

The Rock Slab News

Volume 43 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2008



APRIL BIRTHSTONE DIAMOND



April's birthstone is the perennial first choice for engagement rings, but it is also the anniversary gem for the 10th and 60th years of marriage when eternity bands and other diamond-detailed rings replace original wedding bands. The ancient Greeks believed that diamonds were splinters of stars fallen to earth. It was even said that they were the tears of the Gods or perhaps crystallized lightning or hardened dew drops. The origin of diamonds is still something of a mystery, even to scientists and geologists. India is thought to be the first river-bed source of diamond mining. The ancient Hindus called the diamond "Vajra" (lightning) because of the sparks of light that it emits as well as its invincible strength. Diamonds are harder than any other substance on earth and found today in Australia, Botswana, Russia and South Africa. Diamonds have long been credited for having certain medicinal properties. During the middle ages, these gemstones were thought to heal illness, but only if the ailing person took the diamond into bed to warm it up first. Diamond's white hue signifies life, joy and innocence, but diamonds may be nearly any color in the rainbow plus a wide range of browns, grays, and white. Shades of yellow are most common, followed by colorless. Blue, black, reddish, and greenish are more valuable, some extremely so.

APRIL CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
6	7	8	9	10 6- 10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	11	12 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
13	14	15 7- 9 pm General Meeting & Show Meeting	16	17 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping Board Meeting	18	19 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
20	21	22	23	24 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping 7-9 pm Board Meeting	25	26 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing Field trip
27 Field trip	28	29	30	May 1 6-10pm Lapidary	2	3 10-4:30 pm GEM ROUNDUP
4 10-4:30 pm GEM ROUNDUP						

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The Purpose of the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

By-Laws, Article 1, 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.

DON'T FORGET!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Same rates:
\$20 for individuals
\$25 for couples
\$2 for children under 17

NAME BADGES ARE AVAILBLE FOR \$5 EACH

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: 7PM, 3rd Thursday 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).

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

Membership Dues: Individual \$20
Couple \$25
Junior (17 & under) \$2
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 editors:
Yery Camacho & Kathy Clark
18661 Silver Maple Way
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations:

- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

SEARCHERS BOARD

Officers

President	Keith Droste	714/563-4754
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Clarke Benich	714/639-9927
Director	Clarke Benich	714/552-7336
Secretary	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	909/393-2186
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900

Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Kathy Clark Yery Camacho	714/639-9927 714/952-5804
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Library		
Membership	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Monthly Drawing	Skip & Connie Cone	714/827-8675
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/971-6789
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2	Karen Martinez	562/423-2832
2008 Show	Betty Nelson	714/530-1365
Show Co-Chair	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Sunshine		
Veterans' Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Steve Duncan	714/724-7102
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714/778-1496

Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council

APRIL EVENTS

April 15	7 pm	April Meeting
April 15	8 pm	Show Meeting
April 17	7 pm	Board Meeting

MAY EVENTS

May 3 Saturday	10am-5pm	The Searchers 49 th Annual “ GEM ROUNDUP ” Brookhurst Community Center 2271 W. Crescent Avenue Anaheim, CA 92801 Live Demonstrations/Exhibits/Kids Activities/Tools/ Jewelry/Hobby Supplies/Gold Panning FREE ADMISSION/Open to Public http://www.searchersrocks.org
May 4 Sunday	10am-4:30pm	
May 16-17-18 Fri.&Sat. Sun.	10am-6pm 10am-5pm	West Coast Gem & Mineral Show Holiday Inn in Bristol Plaza 3131 S. Bristol St., Costa Mesa, CA FREE ADMISSION/Open to Public

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: www.cfmsinc.org

APRIL PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

The usual 2nd Tuesday of the month has been preempted this month because the Anaheim Downtown Center is closed from March 31 through April 14 for maintenance. The April meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday, April 15. We will be seeing a video of Huell Howser's California Gold titled “Buried Treasure.” This is a 30-minute film.

Our Show Chairman Betty Nelson scheduled all the Show Meetings for the 3rd Tuesday of each month through April, and the regular April meeting has been rescheduled to the 3rd Tuesday; therefore, we have a conflict of interest. Instead of having the Show Committee miss the great program originally scheduled for April, it was decided to show a short video. Directly after the video the Show Meeting will commence in the Board Room across the hall. **ALL** Committee Chairmen are requested to attend this last meeting before the Show in May. Of course, all members are welcome, too.

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Our March program was a slide presentation by Searcher member Jim Peterson about his "Field Trips Across North, Central and South America." Jim and Ester Reynolds have traveled extensively across the United States and have recorded sights and field trip digs along the way. Here are some of the highlights of their trips:

Ketchikan, Alaska – quartz crystals, totem poles and brown bears
Juneau, Alaska – visited by plane or boat only
Glacier (Mendenhall) – grizzly cubs and gold dredging
Five Fingers – a place where the '49ers panned for gold on the Yukon River
Fairbanks, Alaska – caribou
Alaska pipeline – Prado Bay
Arctic circle sign about 400 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska - permafrost
Homer, Alaska – halibut fishing
Salmon Glacier in Heider, Alaska
Jade City – wooden sculptures by Native Americans
Waterfall in Brazil
Trilobites in natural history museum in Argentina
Cape Horn – southern tip of South America
South American glacier
Yellowstone National Park – elk and buffalo
Butte, Montana – found chrysocolla and fossils
Bear Lake diggings (Bancroft) – apatite, tourmaline digging with \$5 permit
Niagara Falls rainbow
Virginia – Starlight crystal digging
Arkansas - \$20 per day at Coleman's quartz crystal mine
New Mexico – lepidolite
New Mexico – crystal digging (desert roses)
Grand Canyon
Piggyback train ride through Copper Canyon in Mexico
Tikal ruins
Palenque ruins

Jim had some wonderful pictures of really beautiful places and had some great rockhounding. Thank you, Jim, for the nice presentation and a look at some new places to rockhound.

APRIL FIELD TRIP
Ship Mountains and Marble Mountains
April 26&27, 2008
9AM Departure Time

The April field trip will be to the Ship Mountains for Ship Mountain Opalite. I did an exploratory trip to the Ship Mountains with Carrie and Wei last fall. Like most of my trips we spent a fair amount of time slightly lost, but finally found the location we were looking for, which was honeycombed with old holes dug by previous rockhounds. I dug there for probably an hour, and was ready to give up in disgust when I found a brick sized piece. It was obvious when you find what you are looking for, it is pastel colors with complex patterns. When I got it home I also found that it was very hard and took a great polish with no pits. It is really nice rock.

We will be camping at the collecting site. As I indicated above the best collecting probably involves digging. It is digging in soft sand, but digging none the less. You will want to bring shovels and gloves if you plan to dig. I also like to bring a scrap tarp or blanket, one of the problems with digging in sand is it wants to drift back into your hole, so I shovel onto a tarp, and then drag the tarp some distance from my hole and dump it. Of course there is always the possibility of good material in float. The rockhound books indicate several other collecting locations within a mile or two.

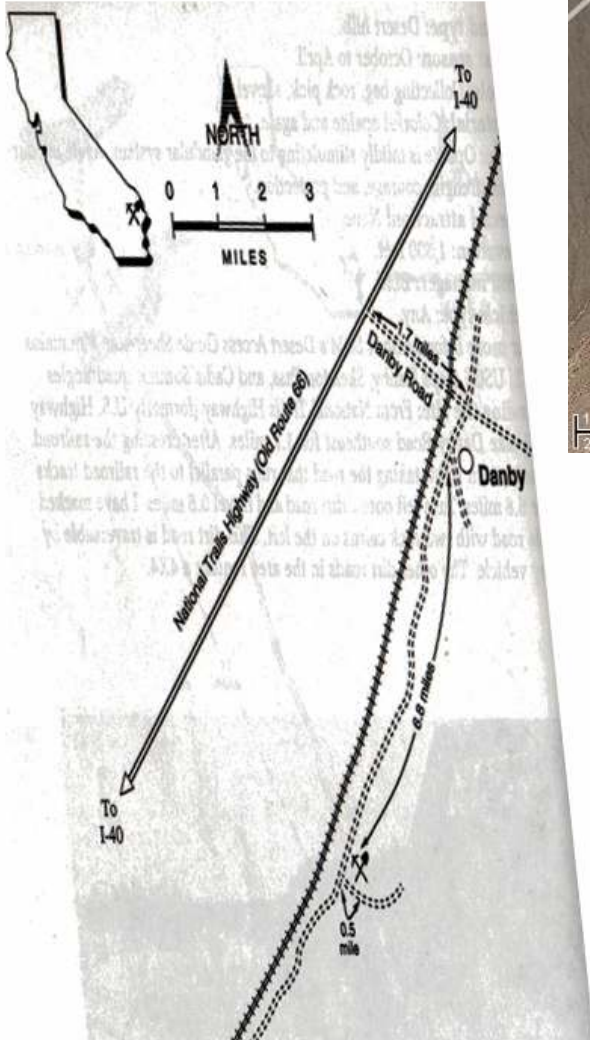
Sunday's plans are still a little fluid, probably collecting in the Marble Mountains which are quite close, and offer epidote and garnets in addition to marble. There is also an old mine, The Vulcan, that several Searchers collected at before, if any of them join us on this trip we may be able to talk them into leading us there on Sunday.

This will be a standard desert campsite, with no amenities, or water. We will have our normal Saturday night potluck. I plan to be at the campsite by Friday afternoon. Be prepared for heat in the day time and cold at night, although hopefully the weather will be mild. Bring water and sunscreen. The campsite should be reachable by all vehicles; last time there was one short sandy stretch to be a little cautious on.

Directions: Take I40 East to Ludlow. Exit at Ludlow, and gas up at the Chevron station, which also has basic supplies. Then take National trails Highway (old route 66) east to Danby Road (past Chambless). Go south on Danby Rd for ~1.5 miles, until you cross the railroad tracks and reach the old town site of Danby. Take the road right following the railroad (west) for 6.9 miles then there is a left turn up to the campsite/collecting area. I will have Searcher signs helping show the way. Closest motel is probably back at Ludlow.

On Sunday if we end up in the Marble Mountains we will be taking Mac Tul Rd north from Chambless till it ends, and then turning right (east) onto the dirt road, there are several collecting areas (and dirt roads) off to the left (north) of this road.

Feel free to call me, Steve Duncan at (714) 724-7102, or email me at wsd@iteris.com if you have any questions.



2008 SHOW REPORT

by Kathy Clark

All systems are **GO** for our 2008 Show on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4. The Show Committee Chairmen have their areas well under control. There is, however, always a need for more volunteers. Remember: this is our **ONLY** source of income to keep our programs, newsletter and workshop operating and to cover our obligation to our sponsor, the Anaheim Arts Council who provides us with our meeting place at the Anaheim Downtown Center and a place to hold our annual Shows, the Brookhurst Center. Our membership dues barely cover the cost of our membership to CFMS and our insurance. We are extraordinarily fortunate to be one of the few clubs that has a lapidary workshop for its members' use, but keep in mind that there is a substantial expense to maintain this equipment.

Not only do we need volunteers to keep the Show running smoothly, we hope that all Searcher members will take part in and enjoy the Show. There are always really great dealers, live demonstrations and plenty of activities to keep kids happy while not breaking the bank. The last two years there have not been donation awards where each member was responsible for selling ten tickets. Because of this we need to attract more attendance, so tell your neighbors, friends and relatives and encourage them to bring their families and have a fun two days.

Kitchen Chairman Beth Pelfrey urges everyone to donate pies and cakes (preferably home-baked) to sell for lunch and snacks. The kitchen always could use a few more hands to help setup on Friday; prepare, serve and cleanup on Saturday and Sunday; and to help put everything away for storage on Sunday night. Volunteers are also needed for setup on Friday and teardown on Sunday evening. Please don't hesitate to come forward to offer your services; every area of the Show needs many hands to operate smoothly. And everyone helping to setup on Friday will be welcome to the Friday Night Dinner.

Here's to the Searchers and a fantastic 2008 Show!!!

SHOW SECURITY

CASES

For your Safety and Protection

Please remember that we do not allow any display cases or exhibit to be opened or removed during Show hours. Sunday at the close of the Show everyone will leave the exhibit hall until security has cleared the building. This should take 5 to 10 minutes with your help. Then you will be allowed back into the exhibit hall to remove your case, or open it to remove your things.

If you need help or have a problem, please let myself or Show Chairwoman know. This is for your safety and protection.

Thank you.
Larry Richey
Show Security

SHOW DISPLAY CASES FOR SALE

The Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC) is selling "excess" show display cases on an "as-is" condition basis. The price for each case is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. The cases are constructed of good quality wood and components, but may need minor repairs. Display cases of comparable sizes, but incorporating aluminum instead of wood, have been recently advertised in the \$120 range. Contact an MSSC officer if you are interested. President: Geoffrey Caplette (626) 798-0064 or jaspag@earthlink.net. VP: Janet Gordon (626) 441-6715 jpgordon@pacbell.net. Treasurer: Herman Ruvalcaba (562) 944-4855 or hermanr@linkline.com. Also Searcher member Susan Hansen may be able to help (562) 865-2040 or sunkaysen@aol.com.

SHOW SECURITY

Name Badges

Remember to wear your club name badge to the Show this year. Sunday when the Show closes everyone will be required to leave the Show exhibit room to insure only those involved in the Show breakdown activities will be allowed back into the exhibit room. This should take 5 to 10 minutes with your help. After the room has been cleared of all unauthorized people or left over guests from the Show, you will be allowed back in if you are wearing your Searcher name badge.

If anyone is in need of help with your display and you will need help from someone other than a club member or any non-club members picking up exhibits at the close of the Show on Sunday **will need a special badge**. Please see me Friday During set up, Saturday during the Show or Early Sunday so I may see that they have a badge or proper pass before the close of the Show.

Thank you.
Larry Richey
Show Security

SEARCHER NAME BADGES

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

\$5 EACH

See membership chairman Kathy Clark at a meeting, during the Show, or call or email me and I will send you a name badge. Kathy Clark 714-639-9927 or hanky1panky3@yahoo.com.

SUNSHINE REPORT

By Kathy Clark

Curt Clark's father (Kathy Clark's father-in-law) passed away suddenly on March 22, the day before Easter Sunday. He was 98 years old.

Long-time former Searcher member Thomas Talip who now resides in Toledo, Ohio, is in very frail health.

The Valley Springs, California, "Snyder's Powwow" founder John Snyder passed away Wednesday, March 26. He was 86. He would have been 87 at the start of this year's 34th powwow which starts April 30. From an article about John appearing on www.recordnet.com: "Betty Snyder, his wife, said that in 1975, the couple was on the verge of looking for a larger, more profitable ranch in another state when mineral buffs asked if they could prospect in a moss agate quarry on the Snyder ranch. Camping fees paid by the rockhounds turned out to be just the revenue boost the ranch needed to allow the family to stay in California." For more information about the powwow see www.valleyspringspowwow.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please welcome the newest members of the Searchers' family:

New Members:

Kei Ito (Jr. Member)
6741 Lincoln Ave. Space 82
Buena Park, CA 90620
714-827-8675
mrskip8@msn.com

Jennifer Loper
24146 Big Timber St.
Lake Forest, CA 92630
949-699-1949
vintagelifestyle@sbcglobal.net

Connie & Marty Swiderski
6906 Costero Vientos
San Clemente, CA 92673-7111
949-498-4919
cjonthebeach@yahoo.com

After the Show in May, there will be updated membership rosters available. Those receiving email will get their rosters immediately. Hard copies will be available at meetings and mailed upon request.

Everyone, please check the roster. Let me know if I need to make corrections. I will update the roster and email it to you monthly. There will be a few hardcopies of the roster available at meetings. If you have an email address, please, please give it to me. Email saves the club so much money and saves me an enormous amount of time.

ADVERTISEMENT

 AVAILABLE

FUTURE FIELD TRIP

Hot Weather Field Trip
To the Oceanview mine

A couple of months ago we had a presentation from the Oceanview Mine owner, who talked about the mine, and also about the program they run allowing folks to screen through the mine tailings for a fee. I missed the presentation, but have personally tried their tailings screening a few years ago, and found it to be an enjoyable time. At that time there were probably 15 people screening, and everyone found small tourmaline crystals, many of them being “watermelon”, red and green. I personally found a piece of pink tourmaline a little over ½” square which I was able to polish and have Marcia wirewrap into a pendant. The trophy of the day was a nice clear piece of aquamarine bigger than a golf ball. It was an enjoyable way to spend a day, and with the water from the screening process the hot weather was not a problem. Another high point of the day was being taken down inside the mine to see how the operation worked. I am uncertain if they are still taking visitors into the mine, but it was a neat experience.

The Oceanview is close enough for a one day field trip, and will be tolerable in the heat of summer because of the breeze on the mountain and the splashing from the screening. I will put together a trip for this summer if enough people are interested. The fees spoken about in the Searcher’s meeting were \$60 a person, it may be possible that we get a small discount if enough people were interested. So if you think you would be interested in something like this, call me at 714 724 7102, or email me at wsd@iteris.com, and I’ll put you on the list. Once we get closer to summer I’ll contact you again and we’ll see if we can put a trip together.

Steve Duncan



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

FREE ! The Searchers 49th Annual **FREE !**



“GEM ROUNDUP”

2009 will represent our 50th Year of
Community Service in Anaheim

Saturday, May 3rd
10am-5pm
Sunday, May 4th
10am-4:30pm

Anaheim, California
May 3-4, 2008

Live Demonstrations / Exhibits / Educational Activities

OVER

<http://www.searchersrocks.org>

OVER

Fun for the
whole family !

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
49th Annual Show

Kids Program
Gold Panning

TOOLS
MINERALS
GEMSTONES
JEWELRY
HOBBY SUPPLIES
BOOKS



JEWELRYMAKING for KIDS
SILENT AUCTIONS
MINERAL GRAB BAGS
WHEEL OF FORTUNE
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES

May 3rd

Brookhurst Community Center
2271 W. Crescent Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92801
Venue sponsored by the Anaheim Arts Council
and the City of Anaheim

May 4th

