

The Rock Slab News

AUGUST 2009 VOLUME 46 ISSUE 8

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

By Norbert Bernhardt

Hello Searchers!

I hope all of you are having a great summer! It has been quite warm here and out at our collecting sites. I am sure that we are all looking forward to the cooler weather so that we may go on field trips again!

The Searchers Picnic was held on Sunday, July 19, at Ralph B. Clark Regional Park. All those that attended had a great time. There was plenty of food and drinks for all on what was a very warm day. In all 22 members and 2 guests were present. My thanks go out to Beth Pelfrey, Kathy and Curtis Clark, and Steve Duncan for helping out with getting the food, drinks and ice to the park; and also a big thank you to my wife for her patience and support on some of my endeavors.

Congratulations to Herb Beckman our gem identification winner and also our runners up, Steve Duncan and Jimmy Peterson. Herb was able to identify 7 of the 12 rocks and minerals that were displayed. Some were quite hard to identify. You should have seen all the concentration and determination that these contestants had! Good job!

Congratulations to our picnic door prize winners! They went home with jade, a geode, a Condor agate slab donated by Jimmy, garnets and several other prizes. For those who were not able to attend, you missed a good time. I hope to see more members participating at next year's picnic.

I look forward to our next general meeting on August 11. There will be a fantastic program that Jim Peterson has arranged. Please read the 1st Vice President's article for more information.

P.S. My goal for the August meeting is for all members to bring a guest to the general meeting and introduce them to our wonderful hobby and club activities! You never know, your President may have some prizes for those that bring a guest. Be ready to introduce your guest at the beginning of the meeting.

See you!

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, Wed. after general meeting,
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: January 1, 2009

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:
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

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Rock'n Kids	Ana Lorenzo	714-734-9665

Sponsored by:
Anaheim Arts Council

AUGUST PROGRAM

by Jim Peterson

Our August program will be given by Santiago Canyon Professor Lothar Vallot. Professor Vallot's presentation will be on gem identification (rubies, emeralds, sapphires, etc.). How to tell if they are real or fake. Professor Vallot teaches the course in the gemology department at Santiago Canyon College. He will be glad to help anyone who is interested in taking the class.

ROCK'N KIDS NEWS

by Ana Lorenzo

Our picnic was fun! The winner of the gem identification was Lauren Benedict.

August 8th we will be having the second class to finish polishing the cabs that we started.

Our class will be at the workshop at 4pm.

We will also have a class on making a pearl pendant.

RSVP is requested so that I can buy the materials.

Please RSVP by August 2nd to:

Ana Lorenzo
714-734-9665

SUNSHINE REPORT

by Kathy Clark

Our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers go out to Ester Reynolds who lost her sister last month.

On a brighter note, I hope that all you Searchers out there are well and enjoying the summer. And don't forget our August general meeting is Tuesday, August 11. See you there.

Stay safe and well.

There are no Searcher field trips scheduled for August.

AUGUST EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
6,13,20,27	6-10pm	Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping)
1,8,15,22,29	3-7pm	Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing)
8	4pm	Rock'N Kids @ the Workshop to finish cabs
11	7pm	August General Meeting
12	7pm	Board Meeting @ Norbert's
Aug. 29—Sept. 7		CFMS New Mexico Field Trip (info on following pages)

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
3,10,17,24	6-10pm	Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping)
5,12,19,26	3-7pm	Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing)
8	7pm	September General Meeting

NO SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

18-20		Field Trip to Jalama Beach area, above Santa Barbara
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For a complete listing of Gem & Mineral Shows go to www.cfmsinc.org, www.rockngem.com and www.gemfaire.com. And don't forget the Route 66 Gold Miners at www.route66goldminers.org and the GPAA at www.goldprospectors.com.

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

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

Jalama Beach, September 18-20, 2009

by Steve Duncan

The September field trip will be led by Beth Pelfrey on September 19th and 20th to Jalama Beach area, above Santa Barbara. At Jalama Beach we will be collecting Agate, Jasper, Petrified Whale Bone, Travertine Onyx, and marine fossils. We collect Jalama Beach on Saturday, the 19th; Sunday, the 20th we will probably collect at a different location in the area still TBD. There is an \$8/vehicle fee at Jalama; we can carpool from camp to minimize cost.

At Jalama Beach you will need sunscreen, a hat, something to carry your finds in (backpack?), a rock pick and a spray bottle. We will not be returning to camp for lunch so bring a lunch and plenty to drink. There is a café at Jalama Beach.

Camping at Jalama is close to impossible, requiring either signing up to a list in the early AM and then returning in the afternoon to see if you have a site, or else reserving group sites 6 months in advance. So we will be camping at a city campground in Lompoc, about 20 miles from Jalama Beach. We understand it to be a nice campground, and the lady at the city is being very cooperative with us. There are fire pits and we should be able to have a campfire to compliment our Saturday night potluck dinner. There is a charge of \$5/night/vehicle at the campground. If you want a site with hookups it is \$10 a night. We need to reserve these sites before the trip so I need you to let me know if you plan to be there, whether you plan to be there Friday night, Saturday night, or both, and if you need hookups. Please email me at wsd@iteris.com to let me know if you will be camping with us (or call me at 714-724-7102). I will contact you again closer to the trip to ensure that you are still planning to go. We will need everyone who plans to attend to let me know by the end of August please.

There are motels in Lompoc for people who do not want to camp.

Trips will leave at 0900 on Saturday for Jalama Beach, and 0830 on Sunday.

Hopefully you can join us; the club used to collect regularly at Jalama Beach, but hasn't been there for a long time. We expect an interesting trip, and if it is very successful we may try to reserve a group campsite for next summer.

More details, including maps will be available in the September SLAB, as well as online closer to the trip.

MAY FIELD TRIP REPORT

by Steve Duncan

This trip report is late, and I'm working from what's left of my memory, so be gentle if I make any mistakes. The May trip was on May 9th and 10th to the Cadiz/Siam Siding area. There was a good turnout of 10 or more people each day, including some first timers. This is in spite of the fact that the temperature was well over 100.

MAY FIELD TRIP REPORT (continued)

This trip was one that again proved that with the knowledge, skills and experience that club members have (and are willing to share) that good collecting can be done where others might fail.

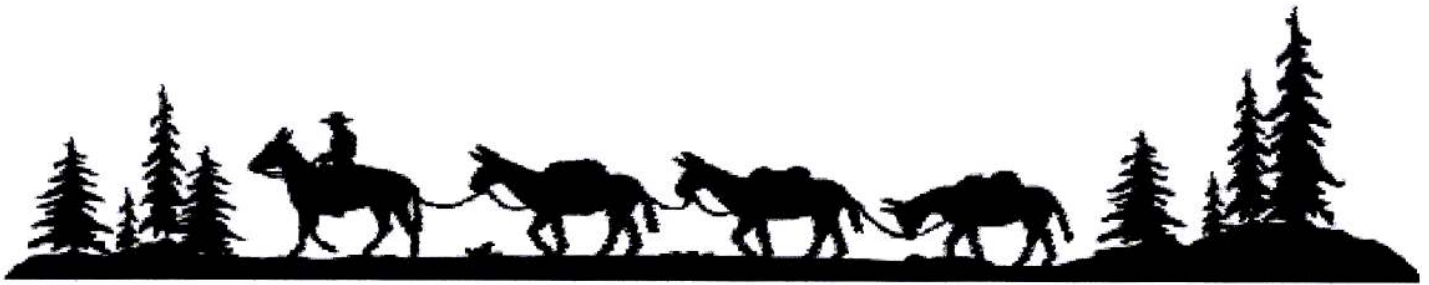
Case in point—trilobite collecting at Cadiz. Years ago (in my pre-Searcher days) this was one of the first locations that I ever tried to collect at. After being lost (or at least very confused) in the desert for quite a while (something that still occurs pretty regularly today) my wife and I finally found the right location. And we began to split shale just like the book told us to do. And after several hours of work we had one trilobite the size of a pencil eraser. Needless to say we were not that excited, and decided that the location had been played out. Our trip this time was led by Robert Burson, who had the Searcher knowledge necessary for success. He had us on the side of the hill, (only a few hundred yards from where I found nothing years before) pulling shale out of seams and everyone in the group finding trilobites. I saw an almost complete trilobite that was probably 5" across. I saw plates with multiple fossils on a single piece of shale. I saw several different types of trilobites, which we could identify from the handouts that Robert provided. To sum it up: this trip, aided with Searcher knowledge, was an excellent trip, where as my previous one on my own was pretty much a failure.

Case in point—Siam Siding chapenite collecting. A few years ago my wife and I and our friends Cary and Wei went out to Siam Siding to explore. After being lost for a while (as usual) we found the location. The site looked like the moon there were so many craters from previous diggings. Not having a good plan I just began extending an existing hole, and after digging for an hour or two, and finding nothing I finally found a piece of chapenite the size of a brick. And it was beautiful material, and cut and polished well. So I was excited to go back. On this trip we returned, and since I knew that last time I had found something by extending a hole, I again began to extend a hole. No luck. It looks like we don't know how to collect Siam Siding after all. Or maybe it is played out? So on Sunday we changed plans and went to Lavic Siding, and everyone found some nice jasper.

What about Searcher experience you ask? Well, as we were preparing to convoy to Lavic Siding Herb Beckman and Keith Droste arrived. And Herb was committed to going to Siam Siding, even though we told him our news. So they went to Siam Siding. And Herb took some Searcher knowledge with him in the form of a thin metal probe. And instead of digging big holes in the hot sun, he probed. And in the course of a couple of hours found about 5 pieces of chapenite. This is more than a half dozen of us had found in two different afternoons of hard labor. Searcher knowledge.

We are planning a winter return trip to Cadiz for more trilobites and chapenite. Because these are good collecting sites. And we have Searcher Knowledge.

The following 2 pages contain information about the CFMS field trip to Apache Creek, New Mexico.



We're head'en to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009"

The "Chaparral Rockhounds" of Roswell, NM, would like to cordially invite all Rockhounds of all ages to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009", our annual ten-day, nine-night fieldtrip campout through the Labor Day weekend held at Apache Creek, New Mexico, from August 29th to September 7th, 2009. This is an "Inter-Federation Campout & Fieldtrip Event" for the whole family with the Rocky Mountain, California and the South Central Federations (and all other Federation who wish to attend).

We have very adventurous and interesting fieldtrips every day from 50 to 200 miles roundtrip from our base camp. Each day we leave at 8:30 AM with a picnic lunch to different areas in the region to collect a very wide variety of rocks, minerals and/or crystals that can include: Agate, Banded Agate, Blood Stone, Chalcedony, Crystalline, Flat Band Agate, Geodes, Golden Luna Agate, Hematite, Jasper, Lava's, Luna Blue Agate, Obsidian, Plume Agate, Quartz Crystals, Red Luna Agate, Snowflake Agate and Thunder Eggs just to name only a few. A couple of our fieldtrips might be into the eastern portion Arizona along the state line. Several of the areas that we travel into, one will need a high-clearance or 4WD type vehicle. If you do not have this type of vehicle, don't worry, someone would be happy to carpool with a little "\$\$\$\$" help for gas.

The very small town of Apache Creek is located in the central-western part of the state about 117 miles west of Socorro, NM, on NM-12 southwest of the small town of Datil, NM. Apache Creek campground, used as our base camp, was once a CCC Camp back in the 1930's. It is a beautiful and tranquil camping area with tall majestic pine trees towering over the entire camp area for plenty of cool shade during the warm days of August. The area is large and spacious enough for the largest of RV's to the smallest of pup tents and everything in between. Being a rustic camp area, there are no facilities, water or electricity, just one coed chemical toilet, so you must come prepared. There is no cost or camping fees at Apache Creek campground. The town of Apache Creek has one main structure in town, a small country store where one can buy the "very basics" and is where we get our spring water and take showers. The small town of Reserve is eleven miles to the southwest and has a grocery store, bank/ATM, garage/gas station and a small motel for anyone who does not want to campout. The majority of the time, Mother Nature cooperates. The weather in August has warm days in the upper 70's to 80's and cool nights in the 50's with some possible 40's and even 30's. Occasionally, late summer thundershowers may wonder through the area to put a damper on things, so come prepared for the unexpected. The elevation of our base camp is about 6400 feet with day outings that can be up to 8500 to 9000 feet.

Every afternoon about 4:30 or 5:00 PM after a day of collecting, most of the rockhounds get together and have a happy hour to socialize and talk about the day's findings. Then everyone has supper on their own around 6:00 PM. Afterwards, we sit around the campfire and tell TALL stories of old mining, prospecting and Rockhounding glory days. The nighttime skies at Apache Creek are breathtaking. With no light pollution, one can see millions of stars. So, if you have a good pair of binoculars or a telescope, be sure to bring them too for some spectacular stargazing. On both Saturday afternoons after returning from our outing, we all get together for our traditional "Apache Creek Group Photo" at 5:30 PM. Afterwards, we all get ready for our traditional potluck supper at 6:00 PM. Everyone makes their favorite camp dish and we share them while telling more stories around the campfire. On each Sunday morning at 8:00 AM, we will have a Rollin' Rock Club meeting if we have enough folks interested.

Rockhounds that show up can camp-out anywhere from a couple of nights to the entire campout. Some just come for the last weekend to visit and see old friends. Some Rockhounds camp out for over two weeks. Everyone that comes always has a great time with all the camaraderie and collecting, and everyone **ALWAYS** goes home several pounds heavier. Each year, it only gets better. We really hope that your club members can join us this year to make some new friends and really have some good

old "Rockhounding Fun and Adventure." For the last 10 years, we have averaged about 40 Rockhounds that have attended the campout from at least half a dozen states. Just the right size for a Rockhound get together. And folks, if you have any good unique swapping/trading material from your area, be sure to bring it. And in addition, if you have a CB Radio, be sure to bring it along. We use CB Channel 7 on all our fieldtrips. When you arrive at the campground, just look for the "White Framed Canopy", that's our HQ.

Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend are open days. For those not interested in going out rock collecting, there are several other things to see and do in the area:

New Mexico Bureau of Mines Mineral Museum is located in Socorro, NM on the campus of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines. The museum is one of the "Top Five Mineral Museums" in all of North America and well worth the trip.

Very Large Array (VLA) Radio Astronomy Telescope is where the movie "Contact" with Jodie Foster was filmed. If you are interested in Astronomy, you defiantly want to check this place out. They have a very interesting, informative and education Visitors Center.

Apache Creek South Mesa has some unique 600-year-old Petroglyphs located on the south side of the mesa. The site is only a two-mile roundtrip hike from the campground.

Catron County Fair in Reserve, NM is the place to be on the first weekend of the campout. On 25 August, the town will be having their County Fair with a Livestock Show, Arts & Crafts and a Rodeo.

Catron County Rock Show during the Labor Day weekend will be at the Reserve Fair Grounds. The local rock club will be having their Rock Show with an Open-Tailgate Rock Swap on Saturday. Bring your Rocks to buy, sale or trade.

Mogollon, NM is an old historic and famous ghost town in the Mogollon Mountains, Gila National Forest. There are Antique Shops, a very interesting Mining Museum, the "Mogollon Rock Shop", the Old Theater and have lunch in the Old Town Café.

The Catwalk is a very beautiful, tranquil and scenic canyon for hiking. Therefore, if you love hiking, the Catwalk is for you. In addition, there are numerous places to go hiking throughout the Gila and Apache National Forests.

Silver City Gem and Mineral Show in Silver City, NM. The local club will be having their 24th annual 3-day show during the Labor Day weekend. It is only a two-hour drive south and the very beautiful and scenic landscape will make the trip a memorable one.

Lodging: For those folks who do not wish to camp out, or need electricity and water for their RV, there are the following alternatives. Be sure to make any reservations as early as possible due to Bow Hunting season for Elk, which starts on Monday the 1st. The rooms and RV spaces fill up fast.

The Bunk House Bed & Breakfast in Apache Creek is 505-533-6949.

Apache Creek RV located in nearby Cruzville is 505-533-6166. They have a Dump Station, Laundry, Propane & Showers.

Rode Inn Motel on Main Street in Reserve is 505-533-6661. They have Cable TV, Direct Dial Phones, Queen Beds and a Laundromat.

Dining: For those folks who wish to have a change of diet from camp food, there are the following alternatives.

BBQ Restaurant in Reserve

Ella's Café in Reserve

Little Adobe Café in Rancho Grande

The host for AGATE RENDEZVOUS is the Chaparral Rockhounds and is co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Rockhounds. If you are planning on coming to AGATE RENDEZVOUS, please try to RSVP NLT the 24th of August. For any additional information about the Rendezvous, please contact Yonis Lone Eagle, RMFMS Vice President at 505-860-2455 or via e-mail at: rockymountainrockhounds at yahoo dot com. All rockhounds that attend will abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies "Code of Conduct".

MOROKS Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter JULY 2009

Those Impossible Dinosaur Names

By: Chris Ward

C	I	O	I	A	O	U	U	S	C	A	I	O	S	V	U	L	C	A	N	O	D	O	N	T	O	ALLOSAURUS	
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N	O	D	O	N	A	U	G	I	U	I	N	L	K	E	S	T	Y	T	E	Y	A	R	O	S	A	S	CORYTHOSAURUS
A	C	U	A	R	A	H	S	A	O	I	E	U	I	E	L	P	G	A	E	R	A	R	A	L	P		DIPLODOCUS
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S	O	N	T	S	R	S	R	S	B	S	A	X	R	D	P	E	N	R	I	O	E	S	R	H	U	A	ORNITHOMIMUS
R	G	A	L	L	I	M	I	M	U	S	A	A	R	U	E	R	E	C	T	O	P	U	S	I	O	O	PACHYCEPHALOSAURUS
A	B	U	U	S	T	G	A	E	L	J	S	Q	D	A	S	U	X	R	S	R	U	D	R	A	U	U	QUAESITOSAURUS

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(760) 257-3843
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The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 3492 Anaheim, California 92803

www.searchersrocks.org**Membership Application****PLEASE PRINT**

Date _____

Name (1): _____

Name (2) _____

Jr. Member (1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone # _____ Occupation _____

Please indicate your field of interest by checking any/all of the following:

Mineralogy () Geology () Paleontology () Lapidary/Workshops () Field Trips ()

Other () _____

How did you become aware of the Searchers? Friend/Relative () Member () Internet ()

Other () _____

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization and we rely upon volunteers within our club to serve on our committees as well as our board members. This field is optional and only serves as future information. Making a checkmark in any area in no way obligates you to volunteer or serve in any of the positions or on any of its committees.

Please mark any/all fields you may be interested in, or have a special expertise in:

Anaheim Arts Council () Club Historian () Librarian () Webmaster ()

Phone Comm. () Membership Chairman () Monthly Drawings ()

Newsletter Editor () Sunshine () Hospitality () Annual Show ()

Veteran's Workshop () Silent Auction () Rock'N'Kids () Workshop ()

Annual Dues: Individual: \$25 Couple: \$35 Junior Members (17 & under) : \$10Valid Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, not prorated. *Subject to change.***Please make Check payable to: "The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc."**

**mail to: Glenn Benedict
Membership Chairman
1202 Skyline Drive
North Tustin, CA 92705**

The Rock Slab News

Volume 46 ISSUE 2

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AUGUST BIRTHSTONE —Peridot

Peridot is a green gemstone that ranges in color from light yellow-green to the intense bright green of new spring grass to olive. The best-colored peridot has an iron percentage of less than 15% and includes nickel and chromium as trace elements. Peridot has been mined as a gemstone for an estimated four thousand years. The best quality peridot has historically come either from Myanmar (Burma) or Egypt but in 1994 a new deposit of peridot was discovered in Pakistan which produces some of the finest stones, but most of the world production of peridot comes from Peridot Mesa on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona where there is an abundant source of lesser quality material. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., houses the largest cut peridot, a 310 carat gem. Folklore says that peridot brought power and influence to its owner.



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