

September 2012 - Volume 48 Issue 9

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September is here and the summer is coming to an end. Hopefully this heat wave will be over soon and we'll see the lovely signs of fall with the cooler weather. I hope you all enjoyed the Annual Picnic this year! Unfortunately Ira and I were unable to make it, but word has it a great deal of members attended and a fabulous time was had by all! Thank you again to our wonderful hosts, the McGoughs for opening up their home to the club for this years gathering! We also had a little disappointment that we had to cancel the Burro Creek field-trip, but with the temps were they were it was the wise decision to make. We'll be rescheduling it in the upcoming months, so keep a look out in the slab and on line for date announcements. We also have the Buffington Pockets field-trip coming in October. More information on that is available on line as well as here in the slab.

Have a great September everyone!

Tery-Lynn Wheeler

SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE

Sapphire

Sapphire, the September birthstone, has been popular since the Middle Ages and, according to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm. Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colors are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue. Sapphire is a variety of the gem species corundum and occurs in all colors of the rainbow. Pink, purple, green, orange, or yellow corundum are known by their color (pink sapphire, green sapphire). Ruby is the red variety of corundum.

Sapphire (Greek: *σαφειρος*; *sappheiros*, "blue stone") is a gemstone variety of the mineral corundum, an aluminium oxide ($\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$). Trace amounts of other elements such as iron, titanium, chromium, copper or magnesium can give corundum blue, yellow, pink, purple, orange or greenish color. Chromium impurities in corundum yield a red tint, and the resultant gemstone is called a ruby.



21.09 carats of Burmese midnight-blue mystery. This stone, an example of Mogok's finest product, was offered in the late 1980s in Bangkok for \$10,000/ct wholesale

GENERAL INFORMATION

General Meetings: 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
Board Meetings: 7PM, 3rd 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
Membership Dues: Individual- \$25, Couples- \$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
Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council
Web Site: www.searchersrocks.org

FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIPS 2012			
Date	Leader	Location & Material	Status
November TBD		Buffington Pockets in Nevada	planned

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.comwww.southsunproducts.comwww.pioneergem.comwww.route66goldminers.orgwww.auctionmasters.com**CLUB MEETING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2012**

Date	Presenter	Subject
November 13	Cabinet member elections and pie party	Cabinet member elections and pie party
December 1	Christmas/End of Year Banquet	Marie Calendars, 6pm

UPCOMING 2012 CFMS GEM SHOWS**September 15 - 16: BORON, CA**

Mojave Mineralogical Society
 Boron Community Park & Building
 27177 – 20 Mule Team Road
 Hours: 8 – 4 daily
 Contacts: Steve Breckenridge (760)
 559-0872, Rock5b@starband.net
 David Eyre, (760) 762-6861,
david_eyre@mail.com

September 15 - 16: PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds
 Pioneer Park & Museum
 2010 Riverside Avenue
 Hours: 9 - 5 daily
 Contact: Dale Conrad, (805) 226-0719
 Website: www.slrockhounds.org

September 15 - 16: REDWOOD CITY, CA

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society
 Community Activities Building
 1400 Roosevelt Avenue

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Mary Lou Froese, (650) 755-8753

Email: mfroese@sbcglobal.netWebsite: <http://sgms.drifmine.com>**September 21 - 23: SAN BERNARDINO, CA**

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
 Western Regional Little League Ball
 Park

6707 Little League Drive

Hours: 9 am to Dusk daily

Contacts: Frank Gerny, (909) 381 0089

Bigfoot999@ca.rr.com

Steve Williams, (909) 389-8680

ironelk@ymail.com

Website:

<http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>

September 22 - 23: CHICO, CA

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
 Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
 2357 Fair Street
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
 John Scott, (530) 321-6331
 Email: jweazel@sbcglobal.net
 Website: www.oroillerocks.com

September 29 - 30: MONTEREY, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
 Monterey Fairgrounds
 2004 Fairgrounds Road
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
 Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311,
 cell (831) 521-8226
 Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net
 Website: www.cvgms.org

September 29 - 30: SANTA ROSA, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
 Wells Fargo Center for the Art
 50 Mark West Springs Road
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5

Jolene Coon, (707) 849-9551
 Email: coons@sonic.net
 Website: www.srmgs.org

September 29 - 30: STOCKTON, CA

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club
 Scottish Rite Masonic Center
 33 W. Alpine Avenue
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
 Contact: Dorothy Tonnacliff (209) 603-
 4539 or Jan Bradley (209) 629-3878
 Email: slmcsow@juno.com
 Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

RECAP OF THE AUGUST 14TH SEARCHERS MEETING

Announcements included:

- Several field trips are being planned for later this year when it gets cooler. Look in the Rock Slab for planned trips, and watch for email flashes for updates.
- Beth has finished updating the membership list. We currently have 178 members.
- We now have a Show Chairman for next year's show: John Walker. Thanks, John! He's a fairly new member, so a co-chair with show experience would be helpful. Any volunteers? (And the show will need many other volunteers, too. Any amount of help is welcome.)
Please contact John or a board member for more information.

Stan McCall was our guest speaker. He's a professional lapidarist who's one of our regular guest speakers. This year, he showed us how he made a pendant doing stone in-channel inlay on a small disk of black onyx with a milled-out center.

Stan had taken pictures of each step of the process. He showed us how he designed a pattern for the inlay, and how he shaped and cut wire to form the pattern he wanted. Stan gave us tips on how he gets the wires to stay in place while he works on them. He also had tips on how to cut stone pieces to fit into the pattern, and how to finish a pendant.

At the end of his presentation, Stan answered questions and showed us pendants and other jewelry that were ready for sale.

CALLING ALL TUMBLERS

Our goal this year is 1,000 grab bags. That's approximately 4,000 small polished stones. Anyone that has tumbled stones for the 2013 grab bags can bring donations to the monthly meeting, the lapidary shop, or contact Lydia to arrange pickup (714) 453-8186. All donations for grab bags are greatly appreciated.

BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

CLEANING SOLDER OUT OF A BEZEL



Sometimes when you solder a bezel to a base plate you end up with excess solder that needs to be removed before setting the stone. My choice of tool for this is called an "Inverse Cone" bur used in a rotary tool or flex shaft. It cuts on both the bottom and the side and is shaped so that there's less chance of cutting into the bezel wall than if you used the more common cylinder bur shape. The 2 mm size is useful for most any bezel.

FAUX SILVER

I'm fortunate to live in a big city that has frequent jewelry shows where I can buy supplies. But there are certain risks in buying at one of these events or from some of the online venues. Recently, a friend bought a package of 12 mm Sterling jump rings that became copper plated in the pickle. There was no sign of any steel contamination, so I tested them with a magnet to discover they were just plated steel.

I ran into a similar misrepresentation a couple years ago. I bought some "genuine" turquoise beads that I needed for 10mm cabs only to find they were a white magnesite that had been dyed.

Best solution is to carry a couple simple tools with you when you go to buy stones or findings. I usually carry a ten power loupe and a small vernier caliper to measure things. From now on, I'll also be carrying a small, strong magnet with me to test the findings.

Dealers are not necessarily the problem. Many have no idea their metals are plated. They were duped by their supplier. Regardless of who's to blame, I think it's worth reporting any problems you find to both the dealer and to the show promoter.

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In addition, here's a story written up by a friend in my club. It was originally published in the Nugget, newsletter of the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, Culver City, CA USA . The club shop is a small building with two doors that we usually keep open for ventilation. A friend of mine was working at the bench on a pendant/earrings set she had already sold to a client. Then as they say on the news programs "Something went terribly wrong". Here's her story. Enjoy !

## THE CROW

What a beautiful sunny day! To me this is the best incentive for creativity and so I pick up my silver and tools and go to the shop I am going to realize my multi-stones pieces!

There, I find some more people cutting rocks and making cabs - it's always nice to share our work and ideas, and get a little distracted, including by that beautiful crow that just landed at our back door he seems quite domesticated; he accepts food and doesn't fly away OK, back to work!

And cut and assemble and solder and sand... ready for the drilling now... I pile all my pieces in front of me, the foredoom ready to operate, the Optiviser on my eyes, and in few seconds I'll be ready to polish! Suddenly, here is the crow again oh my, this time he enters the shop and lands right on my bench and he just looks at me! Well, I can't resist. I start playing with him using my file and he picks up the end once, twice, and then he stops and looks at me... suddenly my blood freezes with fear: I know what he's going to do!

He takes a quick look at the pile of silver pieces, looks at me again and in a fraction of second, he grabs half of the pieces of jewelry and flies out! I cannot believe what just happened I run after him and he is right next door on a telephone post I am still in shock and try to telepathically convince the bird to drop my pieces down then I get back to reality and I swear at him, and he starts having fun with me! He gently puts the jewelry down, screams at me three times, grabs the jewelry and moves up one step, and he does it again and again, until he flies away.

So, I was laughed at by a crow and left with three different sets of jewelry totally messed up but you know what? Besides having amused everybody, I completed the jewelry, I went to my client, told the crow story, and sold all the pieces!

Look for fun out in everything!

## PtCreations

2812-B Walnut Ave.  
Tustin, Ca 92780 714-904-2181

Classes, jewelry, faceted stones, rocks, slabs and minerals.  
Now open Wednesdays 11am-4pm and during classes and events.  
Check the "Calendar" on our web-site for schedule.

[www.ptcreations.net](http://www.ptcreations.net)

### THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>  
342 S. Tustin Street • Orange, CA 92866  
Ph. 714-633-1549

### *Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply*

Club members show your ID card and receive a 10% off purchases over \$100  
Authorized dealer for Garrett, Fisher, and Tesoro metal detectors  
5642 E. La Palma Ave., #208, Anaheim, CA 92807 (corner of La Palma and Imperial Hwy.)  
714 693-GOLD (4653). Store hours: Tu - Sat 10am - 6pm

## WANTED

CFMS competitive style display case (4'x2'x2') for use in future Searchers and CFMS shows.  
We can pick it up. Contact Jay or Kim Erb at 714-533-1593