

The Rock Slab News

OCTOBER 2006 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 10

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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

Hello Once Again Fellow Searchers!

Here we are in the month of September already, and although it does not seem possible, October is only a week away. In actuality, by the time you read this message it will most likely be here! The year seems to have flown right by. Somebody should have told me not to blink . . . did I miss much?

I sincerely hope this message gets out to all of you who have not been making it to the general meetings much this year, because October's meeting is one I hope you'll not want to miss. I have been telling many of you for some time now that we are planning to have an auction soon. Well, the time is here, and should prove to be a fun time for all even if you don't purchase anything. We have quite a few lapidary machines to be auctioned off to our members which include saws, tumblers, polishers, grinders, a sphere machine, kilns, a Cintrifico casting machine, flat lap, vibratory laps, etc. These items will be available in the live auction, with Virgil Talbott as your Worthy Auctioneer. In addition, we will be hosting a Silent Auction as well, where you will find mineral samples, various rough material, jewelry findings, belt buckles, clock kits, and who knows what else. I'm sure we will have some kind of refreshments available, however, if you happen to think about it on your way in, feel free to bring along some cookies or cake (or whatever suits your fancy) to add to the hospitality table. As you all know we have been without a hospitality chairman all year, and those of us who have been filling in will be far too busy with preparing for the auction to deal with hospitality as well. So please join in, give use a hand, and let's have some fun.

With that, I will bid you adieu, and hope to see many of you soon!

Clarke

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:** 6 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
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:
Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark
18661 Silver Maple Way
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144
- Charter Date:** June 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)	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Karen Fox	714/832-3580
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Treasurer	Patricia Underwood	562/864-4195
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		
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		
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
Rock 'n' Kids	OPEN	

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 10 7-9 pm General Meeting
- 18 7-9 pm Show Meeting Anaheim
Downtown Center
- 25 6 pm Board Meeting
- 25 7 pm By-Laws/Standing Rules
Review Committee Meeting
- 28-29 Sperry Wash/Baker Field
Trip

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
October 23, 24	Sperry Wash/Baker	Robert & Sharon Burson	Petrified organic material	Planned
November 11 & 12,	Cady Mountains	Norbert Bernhardt	Agates, jaspers, chalcedony and calcite crystals	Planned

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP

November 11 & 12, 2006
By Norbert Bernhardt

Our up-coming field trip will be November 11 and 12, 2006. The trip will be to the Cady Mountains off of Sleeping Beauty Road. We will be in search of agates, jaspers, chalcedony and calcite crystals. I will scout the area in late October and also establish a camping area. This area has a lot to offer and has many locations to go to. More information available at the end of October by email nbern@cox.net or please call me at 714-904-2181 for directions or a map.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

SPERRY WASH/BAKER
October 28 & 29, 2006
By Robert & Sharon Burson

Approximate distance from Anaheim area is 170 miles. Travel time approximately 3 hours. We rally in Baker at the Denny's parking lot at 9:00 AM. We will wait until 9:30 for all to show up. At 9:30 AM we leave on Hwy. 126 north bound. This is the south entrance to Death Valley. We will turn on the Hwy. to Tecopa Hot Springs. We will head east to the Talc Mine Road.

Sperry Wash is an incredible outside museum. It contains a tremendous quantity of petrified organic materials: petrified woods, palm, cycad, and a variety of roots and twigs. This was riparian environment, probably a glaciated-fed swamp. The thickness of the materials are in some places ten feet thick. Colors of material are gray, orange, red, and pink. Just down the road is the south entrance to Death Valley centered around Tecopa Hot Springs, which gives us the opportunity to take a warm mineral bath. This might be a consideration if the majority wishes. To the south end our collecting area is the Amargosa River. There are pools that are inviting and deep enough for a few hearty individuals. Of course you will have to share tadpoles and pupfish, but this can be very delightful on a warm day. The road in to the south end of Sperry Wash is challenging as well as scenic. It is hard to imagine that this was once a paved road in the '30s. Ruins of mining operations and camping during the depression are the remnants of the manmade sites. Those looking for gold and silver settled for borates, talc and gypsum.

This is an environmentally sensitive area. No driving is permitted off the road because of its Wilderness status.

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Walking is required. I suggest you wear good walking shoes, and bring a backpack with the necessary provisions: rock pick, spray bottle, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, snacks and plenty of water. There are no restroom facilities in this area. This area is a badland topography. This area resembles many areas of the southwest where petrified wood is found.

For those who wish to stay overnight there is dry camping at the base of the canyon at Dumont Sand Dunes. Take Dumont Sand Dunes Road/Amargosa River off of Hwy. 127 north of Baker. Go about 2 miles and look for the Searchers signs. The Dumont Sand Dunes are not only fairly spectacular, but they are composed of white gypsum which makes this a rare feature. I hope that you will find this a fascinating area. It truly has the characteristics of a great field trip. Other locations for collecting are Tecopa Hot Springs for fire opal reeds (somewhat rare but well worth it), Kingston Mountain for amethyst, and Halloran Springs for turquoise.

A few motels in the area are as follows:

Bun Boy Motel
72130 Baker Blvd.
Baker, CA
760-733-4363

Holiday Inn Express
430 Main Street
Baker, CA
Hotel front desk 1-225-771-1123

Arne's Royal Hawaiian Hotel
200 W. Baker Blvd.
Baker, CA
760-733-4326

Will's Fargo Motel
72252 Baker Blvd.
Baker, CAA
760-733-4477

If you need additional information feel free to call Robert and Sharon Burson at 562-860-5938.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Our October general meeting will be a live auction with Virgil Talbott as presiding Auctioneer and a Silent Auction. The live auction will include several lapidary machines: saws, tumblers, polishers, grinders, a sphere machine, kilns a Cintrifico casting machine, flat lap, vibratory laps, etc. The Silent Auction will include mineral samples, various rough material, jewelry findings, belt buckles, clock kits, etc. Please refer to the President's Message by Clarke Benich.

Bring some goodies to eat, and have fun participating in these auctions. Maybe you will go home with something to add to your lapidary workshop!

LAST MONTH'S ROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

September's program was a very nice slide presentation and showing of specimens of the types of opal and areas to dig for them in the Virgin Valley of Nevada. Our guest speakers were Bill and Isabella Burns.

In 1909 a range rover (not the SUV) discovered opals along the Oregon/Nevada border near the small town of Denial, Oregon, which eventually became Denial, Nevada, in the Virgin Valley. Virgin Valley is a beautiful area up on a plateau in the Sheldon Antelope Range.

There are two family owned mines: the Royal Peacock Mine owned by the Wilson Family and the Virgin Valley Mine owned by Keith Hudson. Fees are required. Camping and hot showers are available at the Royal Peacock. There is also the Bonanza Mine which used to be owned by the Hudsons and shares were sold to work it, but now it is open to the public.

Unlike Australian opal which can be cut and polished with no problem, the Virgin Valley opal has the highest water content of any opal in the world and is therefore unstable and used mostly for display purposes in water or oil. You need buckets of water to place the opal in immediately after digging up, otherwise it will dry and crack

SHOW MEETING

By Betty Nelson

The next Show Meeting will be Wednesday, October 18, 2006, from 7 to 9 PM at the Anaheim Downtown Community Center.

As you all know the Shows are extremely important to the future and wellbeing of the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society. Please attend. The Show meeting is open to all members. We need input and help from EVERYONE.

If you can't make it to the meeting and you have ideas and/or you want to volunteer please contact Show Chairman Betty Nelson at betty@azteche.com or 714-530-1365 or Show Co-Chairman Kathy Clark at hanky1panky3@yahoo.com or 714-639-9927.

For a list of CFMS Gem Shows, please go to www.cfmsinc.org

SUNSHINE REPORT

By Kathy Clark



Some good news! Geri Frank is doing wonderfully. And what a surprise it was when Grant Miller walked in at the September meeting. He'd just had gallbladder surgery a few days before! You two are AWESOME!!!

If you know of any of our Searchers who need cheering up, please contact Kathy Clark at 714-639-9927 or hanky1panky3@yahoo.com or Carlene Blake our Sunshine Chairman at 714-549-0099 or cblake@promogiant.com.

If you know of any of our Searchers who need cheering up, please contact Kathy Clark at 714-639-9927 or hanky1panky3@yahoo.com or Carlene Blake our Sunshine Chairman at 714-549-0099 or cblake@promogiant.com.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Kathy Clark

Yes, it's that time of year again. Oh, no!!! Jimmy Peterson, Ester Reynolds and Kathy Clark make up the nominating committee this year. For 2007 the Searchers need a President, 1st Vice President (Programs), Secretary, and Treasurer. All of these jobs have certain specific requirements which are in writing, and the previous officers will be there to guide as will the entire board. Everything is pretty well organized and cut and dried so you don't have to be a trailblazer. Please take a moment and consider taking one of these positions. It's only for a year with a general meeting and a board meeting every month. These jobs need to be done well, but it's not brain surgery. Believe me, it can be a lot of fun and a big distraction from the pains of everyday normal life.

I shall be contacting and asking you to be nominated. But remember: Don't take yourself so seriously and lighten up and have a good time with the Searchers.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
8	9	10 7-9 pm General Meeting	11	12 6-10PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	13	14 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
15	16	17	18 7-9 pm Show Meeting Anaheim Downtown Center	19 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	20	21 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
22	23	24	25 6-7 PM Board Meeting 7 PM By-Laws/ Standing Meeting	26 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	27	28 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing Sperry/Baker Field Trip
29 Sperry/Baker Field Trip	30	31				

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please welcome the newest members of the Searcher's family:

New Members

Elizabeth Madsen & Brian Kussman
P. O. Box 2125
Anaheim, CA 92814
714-381-7094
gemsetcetera@aol.com

John O'Connor
1292 Veeh Drive
Tustin, CA 92780
714-553-3306
jocconnor@kfmengineering.com

Changes of Address

Frank & Cheri Gray
215 S. Prospect No. A9
Tustin, Ca 92780
714-642-6854
fracher@sbcglobal.net

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 _____

2006 dues are valid January 1 through January 31.

- 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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TRADITIONAL OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE

AQUAMARINE

Aquamarine is found mainly in Brazil and is related to Emerald in the family of gemstones known as Beryls. It occurs in a variety of colors from light sky-blue to deep sea-blue. Aquamarine represents Courage, Creativity, and Tolerance. In ancient times it was thought to aid seafarers and was the stone of sea-goddesses and sirens. Beads of aquamarine are found in ancient Egyptian mummy tombs where they were used as a tribute to pay for passage through the netherworld. Aquamarine is said to assure love affection, youth, and health to the wearer. To dream of an aquamarine is said to signify the making of new friends. It is the universal symbol of Hope, Youth, and Health.

