

# The Rock Slab News

MARCH 2007 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 3

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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.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Clarke Benich

Hello again Searchers!

Well, this past week I did something that was a new experience for me that I'd like to share with you. I took a week long vacation and actually went somewhere! In the past when vacation time came around, I had always spent it at home catching up on old projects or starting new ones, or just relaxing. There were also many times that I'd take the pay and work through the vacation time, but not this time, I went on an honest to goodness vacation for the first time ever.

I started out by joining my younger brother Craig and his wife Barbara for a camping trip to Death Valley, accompanied by Craig's friend Phil and his wife Celia. I can count the hours my brother and I have spent together in the past 10 years on one hand, so I don't have to tell you how nice it was to be able to spend that time with him and Barb, especially in such an incredible place! I did not know his friends prior to this, but as it turned out, they both are rockhounds so we got along great right from the start. We all took in the sights of Death Valley together during the day, ate great meals prepared by their wives in the evenings, and talked around the campfire at night. I even introduced them to "Flarp" (a new product in stores now), which we all got a few good laughs over.

They had to head back on the 17<sup>th</sup>, so we said our goodbyes the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> and I headed out at 4:00 in the morning to go meet up with our field trip. I got sidetracked just outside of Shoshone near the town of Tecopa after finding out there was Opal to be found there, but gave that up just before noon once I found out how unremarkable it was. Since I was already too late to make it to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of our field trip, I ventured off across the highway up Kingston mountain to see if I could locate the quartz crystals I'd read about in "Gem Trails of So. Cal." It was an amazing drive, and I took some since pictures, but the crystals managed to elude me.

*[Continue on next page]*

I finally made it to Barstow somewhere around 9:30 or 10:00 Saturday evening, where I got a wonderful and much needed surprise by calling Beth for directions. She had purchased a motel room for the night that was going to be unused after changing her plans to stay out in the field instead, and offered the room to me to stay in. What a blessing it was to take a long hot shower and sleep in a real bed for the first time in 5 days. Sunday we all went to get some gorgeous Marble which we got plenty of.

With my bed (in back of my Trooper) now occupied by a 200-pound boulder, I made a detour from what was to be the final leg of the vacation to drop off the rock, where I ended up sleeping in a chair the entire day. I unloaded the marble with Curt Clark's help Monday evening. I then went home to lie in a tub of hot water for 2 hours, got 4 more hours sleep, and headed up to the south fork of the San Gabriel River to pan gold for the day. Got a little color, but not enough to keep me from having to go back to work Wednesday, so that was the finale of my vacation.

I had a great time, it didn't cost much at all, but next year I'm going to be going back to my old way of vacationing . . . It's much easier on the body!

See you at the March meeting! Clarke

Reminder!  
**Membership fees were due on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007**

at the existing rate of  
\$20 per individual,  
\$25 per couple  
\$2 for juniors under 17.

To all members: Please register your email addresses with me and keep me up to date of any address changes. It saves the club so much money and me so much time if I can send out the newsletters by email. Also, you will receive all special announcements that occur before the newsletter and that will not be posted in the newsletter.

WE'VE GOT NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS! Stop by the membership table to pick up your membership card, otherwise I will attach it to the next newsletter.

**NAME BADGES ARE \$5 EACH**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule! [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

- General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Board Meetings:** 6 PM, 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Workshop:** Thursday, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.  
Saturday, 3 – 7 PM Free silver-smithing class 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.searchersrocks.org)
- Membership Dues:** Individual \$20  
Couple \$25  
Junior (17 & under) \$2  
Valid Jan 1 – Dec 31, not prorated.
- Bulletin:** Submissions due 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month via e-mail to: [editor@searchersrocks.org](mailto:editor@searchersrocks.org).  
Bulletin distributed 1<sup>st</sup> week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editors:  
Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144
- Charter Date:** June 20, 1958
- Affiliations:**
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
  - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

## SEARCHERS BOARD

### Officers

President	Clarke Benich	714/552-7336
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. (Programs)	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Robert Burson	562/860-5938
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	909/393-2186
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900

### Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Jenny Stavreva Kathy Clark	714/736-4345 714/639-9927
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality	Patricia Underwood	714/293-2940
Library	Maggie Vigil	714/288-2072
Membership	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Monthly Drawing	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/971-6789
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2		
2007 Show	Betty Nelson	714/530-1365
Show Co-Chair	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Sunshine	Carlene Blake	714/549-0099
Veteran's Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Workshop	Herb Beckman +?	714/778-1496

## MARCH EVENTS

13 7 PM General Meeting  
 23 – 25 Field Trip(Stateline for Iron Pyrite)

19 – 30 Anaheim Downtown Center will be **CLOSED** for maintenance

22 **NO WORKSHOP**  
 24 **NO WORKSHOP**  
 28 **NO WORKSHOP**  
 28 6 PM Starbuck's (corner of Anaheim Blvd. & Center)

Reno Gem & Mineral Society Jackpot of Gems 2007 Show  
 May 12 & 13, 2007  
 Sat. 10 AM- 5 PM; Sun. 10 AM – 4 PM  
 Reno Livestock Events Center, Exhibits Hall, 1350 N. Wells Ave., Reno, Nevada  
 Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Ages 6-12 \$3, under 6 free, 2-day tickets available  
**FREE PARKING**  
 For more info call 775-356-8820 or visit [renorockclub.com](http://renorockclub.com)

## MARCH FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
March 23,25	State Line Nevada	Jimmy Peterson	Fool's gold, Casino Silver	Planned

## MARCH PROGRAM

By Walter Mroch

Walter Mroch will be doing a general presentation on fluorescent and phosphorescent minerals accompanied by a display of minerals exhibiting these properties. You can learn about how the physical properties of fluorescence and phosphorescence work as well as see live demonstrations.

Show up to the March meeting, we'll dim the lights and let the show begin.

## LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

MUZEEO PRESENTATION  
 By Walter Mroch

Not sure what happened to the petrified wood presentation, but we had guest, Mr. Peter Comiskey, Executive Director, of a new Center for Art, Knowledge, Entertainment and Culture sponsored by the City of Anaheim. It is called The Muzeo and it will feature exhibits from around the world and even local interests. They are looking for assistance planning and booking exhibits, so if you have any recommendations they are seeking them. The plan is for The Muzeo to open in October, 2007. It is in downtown Anaheim at 201 South Anaheim Blvd. They will host exhibits up to 5,000 square feet. One of the upcoming exhibits includes Roman Artifacts. The center will focus on summer venues for the general public and spring and fall for children. More information can be found at [www.muzeo.org](http://www.muzeo.org) or call them at 714-956-8936.

The Petrified Wood Identification Program with Helga and Werner Wagener will be in April.

## MARCH FIELD TRIP

FOOL'S GOLD & CASINO SILVER

March 23 - 25, 2007

By Jimmy Peterson

The March field trip is going to be a little different. We will be going to State Line Nevada, Primm Valley on I-15. We will be staying Friday night the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> at Whiskey Pete's, and then going up to the old Coliseum Gold mine on Saturday morning. We will be looking for Fool's Gold (iron pyrite). The largest cubes I have found there are about 3/8- inch on a side. There may be larger ones if you are lucky, and maybe your luck will also be good at the casinos.

Saturday morning at 9:30 AM we will meet at Yates Well Rd., 6 miles west of the state line on I-15. Take a lunch. The Coliseum Mine is 9 miles of good dirt road from the I-15. The last 3 miles are pretty steep but still good road. The elevation there is 6,000 feet so it will probably be on the cool side. For those who don't stay in the casino, there is a very large flat parking lot behind Buffalo Bill's for dry camping. There will be lots of big trucks there also. Make reservations at Whiskey Pete's by calling 1-800-FUN-STOP. The price per room with two people is \$45 on Friday and \$50 on Saturday. I can answer questions at the General Meeting. Hope to see you there.



## FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Beth Pelfrey

*WE ALL ROCKED AND ROLLED .....*

Well, the February field trip was a huge success. All of you who were not there missed so much. Jimmy and Ester and Quartzite Charlie (Deming Rock and Mineral) arrived Friday and set out signs and set up camp. Gene Haines from the Barstow club had called me to ask if they could join us. Of course, I was delighted. Oh, as I promised, the weather was superb, sunny, warm – a perfect Mojave day for rockhounding. Ah, Mother Nature did cooperate!

I arrived Saturday morning before 9AM and while we waited for everyone to get there – no problem since the location was so close! – we caught up on stuff, unloaded firewood and so on.

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I had just gotten a BRAND NEW Nissan Xterra on Tuesday night and this was the break-in trip. SO far I loved it! A solid, comfy highway vehicle. I could not even feel the rattle of the washboard road.

Karen Martinez, Carlene Blake and her son Caleb, Jim David, and Cary Chang quickly arrived. Then here came the Barstow Bunch – Leslie Walker, Diane Hare, a couple of others whose names I didn't get, Gene and Peggy Haines and Danny Watts.

We headed up the road to find orbicular rhyolite. Well, everyone who wanted boulders (including me, of course) just had to dig a little, lift a lot and grunt loud as they loaded the big 'uns. It was a matter of deciding what to pick up, then hi-grade for the best stuff. As always, the best material is further from the road, some hiking required. We got good pieces of black and white, and some with lots of color. I got my big rock, of course, and with the help of friendlies, it got loaded! Nothing like friends. We opted out of the Newberry Nodules as the Barstow club had been there two weeks previously and were unimpressed except for the walk. Instead, longer in the field for bug-eye!

Back to camp for the most amazing potluck – Ester had fried chicken, Jim provided mac, cheese and tuna, Danny made a big pot of chili and so on. I offered veggies for balance – even they were eaten. We all pigged out. I brought some wine to celebrate by new X. There is always a little something for EVERYONE on a field trip – this time, the

“boys” got to fix Jim's broken shock with sweat and a crevice tool (coat hanger to the rest of you).

Charlie had some awesome spheres, fluorescents and a talk and night-walk with a fluorescent light for a program. Thanks so much, it really made the trip a success.

Janie and Tom and our Pres., Clarke, arrived later Saturday night and checked in.

Sunday morning the clouds moved in, but as I promised, no rain! Along came Tom and Janie and Clarke. Off we went to the tri-colored marble. I had fallen on Saturday – dumb ol' klutz that I am sometimes – so my hand was kind of done in terms of big rocks, like my usual boulder, so I depended on picking up and the kindness of others for chiseling/breaking. I am so fine now that I am ready to go back!

After a good meal at Adelita's in Lucerne Valley with Tom and Janie, it was back home over the pass. My X is fabulous. I love it and it is just as tough as the Tracker. It goes exactly where I want to take it and carries big rocks. Nothing else a rockhound needs.

So, you see what you missed. Next time, come and have fun, eat good food, be warm at the campfire. Let's make our field trips big and noisy again. This joint trip was great fun and I encourage other clubs to join us and for us to join them.

## SHOW REPORT

By Betty Nelson

Everything is on schedule. Chairmen are working hard. We are sending sign up sheets around at the March and April meetings. There will also be one at the workshop and at the grab bag stuffing (Saturday, April 14 @ 3PM @ workshop - last chance to bring in stones for the bags) as well as on the field trips. We need to have all members sign up for at least two hours on at least one day, preferably more. The dates are May 4 for set up and 7 & 8 for the Show. Please make this your priority on at least one of those dates. It is our club's most important event of the year and makes our field trips, the workshop and our meeting programs possible. The club is only as good as our members' involvement. If for some reason your name is not yet on the schedule, you can call me, Betty Nelson, at 714-530-1365 and I will fit you in. Otherwise, one of the chairmen will be calling you. Thank everyone for your help.

## SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

By Norbert Bernhardt

*It is getting to be that time of year again! Show time!*

*We need some good materials for the Silent Auction for our 2007 Show. Suggested items for the Silent Auction are rocks, minerals, faceted stones, jewelry or lapidary tools, jewelry (not custom jewelry), slabs, lapidary-related books and beads. Please identify your item as to where it comes from or what it is.*

*Please call me, Norbert Bernhardt 714-734-9665, ASAP so we can coordinate picking up or having you drop off any items that you would like to donate. I want to have everything labeled and ready to go by the beginning of March. I am trying to have a variety of items that appeal to men, women, kids, and dealers.*

## SHOW SECURITY

By Larry Richy

### CASES

#### For your Safety and Protection

Please remember that we do not allow any display case 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, Larry Richey, or Show Chairwoman, Betty Nelson, know. This is for your safety and protection.

### 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 leftover 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 the Show 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.

## GRAB BAG STUFFING PARTY, SATURDAY, APRIL 14 @ 3 PM @ THE WORKSHOP

Keep in mind that this will be the last time for bringing in stones for the bags. So keep on gathering and tumbling those rocks! Bring them to the March and April general meetings, board meetings, show meetings and to the workshop on Thursdays and Saturdays.

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## V. A. LONG BEACH ART CONTEST AND SHOW

By Larry Richey

The VRT Section will be hosting the annual V. A. Long Beach Art Contest and Show. It will be held in the Pantages Theatre Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Viewing of art work is from 10:00 AM till 11:30 AM.

Veteran inpatients and outpatients will be showing their projects. Art judges from the community and V. A. Long Beach will be judging art in various categories. Winning projects will then be judged at a later date against other V. A. Centers in regional and national levels. First place winners will be invited to the National Creative Arts Festival. The festival will be hosted by the V. A. Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri October 22-28, 2007.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please welcome the newest members of the Searcher's family:

### New Members:

Dan & Anne McGinn  
1001 W. Broadway  
Anaheim, CA 92805  
714-772-5694

Bill & Sally Waterman  
6759 Vinalhaven Ct.  
Cypress, CA 90630  
714-897-0659  
[w.waterman@rr.ca.com](mailto:w.waterman@rr.ca.com)

To all members: Please register your email addresses with me and keep me up to date of any address changes. It saves the club so much money and me so much time if I can send out the newsletters by email. Also, you will receive all special announcements that occur before the newsletter and that will not be posted in the newsletter.

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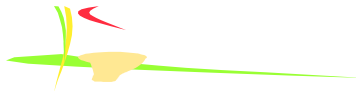
***SUNSHINE REPORT***

***By Kathy Clark***



*I am very pleased to report that our little Faye McDowell who broke her hip last month is recovering very nicely from hip surgery. Hurry up and get well. We miss you.*

*Our hearts go out to Ana Lorenzo Bernhardt who recently lost her sister. Please know that you have many friends thinking of you at this time.*



***Happy Birthday***

***to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their birthdays in MARCH!***

**JS GEMS**

LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES  
HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY - FOSSILS - ROCKS

JOHN & SUSANA WEASE  
email: [jsgems@dslextreme.com](mailto:jsgems@dslextreme.com)  
[www.jsgemslapidary.com](http://www.jsgemslapidary.com)

Newberry Springs, CA  
(760) 257-3843  
cell: (909) 519-1545

# MARCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6-10PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7-9 pm General Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> NO WORKSHOP	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> NO WORKSHOP
<b>25</b> FIELD TRIP	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6-8 pm Board Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> FIELD TRIP

## SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Kathy Clark  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144  
hanky1panky3@yahoo.com  
714/639-9927

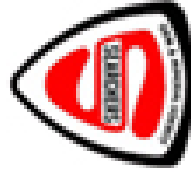
*Please Print!*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jr. Member 1: \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthday: Month \_\_\_ Day \_\_\_ Birthday: Month \_\_\_ Day \_\_\_

2006 dues are valid MARCH 1 through MARCH 31.

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 ( )  
 Annual Show ( ) Silent Auction ( )



Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark, *Editors*  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144



# The Rock Slab News

Volume 42 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2007



## TRADITIONAL MARCH BIRTHSTONE – AQUAMARINE

The gemstone aquamarine is the blue, or perhaps more correctly, blue-green or aqua variety of the mineral beryl. Other gemstone color varieties that belong to beryl include emerald, morganite and heliodor. Aquamarine is colored by trace amounts of iron that find their way into the crystal structure. Most gem aquamarines have been heat treated to produce the popular blue-green colors from less desirable yellow or pale stones. The leading producer of aquamarines is the country of Brazil, which has many mines. Pakistan, as well as many U. S. localities, produces wonderful specimens as well. Recently, a new mine in China has produced large numbers of excellent flat (stubby) hexagonal crystals, for a fraction of the price of those beautiful Pakistan specimens. Aquamarine is sometimes found in huge crystals (unlike emerald). It is also known in a glassy form, often without showing crystal form, and sometimes with many holes or other odd shapes. Other times a large cluster of prismatic crystals can be seen to all have the same alignment – a sign that it is really a single crystal with many faces.