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## POINTS OF INTEREST

### FIELD TRIPS

### GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

# The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 3



MARCH 2015

## The President's Message



Hello Searchers and Visitors!

March is upon us and the Searcher's Show is fast approaching. If you have not yet done so, please sign up for a shift or two with any of our Show Representatives. There is always a need for volunteers, especially with the Kitchen and Security.

It's also time to start prepping your displays. I always look forward to seeing the display cases.

Have you marked your calendar? The meeting for April will be held on April 28 due to the closure of the Community Center.

A gentle reminder – The Community Center has asked that the Searchers who use the Workshop on Thursdays and Saturdays, please ensure that they clean up after using the machines. Thank you.

We're still looking for a volunteer to be our Asset Manager. This is a responsible position that includes access to our storage facility.

Finally... Please pay your Dues.

Jay Erb

Become a Rockhound Activist. We're not asking you to 'Rock the World', just protect the places you love.

A very big thank you to **The Agateer** for their donation of a 10" Covington Slab/Trim saw for our show raffle.



<http://www.theagateer.com/>



See Page 4 for Show Information

See page 2 for Field Trip details

## Field Trips



DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
3-21,22-2015	Jim Peterson & Robert Burson	Opal Mt.	planned

### Field Trip: Opal Mountain

March 21-22 2015 Trip leader Jim Peterson & Robert Burson

History: The importance of this field trip will take you back in time. When early man would mark his hunting and camping localities with markings left on rocks. Opal Mountain used to be a regular stop but has kind of fallen. Because of that some of the collecting is becoming worthwhile. This is an area that is interesting to the eye. So join us and maybe you will find a precious opal that made this area famous. Jimmy Peterson was lucky enough to find precious opal on the scouting trip. Materials to be collected orange opal, cherry opal (rare), colorful rhyolite, jaspers and thunder eggs.



Tools needed, dependable hiking boots, walking stick, wide brim hat, collecting bucket or pack, hard rock mining equipment, shovel and pick.

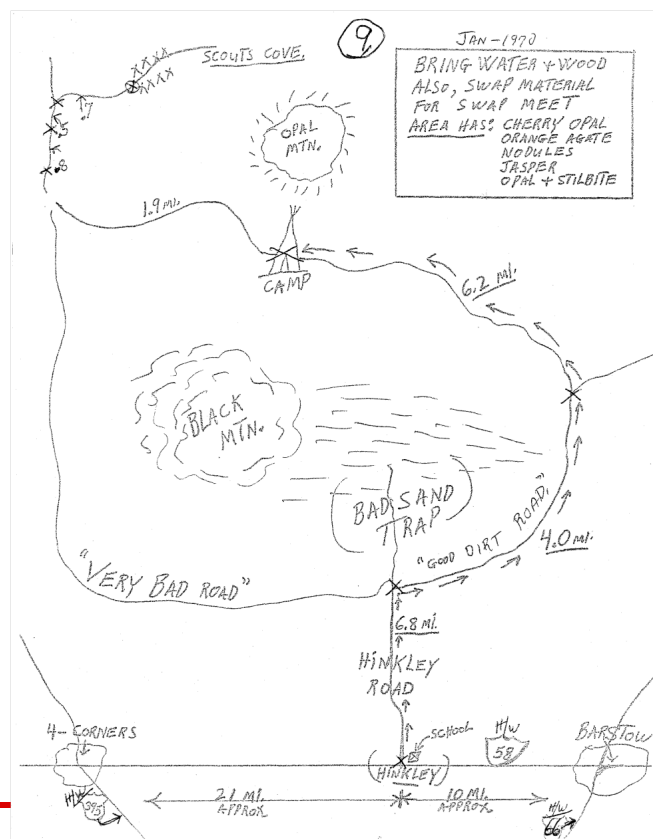
Road conditions are rough, high clearance, 4 wheel drive preferred. Experience off road driver may not require 4 wheel drive.

Saturday night potluck. Please some wood for campfire.

Campsite see attached map and look for Searchers' signs.

Motels is plentiful in Barstow, which is only 7 miles from Hinkley to the west on Hwy 58.

Directions from Anaheim - 91 fwy east bound to the 15 north to Barstow, exit Hwy 58. Approximately 10 miles to Hinkley Road to the west. Hinkley Road north, see map. Ant questions contact Robert at burson-rocks@verizon.net or Jim Peterson at 714 904-8573.



For field trip  
information

contact: Robert

Burson V.P. Field

Trips, Searchers

Gem and Mineral

Society,

bursonrocks@veriz

on.net

# Trip Report: Havasu City



The February 21-22 field trip was a shot in a new direction. Jack and Linda Horn made a suggestion, to venue a field-trip to Havasu City. They had previously checked out the site twice before suggesting it. This was to a location relatively unknown to most Cal. rockhounds. Our good friends, Curt and Kathy Clark elected to host this outing. What a great time and successful trip it turned out to be.



Something like Pacific or Mountain time confused are initial game plan. Waiting seemed to cure this problem. A trip to a local Mexican restaurant instead of the potluck. seemed to work well at the end of the Saturday hunt.

Great off-roading on colorful Arizona Highways made this trip memorable. Can't thank my lucky stars enough for the team work and chemistry witnessed by this group.

Robert Burson



**March Guest Speaker** Justin Zzyzx: Which of the rockhounds and mineralists don't like when I mention his name (hint: no one). Justin returns to provide us with a presentation on advanced tips for all rockhounds. It's about using free and cheap research tools to help find new and old mineral deposits. Plus, the club can plan a field trip to one of his local agate locations.

## Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
3-2015	Justin Zzyzx	Rockhounding 101
4-2015	Note Different <b>date</b> 4-28	Rock Swap
5-2015	Jim Bowden	The Mysteries of Meteorites



For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site:

[www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

## Upcoming 2015 CFMS Gem Shows

### MARCH 2015

**March 6 - 8:** NEWARK, CA Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley Newark Pavilion 6430 Thornton Avenue Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 887-9007 Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

**March 7 - 8:** ARCADIA, CA Monrovia Rockhounds Los Angeles Arboretum 301 Baldwin Avenue Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624 Email: [joanaritchey@gmail.com](mailto:joanaritchey@gmail.com) Website: [www.Moroks.com](http://www.Moroks.com)

**March 7 - 8:** VENTURA, CA Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 West Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725 Email: [info@VGMS.org](mailto:info@VGMS.org) Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**March 14 - 15:** SAN MARINO, CA Pasadena Lapidary Society San Marino Masonic Center 3130 Huntington Drive Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239 Email: [joenmar1@verizon.net](mailto:joenmar1@verizon.net) Website: [www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org](http://www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org)

**March 14 - 15:** TURLOCK, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494, cell (209) 484-4416 Email: [terry\\_mcmillin@yahoo.com](mailto:terry_mcmillin@yahoo.com) Website: [www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

**March 21 - 22:** LEMOORE, CA Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society Trinity Hall 470 Champion Street Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 4 Contact:

Keith Olivas (559) 622-9440 Email: [georger-silva@sbcglobal.net](mailto:georger-silva@sbcglobal.net)

**March 28 - 29:** ANGELS CAMP, CA Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society Calaveras County Fairgrounds 101 Frogtown Road hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277 Email: [amy95247@yahoo.com](mailto:amy95247@yahoo.com) Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

**March 28 - 29:** ROSEVILLE, CA Roseville Rock Rollers Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds 800 All American City Blvd Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114 Email: [gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com](mailto:gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com) Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

### APRIL 2015

**April 4 - 5:** CHICO, CA Paradise Gem & Mineral Society Silver Dollar Fairgrounds 2337 Fair Street Hours: 10 - 4 daily Contact: Manuel Garcia, (530) 877-7324 Website: [www.paradisegem.org](http://www.paradisegem.org)

**April 11 - 12:** MARIPOSA, CA Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society Mariposa County Fairgrounds 5005 Fairgrounds Road (south of Mariposa on Hwy 49) Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Randy Bolt, (209) 742-7625 Email: [rockmuseum@sti.net](mailto:rockmuseum@sti.net) Website: [www.camineralmuseum.com](http://www.camineralmuseum.com)

**April 18 - 19:** SAN JOSE, CA Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society Santa Clara County Fairgrounds 334 Tully Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Frank Mullaney, (408) 265-1422 Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org) Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

**April 18 - 19:** THOUSAND OAKS, CA Conejo Gem & Mineral Club Borchard Park Community Center 190 Reino Road at Borchard Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734 Email: [rmsorca@roadrunner.com](mailto:rmsorca@roadrunner.com) Website: [www.cgamc.org](http://www.cgamc.org)

**April 25 - 26:** SANTA CRUZ, CA Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium Church Street & Center Street Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Dean Welder (408) 353-2675 Website: [www.scmgs.org](http://www.scmgs.org)

**April 10 - 12:** VISTA, CA Vista Gem & Mineral Society Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue Hours: 9 - 5 daily Contact: Ray Pearce (760) 535-5524 & Simon King (619) 991-2226 Email: [vis-tarocksgms@gmail.com](mailto:vis-tarocksgms@gmail.com) Website: [www.vistarocks.org](http://www.vistarocks.org)

**April 25 - 26:** LANCASTER, CA Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society Lancaster High School 44701 - 32nd Street West Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: CJ Quitoriano, (661) 209-9092 Website: [www.avgem.weebly.com](http://www.avgem.weebly.com)

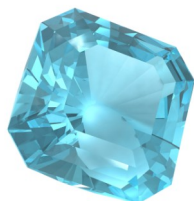
### MAY 2015

**May 1 - 3:** LA HABRA, CA North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society La Habra Community Center 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours: Fri 4 - 8; Sat & Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Don Warthen, (562) 330-8974 Email: [odwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:odwarthen@verizon.net) Website: [www.nocgms.com](http://www.nocgms.com) Show Page

**May 2 - 3:** ANAHEIM, CA Searchers Gem & Mineral Society Brookhurst Community Center 2271 W. Crescent Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Margaret Hogarth, (909) 815-3045 Email: [Hogarth.m@gmail.com](mailto:Hogarth.m@gmail.com) Website: [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

## March Birthstone - Aquamarine

The word Aquamarine is derived from the Latin words "aqua marina" which means "sea water" which reflect the color of the crystals. A transparent, pale green variety of beryl, used as a gem. The Aquamarine is a member of the Beryl (beryllium aluminum silicate) family. Crystal structure of the Aquamarine, the March birth stone, is Hexagonal.



The traditional color associated with the Aquamarine is transparent blue or sea-green however, the most admired aquamarine color is sky-blue. This gemstone was strongly favored as a popular gem in jewelry.

Aquamarine is found in the following countries: Brazil, Nigeria, Zambia, Madagascar and the Ukraine.



## Don't miss the Big Searchers Show in May



### Show Information Always can use help

Would you like to:	Contact	Phone	Email
Be a demonstrator	Bob Gilland	714-776-4958	rgilland@sbcglobal.net
Donate a door prize			
Set-Up/Tear Down	Margaret Hogarth	(C) 909-815-3045	hogarth.m@gmail.com
Load/Unload the trailer	Margaret Hogarth	(C) 909-815-3045	hogarth.m@gmail.com
Help with Fri. Night Dinner	Adrian Callard	714-368-9575	adricyn@hotmail.com
Help with Hospitality	Karen Kremer	714-639-8082	karenandkay@aol.com
Help with Hospitality	Teri Lynn Wheeler	714-425-0983	We34god@yahoo.com
Hourly Door Prizes	Teri Lynn Wheeler	714-425-0983	We34god@yahoo.com
Kitchen	Adrian Callard	714-368-9575	adricyn@hotmail.com
Security	Virgil Talbott	714.871.7900	virgiltalbott@roadrunner.com
Donate to the silent auction	Steve Duncan	714-724-7102	wsd@iteris.com
Sell at the Searchers' table	Margaret Hogarth	909-597-7033	hogarth.m@gmail.com
Have a display case	Veronica Purpura	714-974-3982	angeldragonflight@yahoo.com
		(C) 714-501-9959	



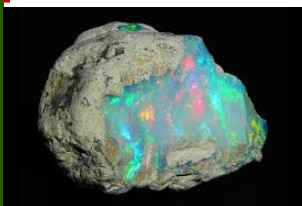
## In the Field: Opals

Precious Opal is a gem-quality form of hydrated amorphous silicon dioxide. Its name is derived from the Sanskrit word for 'stone'. It is gemologically classed as a mineraloid rather than a mineral, owing to its amorphous form. Opal is considered to be the national gemstone for Australia, owing to the fact that Australia produces roughly 97% of the world's entire supply of opal gemstones. Opals can be divided into three main subgroups: precious opal, fire opal and common opal (potch).

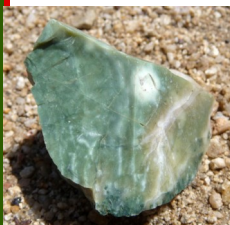


Opal is famed for its ability to diffract light. The exact cause of opal's unique properties was only recently discovered by Australian scientists in the 1960s after analysis with electron microscopes. It was discovered that small spheres of silica gel caused interference, refraction and diffraction of light, resulting in opal's distinctive play of color. The varying refractive indices of the spheres and spaces between them dissect the light on its passage through the stone. As light enters the opal, it bends around the tiny particles or 'spheres' of hydrated silica, as well as 'chips' of silicon and oxygen suspended within the stone. Light is comprised of all visible colors and can produce an entire spectrum of colors when it is diffracted.

Precious opal is known for its remarkable ability to diffract light, which results in rainbow-like colors that change with the angle of observation - known as 'play of color'. Fire opal can sometimes exhibit slight color play, but it is better known for its vivid body color. Common opal is usually opaque, rarely translucent, and lacks play of color. It is often found mixed with other gemstones, such as agate opal or moss opal. Common opal is known to exhibit 'opalescence'. The term 'opalescence' is often mistaken for 'play of color'. Opalescence should technically only be used to describe the optical effects seen in common opal. Opalescence is caused by the reflection of light and appears as a sheen of light, typically milky-bluish in color. It is a form of adularescence, whereas 'play of color' is iridescence caused by light diffraction. From <http://www.gemselect.com/gem-info/opal/opal-info.php>



**Common Opal:** The definition of "Common opal" is a stone that does not exhibit a "play of color". Although most of these stones are also "common" in appearance and do not attract commercial attention, some of them are beautiful. This material is given the name "common opal" because it is found in many locations throughout the world. Some people in the trade also call common opal by the name "potch".



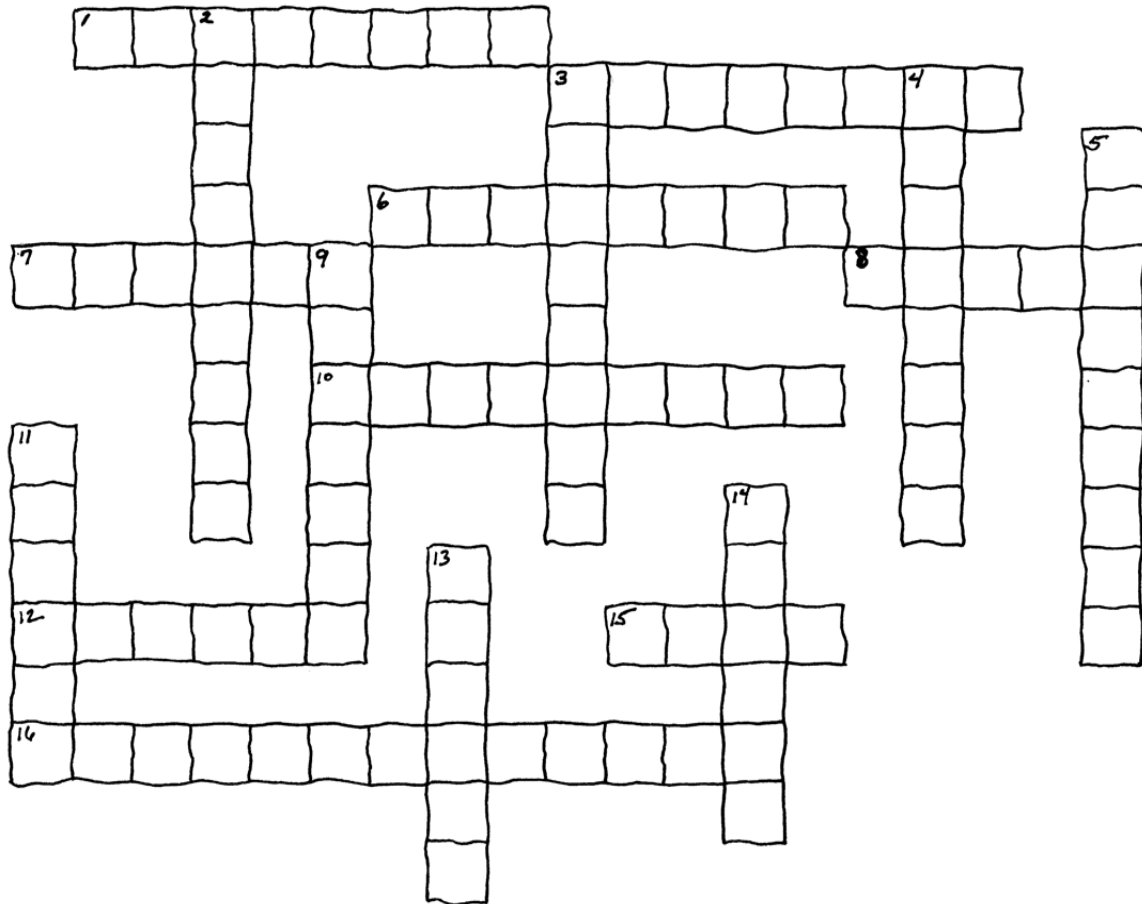
Common Opal



## Kid's Corner

This is the section for new and upcoming Searchers. The information will be coming from a newsletter for kids called *Mini Miners Monthly* by Diamond Dan Publications. He is kind enough to allow us to use parts of his newsletter. This is from Vol. 9 No. 1.

### Crossword Puzzle



#### Across

1. Always has a blood-red streak. An iron ore.
3. Orthoclase \_\_\_\_\_.
6. No. 9 on the mineral hardness scale.
7. An ore of lead. Lead sulfide.
8. Emerald and aquamarine are varieties of this mineral.
10. Contains the element uranium.
12. Also called "fool's gold." Contains iron and sulfur.
15. A soft, yellow, metal, often found in rivers as rounded nuggets.
16. Pink to red carbonate mineral. Often forms rhombohedral crystals

#### Down

2. An iron oxide mineral that is magnetic.
3. Contains the element fluorine which is used to make fluoride for your toothpaste.
4. A fibrous mineral that does not burn.
5. A copper ore that is often found in large, banded masses.
9. A copper mineral that is light to dark blue. It is often found with the similar copper mineral called malachite.
11. The mineral used to make electrical wire and water pipes.
13. Amethyst, citrine, smoky \_\_\_\_\_.
14. This mineral's chemical symbol is Ag.

## Harmful Minerals by Darryl Powell

Did you know that there are a small number of minerals that can hurt you if you are not careful? This doesn't mean that you can't collect these minerals. It does mean that you have to know how to properly handle them and care for them. Some of these minerals can be poisonous. Others can lead to an infection. Let's take a look at these minerals.

**Splinters.** There are a few minerals that can crystallize in radiating groups of very fine crystals. Three examples that you will probably see at mineral shows and in the field are pectolite, some occurrences of Wollastonite, and antlerite. These minerals can have splintery fracture. This means that they break off into very thin and very sharp splinters. If you don't handle these minerals carefully, you can end up with crystal splinters in your skin. They are painful when they stick into the skin and feel like a wood splinter. Once they are poked under the skin they can be very difficult to remove. A wood splinter can be worked out with a clean needle (a doctor would sterilize the needle so you wouldn't get an infection). A mineral splinter, however, will break into little pieces in your skin and cannot be removed. The piece or pieces that stay under your skin can become infected. Handle these minerals very carefully, even with a thin, soft cotton glove. It is also wise to store them behind a glass or in a drawer where visitors will not try to touch them.



**Mercury Poisoning.** Mercury is an element. It is a metal. It is the only element (and only metal) that is a liquid at room temperature! It is also a mineral. Mercury is found in nature with the mercury sulfide mineral called cinnabar (see picture of Chinese cinnabar to the right). Because the mercury is a liquid, it will be found as small droplets on matrix. It is rare to find at mineral shows and rock shops. When it is found as a specimen, it most likely has been sprayed with acrylic to keep the droplets from falling off! It is probably best not to have a specimen with mercury. But if you ever see one (or want to own one) remember the following lessons.

Mercury is a poison. It can enter your body through the skin. It could also be on the skin and put in the mouth if you put your fingers in your mouth for any reason. Once mercury is in the body it never leaves! It is one of the most dangerous poisons to humans and its effects cannot be reversed and will last a lifetime. Mercury can cause damage to the brain, kidneys and lungs. If a specimen of mercury on matrix has not been sprayed with a clear coating, it should be. Use spray acrylic or lacquer from a hardware store. Handle them with extreme care, being certain to only touch the matrix and never the mercury. Display native mercury under a glass dome or cover. The Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania uses this approach in the display of a very fine native mercury specimen. Place the specimen on a shelf where it does not.



**Asbestos.** Some minerals can break into very thin, flexible fibers. These fibers can be short or very long. Mineralogists describe these minerals as fibrous. Chrysotile is a mineral that has this fibrous, asbestos-like texture. Asbestos minerals can withstand extremely high temperatures without melting. Because of this property, asbestos fibers were used to make everything from insulation for hot pipes, to brakes on cars and trucks, to fireproof clothing for firefighters. It was discovered, however, that very tiny asbestos fibers can get into a person's lungs and can cause cancer. Today scientists are trying to find or invent materials that are as resistant to heat and flame as asbestos but do not cause health problems. It is a good idea not to have asbestos specimens in your collection. If you do, be absolutely sure that they are stored in a sealed container (bottle or box) so that microscopic fibers cannot float around in the air and be breathed in by you and others that come to see your collection. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER pull an asbestos specimen apart into fibers. This will create thousands of small fibers that WILL float around in the air and WILL be breathed into your lungs. In short, handle asbestos with great care and as little as possible. Never pull it apart. Store it in a sealed container.



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Darryl Powell, editor Emma Fajcz, contributing editor



# Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

## General Information



Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

[www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

**General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

**Board Meetings:** 6PM, 1st 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](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

<b>Membership Dues:</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25</b>
	<b>Couple</b>	<b>\$35</b>
	<b>Junior (17 &amp; under)</b>	<b>\$10</b>

Valid Jan.1-Dec.31, not prorated

**Bulletin:** Submissions due 3rd Friday of the month via e-mail to: [editor@searchersrocks.org](mailto:editor@searchersrocks.org).

Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:

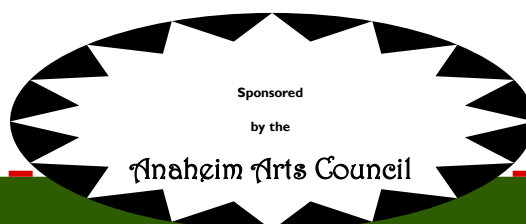
Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

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**Affiliations:** California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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