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IN THIS ISSUE

Field Trips	2
Club Meetings	3
Upcoming CFM Shows	4

POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 3



MARCH 2014

The President's Message



Hello Searchers,

Is it March already? It seems like Kim and I just came back from the Pow Wow in Quartzsite. What a great time! I can't believe how many of the dealers are becoming old friends. I love this hobby. Some of these people will be dealers at our own show coming up in May.

By the way, don't forget to sign up for shifts with Virgil (security), Adrian (kitchen), Steve (silent auction), Teri (hospitality), Robert (Show chairman) or any of our other Show members. A great show requires lots of volunteers and our club is blessed with many people who care. If you happen to be a member-vendor, please consider having a second person at your table so that you can both take 'time off' to volunteer a couple of hours for the Searchers (oh and to SHOP too!). Kim and I will be taking turns working the show and selling at our table.

The word from the ALAA – American Lands Access Association (<http://amlands.org/>) meeting in Quartzsite is APATHY. There was a huge (250+) turnout of rockhounds, 4WD enthusiasts, horse folks, star gazers and even concerned locals for the talk that was to feature local government and BLM speakers, but *none* of the speakers showed up. I will let Kim, who spoke to the crowd regarding BLM special permits, fill you in on that meeting. My point is apathy. They don't think we care. Currently, due to the creation of national parks, wilderness preservation, conservation, military expansion, alternative energy projects and a host of other encroachments, the area of public lands that we have left to collect in is about 1/50th that of what our grandparents had to use and that which we leave to our children, will be much smaller than that. Please support ALAA and those other groups who fight for your right to use public lands with donations of your money or time. Needless to say there were a lot of angry people there. We need to turn this anger into a force that the bureaucrats cannot ignore. The best way to do that is to go to a local DAC – Desert Advisory Committee meeting, sign in on the guest sheet and write down that you're a rockhound. It also doesn't take too much additional courage to fill out a comment card and speak out for our right to continue to use public land as it has been in the past. Speaking out is important. Hopefully we saw you at the field trip to 4 Corners.

Members with kids, I expect to have sample copies of Diamond Dan's Mini Miners for use as activity packs at the March meeting. There will be crayons and pencils and a table in back with chairs. These are fun, interesting and educational materials that we believe will occupy the attention of our younger members during some of the longer portions of the meeting. Perhaps your son or daughter needs a science project for school? I'm certain that we can offer help or suggestions on an earth sciences theme.

Does your high school-er need a senior project? We'd like to try to appeal more to youth and create a presence on social media. Perhaps we can work together for a project on that. I would like to get a status update from the Scholarship Committee on how many applicants we have.

Remember, it's that time of year. Pay your dues. **Our next meeting is March 11.**
Jay Erb

Field Trips



DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
3-2014	Jim McGeough	Nevada - Agates & Jaspers	3/22-23
4-2014	Steve Duncan	Agates and Jaspers & Thulilte South Cadys	4/5-6

For a more complete listing of shows go to website:

www.cfmsinc.org, www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html

www.firemountaingems.com, www.southsunproducts.com

www.route66goldminers.org, www.auctionmasters.com

*For field trip
information contact:*

Steve Duncan V.P.

Field Trips, Searchers

*Gem and Mineral
Society,
(714)*

7247102 (cell) or

wsd@iteris.com

Buffington Pockets Field Trip

March. 22-23, 2014 Jim McGeough Trip leader

The March trip will be to the Buffington Pockets area. Those of you who went there two trips ago will remember that near the end of the trip we found quite a nice agate field, purple agate with greens and whites. The whites would also polish so this was nice cutting material. In the strange way things seem to happen on our last trip we were unable to relocate this agate field. However...Jim has gone back on his own and found the agate field and the GPS location has been safely recorded. So on Saturday this will be the main target, although nearby there are both Selenite blades protruding from the sand, and also large flat sheets of Selenite so we will investigate them also. The Sunday AM trip has not been defined yet, but this whole area is interesting and there is lots of good material to be found. These trips will be up sandy washes so 4x4 will be necessary. We will carpool anyone who doesn't have a 4x4.

Our last camping site which was very easy to access has now been fenced away from us, which limits our choices. We decided that the best plan is to camp at Callville Bay Campground. This is a camp run by the National Parks Service. Campground fees are \$10 per site (\$5 with a Golden Age or Access Pass). There are grills, picnic tables, shade, and restrooms with running water. They do not take reservations, but there are 80 sites, and at this time of the year there should be no problem getting a space. There is also a store there which we think is open, and a restaurant that may not be. Google maps say the campground is about 4.5 hours from Orange. The nearest hotels are about 45 minutes away in Henderson (or a bit further in Vegas).

We may need to pay a \$10 per vehicle fee to enter the Lake Mead Recreation area, a National park pass gets you in free.

We will leave the campground at 0900 both days; you will want to bring your lunch, as we will not be returning to camp for lunch. Most folks will probably hit the road in the early afternoon Sunday, but some diehards often stay all day (or longer). Needed tools are mostly a rock pick and spray bottle, much of the agate is found in float. Sometimes a small pick or shovel comes in handy. Don't forget lots of water, sunscreen, hats etc.

We hope to see you there, if you have any questions please contact me (Steve Duncan) at 714 724 7102, or wsd@iteris.com.

One of our sister clubs (the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society) has just listed an impressive field trip schedule for 2014. Members of their club often join us on our trips, and we are welcome to join them on their. You can never get too much rockhounding right? Anyhow, their schedule is below, if you plan to join them please do get in touch with Joe Goetz (their field trip leader) at (626) 622-9420. This way they will know you are planning on attending, and be able to update you if there are any changes to the plan.

2014 Field Trip Schedule

Mar 22-23 Lavic Siding Area: Jasper, thulite, agates and others.

Apr 26-27 TBA: Maybe the Stoddard Wells area.

May 17 Wrightwood: Actinolite and visits to sites along the San Andreas Fault

June (TBA) Cerro Gordo Mine: Historical Ghost Town and minerals associated with the mining of silver, lead, and zinc. Noted as a location to find Smithsonite.

July 12 Palos Verdes: Glaucophane, barite and agate minerals.

Aug 2 Nipomo Show/Los Olivos: to collect Serpentine, the California State Rock. Possibly collecting Cinnabar and a stop at Ta-jiguas Creek for fossilized whale bone.

Sept 20-21 Jalama Beach: Agate, jasper, petrified whale bone, traver-tine onyx, Marcasite and fossils.



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MARCH 15 & ATTEND THE NEXT DESERT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING!

By Kim Campbell Erb

There is an important meeting of the Bureau of Land Management's Desert Advisory Council coming up on Saturday, March 15. It will be held 8:00 a.m. in Palm Springs, specific location to be determined.

The topic of this meeting will be the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan ("DRECP"), and it will be more like a workshop intended to empower the public to participate in the process and comment in a meaningful, influential way. As I have mentioned when discussing this plan, it will designate the priority use of all of the public lands in our deserts for alternative energy, conservation or recreation. The way I understand it, once this plan is final and approved, proposed alternative energy projects that would be sited on land that has been designated in the DRECP for alternative energy projects will be "fast-tracked" and will be processed quicker and easier than they are currently, and land within the areas designated as priority locations for conservation in this process may be set aside for conservation as mitigation for these projects. But similarly, land that has been designated for recreational use should receive protection.

The groundbreaking feature of the DRECP is that it will be requiring mitigation for loss of recreation land. But this means that we need to be sure that they know what areas are important for recreational use as well as the routes we use to access them. We have to tell them or they will deem those areas "unimportant" and they will get whatever designation that others are requesting that they be given. We need your help! See you there! See P. 6 for more information.

Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
3-2014	Steve Hardinger (Dragon Minerals)	"Gypsum: Not Just Wallboard Ore"
4-2014	No speaker Meeting will be 4th Tuesday	Rock Swap
5-2014	Brandon Brown	Mammoth Volcano

Upcoming 2014 CFMS Gem Shows

MARCH 2014

March 1 - 2: VENTURA, CA Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725 Email: abaris2007@gmail.com Website: www.vgms.org

March 8 - 9: SAN MARINO, CA Pasadena Lapidary Society San Marino Masonic Center 3130 Huntington Drive Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239 Email: joenmar1@verizon.net

March 8 - 9: SPRECKELS, CA Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club Spreckel's Veterans Hall 5th & Llano Streets Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Karin Salomon, (831) 375-5233 Email: k1.salomon72@yahoo.com Website: www.salinasrockandgem.com

March 8 - 9: TURLOCK, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494 Email: terry_mcmillin@yahoo.com Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 15 - 16: LEMOORE, CA Le-

moore Gem & Mineral Society Trinity Hall 470 Champion St. Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Chris Wertenberger (559) 309-3433 Email: georgersilva@sbcglobal.net

March 22 - 23: ANGELS CAMP, CA Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society Calaveras County Fairgrounds 101 Frogtown Road Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277 Email: amy95247@yahoo.com Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 22- 23: ROSEVILLE, CA Roseville Rock Rollers Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds 800 All American City Blvd Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114 Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com Website: www.rockrollers.com

March 29 - 30: TORRANCE, CA South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Torrance Ken Miller Recreation Center 3341 Torrance Blvd (entrance on Madrona Ave) Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Contact: Craig Polliard & Chris Lemaster, (310) 533-4931 Email: CraigPolliard@yahoo.com Website: www.palosverdes.com/sblap

APRIL 2014

April 12 - 13: PARADISE, CA Paradise Gem & Mineral Society Elks Lodge 6309 Clark Road Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Manuel Garcia, (530) 877-7324 Email: paradisegemmineralclub@yahoo.com Website: www.paradisegem.org

April 12 - 13: SAN JOSE, CA Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society Santa Clara County Fairgrounds 334 Tully Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Frank Mullaney, (408) 266-1791; (408) 691-2656 (cell) Email: info@scvgms.org Website: www.scvgms.org

April 19 - 20: MARIPOSA, CA Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society Mariposa County Fairgrounds Fairgrounds Drive (Hwy 49 South - 1.8 miles south of Mariposa) Hours: 10 - 6 daily Contact: Martin Foden, (209) 742-4036 Email: martin@safarigold.com Website: www.camineralmuseum.com

April 26 - 27: THOUSAND OAKS, CA Conejo Gem & Mineral Club Borchard Park Community Center 190 Reino Road (at Borchard Rd.) Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact:

March Birthstone Aquamarine

March Birthstone poem - the Aquamarine

"A March born shall always be
Soothed by Aqua, gem of sea
This mermaid's treasured stone you wear
Will bring happiness, love, affection and care."

March Birthstone - Properties of the Aquamarine

For those who were born in the month of March the Aquamarine is the traditional birthstone. The March birthstone poem reflects some of the properties with which the Aquamarine is associated - faithfulness, courage and friendship. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties for the March Birthstone Aquamarine are awareness, quick response and easing communication problems. The healing properties of the March birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to throat problems and stress-related illness.



In the Field: Selenite



Selenite, satin spar, desert rose, and gypsum flower are four varieties of the mineral gypsum; all four varieties show obvious crystalline structure. The four "crystalline" varieties of gypsum are sometimes grouped together and called selenite.

All varieties of gypsum, including selenite and alabaster, are composed of calcium sulfate dihydrate (meaning has two molecules of water), with the chemical formula $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Selenite contains no significant selenium; the similarity of names comes from both substances being named from the Ancient Greek word for the Moon.

All varieties of gypsum are very soft minerals (hardness: 2 on Mohs Scale). This is the most important identifying characteristic of gypsum, as any variety of gypsum can be easily scratched with a fingernail. Also, because gypsum has natural thermal insulating properties, all varieties feel warm to the touch.

Varieties

Though sometimes grouped together as "selenite", the four crystalline varieties have differences. General identifying descriptions of the related crystalline varieties are:

Selenite

most often transparent and colorless: it is named after Greek $\sigma\epsilon\lambda\eta\nu\eta$ = "the moon".

if selenite crystals show translucency, opacity, and/or color, it is caused by the presence of other minerals.

Satin spar

Most often silky, fibrous, and translucent (pearly, milky); can exhibit some coloration the satin spar name can also be applied to fibrous calcite (a related calcium mineral) – calcite is a harder mineral – and feels greasier, waxier, or oilier to the touch.

Desert rose

Rosette shaped gypsum with outer druse of sand or with sand throughout – most often sand colored (in all the colors that sand can exhibit). The desert rose name can also be applied to barite desert roses (another related sulfate mineral) – barite is a harder mineral with higher density.

Gypsum flower

Rosette shaped gypsum with spreading fibers – can include outer druse the difference between desert roses and gypsum flowers is that desert roses look like roses, whereas gypsum flowers form a myriad of shapes. From Wikipedia



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS 54TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

MARCH 1 - 2 2014 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Both Days

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden

1 block South of I-210, Foothill Freeway at 301 North

Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, NW of Santa Anita Race Track

MOROKS SHOW IS FREE You only pay Arboretum admission. Cash only

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN THE BLM'S SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT SUBGROUP

By Kim Campbell Erb

Following a fatal accident during commercial racing competition in Johnson Valley a few years ago, the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM's") established a Special Recreation Permit Subgroup to review the Special Recreation Permit ("SRP") documents, process and to create a new booklet for use with respect to competitive events. That process is now complete, and the focus is now on Special Recreation Permits for non-competitive events. Because this would encompass rock/gem/mineral field trips, I have been very concerned and expressed my interest in being involved, and offered to chair the Subgroup when the previous Chair stepped down.

Thus far, the Subgroup has mainly been getting a feel for the different types of non-competitive Special Recreation Permit, which are for use of special areas, for commercial use or for organized group activities or events (see Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations § 2931.2). Generally, if you charge a fee for participation in an event, you are required to obtain a Special Recreation Permit. The regulations are reasonably clear for that requirement. However, what is less clear is when an organized group activity requires a SRP Permit. Pursuant to § 2932.5, an "*organized group activity* means a structured, ordered, consolidated, or scheduled event on, or occupation of, public lands for the purpose of recreational use that is not commercial or competitive". BLM Manual H-2930-1 Recreation Permit Administration states that "A group is loosely defined as more than one person participating in a recreation activity or event". That manual expressly states that "the threshold size of a group requiring a permit would be impossible to establish on a national basis, so it must be determined for each area", but to my knowledge there is no field office that discloses to the public what the threshold size is for any area.

Because our clubs are non-profit corporations, each club's field trips are considered organized group activities. Whether a given field trip is deemed to require a permit or not is determined by the "authorized officer". BLM officials have indicated that the manager for each field office is the "authorized officer" for the BLM lands under that particular field office's jurisdiction. So, for example, the "authorized officer" for the BLM land under the jurisdiction of the Ridgecrest field office at the time of this writing would be Carl B. Symons. Each field manager has considerable discretion in determining what amount of risk will be tolerated with and without an SRP permit.

The BLM requires that SRP permit applications be submitted at least six (6) month's in advance of the activity. If they determine that a permit is required for the event, a list of conditions will be imposed which will likely include insurance, monitoring, a waste management plan, etc. The conditions imposed could be very costly and difficult to comply with. And, if the BLM determines that a field trip required a permit but no such permit was obtained, each participant could be cited and fined.

In the past, there has been a pretty "lax" attitude within the BLM that rockhound field trips fall under a "casual use" exception, but many of us fear that the very fact that the BLM is now focusing on this topic could mean that their attitude is changing, perhaps due to the need for additional funding to run their agency through permit fees.

At public meetings, BLM staff and management have repeatedly told the participants that having access to public lands "is a privilege, not a right". This is *OUR* land; the BLM are merely stewards of it. But we, as citizens, must exercise our rights or we will lose them.

Attending and participating in these subgroup meetings is your opportunity to learn more and to influence the rules and administration of Special Recreation Permits. If you want to continue to have rockhound field trips without overly burdensome rules and requirements imposed on them, please attend and participate in these meetings.

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

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: 6PM, 1st 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

Website: www.searchersrocks.org

Membership Dues:	Individual	\$25
	Couple	\$35
	Junior (17 & under)	\$10

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Bulletin: Submissions due 3rd Friday of the month via e-mail to: editor@searchersrocks.org.

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Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

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