

The Rock Slab News

Volume 47 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2010



FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE Amethyst



Bolivian 300 lb. Amethyst

Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. It has

been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewelry. Today, while Brazil is the primary source of this gemstone, fine material can be found elsewhere, especially in Zambia.

Quartz (Amethyst) is a low pressure/temperature polymorph of SiO₂. At high temperatures, quartz exists in the beta form, with hexagonal symmetry. At lower temperatures there is a displacive phase transition to a distorted structure with trigonal symmetry (alpha form).

FEBRUARY 2010 CALENDAR

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

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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 Norbert Bernhardt

Hello Searchers!

Welcome members and new members to another year of great activities with the Searchers!

I know that in the coming year Keith has some really good programs planned and our club now has a new addition to help with those great programs, a new Digital Projector with DVD. This will make the quality of our viewing so much better.

A few of our Searchers have gone to Quartzsite, AZ for the annual QIA Pow Wow, Desert Gardens and Tyson Wells events. Rock hound paradise for all! If you have never been there, ask a member and go next year! Lot's of fun! Several of our members are also going to the 2010 Tuscon Show in early February. Please give us a report when you get back so our new members will know what these events are all about.

Please encourage your friends, neighbors and kids to participate in our activities. This month, at the general meeting, Tuesday, February 9th, 2010, I will have printed business cards. The Searcher's information will be printed on the cards and there will be a place to print your name and phone number. This way when you meet interested future rock-hounds you can hand them your card!

Just a friendly reminder, please remember that dues are due by March 1, 2010. The sooner that you pay your membership dues, the sooner we can have an updated roster. Please send your dues to Glenn Benedict or to the Searcher's PO Box.

See you soon!

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 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).
- 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
Director	Keith Droste	714-563-4754
Secretary	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	714-829-4737
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900

Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Yery Camacho	714/952-5804
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Library		
Membership	Glenn Benedict	714-573-1424
Monthly Drawing	Skip & Connie Cone	714/827-8675
2010 Show Chairman	Robert Burson	562-860-5938
Show Co-Chair	Beth Pelfrey	714-774-2754
Sunshine		
Veterans' Coordinator	Larry Richey	714-846-3573
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
February 20, 21	Jimmy Paterson	the Marble Mountains for garnets, epidote, etc, and Siam Siding for Chapeinite	Confirmed
Mar TBD 2010	Robert Burson	North Cadys, Basin Road	Details TBD
April TBD	Beth Pelfry	Ozena (?) agate and jasper. This will be a one day trip	Details TBD
May TBD			Details TBD

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

UPCOMING CFMS GEM SHOWS

February 12 - 21 Indio, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society
 Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
 Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg. #1, 46-350 Arabia Street
 Hours 10am - 10pm daily
 Bert Grisham (951) 849-1674 bert67@verizon.net

February 26 - 27 Northridge, CA

Del Air Rockhounds Club
 United Methodist Church, 9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)
 Hours Fri. 3pm - 9:30pm, Sat. 10-5

March 6 - 7 Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
 LA Co. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 301 Bladwin Ave.
 Hours: Sat. and Sun. 9 - 4:30

March 6 - 7 Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
 Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
 Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4

March 12 - 14 Victorville, CA

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society
 Stoddard Wells Tailgate, Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit I-15
 Hours: 8 - 5, daily

March 13 - 14 San Marino, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 5

March 20 -21 Bakersfield, CA

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society
Kern County Shrine Club, 700 South P Street (P & Bell Terrace)
Hours: 9 - 5 daily

March 20 -21 Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Ave.
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 9 - 4

May 1 - 2 Anaheim, CA

**THE SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
BROOKHURST COMMUNITY CENTER
2271 W. CRESCENT AVE., ANAHEIM, CA
HOURS: SAT. 10 - 5, SUN 10 - 4:30**

May 15 - 16 Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Rd.
Hours: Sat. 9 -5, Sun. 10 -4

Jun 4 -6 Woodland Hills, CA

Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society
Pierce College, 6201 Winnetka Ave. Woodland Hills
Hours: 9 - 5

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

By Keith Droste, VP#1

Our February speaker for our general meeting will be: Dick Flaharty. His subject will be rock hounding in the "Southeast Corner of Oregon." Dick is one of our fine CFMS speakers and should be able to answer all of your questions for the next extended field trip that Searchers takes to this area.

JANUARY FIEL TRIP REPORT

Sandy Wash, CA

by Steve Duncan

You know what they say about the best laid plans of mice and men...Norbert (the field trip leader for this trip) scouted Sandy wash a couple of weeks before the trip, and everything was good. When he went up on the day before the trip he found that the BLM had closed the canyon for restoration! Would this stop the Searchers? No way! It did however add about a mile and a half hike to the beginning and end of each day of collecting.



We did get a good turn out (again) for the trip. We have been getting good turn outs recently. We had Searchers on their first trip. We had possible Searchers-to-be on an exploratory trip (they have since become members), and we even had some visitors from San Diego who had found us on the web. And one of the best things: we had 5 kids.

Collecting (after the hike) was good for agate and jasper, although most of it required quite a bit of work to remove from the host rock. But for the surface collectors there was more agate, and druzi. Some of the druzi was colored, with a piece of blue druzi with perfect clean crystals being the trophy (Norbert's). There was also calcite crystals mixed in. So everyone had successful hunts, our thanks to Norbert for leading a good trip.

FEBRUARY 20 AND 21, 2010 FIELD TRIP

Marble Mountains and Siam Siding

by Jimmy Paterson

The February 20-21st field trip will be to the Marble Mts. for Garnets[not large ones] green Epidote, Hematite and calcite crystals. Saturday after noon we can look for Trilobites near where we camp. The

Sunday trip will be to the Siam Siding area for Chapenite. Herb can show us his technique for probing the sand for Chapenite.

To get to the campsite take I-15 to Barstow and then I-40 to Ludlow. At Ludlow take the National Trails Highway (old Highway 66) to Chambless, 10.5 miles past Amboy. Turn Right on Cadiz Rd. and go approx. 2.5 miles to the railroad crossing. DO NOT cross the railroad but turn left on the dirt road and go approx. 1/2 mile to the campsite. There will be Searcher signs to help you.

It will be a dry camp so bring plenty of water. There will be a pot luck on Saturday night. Bring your favorite dish and wood for the camp fire if you can.

Tools needed are rock hammer, rock pick, small sledge and chisel. For the Trilobites a rock hammer and sharp chisel or old knife for splitting the shale rocks. For the Chapenite, a 4 foot long 1/4 to 3/8 inch metal rod with a handle on one end or a clam rake if available. Also a long handled shovel may be helpful.

Hope to see you all there.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CLAIRE J. GAGNON (CEE JAY)

December 25, 1921 - December 22, 2009



Friends

*The endless chain of time goes ever on,
A host of happy memories unfurled.
With friendliness, a worthy cloak to don,
And strive to propagate throughout the world.
Each hour of the day in passing by,
Serving to link the world closer to me.
Cannot be sent along its way to die,
Until another friendly hand, I see.
"Would be a worthless life dead, I ken,
Within this narrow span of wordly woe
To search for happiness without a friend
Among the joys and tears of life, and so
Along this chain of hours allotted me,
To count my friends, shall be my rosary.*

A sonnet by Cee Jay

GEORGE LUX BYRON MEMORIAL

3/17/1931-12/20/2009

by Beth Pelfrey

Hello, friends,

Those of you who didn't know George really missed a full, hard-living personality! George was a very active Searcher for many years. He led committees and field trips, such as Piedras Blancas area along with Alice and their sweet dog, Scrammy, organized a fun Memorial Day dinner in Beaver, Utah, and kept up lively discourse so we would not become complacent in our club participation.

I appreciated George since, as busy as he was with his Bentleys and other wonderful classic autos, he always found time to be an active club member who participated in the annual show and regular meeting with enthusiasm. It has been a number of years since George and Alice were members as George's health prevented a more vibrant life. I do know that he will be missed terribly by all of us who knew him. I will always mourn the loss of individuals who stepped out from the crowd and encouraged us to achieve more and have fun doing it.

Survived by: Alice, son Karl, 4 grandchildren, one great grandson

DONATIONS FOR THE SHOW

OK folks, I am sure you have been wondering what you can do for the club. Here is your chance. As you all know we will be having our show the first weekend of May. As part of the show we will be running a silent auction, and we need material for it. Many of us have acquired lots of good material over the years; look through your pile and see what nice stuff you have that you could donate for the silent auction. Please, this should be nice stuff, things that you would be willing to buy yourself. Although I am not sure I recommend that you do what I have been known to do; which is decide at the auction that the piece is really too nice to loose and buying it yourself.

Anyhow, the silent auction is being run by Jimmy Peterson and Steve Duncan (and Robert Burson is always involved). Please give your donations to any of us, we really need them well before the auction, as we need to clean and label each piece, some we will window to show it off properly. You can bring material to the meetings and give it to us. If you go on field trips you can also fins us on field trips too. If you have too much material to haul around call me, and I will arrange to come pick it up. We depend on donations from the club to make the silent auction a success, traditionally our silent auction is one of the best ones around.

We need all types of material, rough, slabs, preforms, cabs, etc. We can also use finished pieces of jewelry, but this is best used for the door prizes. Susan Alsky is running the door prizes, so you can give your finished pieces and other pretty things to her.

Thanx for helping out the club.

SHOW SECURITY CASES

First, be sure to let Margaret Neeley know you will be putting in a case. We welcome first-timers enthusiastically. It's fun to put in a case!

Next, and so important, you will be able to set up your case from 1:00 on Friday. Once your case is set up, it will be securely locked during all hours of the show. No one will be permitted to access his/her case during the public hours of the show.

On Sunday, the show closes at 4:30 PM. Everyone with the exception of dealers, who will remain inside their booth, will be required to exit the building so a security sweep can be made. This should take only a few minutes as long as we all work together. Then you will be able to re-enter the building and take down/pack your case.

If you have questions, observations or any issue, please let the Security Committee Chair, Show Chair, Robert Burson, or Co-Chair, Beth Pelfrey know so we can address it. Thank you for your cooperation. Let's make this a fantastic problem-free show!

Show Chair, *Robert Burson*

SHOW SECURITY SEARCHER NAME BADGES

Remember you must wear your club name badge to the show this year as every year the entire time you are at the show. If you do not a badge or cannot find yours, please contact Glen Benedict, Membership Chair. Your name and \$5.00 will make you legal.

Sunday when the show closes everyone will be required to leave the show exhibit room to insure that only those involved in the show breakdown activities will be allowed back into the exhibit room.

This should take 5 to 10 minutes with all of us working together. After the room has been cleared of all unauthorized persons or left over guests, those wearing Searchers name badges and dealers will be allowed back in to take it all down.

Anyone who is not a club member who will be helping with the show breakdown in any way will need to have an identification badge issued by the designated security team member. This includes friends, relatives, casual labor and even pets.

Either I or a designated security team member will issue the correct badge or pass during set-up on Friday, show hours on Saturday or early on Sunday.

This is done to protect your valuable case contents as well as the dealers' stock. Everyone must comply. Thanks for your cooperation.

2010 Show Co-Chair, *Beth Pelfrey*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Glenn Benedict

We truly ended the year with a bang! We've also started 2010 off right, with quite a few new members. Please welcome the newest additions to the Searchers family:

Doyle Adams
Elaine Baker
Jeremy Black
Lea Black
Kaleb Black
Alden Black
Aida Camacho

Diana Ertel
Mark Fowler
Patricia Chicoine-Fowler
Kristina Grayson
Jesse Grayson
Eva Limon
Steve Pottberg

Stephanie Pottberg
Carol Schott
Bob Smith
Paul Smith
Mark Sumrow
Terry Turrentine

*Don't forget your 2010 membership dues! You're welcome to see me at the next meeting OR mail your dues to me at:

Glenn Benedict
Membership Chairman
1202 SE Skyline Drive
North Tustin, CA 92705

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Happy Valentine's Day, February 14



Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Recommended Basic First Aid Kit

by Joe and Marcia Goetz

article from The Rockhounds, February 2010

A general first aid kit should contain the following:

- Ace bandage _____ 2" and 4"
- Aspirin _____ a reasonable quantity
- Ice bag _____ chemical type
- Adhesive compresses (band-aids) _____ assortment of sizes
- Ammonia inhalant ampoules _____ several
- Antiseptic _____ Merthiolate, Metaphen (cinder suds), or shaving cream
- Baking soda _____ small container or 1/2 tsp. env.
- Cotton _____ (sterile) 1/2 oz.
- Quarters _____ four
- Flashlights _____ with extra batteries
- Flares _____ several taped to kit or reflectors
- Vaseline _____ small tube
- Salt _____ small container or 1/2 tsp. env.
- Sterile compresses _____ 2", 3", and 4" widths (may include 1" for digits)
- Tape _____ adhesive, 1/2"
- Emergency telephone numbers
- Specialized items
- First aid manual
- Tape scissors
- Antihistamine & sting killer