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IN THIS ISSUE

Field Trips	2
Club Meetings	3
Upcoming CFM Shows	4
Kids Corner	7

POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 12



DECEMBER 2015

The President's Message



Hello Searchers and Visitors!

This will be my last President's message. Heather Jaekels will be taking over as president of the Searchers next month. I will remain on the Board taking over for Jimmy as Director.

The First Lady and I attended the most recent CFMS meeting in Visalia – and you are not going to believe this! We need to SUPPORT Diane Feinstein's legislation for the Route 66 corridor. Why? The legislation now includes access for rockhounds. This is great recognition for us as stakeholders in the desert. What's the alternative? Do nothing or vote 'nay' and the corridor will be turned into a National Park by President Obama's executive fiat, thus resulting in the complete exclusion of rockhounding along the Route 66 corridor.

We are hoping to have a bit of a change with our December dinner and return it to an installation dinner. In a quick ceremony the new Board will be given their oath of office for the coming year. (Bring a few extra bucks for drinks that aren't covered by the dinner fee. There may also be tickets available to win a table decoration.)

I would like to thank everyone for their support while I was president for the Searchers. This includes (in no particular order): Steve Duncan for his work on the website and news blasts; Linda Horn for putting together the Rockslab; Charlotte Spalding for her great job as Treasurer; Norbert for building the Rockin' Kids program; Sharon Burson's work keeping Membership organized and updated; Margaret Hogarth devoting not one, but two years to Chairing our annual Show; Veronica as 1st VP and organizing our gatherings and speakers; Second VP - Robert Burson for sharing his knowledge of rocks, minerals, fossils and field trips; Adrian, Herb, John and Jimmy for their time and energy spent in the Workshop as well as being teachers and mentors; Skip Cone with the sign-in sheets and the raffle (uh... opportunity drawing); John O Connor our Anaheim Arts Council Rep; Lori Renck who takes care of cookies and coffee before the meetings; but most of all thanks to my lovely wife and First Lady Kim our CFMS Director and the Love of my life who keeps me going.

Thank you one and all,

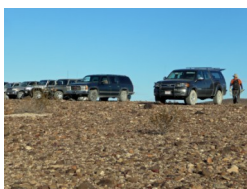
Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Jay Erb President, Searchers Gem and Mineral Society

Become a Rockhound Activist. We're not asking you to 'Rock the World', just protect the places you love.

Dec events

Annual Christmas party. See page 6.



See Pages 2 on upcoming Lavic Siding field trip

Field Trips

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
12-13 2015	Steve Duncan	Lavic Siding	planned

Field Trip Lavic Siding

December 13 Sunday, 2015

Trip Leader Steve Duncan

**For field trip
information**

contact: Robert

Burson V.P. Field

Trips, Searchers

Gem and Mineral

Society,

bursonrocks@veriz

on.net

Are you finding the holiday preparation overwhelming? Treat yourself to some time outdoors. The Searchers will be having a 1 day field trip on Sunday Dec 13th to Lavic Siding, near Ludlow CA. Lavic Siding is a famous site for red and yellow jasper, the best containing lightning bolts of blue chalcedony. This area has been collected hard for many years, but there is still good material for the skilled hunter.

The best thing is- it is a simple site to get to, the meeting place is less than 3 hours (probably 2.5?) from Orange County. From there to the collecting site is only about 15 minutes, and last time I was there could be easily driven by a high clearance vehicle, probably by a passenger car if driven carefully. I will check the road in advance and if necessary we can car pool folks to the collecting area. Also you also don't need much for this collecting, a rock pick and a spray bottle will do as most of the material is found in float. You will need the normal hat, sunscreen, and lots of water. Boots are always nice, and you will want something to hold your finds. I like backpacks but folks also use bags, buckets etc. And you will want to bring lunch or a snack.

To get to the meeting spot take the 15 to Barstow, then the 40 east and take the Hector road exit, exit 33. Go right at the bottom of the exit, then left (east) onto old route 66 (Nat'l Trails Highway). Go about 7 miles to the railroad crossing. This is the meeting spot, we will meet at 0900. We will then start out driving on the service road which runs just south of the tracks.



I hope to see you all there, this is one of our easier trips and is good for folks without much experience and young folks, although the experienced hound can find some trophies here too. Questions? Email me (Steve) at wsd@iteris.com, or call me at (714) 724-7102 (cell).

Field trip status

Although we try not to, occasionally we need to change or cancel a field trip. When we do we always send an email blast, and we try to talk about it in the monthly meeting if possible. Most importantly we update the News Flash section on the front page of the website. Please check the News Flash section of our website before you leave on any field trip to avoid any surprises.



In the Field: Jasper A variety of Chalcedony

In the traditional sense, jasper is a dense, opaque*, microcrystalline variety of quartz (or more strictly, chalcedony), usually red, brown or yellow and colored by oxides of iron. It has frequently been used as a decorative stone.

Confusingly the term is also used for other silicified rocks or decorative stones (in particular some varieties of rhyolite are often termed jasper).

Although jasper is traditionally listed as opaque (and this is a major distinction between jasper and other forms of chalcedony) in reality all jasper is slightly translucent - and this can be best seen on thin chips and slices held up to a light.

Visit [gemdat.org](http://www.gemdat.org) for gemological information about Jasper. <http://www.gemdat.org/gem-2082.html>

from <http://www.mindat.org/min-2082.html>

Jasper is an opaque form of Chalcedony, which is a microcrystalline variety of the mineral Quartz. It often contains an abundance of impurities, and therefore some regard it as a rock instead of a mineral. Jasper is usually associated with brown, yellow, or reddish colors, but may be used to describe other opaque colors of Chalcedony such as dark or mottled green and orange. Some forms of Jasper are banded, and these banded Jaspers may appear similar to Agate, but unlike Agate they are opaque. When Jasper is dull and lacking interesting colors or patterns, it is not Jasper but rather Chert.

<http://www.minerals.net/mineral/jasper.aspx>

Searchers Show information

From the Show Committee:

The next Show Committee meeting will be on Saturday, December 5 at 1:30 at Veronica's house. Call Margaret for directions.

For the show we need:

To borrow one more pair of walkie talkies.

Volunteers for the Wheel of Fortune activity.

Gather small, beautiful materials or tumbled stones for our grab bags, and showier things for our Wheel of Fortune!

Children-type prizes for the grab bag raffle tickets and for the sand sifting activityDoor prizes

Thank you, Searchers!

Margaret

hogarth.m@gmail.com 909-815-3045

Reminder: On Thursday December 24th, and Thursday December 31st, the Downtown Anaheim Community Center will be closing at 5:00pm so there will be no workshops these nights.

Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
12-2015	No meeting	Christmas Party

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

www.cfmsinc.org

Upcoming 2015 & 2016 CFMS Gem Shows

2015

December 5 - 6: BARSTOW, CA Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Cora Harper Community Center 841 S. Barstow Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Danny Watts, (760) 373-1309 Email: dvwatts@msn.com Website: www.mdgms.net

December 5 - 6: LAKESIDE, CA El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society Lakeside Rodeo Grounds 12584 Mapleview Street Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4 Mary Ness, (619) 449-0759 Email: ecvgms@gmail.com Website: www.ecvgms.com

December 12 - 13: RIALTO, CA Orange Belt Mineralogical Society Across Street from Rialto City Hall 105 South Palm Avenue Hours: Sat 9 - Dusk daily Contact: Jessica Pierson, (909) 381-0089 Website: <http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>

2016

January 16 - 17: EXETER, CA Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building 324 N. Kaweah Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Margaret Buchmann, (559) 799-6034 Email: Margaretbu03@gmail.com Website: www.tulegem.com

February 12 - 21: INDIO, CA San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival 82-503 Highway 111 Hours: 10 - 10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674 Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 20 - 21: ANTIOCH, CA Antioch Gem Club Contra Costa County Fairgrounds 1201 West 10th Street Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Brenda Miguel, (925) 301-6957 Email: brenda.miguel@yahoo.com Website: www.antiochlapidaryclub.com

February 27 - 28: VALLEJO, CA Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society Solano County Fairgrounds, Mc Cormack Hall 900 Fairgrounds Drive Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Dan Wolke, 707 334-2950 Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net Website: www.vjgems.org

March 4 - 6: NEWARK, CA Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley Newark Pavilion 6430 Thornton Avenue Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 887-9007 Email: show-chair@mgscv.org Website: www.mgscv.org

March 5 - 6: ARCADIA, CA Monrovia Rockhounds Los Angeles Arboretum-Ayres Hall 301 Baldwin Avenue Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 358-1624, Email: joanaritchey@gmail.com Website: www.Moroks.com

March 5 - 6: VENTURA, CA Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 West Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Show Chair, (805) 312-8467 Email: info@VGMS.org Website: www.vgms.org

March 12 - 13: SAN MARINO, CA Pasadena Lapidary Society San Marino Masonic Center 3130 Huntington Drive Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239 Email: joenmar1@verizon.net Website: www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org

March 12 - 13: SPRECKELS, CA, Spreckel's Veterans Hall 5th & Llano Streets Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Karin Salomon, (831) 375-5233 Email: kcbakes27@yahoo.com Website: www.salinassrockandgem.com

March 12 - 13: TURLOCK, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494 Email: Bud.mcmillin.b7yj@statefarm.com Website: www.motherlodemineralsociety.com Show Page

March 19 - 20: LEMOORE, CA Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society Lemoore Trinity Hall 470 Champion Street Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Christopher Wertinberger, (559) 309-3433 Email: kimmorrell@hotmail.com

March 26 - 27: ANGELS CAMP, CA Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society Calaveras County Fairgrounds 101 Frogtown Road hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277 Email: robinski@yahoo.com Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 26- 27: ROSEVILLE, CA Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society Placer County Fairgrounds 800 All American Blvd (off Washington) Hours: Sat 10 - 5 daily Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114 Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com Website: www.rockrollers.com

December Birthstones - Tanzanite, Zircon, Turquoise

Tanzanite

Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, tanzanite exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices. As tanzanite can be less expensive than sapphire, it often was purchased as an alternative. However, it has increased in popularity and now is valued more for its own beauty and brilliance than as a sapphire substitute.



December Birthstones - continued

Zircon

Derived from the Arabic words zar and gun, meaning gold and color, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep. Major sources of zircon are the Chanthaburi area of Thailand, the Palin area of Cambodia, and the southern part of Vietnam.



Turquoise

The name turquoise, from the French expression Pierre tourques or Turkish stone, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes. It is most often used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and inlays. Although its popularity fluctuates in fashion, it is a perennial favorite in the American Southwest.



From: <https://www.americangemsociety.org/december-birthstones>

Other Local Upcoming Field Trips

2015 MULTI-CLUB FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE Expanded and current information for these collecting opportunities will be published in the Bulletin for the particular month. As always, you should to contact the field trip leader ahead of time because: 1. Sometimes field trips are canceled or changed for various reasons including inclement weather or areas being closed. 2. If we don't know you are coming we won't wait for you and you may not find out the planned camp site was moved until too late. Distributed to the representatives of the Delvers – Long Beach – North Orange County – Pasadena – Whittier – Searchers Gem - Monrovia Rockhounds Mineral and Lapidary Clubs For up-to-date information on these field trips and how to join the trip please **see Kevin Doran, our club's field trip leader or call Joe Goetz at (626)-622-9420.**

DEC 12: SALTON SEA - YUHA Fossil Beds, Tour Geothermal Power Plant, Mud Volcano Field.

JAN 24-25: QUARTZSITE ARIZONA

Searcher's Holiday Banquet

Mimi's Café December 5th 2015 at 6 P. M.

1240 N. Euclid St, Anaheim, CA

Price \$20

Questions: Veronica's cell # (714) 501-9959 or return email (angeldragonoflight@yahoo.com)

Checks made out to: "Searcher's Society" or "Searcher's Gem and Mineral Society"

Cash or Check payments need to be sent to: P.O. Box 3492, Anaheim, CA 92803

Deadline for payments and sign-up needs to be no later than: Monday November 30th

Gift exchange: only those who bring a wrapped gift may participate in the gift exchange (minimum \$10 or more value)

Soups and Salads: All entrees comes with a choice of Caesar salad or a cup of soup. The Dinner entrée of the Blue Cheese & Walnut Salad can come with a fresh baked muffin as your side if you want it.

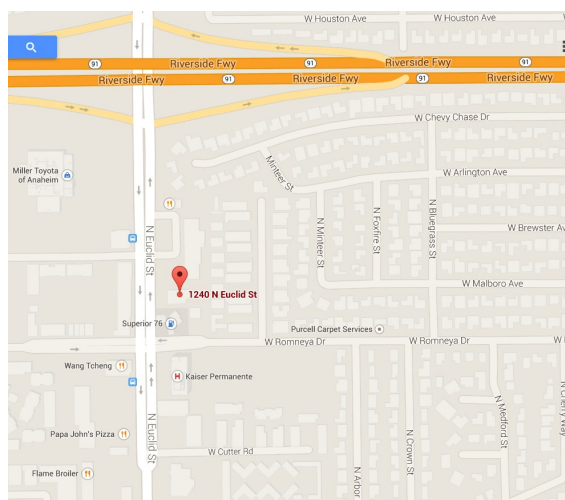
Dinner Choices: Pot Roast, Roasted Turkey Dinner, Fish or Blue Cheese & Walnut Salad

Desserts Options: Chocolate Mousse, Petite Apple Crisp or Petite Bread Pudding



Please respond and RSVP ASAP to secure your spot and payment before the deadline if you wish to attend the banquet. You do not have to indicate your whole dinner selection (just the entrée choice is fine; although you may indicate the rest if you wish).

Members must pay for their own drinks if non-standard (Searcher's only pays for basic like water, soda, ice tea and such). Alcoholic drinks and others the individual members pays for themselves. (Searcher's takes care of taxes, basic drinks, and tip on the check.



Kid's Corner

This is the section for new and upcoming Searchers. 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. 9 No. 8.

Building a Mineral Collection

By David F. English

You will find building a mineral collection a lot more rewarding and fun if you follow some basic ideas. I found these ideas to be very helpful as I built my collection. I started collecting when I was in 5th grade. Back then I wanted to collect any mineral I could get my hands on. After a few years, I discovered there were some minerals that I like better than others. So, I began to focus on these minerals. I like calcite, fluorite, quartz, gypsum and tourmaline. Once in a while I will see a really great pyrite, but since I don't collect pyrites, I enjoy looking at them but don't buy or trade for any.

Here is a list of some of the different mineral collections my friends have.

--Some like a specific type of mineral such as quartz, calcite, fluorite, etc. These are called "species collectors."

--Some collect minerals from a certain place, like a country, state or mine. One of my friends likes minerals from Colorado. Another likes crystals from China.

--Some collect different crystal shapes of the same mineral. Calcite is great for this since it has been found to have over 600 different crystal shapes!

--Some like old specimens with old labels. Others like new minerals that were only recently discovered.

--Some like to have one good specimen of every type of mineral. This is called a "Systematic collection."



--Some collect crystals the size of your thumbnail.

Specimens this size are actually called "thumbnail specimens." They are often more perfect than larger specimens.

--Some collect microscopic crystals. These are called "micromounts." They can be nearly perfect crystal shapes, but you need a microscope to see them.

--Some collect minerals that belong to a certain crystal system. For example, fluorite, galena, pyrite and garnet all belong to the isometric (cubic) crystal system.

--Some like minerals that belong to a certain chemical group. For example, calcite, rhodochrosite, malachite and azurite all belong to the carbonate group of minerals.

--There are some collectors that collect what catches their

eye! One friend of mine has a lot of calcite, a little galena, different specimens from India, others from China. He just buys or trades for things that look good to him.

What do you like? I suggest you just collect what catches your eye for a while. After a few years, look over your collection. You will start to see what you like best. And then you can start to focus on those minerals or categories.

The next good question is, "How to I get these minerals?" There are three ways to get specimens for your collection.

1. Buy them. Some people call this the "Silver Pick" meaning instead of digging them out of the ground with a steel pick, you go the "easy" way of using your money.
2. Trade for them. After a while, you will have specimens you no longer want. You can trade them with other collectors for specimens you do want.
3. Dig for them. You will find that the "best" specimens in your collection are the ones you found yourself. It is very exciting to pull a crystal out from its hiding place and know that you are the very first human in the history of the world to see, touch and enjoy that mineral specimen!



Quartz = Agate



You are familiar with quartz. We have had a lot of quartz crystals in Mini Miners issues. Most of the quartz you are familiar with forms crystals. Examples include rock crystal, amethyst, citrine, smoky quartz, and milky quartz.



There is another type of quartz that you have probably seen, but you may not know that it is quartz. This type of quartz forms crystals that are so small that they can only be seen with a special microscope. Mineralogists call this type of quartz cryptocrystalline. Chalcedony and agate are two varieties of this special type of quartz.

Chalcedony is very hard, 7 on the hardness scale. It is light. Chalcedony is usually banded. The bands alternate between fibrous bands and bands that are made up of microscopic grains. There are a number of different varieties, or types, of chalcedony. The most popular and well-known is agate.



Agate is banded chalcedony. The bands can be different shades of gray. But they can also be a number of different colors. Sometimes the different bands form randomly in the specimen.



Another type of chalcedony is called jasper. Jasper is red chalcedony. Chalcedony often forms in rounded forms.

Light to dark brown chalcedony is called carnelian. Apple-green chalcedony is called chrysoprase. Dark green chalcedony with red spots is known as bloodstone or heliotrope because the red spots look like drops of blood. Gray and black, waxy-looking chalcedony is called flint.

All the different chalcedony varieties are cut and polished by jewelers and lapidary artists to make jewelry. Flint can be chipped into very sharp edges. Native peoples have used flint for arrowheads, spearheads, and various cutting tools.



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Darryl Powell, editor Emma Fajcz, contributing editor

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, 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

Membership Dues:	Individual	\$25
	Couple	\$35
	Junior (17 & under)	\$10

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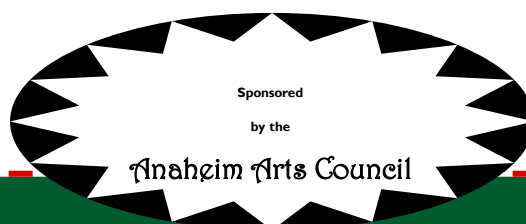
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