at any regular meeting.</i></p>
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Fun Stuff



The Ultimate Saw



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”

Membership dues are past due...

Please take a moment to make sure you have paid your club membership dues for 2020. We like you being part of our club and want you to continue to receive the benefits of being a member. Our club Bylaws require that members who have not paid their dues by March 1 are no longer considered members.

Upcoming 2020 CFMS Gem Shows

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

Due to the ongoing virus stay at home orders, all shows at this point have been canceled.

APRIL 2020

April 4 – 5: CHICO, CA
Paradise Gem & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
2357 Fair Street
Hours: Saart 9 – 5; Sun 9 – 4
Contact: Trish Haggerty, (530) 966-5112
Email: hagboyz5@gmail.com
www.paradisegem.org

April 4 – 5: RENO, NV
Reno Gem & Mineral Society
Reno Convention Center
4390 S. Virginia Street
Hours: Sat 10 – 5; Sun 10 – 4
Contact: Daniel Ellis, (775) 229-2442
Email: greybeard65@hotmail.com
Website: www.renorockhounds.com

April 11 – 12: MARIPOSA, CA
Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5007 Fairgrounds Road
Hours: Sat 10 – 5; Sun 10 – 4
Contact: Meredith Meehan, (559) 868-3535
Email: mgmc@sti.net
Web Site: <http://mariposagemclub.org> [Show Page](#)

April 25 – 26: LANCASTER, CA
Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Avenue H
Hours: Sat 9 – 5; Sun 9 – 4
Contact: Susan Chaisson-Walblom, (661) 406-0143
Email: slchaisson@yahoo.com
Website: www.avgem.weebly.com

MAY 2020

May 1-3; YUCAIPA, CA
Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Yucaipa Blvd and Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA
Hours: Fri 6 pm – 9 pm; Sat 12 noon – 9 pm;
Sun 12 noon – 6 pm
Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com
Web Site: <http://www.yvgms.org>

May 2 – 3; JACKSON, CA
Amador County Gem & Mineral Society
Kennedy Mine off Hwy 29/88. 12594 Kennedy Mine Rd., Jackson, CA 95642
Hours: 10 am – 4 pm daily
Contact: mountaingirl@volcano.net
Web site: <http://www.amadorgemandmineral.org>

JUNE 2020

June 1-2: CAMBRIA, CA
San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cambria Veterans Hall
1000 Main Street
Hours: 10 – 5 daily
Contact: Kim Noyes, (805) 610-0603
Email: kim@gmail.com

June 23-28; LODI, CA
CFMS 81st Show & Convention
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Grape Festival Fairgrounds 413 E Lockeford Street

June 27 – 28, CULVER CITY, CA
Culver City Rock and Mineral Club
Veterans Memorial Auditorium
4117 Overland Ave, Culver City CA 90230
Website: <http://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm>
Facebook: @CCRMC Instagram: culvercityrocks CCR&MC Twitter: @CCRMS

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
Website: 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

April Birthstone: Diamond



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

P.O. Pox 3492

Anaheim, Ca. 92803

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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