

The Rock Slab News

OCTOBER 2005 VOLUME 40 ISSUE 10

Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
General Information	2
Searchers Board	2
October Events	3
Program Look-Ahead.....	3
Field Trip Schedule	3
October Program	3
Elections.....	3
Holiday Dinner.....	4
Field Trip Report.....	4
Trona Field Trip	4
October Field Trip.....	5
Last Month	6
Member Creations	7
Showcase Awards	7
Membership Update	8
October Calendar	8
Invitation to Jewel Tunnel Imports	9
Membership Application.....	9

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Karen Fox

As the end of the year approaches, so begins the planning for our Annual Show and the calls for volunteers. Many people ask whether we really need to hold the show. The answer is YES! We need the publicity it brings, the new members it attracts, the public service credit it supplies for our charitable non-profit corporation status, and yes, we also need the money.

Regarding club finances, I believe we should balance our income and expenditures over a period of say 5 years so our total bank balance doesn't change much. Some years we should show a profit so we can save that money for bigger maintenance items a year or two later, as in, for instance, when we refurbish shop equipment. Occasionally we may be able to justify depleting cash reserves built up years ago to purchase capital equipment of benefit to the club.

So what does the yearly balance look like? Let's look at some blended 2004/2005 numbers. Membership income, including dues, monthly donations at the meetings and workshop contributions, runs ~ \$3800 – obviously it depends on the number of members. Essential expenses are about \$3000. These are the expenditures necessary to continue operating in the current manner. They are dominated by CFMS dues and member/director/shop insurance and contributions to the Anaheim Arts Council which supplies our free meeting and shop space. They also include printing/ mailing costs associated with membership and minor banking, mailbox and government fees. OK, there's a little left over. What about speaker stipends, a Bulletin, a website, more administrative expenses? That's well over the remaining \$800 and now we're deeply in the red. How about workshop maintenance, field trips, outreach activities, sending delegates to CFMS meetings, charitable donations, refreshment supplies, parties...? Clearly, we need other sources of income. (By the way, traditionally the club pays Holiday Dinner costs for the Executive Board. This year the Board has voted to pay their own way and use that money to subsidize dinners for the members – so, don't forget to sign up early.)

So that's why we need the Show! If you come to meetings or the workshop, if you go on field trips or read the Bulletin, please help out. If you don't,...????.....

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: 7 PM, 4th Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Workshop: Thursday, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.
Saturday, 3 – 7 PM (10PM if staffed). Free silver-smithing class 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays (schedule varies).

No workshops: Nov 24 & 26, Dec 24, Jan 1.

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: xemaron@sbcglobal.net
Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:
Nora O'Campo
1000 W. Broadway Ave.,
Anaheim, CA 92805-3610

Charter Date: June 20, 1958

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

SEARCHERS BOARD

Officers

President	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Co- 1 st V.P.	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Robert Burson	562/860-5938
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/826-2844
Treasurer	Carol Hesse	562/598-5561
Federation Delegate	Sharon Burson	562/860-5938

Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Nora De O'Campo	714/490-0416
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality	Patricia Underwood	562/864-4195
Library	Maggie Vigil	714/288-2072
Membership	Nora O'Campo	714/490-0416
Monthly Drawing	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/827-8345
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
2005 Show	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
Show Co-Chair	Robert Burson	562/860-5938
Sunshine	Sharon Burson	562/860-5938
Veteran's Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Will Shaw	949/306-7098
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714/778-1496
Rock 'n' Kids	OPEN	

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 11 **General Meeting, 7-9 PM,**
Fossil Shark Teeth, Joe Cocke
- 14 **Rock Slab News bulletin deadline**
- 22/23 **Field Trip – Clear Creek**
- 26 **September Board Meeting**

PROGRAM LOOK-AHEAD

Date	Topic	Speaker
Nov 8, 2005	Fun With Gemology	Lothar Vallot
Dec 3, 2005	Holiday Dinner/Installation of Officers	At Mama Cozza's, Anaheim

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
Oct 8 & 9, 2005	Trona	Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Club	Hanksite pink halite etc.	Confirmed. This is not a Searcher event, but it is a lot of fun
Oct 22 & 23, 2005	Clear Creek	Herb Beckman	Jade, Plasma Agate	Confirmed
Nov 2005	Wiley Wells?	Robert Burson	Geodes	Planned, final location still TBD

We still need input from members. Tell us about places you would like to go, regardless of whether you have been there before. In the case of places with which you have some experience, we need you to share your knowledge. Maybe you could even lead or co-lead a field trip. Please contact Steve Duncan at (714) 724 7102 or wsd@iteris.com

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Fossil Shark Teeth

By Virgil Talbott

October's speaker is Joe Cocke, author of the book 'Fossil Shark Teeth of the World'. Joe worked for 33 years at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History in the Departments of Vertebrate Paleontology, Animal Habitat and Education before retiring. He assembled many of the skeletons in the museum. His travels as a collector have taken him to China, Japan, Canada, Mexico and South America.

After presenting his talk to the Searchers, Joe will hold a contest to see who can identify the most shark teeth. First prize will be a signed book with a large bag of shark teeth, second prize is similar, but with a smaller bag, and third prize is a signed book.

Don't miss this chance to learn from an expert!

ELECTIONS

By Karen Fox

Searchers' Board elections in November are fast approaching. Nominating Committee members Kathy Clark, Beth Pelfrey and Clarke Benich will present candidates for office at the October meeting. At that time, further nominations from the floor will be in order.

Top priority is to fill the roles of President, Secretary and Treasurer, all of which we legally require to operate. Of course, it's easier for everyone if all Board and Committee positions are filled, so please take a moment now to check page 2 of this bulletin to decide which Board or Committee position(s) would interest you – then be sure to volunteer when (or before being) asked! Together we can make a great club even better!

HOLIDAY DINNER

Installation of Officers

Dec 3, 2005

By Virgil Talbot

December 3, 2005 at 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Mama Cozza's
 2170 W. Ball Rd., Anaheim, CA 92804
 714-635-0063

Don't miss the Searchers' party of the year, including fine dining, installation of officers, a gift exchange (suggested value ~\$10) and dancing.

Buffet-Style Menu

Tossed Green Salad and Antipasto Salad
 Lasagna and Chicken Piccata
 Fruit Cobbler
 Non-alcoholic drinks incl. lemonade, soft drinks, iced tea, tea, coffee
 Cash and Carry Bar

Price: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.
 Please RSVP and pay the treasurer by **Nov 15**.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Sept 24 & 25

Rainbow Ridge and Sheep Springs

By Steve Duncan

Eight Searchers ventured into the desert this last weekend and enjoyed good weather, fine company and good collecting. Jimmy and Ester Peterson, Steve and Marcia Duncan, Craig and Charlotte Bluell and Robert and Sharon Burson started the trip by going to Rainbow Ridge, a privately owned site in the El Paso Mountain which we paid \$5 a person to access. The guide books mention that no explosives are allowed and once at the site the reason for this is clear as there are huge boulders of multicolored jasper and agate littering the site of a previous commercial operation. We worked at some of these boulders with sledges and chisels and when

that became too much, just explored the hills finding a lot of good colorful material. And this material is nice. Normally I haul lots of rocks down from a site but when I get home many of them do not look as good as I had originally thought. So I have lots of nice yard rocks. But the material from Rainbow Ridge looks even better when you get it home. If it cuts and polishes as well as it looks, it will really be something. Robert and Sharon left early as he was feeling poorly; hope you are feeling better Robert. Everyone else retired to the campsite near the quarry on the road to Sheep Springs for the traditional potluck. Jimmy and Ester joined us although they were without their motor home, which was in Mohave awaiting repairs. Sunday, the six of us went up the road to Sheep Springs and explored the hills above the watering tank. The material was harder to find here; we were looking for moss agate and found lots of small pieces which looked very nice and told us the agate we wanted did exist, but it was hard to find a "keeper" size piece. Nevertheless, we did find some, as well as some nice opalite with dendrites. And the Sheep Springs locality was a beautiful scenic area, so just sitting down to rest and gazing across the valley made it all worthwhile.

TRONA FIELD TRIP

Oct 8 & 9, 2005

By Steve Duncan

This is not a Searchers' event, although Searchers members often attend. The trip is held with the annual Trona show. During this one weekend each year, Searles Lake is open to the public. It is a very interesting, different kind of outing that everyone should try at least once, although my wife says once is plenty. Collecting is smelly, dirty, muddy, salty and lots of fun, and produces great specimens of material not available elsewhere. Visit <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/GEM-O-RAMA.htm> for details.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Oct 22 & 23, 2005

Clear Creek

By Herb Beckman

The Clear Creek collecting area is located 35 miles Northwest of Coalinga, California and has been mined heavily for over 100 years. It is located in the Diablo mountain range in the California Coastal mountains, about 6 miles east of the San Andreas Fault. The area is heavily mineralized and previous mining activity has made Clear Creek a premium collecting area. The creek itself was long contaminated with mercury due to mining activity and would not sustain plant or animal life. This is apparently why it was named Clear Creek. Although some life now exists in the creek, **THE CREEK WATER IS NOT SAFE TO DRINK.**

Materials found in this collecting area include: Agate (especially Plasma agate, a green to blue chalcedony), Barite crystals (rarely), Benitoite with Neptunite and Natrolite crystals, Cinnabar in the form of Myrickite included in Plasma Agate, Chromite (a black, very dense ore of chromium) included with intense green Uvarovite Garnet, Jasper, Jade (mostly Jadeite and occasionally Nephrite), Magnesite, Serpentine and many other minerals.

We can expect the weather to be pleasant to very warm during our field trip. You should, however, be prepared for warm to hot days and cool to cold nights. Elevations in the Clear Creek collecting area range from 2500 to 3500 feet. Other collecting areas we may visit are higher, up to 4500 feet. High clearance vehicles are preferred as all roads in this area are unpaved. I recommend you prepare for these variable weather prospects by layering your clothing. Also, this is rattlesnake country (I saw one in August on the road next to the first campground) and you would be well advised to wear stout boots and sturdy denim pants. Of course, alertness and caution at all times are recommended. You should bring the following at a minimum: wide brimmed hat, sunscreen, gloves, a water squirt bottle, plenty of extra water and insect repellent. Recommended tools: a rock hammer, small shovel, crack hammer, chisels, eye protection, a collecting sack (a few collecting sacks will be provided for Junior Members). Sledge hammers and pry bars would be quite useful as some of the best materials are found as boulders.

Route plan: Drive North on Interstate 5 to Jayne Rd. (14 miles North of the Kettleman City exit). Turn left/West over the Interstate 14 miles to central Coalinga. You are now 222 miles/3.5 hours from downtown Anaheim. As there are no services between Coalinga and King City, this is where you should refuel if needed and stock up on water, food, etc... From the center of town (Elm St. and Coalinga Plaza), drive North on Elm St. 3.0 miles to "three corners" and turn left/West on Gale St. Drive 2.0 miles to Derrick Blvd and turn right /North for 1.0 mile to Los Gatos Road. Turn left/West on Los Gatos Rd. and proceed 25 miles to Ed White's RV camp. This is where we will camp. It is a short 5.0 mile drive West from the RV camp to the BLM kiosk marking the entry to the Clear Creek recreation area. This area is a popular place for OHV activities. It was closed by the BLM from 4 June to 15 Sept (the beginning of hunting season) this year. So, there will likely be quite a few others enjoying Clear Creek this weekend.

The field trip will depart from the Clear Creek entry Kiosk at 9:00AM both days, and end at 4PM on Saturday and 1PM on Sunday. We will have a potluck at 6PM Saturday as usual. There are also several BLM/USFS campgrounds along Clear Creek Road, however they have very few level campsites and are likely to be quite noisy from OHV riders.

Motels are available in Coalinga to the East and King City to the West (on US 101). These two towns are approximately equidistant from Clear Creek (e.g. about an hours drive each way). Here is a partial list of motels:

Coalinga:

Motel 6	(559) 935-1536
Cambridge Inn Motor Lodge	(559) 935-1541
Harris Ranch	(559) 935-0717
KBest Western	(559) 935-0866

King City:

Best Western	(831) 385-6733
Courtesy Inn	(831) 385-4646
Days Inn	(831) 385-5921
Keefer's Inn	(831) 385-484

Please notify me (Herb Beckman, 714-778-1496) if you plan to attend this field trip so I can confirm our reservations at Ed White's RV camp. Hope to see you at Clear Creek!

LAST MONTH

Art Clay Silver

Reviewed By Kathy Clark

Karen Pester presented our September program, which was a demonstration using 'art clay silver'. Art clay is a material composed of water, binders and small particles of silver or gold. It is fundamentally similar to another product called 'precious metal clay' and both materials can be shaped like clay and then fired to produce a pure metal object (99.9% pure silver or 22 k gold). Karen uses art clay because it has a 30-minute firing time versus precious metal clay, which requires 3 hours of firing time.

Art clay is sold at \$1.00 per gram in ready-to-use packets available in clay, paste, syringe or paper form. The clay version is used for most molding work; the paste can be painted onto leaves or paper and is used as a 'glue' or to fill in cracks; the syringe type (which is one-time use only) is used to set stones or create fine detail, and the paper type can be used for origami or other folding techniques.

To get started, here are the necessary items:

1. Steel brush
2. Teflon or parchment paper
3. Butane torch or kiln
4. Jar of art clay paste
5. Packet of art clay
6. Syringe-type art clay
7. Fine silver wire

Rub some olive oil on fingers to keep clay from sticking. Roll clay to desired thickness. This is achieved by rolling it between playing cards or by using a roller (an acrylic dowel possibly) with an o-ring placed on each end. Art clay is water-based, so to prevent it from drying out too quickly a bottle of water with a drop of glycerin added may be spritzed on it. Karen rolled out the clay and used a rubber stamp to embed a design in the clay. Then the piece was set aside to dry. This clay air-dries

quickly but larger pieces may also be dried faster by placing them in an electric frying pan set at 250 degrees for about 10 minutes.

After the piece has dried it is ready to be sanded. To set a stone Karen cut a hole and used the syringe to build up an edge to act as the bezel. Baby wipes are a handy item to have at hand to smooth edges. This clay may also be used with glass.

Karen demonstrated the firing of this piece using a fiberboard kiln shelf (although any kind of brick works fine) and a butane torch. Fire with stones face down. Successful firing with a torch takes some experience. If using a kiln to fire art clay, hold the temperature at 1200 degrees for 30 minutes. If firing precious metal clay, bring the kiln up to 1472 degrees and shut it off and do not open until the kiln is cool to touch.

Karen finished firing the piece and immediately dunked it into a Styrofoam glass of water. Afterwards it is ready for polishing with a stainless steel brush or to be placed in a tumbler with stainless steel shot.

After handling all the pieces that Karen brought to show us, it was deemed that art clay is really not strong enough to use for making rings. Also something to consider is that art clay shrinks about 7% during firing. Art clay does not take the place of good old silversmithing, but it does look like a lot of fun. Imagination is the only limit.

Karen Pester may be reached at Karen@exploringart.com and her glass website is www.mothsto aflame.com. Work number is 310-796-9316. For more information look at www.artclayworld.com. Art clay may be purchased through Kathy Davis, who is an art clay senior teacher in Garden Grove (714-775-8662).

MEMBER CREATIONS

By Karen Fox

Members attending the Searchers' workshop are continually creating new and wonderful pieces of art, but most of us never get to see them. This column is a new addition to the Bulletin to demonstrate the fruits of our workshop and to allow our artists to show off their works.

The piece below is one of new member Eugenia (Jenny) Stavreva's first silver-smithing pieces produced under the tutelage of Clare Gagnon.



Silver setting created by Jenny Stavreva as one of her first projects in the Searchers' workshop.

SHOWCASE AWARDS

By Karen Fox

Each year awards are presented to members who have faithfully entered display cases in our annual show for multiple consecutive years. We're a little behind this year, a reflection of the fact that we were short-staffed for the 2005 show. (Won't happen next year, right!!!) Award recipients are shown in the

table below. Those displaying for 15 consecutive years or more will receive beautiful gemstone clocks created by our own member, **Jimmy Peterson**.

The bulk of the awards will be presented at the November meeting. However, Alan Silverstein may be unable to receive his award in person because he is currently undergoing treatment for leukemia. We'll deliver it to him, but just so you don't miss out on seeing it, we've included a photo below. It's made from a septarian nodule and the calcite fluoresces; this is in recognition of Alan's long-term interest in fluorescent minerals.

Recipient	# Years
Wes Miller	35
Connie Van Kampen	25
Jim Williamson	20
Walter Mroch	15
Allen Silverstein	15
Skip Cone	5
Robert Burson	5
Sharon Burson	5



Clock created by Jimmy Peterson for Alan Silverstein in honor of 15 consecutive years of display cases at our annual show.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please help us welcome the newest members of the Searchers' family, and take note of changes to add to your 2005 roster.

New Members

Moreno, Miriam
 16440 Ahterton MT. # 30
 Fountain Valley, CA 92708
 (714) 227-4504
miriamgreeneyes@hotmail.com

Arcebal, Roland N.
 6321 Crecent Ave
 Buena Park, CA 90620
 (714) 995-3146

Changes of Address

Tuck, Brian
Tuck, Ellery
 7386 Wyandof Ln.
 Liberty Township (or Middletown), Ohio
 45044
 H/ (513) 779-5898
 C/ (800) 222-2730
 e-mail: ltuck@eyemedvisioncare

Sandoval, Bob
lizzard@socal.rr.com

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
2	3	4	5	6 6-10 PM lapidary, wire- wrap class	7	8 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing Trona F.T.
9 Trona F.T.	10	11 7-9 PM Gen. Meeting	12	13 6-10 PM lapidary, wire- wrap class	14 Bulletin deadline	15 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
16	17	18	19	20- 6-10 PM lapidary, wire- wrap class	21	22 3-7 PM lapidary, Field Trip Clear Creek
23/30 Field Trip Clear Creek	24/31	25	26 7-10 PM Board Meeting	27 6-10 PM lapidary, wire- wrap class	28	29

Congratulations to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their birthdays in October.

For a full list of CFMS GEM Shows, go to www.cfmsinc.org

INVITATION TO JEWEL TUNNEL IMPORTS

Sunday, Dec 4, 2005

10 a.m to 4 p.m.
 13100 Spring St., Baldwin Park
 CA 91706
www.jeweltunnel.com

From Connie Van Kampen, Coordinator For several years, I have been setting up this event for North Orange Co. Community College and the Searchers; we always have a fun time. It's a great time to purchase Christmas gifts, meet people interested in our hobby, and socialize. So, invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives, and I'll look forward to seeing you at our annual JTI event.

From Rock Currier, Owner, Jewel Tunnel Imports Jewel Tunnel Imports is a wholesale gem and mineral company that has been in business for the last 30 years. We operate from a 13,000 square foot warehouse in Baldwin Park, California, just off the 605 freeway near Pasadena, California. We are one of the largest wholesale gem and mineral establishments in the United States. We carry a large selection of gems, minerals, tumbled stones, carvings, balls, eggs, bookends, fossils, rough material, light boxes etc. etc. The open house will also provide people attending with a good overview of the kinds of minerals and related natural history objects available on the market today and some insight to the importing and distribution of such things. Normally we are wholesale only. At the open house, invitees will be able to buy at our normal wholesale prices. California State sales tax of 8.25% will be added to the cost of purchases. This will be a one-time event and it must be understood by your members that they will not be permitted to return to our facility and buy during the year without a resale certificate from the California State Board of equalization. All sales are final.

SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Nora De O'Campo
 1000 W. Broadway Ave.
 Anaheim, CA 92805-3610
xemaron@sbcglobal.net
 714/490-0416

Please Print!

Date: _____
 Name 1: _____
 Name 2: _____
 Jr. Member 1: _____ 2: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
 Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
 Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____

Dues are valid January 1 through December 31 and are not prorated.

Individual: \$20
 Couple: \$25
 Junior members (17 and under): \$2

Please indicate the club activities that interest you:

Minerology () Geology () Lapidary () Fossils () Other _____

Meet other Searchers and volunteer to help a committee(s):

Anaheim Arts Council () Historian () Library () Website ()
 Membership () Monthly Drawing () Phone Comm. () RSN
 Editor () Sunshine () Veteran's Workshop () Hospitality ()
 Workshop () Rock'n'Kids () Annual Show ()
 Silent Auction ()



Nora De O'Campo, *Editor*
1000 W. Broadway Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92805-3610

The Rock Slab News

Volume 40 Issue 10

October 2005



October Birthstone - Opal

Opal is a non-crystalline form of the mineral silica. The stone has the ability to refract and reflect specific wavelengths of light. It has been described as "made up of the glories of the most precious gems.... the gentler fire of the ruby, the rich purple of the amethyst, the sea-green of the emerald, glittering together." Some believe that the opal represents hope, innocence, and purity through the ages.

Chemical Formula: SiO_2 and (H_2O)

Molecular Weight: 87.11 gm

Composition: Silicon 32.24%, Hydrogen 3.47 %, Oxygen 64.29%

Environment: sedimentary and secondary from the alteration of high silica igneous extrusive rocks.

Locality: world-wide.

Name Origin: from the old Indian upala, "precious stone."

Synonym: Fire opal: red. Hyalite: glassy. Hydrophane: porous. Prase: green. Precious opal: opalescent.

Dana Class: 75.2.1.1 Tectosilicate Si tetrahedral frameworks SiO_2 with H_2O and organics.