

The Rock Slab News

JANUARY 2006 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 1

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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

Happy New Year Searchers! Hope you all had a memorable holiday season this year!

Well, I'm sure there are a few members who are a little surprised or possibly even shocked to wake up to 2006 to find me as president. I can assure you of one thing – none of you can come close to the shock and surprise I feel. And, of course, I'm pretty sure at least one or two members have said, "Well, there goes the neighborhood," or at least something similar in meaning.

With that in mind, I would like to share with you all the reasons I decided to run for this office. For months I have had a few members pushing me to do this, but I've always been able to laugh them off. I did, however, agree to serve on the nominating committee asserting that would be the closest I'll ever come to being a board member. With time running short until the November meeting, and not a single hopeful for the president's position, I began giving it some thought; but prior to making any decision, I decided to check with a few past presidents to get a clear picture of what I would be getting myself into. I was a little surprised to find how much work all the other board members have in comparison with the president's job description. They do all the real work. Knowing what a good job they did last year, then realizing that four of the officers were going to be back again this year, whoever was to be president was bound to have a smooth year working with dedicated professionals like them. Yet I was still undecided about being president.

In October I took a working vacation to Chicago, Illinois, to help my cousin Ellen and her husband remodel their basement. This is a cousin who I had not seen since 1980, and who had been searching for me and my older brother for years, finally locating me last summer while I was house-sitting for Jimmy and Ester. Although we never quite finished her basement, we spent as much time together as we could, getting reacquainted as well as being re-introduced to the family I never knew. Being separated by my parents' divorce when I was 3, I never knew my father or

[See President's Message, Page 3]

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, 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:
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 st V.P. (Programs)	Virgil Talbott	714/490-0416
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/826-2844
Treasurer	Patricia Underwood	562/864-4195
Federation Delegate	Patrick Freeman	714/758-9273

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		
Library	Maggie Vigil	714/288-2072
Membership	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Monthly Drawing	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/827-8345
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2		
2005 Show	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Show Co-Chair		
Sunshine		
Veteran's Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
Workshop	Herb Beckman +?	714/778-1496
Rock 'n' Kids	OPEN	

JANUARY EVENTS

- 10** **General Meeting, 7-9 PM**
 Baltic Amber, Jonas Ruzgys
- 17** **Show Meeting, 7PM (probably)**
- 20** **Rock Slab News bulletin deadline**

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
Jan 7-9, 2006	Afton Canyon	Norbert Bernhardt	Sagenite, agates, fluorite	Planned

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

Don't Forget!

Membership fees are due on January 1st, 2006

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

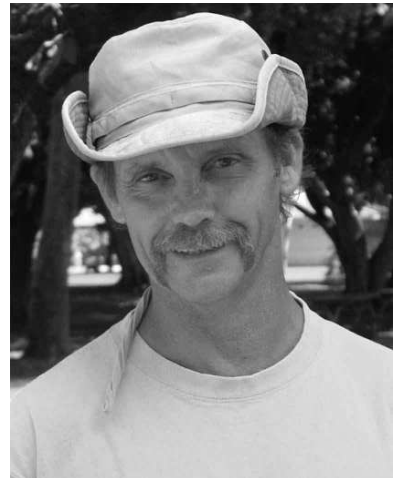
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

[Continued from Page 1]

his side of the family. Before returning home, my cousin made sure I was able to see my Aunt Tracy (my father's sister) who answered so many questions I thought I'd never have answers to, and

made sure we talked to the rest of the family by phone. Just a few days before I was to leave there, Ellen was awakened by a phone call at 6:00 a.m. Hearing her crying hysterically, I flew out of the guest room to see what was wrong. It was my older brother Robert on the phone, who disappeared 15 years ago and hadn't been heard from since. Ellen had finally reached him with a letter she sent after searching for him for years.

It was quite a vacation! When I returned, having so much to be thankful for, I realized that even though I haven't had any family here for the past few years, I've gained so many really good friends through this organization, that I haven't felt alone: Jimmy and Ester, Jeri Frank, Curt and Kathy, Robert and Sharon, Gordon Williams, Beth, Norbert and Ana, Betty and Harry Nelson and so many more. This has been my family here, and that's why I decided to run for president. I owe it to all of you to pitch in and do my part.



I can't guarantee I'll be the best president you've ever had, and I hope I'm not the worst, all I can guarantee is that this will be quite a learning experience for me and that I will do my best. I'm hoping for a really fun year, and I thank you all for being such wonderful friends, and a great family.

Sincerely,
 Clarke Benich

JANUARY PROGRAM

Baltic Amber

By Kathy Clark

January's speaker is Jonas Ruzgys (pronounced Roos Gees) who is originally from Lithuania and has

collected and studied Baltic amber for many years. He will be showing us samples of amber collected from most parts of the world and discussing the differences between copal and amber. He also has a few words to say regarding DNA found in amber.

Jonas is a certified gemologist and a member of the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Club. He is also a member of the Facetors Guild of California and the only member of the Guild that has faceted amber. One of his faceted pieces of amber is on display at the Amber Museum in Lithuania.

With so much knowledge to share with us and possessing a wonderful sense of humor he is looking forward to answering any and all of the questions we might have. Please come prepared with questions and to enjoy the evening.

IN MEMORIUM

Allen Silverstein

By Karen Fox

Long-time Searcher member Allen Silverstein passed away on Sunday, December 4, 2005 at the age of 82. Allen had undergone a yearlong battle with leukemia, but ultimately he died of a brain injury caused by a fall on his way to a show to do what he loved best, sell rocks and minerals.

Allen's passions were travel and collecting, particularly rocks and native American art. He began his rock collection 15 years ago after falling in love with some agate slabs in a store at Death Valley. His specialty was fluorescent minerals and he was a member of the Fluorescent Mineral Society as well as the Searchers. Each year he delighted visitors to our annual Searchers Show with his spectacular displays of fluorescent minerals and it was always a treat to have him speak at a Searchers General Meeting. Many people will miss the cases he entered in shows across the United States.

A lesson that Allen taught his friends and family and that can be applied to all walks of life, not just minerals, is that 'looking at something in a different light can completely change one's perception of it'.

With symbolism appropriate for an avid rockhound, Allen was buried with one of his favorite ammonites and mourners tossed in polished stones along with the shovelfuls of dirt as he was laid to rest. May he rest in peace.

QUARTZITE

By Kathy Clark

Every year since 1965 from the end of October through the first week in March something big happens in Quartzite, Arizona, just 20 miles east of the Colorado River on I-10. A few of these happenings are:

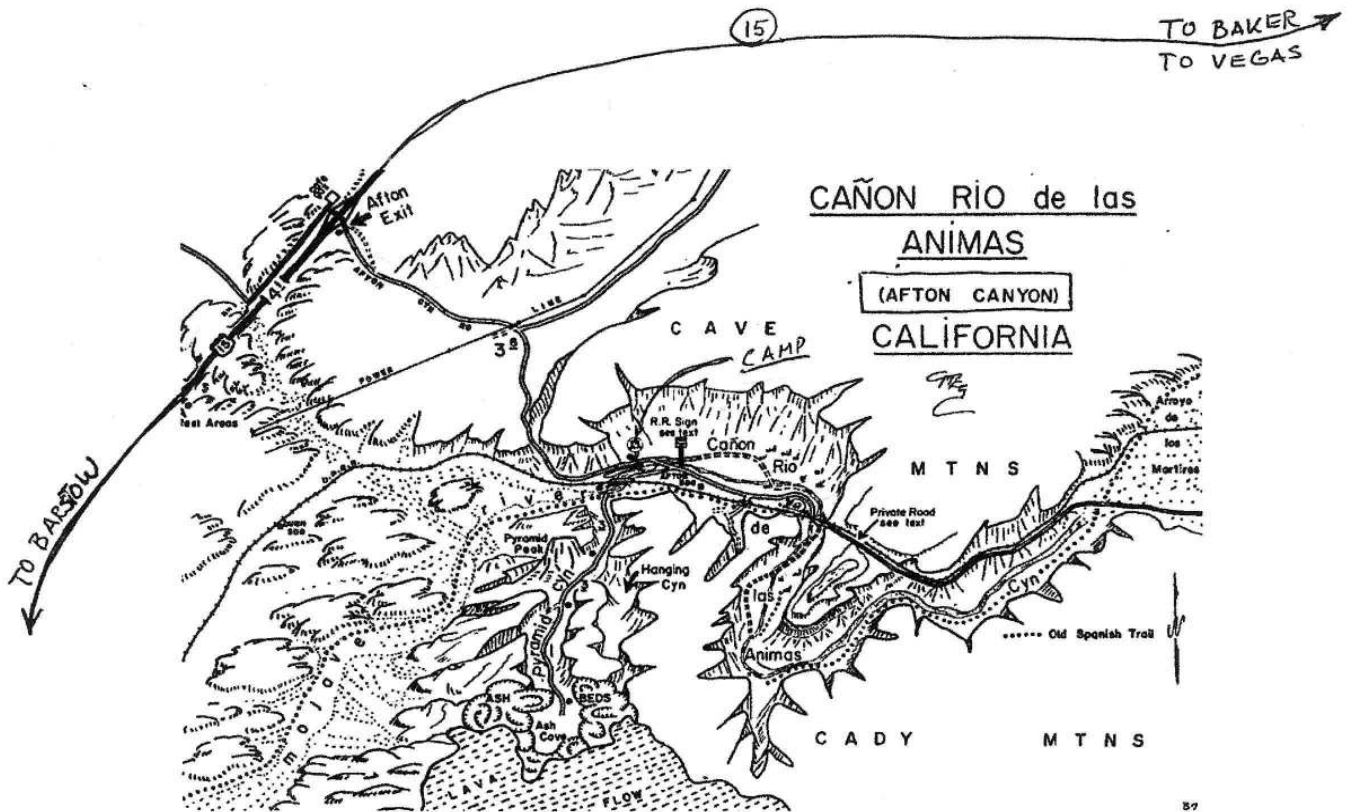
Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show, Jan. 7 – 16
For more info see www.tysonwells.com or call 928-927-6364.

Gold Show, Jan. 3 – 15 928-927-5213
Desert Gardens Gem & Mineral Show, Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 928-927-5555

Main Event, Jan. 6 – 31
RV Show www.quartzitervshows.com
Pow Wow 40th Annual, Jan. 25 – 29 928-927-6325

View www.quartzitechamber.com or call 928-927-5600 to get loads of info about what, where, and when things are going on in Quartzite. There will be classic car shows, chili cook-offs, antiques, swap meets, food, campsites, friendly people from all over the world, and rocks, rocks, rocks of every description and quality, in any quantity, shape and size imaginable. So have a great time and don't forget to visit "Sweet Darlene's." You ain't nobody until you've finished up Quartzite with a homestyle meal in the big tent.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP



Afton Canyon Field Trip January 7-8, 2006 by Norbert Bernhardt

Our field trip will be to Afton Canyon, CA. This area is just east of Barstow and west of Baker. This area has an abundance of different materials. Sagenite, lace and plume agates, travertine, and jasp-agate.

Afton Canyon is about a 2 1/2 hour drive from Orange County and easy to get to. There is a beautiful campground close to the Mojave River. The campground has tables at every site, hand pumped water, and a pit toilet. (Bring TP!)

No problems for a motorhomes. It is a 1-2 mile walk up canyons to collecting sites. Bring backpacks, rock hammers, hiking shoes, water, and layered clothing. It most likely will be cool. Map enclosed or look in "Desert Gem Trails" by Mary Francis Strong or "Gem Trails of Southern California" by James Mitchell.

Directions: Take I-15 towards Barstow and continue as if going to Vegas, get off at the Afton Canyon exit and go 3.6 miles southeast till you run into the campground that is down by the river close to the railroad bridge.

We will leave camp to the collecting areas approx. at 9:00 am on both days.

Hotels in the area would be in Baker or Barstow. The closest is Baker, but Baker is past Afton by about 30 miles.

Gas up in Barstow!

If the weather is a problem, please contact me by phone or E-mail at nbern@cox.net.

See you there! Phone-714-734-9665
Cell - 714-904-2181

SHOW REPORT

By Beth Pelfrey

An announcement will be made at the January meeting whether the first show meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 17, or Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7-9 pm and either at the Downtown Community Center or at my house, 9612 Rosebay St., Anaheim, 92804. Call 714-774-2754 if you need directions. Future meeting dates will be in the bulletin in the calendar section.

I am assuming that all of last year's chairs will be involved one way or another and that new people will come to join the fun! Even if you are undecided, please come to the first meeting to brainstorm ideas and procedure. This is your show, not mine. Only the members can make it really work! We need LOTS of happy helping hands so no one has to put in too much time on any given job. We will break them up into manageable bits. I am working full time now so I, if anyone, understand being TOO rushed, TOO busy, TOO involved. Well, together we can do this, so y'all come and choose a spot! On-time birds get a chair. Call or e-mail or write me if you have questions.

www.beth714sc-rocks@yahoo.com

SUNSHINE REPORT

By Kathy Clark

We wish Walt Johnson a complete and speedy recovery from the heart attack he suffered in December.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Looking back at this January issue of "The Rock Slab News" in regards to the amount of work it has entailed, I very much realize and appreciate the enormous amount of effort and time Nora de O'Campo has given to the Searchers especially serving simultaneously both as membership chairman and newsletter editor. And we all owe Karen Fox a huge debt of gratitude for the abounding energy, selflessness, and knowledge that she has expended on our behalf to launch the Searchers into the 21st century. Thank you so very much to both of you.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New Members

Vicki Flynn
723 Jaywood Ct.
Brea, CA 92821
714/350-7100
vkflynn@verizon.net

Larry & Patty Durna
920 S. Nutwood Ave. #8
Anaheim, CA 92804
714/563-0625
larrydurna@aol.com

Gordon & Verna Morgan
13580 Cedar Crest Ln.
1101
Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/430-6667

Address Changes

Shailer Cone
6741 Lincoln Ave., Space
82
Buena Park, CA 90620
714/827-8675

POST OFFICE OR E-MAIL?

We're trying to cut the costs of mailing out the bulletin by using e-mail instead. Some advantages to e-mail are that you receive it earlier, it is in color and you can print only those pages you want to keep. One disadvantage is you have to have a printer and use your own paper if you want to print it. If you currently receive the bulletin through the post office and would like to receive it through e-mail, please let me (Kathy Clark) know by phone, 714-639-9927, e-mail hanky1panky3@yahoo.com or you can sign a list at the next meeting.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	6	7 Field Trip lapidary, silversm. 3-7 PM
8 Field Trip – Afton Cyn.	9 Field Trip – Afton Cyn	10 General Meeting	11	12 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	13	14 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
15	16	17 7PM Show Mtg (probably)	18	19 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	20 RSN Bulletin deadline	21 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
22	23	24	25	26 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	27	28 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
29	30	31				

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

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

2006 dues are valid January 1 through January 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 () Rock'n'Kids () Annual Show ()
 Silent Auction ()



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Volume 41 Issue 1

January 2006



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

TRADITIONAL JANUARY BIRTHSTONE - GARNET

It is said that King Solomon wore a large garnet along with eleven other magical gems in his breastplate to help him win battles and keep in touch with god. Egyptians took garnets into tombs as payment to the gods for safe passage through the netherworld. During the 13th century, garnets were worn to repel insects, evil spirits, and the evil eye. Garnet represents friendship, passion, love and devotion. According to legend, wearing them will improve your personal relationships and protect you from harm. This benefit doubles if your birthday is in January. Also thought to assure the wearer of love, devotion of others, health, energy, prevent nightmares, repel negativity, and protect the wearer from skin diseases and wound infections..

