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## POINTS OF INTEREST

### FIELD TRIPS

### GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

# The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2014



## The President's Message



Hello Searchers,

Well, it looks like we were able to put on yet another successful show. Kudos go out to Robert and Sharon Burson, our Show co-Chairs, also a hearty Well Done, to our Show Board and to all of the volunteers who helped put on such a great show. It always amazes me how these things come together. That said, I'm sorry to say that we currently we do not have a Show Chair for next year. If someone asks you to consider the position, please think about it. They believe that you have the organizational skills to pull it all together. Don't be afraid to volunteer with a spouse or another member as co-Chair. An organizational person teaming up with a promotional one can do the job as well, and break the job down into manageable parts while sharing the glory of being Top Dog.

I'm so depressed, we missed another field trip! However, the 'First Lady' and I worked the Anaheim Arts Council's Children's Festival on May 17th. The kid's response is always remarkable. They really enjoy the combination of rocks and rings. How often did I hear that "Little Johnny just loves rocks, his pockets are always full of them."? As a kid, that was ME! Several times the excited one was the parent, finding the Searchers for the first time and remembering being Little Johnny themselves. Hopefully Little Johnny and his (or her) parents will attend a Searcher's meeting, utilize the workshop and join us on field trips. Several weeks back I attended a Desert Advisory Council (DAC) meeting with my lovely wife, Kim.

For the second time this year, I went forward and spoke up for rockhounds and our continued access to the desert. It's not too hard to do if you write down what you want to say ahead of time. Many in the audience applauded my efforts and spoke to me at the break. Better yet, later, some of the gold prospectors in the audience got up and spoke too. It's not too hard to fill 3 minutes. This message, as written, is about 3 minutes. The hardest part is getting off the couch to attend the meeting.

Jay Erb

## Bureau of Land Management's Desert District Advisory Council

Special Recreation Permit Subgroup Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: BLM's Desert District Office,  
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos,  
Moreno Valley , CA 92553  
Phone: (951) 697-5200

Please plan to attend! The BLM needs to hear from many rockhounds to understand our perspective on the issue of Special Recreation Permits and how they do or do not apply to rockhounds.

# Field Trips

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
7-3 to 9	Steve Duncan	Obsidian at Davis Creek and petrified wood, Gary green, agate etc at McDermitt	Planned
9-2014	Robert Burson	North Cadys or Chuckwall mts	tentative
10-2014	Herb Beckman	Clear Creek - Jade in streams, plasma agate at the Aurora mine	tentative

## Long Range Field Trip

**JULY 3 –9 2014**

The Searchers will have a long range trip in early July to Davis Creek (best obsidian site in CA), and McDermitt Nev (for green petrified wood among other things).

At Davis creek the collecting will be July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be staying at the Lassen Creek campground, a basic campground but very pretty and it does have a chemical toilet. Someone should be at the campsite on the afternoon of the 2nd, and there should be signs to guide you to the camp. You can get into this camp with an RV.

### **Directions to Lassen Creek camp:**

Take your favorite route to Alturas (in the far north east corner of California). From Alturas, go north on US 395. Approximately 22 miles from Alturas is the small town of Davis Creek. At the Davis Creek mercantile (530 233 3758) you can procure your free collecting permit, this is required. This will also be your last stop for Ice, cold drinks, ICE CREAM, etc. Continue another 11 miles to FS Access Rd 30. Turn right onto 30, and follow the signs. At about 5.5 miles you will take a right fork, cross a small bridge and the campground will be on your left.

The campground is a large meadow with some large pines and 2 streams running through camp. It is a dry camp, but there is a nice chemical toilet. RVs can access the camp, and it is comfortable for tenters. Gas limited supplies and ICE CREAM at Davis Creek Mercantile. Motels, gas, food, and medical facilities at (Alturas `22 miles south) or Lakeview (`22 miles north)

All collecting trips will leave camp at 0830. You will need a high clearance vehicle to access the sites, but 4x4 should not be necessary. The sites are not very far from camp.

Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have a potluck to celebrate our first day of collecting. Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> people who wish can go to Davis Creek Mercantile and enjoy a BBQ dinner, the cost for this year's dinners has-n't been defined yet, but last year for 3 meats (which would feed 2 normal people) it was \$28. Sat the 5<sup>th</sup> there will be no potluck, you are on your own for food.

Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> will be a travel day from Davis Creek to McDermitt, roughly 4.5 hrs. The short route is 395 North, 140 East, and 95 North. There is a pretty cool rock shop on 395 in the little town at the state line, if it is still open.

The camp at McDermitt is at the Mitchell RV Park in town with hot showers and restrooms. The rates are \$20/night for an RV site with hookups, Tent sites are \$15 Gas and some groceries and a couple of small restaurants are available in McDermitt.

The McDermitt collecting will leave from camp at 08:30 (California time) on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. As far as collecting locations, we have made arrangements with a local guide which should help us get to the right stuff. 4 wheel drive may be necessary for some of these trips, if so we will car pool as usual.



For field trip  
information  
contact: Steve  
Duncan V.P. Field  
Trips, Searchers  
Gem and Mineral  
Society,  
(714) 7247102  
(cell) or  
wsd@iteris.com



We will have a potluck on the 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our first day of collecting at McDermitt, and on the 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the end of the collecting trip. You are on your own for dinner on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

We will have a campfire every night we can, please bring some firewood, or pick up some on your way.

You will need to be responsible for yourselves on most of the distance traveling. Be prepared for hot days and cold nights. Bring lots of water, sunscreen, hats etc. The collecting is mostly digging, so digging tools (shovel, pick, etc) are necessary in addition to your standard rock pick and water bottle. Obsidian is volcanic glass and is very sharp. Eye protection and gloves are highly recommended. One thing that a "pro" showed me the last time was the value of a bucket of water and a cheap hand brush. This made cleaning a piece of obsidian to properly judge its character (to keep or to leave) a snap.

Digging is best done by small cooperatives; we will all end up better off by working in small groups. Also it is much better to knock down overburden than to work under it. Working under overburden is dangerous.

Both of these sites are justifiably famous, Davis Creek for rainbow, electric blue, green, and pink obsidian, and McDermitt for petrified wood, larsonite (petrified bog jasper) and agates. I believe we should be a productive trip for nice materials. And you know that anytime the Searchers get together in the outdoors it is a good time.

If someone knows a great collecting location on the way back to So Cal from McDermitt (that won't be terrifyingly hot) we can consider breaking up the return trip for a day of collecting somewhere. Let me know.

After McDermitt some folks will probably continue north to do some more rockhounding. If you asked nicely I am sure you could buddy along with them for a while if you haven't had your fill of collecting by then.

It is standard for not everyone to do every portion of the trip, feel free to join us when you can and leave when you have to.

If you are interested in any or all of this trip please contact me at [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com), or 714 724 7102 (my cell). I have had some initial feedback from folks who plan to go, I would appreciate it if everyone planning to go would confirm, so even if you have previously contacted me please reconfirm.

One note on collecting at Davis Creek. You do need a permit. The permit is free. Normally these can be procured at Davis Creek Mercantile (530) 233 3758 in Davis Creek. This is the most convenient place to pick up the permit, and I recommend you get yours there.

Other choices are:

Modoc National Forest Supervisor's Office - 800 West 12 th Street Alturas, CA 96101

• Warner Mountain Ranger District Office - 385 Wallace St. Cedarville, CA 96104

Please feel free to contact me with any questions [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com), or 714 724 7102 (my cell).



## June Speaker Topic - Rattlesnake Awareness

Returning popular speaker, Jim Bowden, is going to provide us with a presentation about rattlesnake awareness and safety; which should be of great interest to our traveling rock hounds in general as they dig for rocks and minerals in the deserts and hills of Southern California. He'll be bringing a couple of embalmed specimens to help illustrate his slideshow presentation on important rattlesnake safety and first aid.

## Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
6-2014	Jim Bowden	Rattlesnake Awareness
7-2014	Justin Zzyzx	Agates
8-2014	Searcher's Picnic/ Potluck Yorba Regional Park	FUN

## Upcoming 2014 CFMS Gem Shows

For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site:

[www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

### 2014 CFMS Show and Conference

**May 30 - June 1 Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave POMONA, CA**

**to be hosted by the Pasadena Lapidary Society Show Website:**  
[www.cfms2014show.com](http://www.cfms2014show.com)

**May 31 - June 1:** ESCONDIDO, CA Palomar Gem & Mineral Club California Center for the Arts 1340 N. Escondido Blvd .Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Michael Bagstad, (760) 489-1897 Email: gem-show@palomargem.org Website: [www.palomargem.org](http://www.palomargem.org)

### JUNE 2014

**June 6 - 8:** LA HABRA, CA North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society Sonora High School 401 S. Palm Street Hours: Fri 4 - 8:30; Sat 8 - 8; Sun 9 - 6 Contact: Nancy Bird, (562) 697-0636 Email: nancy-jbird@verizon.net Website: [www.nocgms.com](http://www.nocgms.com)

**June 7 - 8:** GLENDORA, CA Glendora Gems & Mineral Society Goddard Middle School 859 East Sierra Madre Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Bonnie Bidwell, (626) 963-4638 Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com Website: Facebook Page

**June 14 - 15:** CAYUCOS, CA San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club Cayucos Vets Hall at the

Pier 10 Cayucos Drive Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Kim Noyes, (805) 610-0603 Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com Website: [www.slogem.org](http://www.slogem.org)

**June 27 - 29:** RIALTO, CA Orange Belt Gem & Mineral Society "Tailgate" across street from Rialto City Hall 105 S. Palm Ave. (corner 1st & Palm Ave.) Hours: Fri & Sat 9 - 6; Sun. 9 - 3 Contacts: Ken or Jessica Gard, (909) 624-1782, (909) 887-5507 kengard@roadrunner.com Website: [obmsrocks.yolasite.com](http://obmsrocks.yolasite.com)

**June 28 - 29:** CULVER CITY, CA Culver City Rock & Mineral Club Veterans Memorial Auditorium 4117 Overland Ave Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Janice Metz Email: janicemtz@yahoo.com Website: [www.culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm](http://www.culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm)

### AUGUST 2014

**August 1 - 3:** NIPOMO, CA Orcutt Mineral Society, Santa Maria Nipomo High School 525 North Thompson Avenue Hours: Fri/Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Wes Lingerfelt, (805) 929-3788, Cell (805) 710-1983 Email: info@omsinc.org Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

**August 23 - 24:** SAN FRANCISCO, CA San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society S. F. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Ellen Nott Email: ellen\_nott@yahoo.com Website:

[www.sfgemshow.org](http://www.sfgemshow.org)

### SEPTEMBER 2014

**September 20 - 21:** CHICO, CA Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society, Oroville Silver Dollar Fairgrounds 2357 Fair Street Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4 John Scott, (530) 343-3491 Email: jweazel@sbcglobal.net Website: [www.featherriverrocks.org](http://www.featherriverrocks.org)

**September 27 - 28:** MONTEREY, CA Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society Monterey Fairgrounds 2004 Fairgrounds Road Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311 Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net Website: [www.cvgms.org](http://www.cvgms.org)

**September 27 - 28:** SANTA ROSA, CA Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society Wells Fargo Center for the Art 50 Mark West Springs Road Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Jolene, (707) 528-7615 Email: Jolene@srmgs.org Website: [www.srmgs.org](http://www.srmgs.org)

**September 27 - 28:** LODI, CA Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club Lodi Grape Festival Grounds 413 East Lockford Street Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Jerold Kyle, (209) 368-9411 Email: jerold-kyle@yahoo.com Website: [www.stocktonlapidary.com](http://www.stocktonlapidary.com)

## June Birthstone - Pearl

June Birthstone poem - the Pearl

"Who comes with summer to this earth  
And owes to June her hour of birth  
A pearl should wear against her skin  
Who's innocence many a heart shall win."



June Birthstone - Properties of the Pearl



For those who were born in the month of June the Pearl is the traditional birthstone. The June birthstone poem reflects some of the properties with which the Pearl is associated - loyalty, faithfulness and friendship. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties for the June Birthstone Pearl are modesty, chastity and purity. The healing properties of the June birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the heart, spleen, stomach, intestine & ulcer problems. The Pearl is also used to enhance personal integrity.



## Other Field Trips

One of our sister clubs (the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society) has just listed an impressive field trip schedule for 2014. Members of their club often join us on our trips, and we are welcome to join them on their. You can never get too much rockhounding right? Anyhow, their schedule is below, if you plan to join them please do get in touch with Joe Goetz (their field trip leader) at (626) 622-9420. This way they will know you are planning on attending, and be able to update you if there are any changes to the plan.

### 2014 Field Trip Schedule

June (TBA) Cerro Gordo Mine: Historical Ghost Town and minerals associated with the mining of silver, lead, and zinc. Noted as a location to find Smithsonite.

July 12 Palos Verdes: Glaucoaphane, barite and agate minerals.

Aug 2 Nipomo Show/Los Olivos: to collect Serpentine, the California State Rock. Possibly collecting Cinnabar and a stop at Ta-jiguas Creek for fossilized whale bone.

For up-to-date information on these field trips call Joe Goetz at (626)- 622-9420 Sept 20-21

Jalama Beach: Agate, jasper, petrified whale bone, travertine onyx, Marcasite and fossils.

Oct 11-12 Searles Lake Club Show & field trips: Pink halite crystals & borax minerals.

Nov 1-2 Whittier Claim Area: honey onyx, agate, jasper, palm root, etc.

Nov 28-30 Wiley's Well Area: Annual CFMS field trip for geodes, agates and other good stuff.

Dec 6 Himalaya Mine Tourmalines: Dig your own pink and green California tourmalines near beautiful Lake Henshaw in San Diego County, 20 miles east of Pala. This is a fee collecting site.

For up-to-date information on these field trips call Joe Goetz at (626)- 622-9420.



## Trip Report Ludlow area

May 17-18 Jim Peterson

What a day for rock hunting in the desert. It was 106 degrees and windy, but on Sat., a few die hards still went out on the quest. There were five rockhounds besides Jim Peterson, the trip leader. Everyone had a great time, finding lots of good Hematite Porphyry at an old iron mine near Ludlow and old Route 66. Next was a hunt for Christmas Tree agate but not much luck on that search. Everyone



but Anna, Jim and Ester headed home after the sauna hunt. The next day, Sunday they headed for the Thulite site to get more good stuff. Another successful field trip even with the extreme conditions for weekend in May.



## Sunshine Report

This year's show went well, but it just didn't seem the same without June Okita, who can normally be found doing the work of three people. June is recovering from neck surgery, and was unable to make the show. The Searchers wish June a speedy recovery, and we all hope to see her soon.

## In the Field

**Obsidian** is a naturally occurring volcanic glass formed as an extrusive igneous rock.

It is produced when felsic lava extruded from a volcano cools rapidly with minimum crystal growth. Obsidian is commonly found within the margins of rhyolitic lava flows known as obsidian flows, where the chemical composition (high silica content) induces a high viscosity and polymerization degree of the lava. The inhibition of atomic diffusion through this highly viscous and polymerized lava explains the lack of crystal growth. Obsidian is hard and brittle; it therefore fractures with very sharp edges, which had been used in the past in cutting and piercing tools, and has been used experimentally as surgical scalpel blades. (Wikipedia)

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Obsidian is the result of volcanic lava coming in contact with water. Often the lava pours into a lake or ocean and is cooled quickly. This process produces a glassy texture in the resulting rock. Iron and magnesium give the obsidian a dark green to black color. Obsidian has been used by ancient people as a cutting tool, for weapons, and for ceremonial purposes and is sometimes found by archaeologists in excavations.

Obsidian has several varieties. Obsidian can contain small bubbles of air that are aligned along layers created as the molten rock was flowing just before being cooled. These bubbles can produce interesting effects such as a golden sheen, known as Sheen Obsidian or a rainbow sheen called Rainbow Obsidian. Inclusions of small, white, radially clustered crystals of cristobalite in the black glass produce a blotchy or snowflake pattern producing Snowflake Obsidian. Small nuggets of obsidian that have been naturally rounded and smoothed by wind and water are called Apache Tears. (www.galleries.com)



Obsidian Needles



Pink Obsidian



Mahogany Obsidian



Rainbow Obsidian



Silver Sheen Obsidian

## Kid's Corner

We will be starting a section for kids. 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. 5.

### Minerals in Your Home

A lot of minerals are needed to make the items in your home. Minerals are needed to make the ingredients that go into products you use in your home every day. Do you know which minerals are used in these items? A number of minerals are listed after each household item. Circle the minerals that are needed to make each item. Then, turn the page and check your answers.

**BATTERIES** Graphite, Gold, Galena, Sphalerite, Fluorite, Orpiment, Calcite

**TOWEL** Galena, Sphalerite, Asbestos (fibers), Quartz, Chromite, Sulfur, Cinnabar

**SUNSCREEN** Fluorite, Tourmaline, Sphalerite, Chromite, Zincite, Malachite, Muscovite

**COSMETICS** Muscovite, Stibnite, Hematite, Graphite, Pyrite, Garnet, Talc

**TOILET** Feldspar, Hematite, Magnetite, Smithsonite, Pyrolusite, Chromite, Copper, Azurite, Malachite, Sulfur, Flint

**RECLINER CHAIR** Sulfur, Halite, Hematite, Barite, Adamite, Magnetite, Sphalerite, Gypsum, Wulfenite

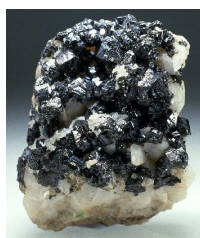
**DENTAL CARE** Silver, Gold, Muscovite, Barite, Rutile, Calcite, Fluorite, Cinnabar, Selenite



Sulfur



Graphite



Sphalerite



Feldspar



Talc



Gold



Zincite

## Minerals in Your Home (Answers)

**BATTERIES** Graphite, Galena, Sphalerite. Galena is a source of lead. Sphalerite is a source of zinc.

**TOWEL** Sphalerite and Chromite. These two minerals are used to create dyes that are used to color towels. Bet you wondered how something hard like a mineral could be found in something soft like a towel!

**SUNSCREEN** Sphalerite and Zincite. Sunscreen contains a compound called zinc oxide. The element zinc is removed from the minerals sphalerite and zincite.

**COSMETICS** Muscovite, Hematite, Talc. Talc is crushed into a very fine powder and used to make talcum powder and other cosmetics. Muscovite is crushed and added to cosmetics like lipstick and face powder to give a glittery look. Hematite is crushed to a powder and added to cosmetics to give a deep red color.

**TOILET** Feldspar, Hematite, Magnetite, Pyrolusite, Chromite, Copper, Azurite, Malachite. The toilet is made of porcelain which contains feldspar as its main ingredient. Pyrolusite is used to make coloring for the porcelain. Hematite and magnetite are used to make the steel parts (handles, inside valve pieces, etc.). Handles are often covered with a shiny metal called chrome that comes from the mineral chromite. Copper and copper ores (like azurite and malachite) are used to make the pipes that bring water to the toilet. Today, many pipes are made of plastics or flexible metal tubing as well.)



Hematite

**RECLINER CHAIR** Sulfur, Hematite, Magnetite, Sphalerite.

Sulfur is used to make the foam rubber that is used for soft padding in the chair cushions. Hematite and magnetite are the source of iron for making the steel that is used to make the chair frame. Sphalerite is a source of zinc that is needed to make some dyes for the cloth covering.



Fluorite

**DENTAL CARE** Gold, Rutile, Fluorite, Cinnabar. Gold is used to cover damaged teeth and for fillings in cavities. Rutile is used to give color to false teeth so they look real. Fluorite is the source of the element fluorine which is combined with other elements to make the compound fluoride. Fluoride helps make teeth stronger and resistant to decay. Cinnabar is the main source of mercury. A mercury compound (called mercury amalgam) was used for many years to fill cavities. Mercury is VERY poisonous, however, and mercury amalgam is no longer used.



Rutile



Cinnabar



Copper

*Mini Miners Monthly* is produced by Diamond Dan Publications, Rochester, New York.  
Darryl Powell, editor Emma Fajcz, contributing editor



# 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, 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](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

<b>Membership Dues:</b>	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](mailto:editor@searchersrocks.org).

Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:

Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

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**Affiliations:** California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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