

The Rock Slab News

SEPTEMBER 2008 VOLUME 44 ISSUE 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am assuming that many of our members who get their newsletter via e-mail have already received my plea for help. This is a great club, but it doesn't run itself. Some of our members are doing two and three jobs; more than any one person can handle. **WE NEED HELP!** Please join us. If we don't get more of you stepping up, this club may be no more. Call me at 714-563-4754 and let's talk about what position you might have time to handle. We're all busy, but as I said, if Searchers is going to continue we have to do something now.

Have a great month. Keith Droste, President

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

By Walter Mroch

Our September program will be a silent auction along with a video or slideshow presentation. **Other club members are always welcome.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Beth Pelfrey, Betty Nelson and Lorri Renck have graciously consented to be the Searchers' 2008 Nominating Committee. When they call upon you, please think seriously of accepting a position on next year's board.

BULLETIN

At the November meeting there will be discussion and voting on the proposed dues increase.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please welcome Ana Quintana as the newest member of the Searchers' family.

Happy Birthday to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their birthdays in September!!!

**Please bring slabs for the Vets. There is a box in the back corner
During general meetings to accept your donations.**

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, 2rd 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:
Yery Camacho & Kathy Clark
18661 Silver Maple Way
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations:

- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

SEARCHERS BOARD

Officers

President	Keith Droste	714/563-4754
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Clarke Benich	714/639-9927
Director	Steve Duncan	714/724-7102
Secretary	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	909/393-2186
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900

Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Kathy Clark Yery Camacho	714/639-9927 714/952-5804
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Library		
Membership	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Monthly Drawing	Skip & Connie Cone	714/827-8675
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/971-6789
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2	Karen Martinez	562/423-2832
2009 Show Chairman	Jim Williamson	714/995-9080
Show Co-Chair	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Sunshine		
Veterans' Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714/778-1496

Sponsored by:
Anaheim Arts Council

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
4,11,18,25	6-10pm	Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping)
6,13,20,27	3-7pm	Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing)
7	2pm	Searchers Picnic at Betty & Harry Nelson's home at 10571 Overman Dr., Anaheim, CA 92640 714-530-1365 RSVP Pat Lynch @ 909-393-2186 or 714-830-5607 or pat.lynch@experian.com
9	7pm	September General Meeting
11	7pm	Board Meeting
13	10am-6pm	Delvers Gem & Mineral Society Show @ Woman's
14	10am-4pm	Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA Located: One block north of Florence or 3/8 of a mile south of 5 (Santa Ana Fwy).
<p>The Rt. 66 Gold Miners has a booth this year at the annual Delvers Gem & Mineral Show. They will be teaching children and adults how to pan for gold and will be providing them with a GPAA magazine. They will also make a donation of prizes to the fundraising drawing which will be hosted by the Delvers Gem & Mineral Show. If you can help out at their booth please arrive around 8:30am.</p>		
18-21		McDermitt Rock & Gem Show @ the Diamond A Motel parking lot, Hwy 95 in McDermitt, Nevada for information call 775-532-8551 or 775-532-8088 or email rocks@diamondamotel.com Free Admission
19,20,21		September Potluck Outing on East Fork of San Gabriel River with Rt. 66 Gold Miners This invitation includes folks of the Temecula Valley Prospectors, members of other GPAA Chapters and members of Rock and Gem Clubs. Mike Eubank will arrive Friday morning to set up his dredge. He will be there the entire weekend dredging most of Friday and part of Saturday. The potluck dinner will be held on Saturday, September 20. Please bring a dish large enough to feed 7 or 8 people. The Chapter will provide condiments including paper plates, napkins, and plastic utensils. Bottled water will also be provided. If you are planning to bring a vegetable that requires boiling, please bring a suitable cooking pan and it can be prepared using the burners in Mike Eubank's trailer.
27 & 28	8:30am	Searchers' September Field Trip to South Cady Mountain. Camping at Lavic Siding Dry Camp

For a complete listing of Gem & Mineral Shows go to www.cfmsinc.org and www.gemfaire.com. And don't forget the Route 66 Gold Miners at www.route66goldminers.org and the GPAA at www.goldprospectors.com

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

South Cady Mountain

Saturday, September 27 & Sunday, September 28, 2008

By Robert and Sharon Burson

South Cady's are a very rewarding area. It has considerable size and diversity of materials and geology. Because of some recent summer thunderstorms we considered going aback to this popular productive area. We will look for everything in Jasper, Agate, Quartz, Calcite and Aragonite. This area truly has something for everyone. We will depart Saturday and Sunday mornings at 8:30am from the Lavic Siding Dry Camp.

Directions to the dry camp are as follows:

Take the 91 Freeway eastbound to the 15 towards Barstow to I-40 east. Exit Hector Road from I-40; turn right onto National Trails Hwy. Travel 9.9 miles to the bridge that crosses Hwy I-40, look for dirt road on your right, make a right turn and look for the camp.

There are other accommodations in Barstow, approximately 50 minutes to the west. There is a motel in Ludlow which is approximately 10 miles to the east.

Saturday night we will have the usual potluck, campfire and beautiful stars up above. Please wear clothing suitable for warm/hot weather, hiking shoes, hat, sunglasses, and water and don't forget sunscreen. Hope everyone can make it and hope to have a really good time.

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Once again Larry Richey has presented us a fabulous program! The August program was a presentation by Larry on "Contour Carving Fire Agate." Larry Richey is one of the foremost experts on fire agate in the WORLD. But not only is he an expert artist and jeweler, he is also a fine teacher. To say the least, you blew it if you missed this one. I will make an attempt to recap this enthusiastic and insightful evening for those of you who were unable to attend.

We learned there are 4 kinds of "fire" stones: fire opal, fire agate, fire obsidian and fire garnet. Flat stones are found in Mexico and can be worked on a cab machine. The stones found in the United States are bumpy. Fire agate is a variety of chalcedony which is a variety of quartz. The "bumpy" stones are referred to as "botryoidal" and resemble a bunch of grapes. They have a covering of limonite which looks like a brown stain. It is from this dark brown where the "fire" is found. Fire agate is also known as rainbow agate.

Problem – Fire Agate is hard. It eats up blades. The botryoidal fire level is very thin so grinding too far will go through the fire layer and miss it. Limonite is so dark that seeing the fire takes practice. Look at them in bright sunlight. Also, tumbling them removes the high spots and leaves the recesses.

Tools – Silicon carbide wheels were used in the 1950s and diamond points were used in the 1960s. Diamond burrs will cut the stone but will not polish it. Up until the 1970s there was no way to polish fire agates until phenol points were discovered.

Carving Tools – Start with a trim saw. Then do as much as possible on a cab machine. Then use a flex shaft with a variable speed foot control on 3/4 speed and use diamond points. The diamond point shapes used are taper cylinders which are used for 98% of the carving and flame points. Diamond tips are available through Harbor Freight very inexpensively. To get serious, buy good tools. Larry buys his from Center Diamond Tools.

In past years there were never any polished stones more than 25 carats because there was no way to polish contours. Large stones would be cut in half between polished areas.

1. Saw if you can.
2. Use a cab machine.
3. Work from edge. Do not start in center. Work all around edge so if you go through a little you can see what color it will be and you can make the stone smaller.
4. Blend colors to center after the edges are done.

For a black base, go slow, strike the wheel like a match and look for color.

Cutting Tips – Grind a little, look a lot. Stop at tan mud on wheel. Limonite is tan mud and chalcedony is white mud.

Tools for Polishing – Use a flex shaft with variable speed and drop to 500rpm. Phenolic points which are insulators for electronic stuff can be used or simply use diamond tips. Get 3 bullet-shaped 149-10 5/16” and 3 sharp-point-shaped 149-12 1/4” diamond tips. Cut down bamboo chopsticks work, too.

Use diamond compound (paste) 1 gram each of 325 grade, 1200 grade and 50,000 grade. In separate bags, put each grade of compound with one each of the 2 diamond tips.

Between each grade used an extender (gem lube/mineral oil), mounted brushes (brass/stainless for deep crevices and small bubbles), formed felt bobs, and cerium oxide (your way, same as any agate). After each grade – wash.

Colors –

Base – brown or black – limonite

Fire colors – bronze (most common), gold, yellow (very hard to see on light base), orange, red (most sought after), green (rare), blue (much rarer), purple/violet. Single color; two color; three colors or more (called multicolored, royals); violet/purple over multicolored (peacock).

Larry continued on to tell us what to look for when purchasing fire agates and some ideas on setting them. Maybe you goofed up and made a hole in a stone or bought a stone with a hole in it. These holes can be set with a faceted stone, or use leaves, feathers or beads. Tube settings can be flared on both ends through the stone creating a prongless setting.

He touched a little on mass producing fire agates for a living if, as Larry said, you want to be “insane.” In this case a vibrator tumbler would be used and weight would become a factor.

This excellent program finished with some locations where to find fire agate like Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico, and Deer Creek, Joy Valley and Slaughter Mountain, Arizona. The desert closure act has had a large effect on these areas so do some research and then check to make sure the areas are open before you go.

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PICNIC

The Picnic will be held at 2:00pm at Betty and Harry Nelson's home at 10571 Overman Drive, Anaheim, CA 92640 714-530-1365. The club is providing the charcoal, hotdogs, buns, condiments and drinks. This is a potluck picnic so please bring a dish to share. Also, the Nelsons have invited the Searchers to use their pool, so bring your bathing suits and towels. We need a head count: **RSVP** Pat Lynch at pat.lynch@experian.com or call and leave a message at either 714-830-5607 or 909-393-2186. **Help is needed for setting up and cleaning up.**



Kathy Clark, *Editor*
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