

The Rock Slab News

SEPTEMBER 2007 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 9

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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

Hey there Searchers!

I would like to begin by apologizing for being too under the weather to write my message in the last month's newsletter, but, I'm not going to. I have plenty of things in my life that I apologize for when I'm in control of a situation, if I apologize for those that are out of my control as well, when will I have any time to get things right so I won't have to apologize for them?

Instead, I would like to begin by expressing my feelings in regard to my position as President of this organization. Although I came into this with great apprehension and plenty of fear mixed with anxiety, holding this position has done me so much good, and I really have enjoyed it immensely. My only regrets are that I have not had near enough time (since becoming a caregiver) to dedicate to this position as I originally had hoped to have had, and this year I have lost so much time dealing with health issues that I barely have the time left to complete what duties remain for this year and get things prepared for the incoming president.

So I may end my 2nd term as President wishing I could have accomplished much more, but looking at the brighter side, I will be leaving my position having gained not only a clear understanding on what it takes to keep this organization going, but the proper procedures required to make necessary policy changes so as to keep up to date and running smoothly.

Now, I shall tell you the one thing that I do hate about this position. Announcing the need for a chairperson or asking for volunteers to help with an event seems to be a complete waste of time and breath these days. Member participation has dropped off so severely in the past few years, it is not only all time low, but dangerously close to becoming extinct! I feel that it is a serious problem at this point that needs to be addressed, and will be researching ways to turn this trend around. If anyone out there has any ideas or suggestions, please let me know.

[Continues on 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, 4th Wednesday 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

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: April 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)	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
2 nd 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	Karen Martinez	562/423-2832
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

President message*[continued from page 1]*

With that being said, I am asking for the final time for 3 members in good standing to form our nominating committee. If you are willing to head this committee, or be on it, please let me know right away. This is only a month long commitment, people, and most of the work has already been done for you, so let's hear some volunteering! We are also in need of a chairman, too, for the 2008 Show!

Mark this date on your calendars, folks: October 12-13, 2007, for the Searls Lake Gem & Mineral Society's Show, and 3 field trips to Trona as well. If you are a new member who has not heard of the Trona field trips, ask somebody about it before you miss out on what you think is nothing special. It's everything but that from what I've heard, and I am not missing out on it again this year myself!

Well, I'm out of here till next month's late scramble to complete my message by the deadline, which I believe I have only accomplished that feat once, come to think of it!

Take care and I hope to see you all soon! Clarke

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

by Walter Mroch

My apologies for not being able to attend the August meeting to make a presentation on Topaz Mt. I had some important business to attend to that evening that came up on short notice. I want to thank the stand-in presenter who I understand did an excellent job.

Our September Program will be a presentation by Larry Richey on "Coin Cutting and the Use of a Jeweler's Saw." Our own Larry Richey, one of the Lapidary Hall of Fame inductees, has been making custom jewelry pieces incorporating coins and other items using finely sawn details for many years. If you have ever attended a Searchers Show you have seen his work proudly displayed at the end of the member display case table setup. You can't miss it – it's the one with all the fine custom jewelry made out of silver and gemstones. Larry says that if members can start to incorporate the use of a jeweler's saw into their projects they can save lots of time and create some awesome items.

Join us Tuesday night, September 11, 2007, for an enjoyable and enlightening evening.

IN REMEMBRANCE**By Betty Nelson**

Mae Friedman passed away Saturday, September 1, 2007, of heart complications after a long illness. The Friedmans were active Searcher members for many years. He passed away sometime ago, but Mae kept her membership even after a stroke and heart problems put her in a wheelchair. Her daughter found it necessary to move her to a board and care home near them. Even after that Mae found someone to bring her to our Christmas party for several years. She continued her membership in order to receive our bulletin until a few years ago.

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Sadly, our Faye McDowell passed away Tuesday morning, September 4, 2007. Our hearts go out to her family and dear friends. There will be no funeral services, but there will be a celebration of her life at a later time. The date and time of this gathering which will be held at Norbert Bernhardt's and Ana Lorenzo's home will be included in the October Rock Slab Newsletter. Our deepest condolences to Norbert and especially to Ana who was like a daughter to Faye.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

7-9 Nye Canyon Field Trip
11 7-9 pm General Meeting
26 7-8 pm Board Meeting

For more show and event information see www.cfmsinc.org.

For more information about Gem Faires see www.gemfaire.com

NYE CANYON FIELD TRIP

September 7—9, 2007

By Norbert Bernhardt

Our field trip will be to Nye Canyon, NV. This area is about 1 hour from Bridgeport, CA. This area has quartz crystals: clear, smoky, and with gold or green needles. Bridgeport is about a 7-hour drive by car from Orange County.

The campground will be at Bridgeport Reservoir RV Part and Marina (760-932-7001) or further up Hwy 182 along the East Walker River. Prices for the RV Park are \$30 full hook-up, \$18 dry camping/tent site and the other choice is along the river, that is free. There are motels in town. I would recommend Redwood Motel in Bridgeport. Their phone number is 888-932-3292 and the website www.redwoodmotel.net.

Bring backpacks, rock hammers, picks, gads, hiking shoes, water, and layered clothing. Be prepared for cool or warm weather. 4-wheel drive recommended.

Directions: Take I-15 toward Victorville, 395 north all the way past Mono Lake to Bridgeport, to Hwy 182 going to Yerington. The RV Park and Marina will be on the left, close to the lake. We will meet there at the RV Park and leave for the collecting area at 9:00 am on Friday and 8:30 am on Saturday. Sunday will be open for those that want to do some fishing.

Remember to gas up in Bishop, gas is expensive in Bridgeport.

Please contact me so I know how many people will be going. Phone 714-904-2181 or E-mail at nbern@cox.net. See you there!

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Walter Mroch who had planned to present a program about Topaz Mountain was unable to be at the August meeting; therefore, other plans were needed if we were to have a program that night. By some good fortune a guest attending our meeting agreed to do a presentation. David Kramer was prepared to talk to us about opals. David has been cutting since 1972 and studied with master cutters from Israel and Australia. He is very well qualified and an excellent speaker.

In the first few minutes of his program we learned that opals are the easiest stones to cut. Because water distorts colors, if opals are cut dry the better you can see your work. And the most important thing in cutting is learning how to mount the stone on a stick. Using a dopping pot usually creates a wax build up on the stone, therefore assuring that wax will be cut during the cutting of the stone and also preventing the cutter from seeing the actual shape of the stone. So using the right stick and method of dopping really makes a difference in the ease and pleasure of cutting stones. In cutting large stones the control is in the wrist; in cutting opals or small stones control is with the fingers.

Inlay is the best way to mount an opal. By gluing in the stone it is impervious to solvents, shows the entire stone, and doesn't need a bezel which could actually cause cracking of the stone.

And what about symmetry? Symmetry is all about saving as much of the stone as possible and creating a beautifully cut stone. This comes with experience. A pleasing odd shape is more valuable than any shape that is not appealing to the eye. Sometimes cutting a little more and creating a smaller stone is possibly more valuable because the shape is more appealing than if you saved as much of the stone as possible.

David cautions beginners not to get into bad habits. Learn the right way. And don't out do a beautiful stone by eclipsing it with lots of gold and silver.

Recommended References:

Stuller Inc. 1-800-877-7777 or www.stuller.com

Rio Grande 1-800-545-6566 or www.riogrande.com

David H. Fell & Co. (precious metal refiner) 1-800-822-1996 or www.dhfco.com

"How to Dop a Stone" DVD by David Kramer, photographed by Janis Kramer \$15
P.O. box 3946, Huntington Beach, CA 92605 or 714-952-8478 to order

An educational DVD showing two methods of how to create a stable cutting surface for your stones to insure the best results. Movie plus excellent slide show at end showing materials needed and finished stones.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please note the following change:

Gary Paepke
gonefishn@dslextreme.com



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

HINTS

Wipe a piece of chalk over your jeweler's files. The chalk keeps the file from clogging and you can blow it off. Toss a piece of charcoal or chalk into your tool box. It will keep your tools rust free. You can also put that chalk in your jewelry box. Tarnish is caused by sulfur gases in the air. Chalk absorbs the gases. (Source: Del Air Bulletin 3/06 via Rocky Tales 10/05 via Rock City Rock and Gems 7/04)

When buying a gold chain make sure that the karat mark appears on a part of the chain other than the clasp. If only the clasp is marked, the chain may be plated and not real gold. (Source: Del Air Bulletin 3/06 via Tumble Rumble 1/06 via The Palomar Gem)

Nothing less than 10k can be legally marked or sold as real gold in the United States. Some jewelry is processed with a layer of gold, which has been mechanically bonded to a base metal. These pieces must be designated as gold-filled or gold-plated. The gold layer is very thin and can soon wear through, exposing the base metal. Many people who think they have a gold allergy are actually allergic to the base metal. (Source: Del Air Bulletin 3/06 via Tumble Rumble 1/06 via The Palomar Gem)

Need two cabs of exactly the same size? Glue two slabs together with paper between them. Cut to size. Separate by soaking in water. (Source: Del Air Bulletin 3/06 via Rocky Tales 10/05 via Rockhound Rambling 12/04)

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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

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 __

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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SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE

SAPPHIRE

The September birthstone, Sapphire, is chemically and structurally the same as Ruby – both are varieties of the mineral “corundum.” Sapphires are well known among the general public as being blue, but can be nearly any color except shades of red or pink (since those are called rubies). The blue color is by far the most popular color for sapphire but orange-pink, golden, white, and even black have generated much interest in the gem trade. Tennis bracelets are available that contain a complete rainbow of sapphire gemstones. Oriented rutile crystal inclusions cause a six-pointed-starlight effect (called asterism) to form the popular Star Sapphire. Sapphires are well known from such places as Sri Lanka and India, and excellent specimens are also found in Tanzania and the Kola Peninsula of Russia. In addition, sapphires are found in many places throughout the world, including North Carolina, Brazil, and China. Sapphires are extremely durable (only diamond and moissanite are harder). Artificial sapphire crystals are used as the crystal face in genuine Rolex watches, and they are extremely scratch resistant.