

The Rock Slab News

Volume 47 ISSUE 7

JULY 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		29	30	1 JULY	2	3 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
4	5	6	7	8 6-10pm Lapidary, wire- wrapping	9	10 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
11	12	13 7 pm General Meeting	14	15 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire- wrapping	16	17 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
18	19	20 7 pm Board Meeting	21	22 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire- wrapping	23	24 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
25	26	27	28	29 6-10pm Lapidary, wire- wrapping	30	31 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing

JULY BIRTHSTONES

Ruby



There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species *corundum*. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.



Star Ruby shows asterism, a six-rayed star that shimmers over the surface of the stone when it is moved. Ruby is red corundum, all other color varieties of corundum being referred to as sapphire. Corundum is the second hardest substance on the Mohs scale, with a rating of nine. Diamond tops that scale with a ten. That hardness combined with the rich color and silky shine make fine rubies so valuable and secure them a place in the group of four so-called "precious" stones, along with diamond, emerald and sapphire.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Norbert Bernhardt

Hello Searchers!

I hope you are all having a great summer! Many of us are all looking forward to the up-coming extended field trip organized by Steve Duncan. I know I am anxious to take this much needed vacation. I will miss the July General meeting but you will be in good hands with Keith Droste. He will have a program and John Klima will also be doing a Silent Auction.



The Searchers Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 15th, 2010. Mark your calendars! Those that attended last year had a great time. There will be plenty of food and drinks for all. Please check Keith's write up on the picnic. **Practice your rock, mineral and gem identification** for there will be a fun identifying game with fantastic prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. If there is a tie, correct spelling will be used to determine the winners.

Last year Herb Beckman was our gem identification winner and our runners up were Steve Duncan and Jimmy Peterson.

Have a great time at the July meeting and I look forward to seeing you at my next general meeting on August 13.

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 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
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 editor:
Yery Camacho
13900 Studebaker Rd, #4
Norwalk, CA 90650
- Charter Date:** April 20, 1958
- Affiliations:**
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Searchers Board Officers

President	Norbert Bernhardt	714-734-9665
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Keith Droste	714-563-4754
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714-724-7102
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Website	Gary Grayson	714-593-6488
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714-778-1496
Rock'n Kids	Ana Lorenzo	714-734-9665

Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council

FIELD TRIPS

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION & MATERIAL	STATUS
To be scheduled			

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

Also see www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html.

Other websites of interest:

www.firemountaingems.com

www.southsunproducts.com

www.pioneergem.com

www.route66goldminers.org

www.auctionmasters.com

MEETINGS

By Keith Droste

Due to the fact that a number of members will out of town in July there has been a change in our programs. We had scheduled Adam Dean and his wonderful program on agates for July, but with the extended field trip going on, I have moved Adam's program to the September meeting. In July we will have a small silent auction and an interesting video, "The Brazilian Connection," a journey to the gem capital of Brazil. At the August meeting we will have a large silent auction.

UPCOMING CFMS GEM SHOWS

Jul 10 - 11	Culver City, CA Culver City Rock & Mineral Club Veterans Memorial Auditorium 4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver) Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
Aug 6 - 8	Nipomo, CA Orcutt Mineral Society St. Joseph's Church, 298 S. Thomson Ave., Nipomo, CA Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Sep 11 - 12	Downey, CA Delvers Gem and Mineral Society Woman's Club of Downey 9813 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4
Sep 18 - 19	Paso Robles, CA Santa Lucia Rockhounds Pioneer Park, 2010 Riverside Drive, Paso Robles, CA Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Oct 3	Fallbrook, CA Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society 123 West Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA

Oct 9 - 10 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Trona, CA
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Show Building
13337 Main Street, Trona, CA
Hours: Sat 7:30 - 5, Sun 7:30 - 4

Oct 9 - 10 **Vista, CA**
Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA
Hours: Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4

SILVERADO CANYON FIELD TRIP JUN. 11, 2010



ANNUAL PICNIC

By Keith Droste

The annual Searchers picnic will be held on Aug. 15 at the Yorba Reginal Park. This will be a pot-luck with the club furnishing hot dogs and drinks. Everyone bring a side dish to share. If you haven't signed up for the picnic please call Keith Droste at 714-563-4754 or email at drostekeith@yahoo.com. and I will add you to the list. There will be food and fun for all and some prizes too!

NEW RULES FOR FIELD TRIPS FOR THE SLAB

by Steve Duncan

The BLM has issued new rules prohibiting glass beverage containers at all OHV open areas. To support this I suggest:

Drinks in cans or plastic rather than bottles

Wine can be decanted into a plastic carafe

Wine is available in boxes

It is not clear how aggressively the BLM will enforce this rule, but we should be prepared for them to enforce it.

BETTY NELSON, GET WELL

by Beth Pelfrey

Our wonderful long time member, Betty Nelson, has had a heart attack in Arizona while attending Great Grandson Mike's graduation. It started as extreme nausea, quite unlike the usual signs that most men report. She was in the Mayo Clinic for six days at the end of May but is home now and would appreciate your cards and notes of good cheer.

She continues to recover but is weary, of course.

Her address is: Betty Nelson, 10571 Overman Drive, Garden Grove, CA 92640-1220

A GUIDE TO OPAL CARE

by A Michael Bankston G.G. via The Rockhouser, May 2010

With care, opals will retain their original appearance indefinitely if properly cared for : in fact, Queen Victoria's collection is still going strong!

Cleaning Your Opals

Solid opals are very simple to clean. They should be immersed in warm water with a mild detergent and cleaned with a soft toothbrush or cloth, do not use anything else, bleach, chemicals and cleaners should be avoided as should ultrasonic cleaners, they vibrate quite violently and may cause cracking. Once cleaned the opal should simply be rinsed under running water (don't forget to put the plug in! Opals don't fair too well in drains and the definitely don't like garbage disposal units) and gently dried with a soft cloth. Doublets and triplets have a very short life even under the best care... they are the only opals that do NOT LIKE WATER!!!

Wearing Opal Jewelry

As with all jewelry, rough treatment is not recommended. Common sense should be used and care should be taken as it would with any precious stone. Take your opal off if you plan to work in the garden as sand and soil is an abrasive and can scratch the surface of your opal.

General household duties are fine provided you don't accidentally hit the stone on a hard surface that can cause damage.

If your Opal Loses Its Shine or Gets Scratched

If your opal does happen to become scratched or loses its shine, a reputable jeweler that works with opals can repolish the opal, usually for a reasonable price.

Characteristics of a Solid Opal

Precious opal contains around 5-6% water, and up to 13% in jelly opals from Nevada and Mexico. Therefore opals may crack or craze if subjected to extreme conditions. Avoid very high or very low temperatures i.e. boiling water, freezers. Normal weather changes are fine. Low humidity bank vaults also should be avoided unless precautions are taken (see below, storing your opal).

Opals in Water

Water does not harm solid opals. There are different opinions associated with solid opals. Some say it is good for the opal to be immersed in water overnight to maintain water content. Whether you place the opal overnight in water or not, it will not harm the opal. Doublets and triplets are another matter. They should never be placed in water as the glue which is usually a two part epoxy resin holding the layers together may brake down leaving behind a ruined doublet or triplet. This is where the old wives tale "opal going white" came from. Excessive water or heat can destroy the resin sending it white. Oils and hand creams: Oil will discolor your opal. It is not recommended to store opals in oil, however, general hand creams and body oils will do no harm to your opal other than maybe building up in jewelry crevices, causing a "not very nice" look. Uncut opal should NEVER be stored in OIL, GLYCERIN, etc... They love water and should be kept in a container of water. IT'S AN OLD WIVES TALE "MYTH" to store them in anything other than water. Opals are like a sponge for water, BEING part water!!! They get thirsty.

CABOCHON

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **cabochon** or **cabachon**, from the Middle French *caboché* (head), is a gemstone which has been shaped and polished as opposed to faceted. The resulting form is usually a convex top with a flat bottom. Cutting *en cabochon* is usually applied to opaque gems, while facetting is usually applied to transparent stones. Hardness is also taken into account as softer gemstones with a hardness lower than 7 on the Mohs hardness scale are easily scratched, mainly by silicon dioxide in dust and grit. This would quickly make translucent gems unattractive—instead they are polished as cabochons, making the scratches less evident.



In the case of asteriated stones such as star sapphires and chatoyant stones such as cat's eye chrysoberyl, a domed cabochon cut is used to show the star or eye, which would not be visible in a faceted cut.

The usual shape for cutting cabochons is an ellipse. This is because the eye is less sensitive to small asymmetries in an ellipse, as opposed to a uniformly round shape, such as a circle, and because the elliptical shape, combined with the dome, is attractive. An exception is cabochons on some watches' crowns, which are round.

A round sapphire cabochon on the crown of a men's dress watch.

A round sapphire cabochon on the crown of a men's dress watch.



Amber pendants. The oval cabochon pendant is 52 by 32 mm (2 by 1.3 inches). The procedure is to cut a slab of the rough rock, then to stencil a shape from a template. The slab is then trimmed to near the marked line using a

diamond blade saw—called a trim saw—and sometimes followed by "nibbling" to the line. The purpose of nibbling is to speed the shaping of the material when using silicon carbide grinding wheels. Most lapidary workshops and production facilities have moved away from silicon carbide to diamond grinding wheels or flat lap disks.

Once the piece is trimmed and nibbled, it is usually mounted on a handle to assist manipulation. This procedure is called "dopping"; it is normally done by adhering the stone with hard wax onto a length of wooden dowel called a "dop stick". The piece is then ground to the template line, the back edges may be beveled, and finally the top is sanded and polished to a uniform dome.

More cases from our show...



Wrinkles: Something other people have, similar to my character lines

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