

The Rock Slab News



The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2015

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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The President's Message



Hello Searchers and Visitors!

Reminders regarding the Workshop:

The Community Center and I negotiated new start times this year. Thursdays start at 5:30 PM and Saturdays start at 2:30PM. Please do not enter the Workshop area prior to these times.

Please use the new tablecloths to cover the tables prior to placing our Genies on them.

Please help our Workshop by dusting the tables and giving the floor a quick sweep at the end of the day.

The one nice thing about the unseasonable rains this last month is that there should be some new material uncovered at many of our favorite destinations this Fall.

If you haven't already done so, congratulate Robert Burson for being awarded 2014 CFMS Rockhound of the Year and 2015 AFMS Rockhound of the Year.

Searchers are clamoring to join the Calendar Committee (see Kim or Margaret). We want your best pictures of your BEST STUFF (slabs, cabs, jewelry, spheres, and other lapidary art) for a calendar that we'd like to create in time to sell at our 2016 show.

We've also had a good response for creating a Searchers meeting display. This will consist of one or more Ryker display boxes with loaned or donated items to show new and prospective members what we do with our finds.

We'll see you at the Searchers picnic August 8!



P. 7 for information on new Youth Program.

See P.5 for information on the Searchers' Annual Picnic this month

Field Trips



DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
9-/7-18/2015	Steve Duncan	Holbrook , AZ area	planned

Other Local Upcoming Field Trips

2015 MULTI-CLUB FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE Expanded and current information for these collecting opportunities will be published in the Bulletin for the particular month. As always, you should to contact the field trip leader ahead of time because: 1. Sometimes field trips are canceled or changed for various reasons including inclement weather or areas being closed. 2. If we don't know you are coming we won't wait for you and you may not find out the planned camp site was moved until too late. Distributed to the representatives of the Delvers – Long Beach – North Orange County – Pasadena – Whittier – Searchers Gem - Monrovia Rockhounds Mineral and Lapidary Clubs For up-to-date information on these field trips and how to join the trip please **see Kevin Doran, our club's field trip leader or call Joe Goetz at (626)-622-9420.**

For field trip information

contact: Robert

Burson V.P. Field

Trips, Searchers

Gem and Mineral

Society,

bursonrocks@veriz

on.net

AUG 2: LOS OLIVOS to collect Soap Stone and Serpentine, the California State Rock.

SEPT 19-20: GREENHORN MOUNTAINS - Kernville Rose Quartz, Epidote, Garnet

OCT 10-11: SEARLES LAKE SHOW & field trips: Pink halite crystals & borax minerals.

NOV 7-8: WHITTIER CLAIM AREA - Barstow for honey onyx, agate, jasper, palm root.

NOV 27-29: THANKSGIVING TRIP - Owens Valley or Afton Canyon.

DEC 12: SALTON SEA - YUHA Fossil Beds, Tour Geothermal Power Plant, Mud Volcano Field.

JAN 24-25: QUARTZSITE ARIZONA



Trip Report: Palos Verdes (see P.8 of the Kids Corner)

In The Field: Soap Stone and Serpentine

Soapstone

Soapstone is relatively soft because of its high talc content, talc having a definitional value of 1 on the Mohs hardness scale. Softer grades may feel soapy when touched, hence the name. There is no fixed hardness for soapstone because the amount of talc it contains varies widely, from as little as 30% for architectural grades such as those used on countertops, to as much as 80% for carving grades. Common, non-architectural grades of soapstone can just barely be scratched with a fingernail and are thus considered to have a hardness of 2.5 on the Mohs scale. If a candidate rock cannot be scratched with a knife blade (hardness of 5.5), it is not soapstone.



Soapstone is often used as an insulator or housing for electrical components, due to its durability and electrical characteristics and because it can be pressed into complex shapes before firing. Soapstone undergoes transformations when heated to temperatures of 1000–1200 °C into enstatite and cristobalite; in the Mohs scale, this corresponds to an increase in hardness to 5.5–6.5.

From: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soapstone>

Serpentine

Serpentine is a major rock forming mineral and is found as a constituent in many metamorphic and weather igneous rocks. It often colors many of these rocks to a green color and most rocks that have a green color probably have serpentine in some amount.

Serpentine is actually a general name applied to several members of a polymorphic group. These minerals have essentially the same chemistry but different structures. Their differences are minor and almost indistinguishable in hand samples. However, the chrysotile minerals are more likely to form serpentine asbestos, while antigorite and lizardite form cryptocrystalline masses sometimes with a lamellar or micaceous character. Asbestos had been used for years as a fire retarding cloth and in brake linings. Its links to cancer however has led to the development of alternative materials for these purposes.



Serpentine can be an attractive green stone that takes a nice polish and is suitable for carving. It has been used as a substitute for jade and is sometimes difficult to distinguish from jade, a testament to the beauty of finer serpentine material.

Non-fibrous serpentine is not a cancer concern. Asbestos serpentines should be kept in closed clear containers, but makes an attractive specimen. Sometimes with a golden color as the name chrysotile in Greek means golden fibers.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS: Color is olive green, yellow or golden, brown, or black. Luster is greasy, waxy or silky. Hardness is 3 - 4.5

From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serpentine_group

August Speaker: Our favorite gemology instructor, Lothar Vallot, from the Santiago Canyon College Gemology Program, returns again to wreak havoc on our ignorance on the lore behind many of familiar gemstones and minerals. Lothar will talk about gemstones and minerals in terms of their history with superstitions, amulets and talismans. Gemstones have always seems to intertwine with human history, so now we'll delve into a new chapter of the gem world's partnership with our history.

Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
8-2015	Lothar Vallot	Lore of Gem Stones
9-2015	Steve Hardinger	Basic Chemistry for the Mineral Collector
10-2015	Anie Booth	Jooltool

For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site:

www.cfmsinc.org

Upcoming 2015 CFMS Gem Shows

AUGUST 2015

August 29 - 30: CONCORD, CA Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Centre Concord 5298 Clayton Road (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.) Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Harry Nichandros, (925) 289-0454 Email: show-c@ccmgs.org Website: www.ccmgs.org

SEPTEMBER 2015

September 19 - 20: CHICO, CA Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society, Oroville Silver Dollar Fairgrounds 2357 Fair Street Hours: Sat 9:30 - 5 daily John Scott, (530) 343-3491 Email: jweazel@sbcglobal.net Website: www.featherriverrocks.org

September 19 - 20: REDWOOD CITY, CA Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society Community Activities Building 1400 Roosevelt Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Carol Corden Email: cordencarol@yahoo.com Website: www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org

September 26 - 27: DOWNEY, CA Delvers Gem & Mineral Society Elks Lodge 11233 Woodruff Avenue Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4 Contact: Dale Hardwood (310) 217-0551 Email: nancyjbird@verizon.net

September 26 - 27: 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 Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net Website: www.cvgms.org

September 26 - 27: SANTA ROSA, CA Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society Wells Fargo Center for the Arts 50 Mark West Springs Road Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact:

Jolene, (707) 528-7610 Email: Jolene@srmgs.org Website: www.srmgs.org

OCTOBER 2015

October 5 - 6: BORON, CA Mojave Mineralogical Society Boron Park 12000 Boron Avenue Hours: 9 - 4 daily Contact: Steve Breckenridge, (760) 559-0872 Email: rock5b@starband.net

October 3 - 4: VISTA, CA Vista Gem & Mineral Society Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Ray Pearce, (760) 535-5524 Email: vistarocksgms@gmail.com Website: www.vistarocks.org

October 11: FALLBROOK, CA Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility 123 West Alvarado Street Hours: 9 - 4 Contact: (760) 728-1130 Email: fgms@sbcglobal.net Website: www.fgms.org

October 11 - 12: TRONA, CA Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society SL G&MS Show Building 13337 Main Street Hours: Sat 7 - 5; Sun 7 - 4 Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356 Email: slgms@iwwisp.com Website: www1.iwwisp.com/tronagemclub

October 17 - 18: PLACERVILLE, CA El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds 100 Plac-

erville Drive Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Karen Newlin, (530) 676-2472 Email: info@rockandgemshow.org Website: www.eldoradorocks.org

October 24 - 25: LOS ALTOS, CA Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Los Altos Youth Center One No. San Antonio Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Steve Jobe, (408) 834-5384 Email: steve_job@sbcglobal.net Website: www.pgggs.org

NOVEMBER 2015

November 7 - 8: ANAHEIM, CA American Opal Society The Phoenix Club 1340 South Sanderson Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Veronica Purpura, (714) 501-9959 Email: info@opalsociety.org Website: www.opalsociety.org/

November 7 - 8: RIDGECREST, CA Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society Desert Empire Fairgrounds 520 South Richmond Road Hours: 8 - 5 daily Contact: John DeRosa, (760) 375-7905 Email: jfrocks@dslextre.me

November 21 - 22: APPLE VALLEY, CA Valley Gem & Mineral Club Victor Valley Museum 11873 Apple Valley Road (x Bear Valley Rd.) Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 3 Contact: Cyndy Mandell, 760.508.1080, 760.508.1080 Email: cynmandell@me.com Website: www.vvgmc.org



August Birthstone - Peridot

This gemstone has no fewer than three names: 'peridot', 'chrysolite', from the Greek 'gold stone', and 'olivine', for the peridot is the gemstone form of the mineral olivine. In the gemstone trade it is called 'peridot', derived from the Greek word 'peridona', which means something like 'to give richness'. The peridot is one of the few gemstones which come in one color only. The rich, green color with the slight tinge of gold is caused by very fine traces of iron. From a chemical point of view, peridot is an iron magnesium silicate. The intensity of the colour depends on the amount of iron actually present. The color itself can vary over all shades of yellowish green and olive, and even to a brownish green. Peridot is not particularly hard - only 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale - but it is easy to look after and fairly robust. Peridot cat's eyes and star peridot are particularly rare and precious.

The most beautiful stones come from the border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan. However, the peridot as a gemstone also exists in Myanmar, China, the USA, Africa and Australia. Stones from East Burma, now known as Myanmar, have a vivid light green and fine inclusions with a silky shine to them. Peridot from Arizona, where it is popularly used in native American jewellery, often has somewhat yellowish or gold-brown nuances.

From http://www.gemstone.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=101:sapphire&catid=1:gem-by-gem&Itemid=14

Searcher's Potluck- Picnic 2015

Date and Time: Saturday, August 8th from 11am to 3pm

Location: Yorba Regional Park, 7600 E. La Palma Ave, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807

Area: Site #6 by Parking Lot #2

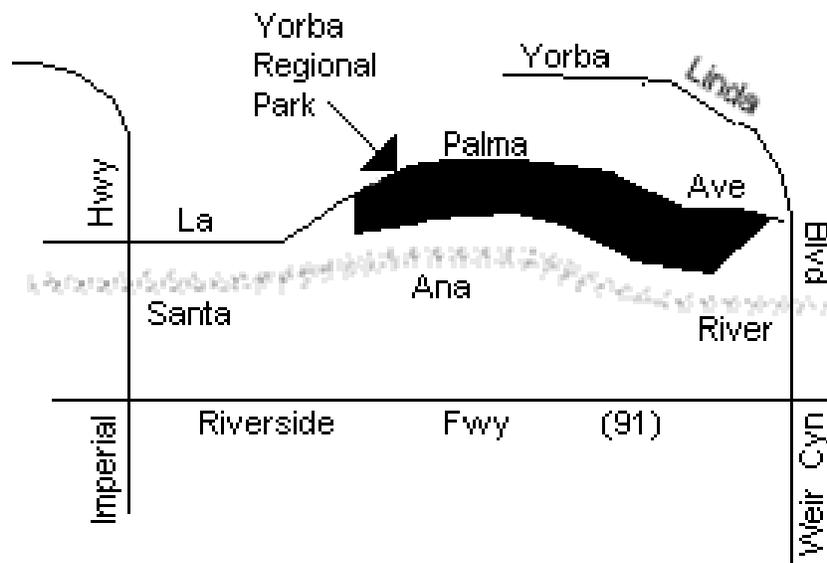
Contacts: Veronica Purura (714) 501-9959

The Searcher's will provide sodas and water

Please respond to Veronica

angeldragonoflight@yahoo.com

if you are planning on attending and let her know what you would like to bring.



Planning Ahead:

Holbrook Field Trip Plan

October 17 & 18, 2015

Leaders Steve Duncan and Cat Van Kampen

The October trip will be to the Holbrook AZ area for petrified wood. This area has the best colored (pinks, yellows, purples etc) wood I am aware of. To aid us in our search I have enlisted the help of a long time friend of the Searchers Cat Van Kampen. Many of you know Cat and know that she is an excellent trip leader. You will need at least a high clearance vehicle for the collecting, but as usual we can car pool people that need it. However if you do need to carpool to the collecting site with someone with a truck please make plans with them, or contact me. We haven't been too full to carpool people yet, but it could happen.



To make things simple we will be staying at the Route 66 RV Park, at 7625 Quartzsite St in Sun Valley Az. This is very much a no frills RV Park, but it is conveniently located. It has showers and restrooms. I plan to be at the RV Park Friday evening. There are also motels in Holbrook, including the very cool Wigwam motel where the rooms are concrete wigwams and they have **great** displays of petrified wood in the lobby.

On Sat we will meet at 9AM at Jim Gray's Petrified Wood Co 147 US-180, Holbrook AZ. We will spend a few minutes looking at the shop and from there we will visit the Petrified National Forest. There is a fee of \$10/vehicle to enter the park. Your entrance fee is good for 7 days if you wish to return later and spend some more time. If you are over 62 that same 10 dollars will get you a Senior pass which you can use for free admission to National Parks for a lifetime. You can get that at the gate, or pick it up in advance. Details at: <https://store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html>



After the Park we will go collecting in the Sun Valley area.

Sat night we will have our traditional pot luck at the RV Park. Bring something good to share and your appetite.

Sunday we will collect the Joseph area. We will leave from the RV park at 8:30 AM

Sunday night anyone who wants can join us at Joe and Aggies Café 120 W Hopi Dr in Holbrook for dinner.

You will want to be sure to bring hats, sunscreen, and lots of water. As far as tools a rockpick and spray bottle at a minimum, you may well want to bring some heavy artillery (pick, shovel, digging bar etc) as you may need to dig out a big piece. The BLM says you can collect 25 lbs a day + 1 big piece for a total limit of 250 lbs/year.

Email me at wsd@iteris.com if you have any questions, and it would help if we knew how many folks were coming, so if you plan on coming please drop me an email letting me know how many people in how many vehicles, and whether you plan on staying at the RV Park. You can also call me at 714 724-7102.

Travel Note: The drive to Holbrook is LONG, Google says 8 hours. As you travel to Holbrook on 40 you will pass the Walnut Canyon National Monument. This is a very cool place if you have some time to visit it. You will also pass the giant meteor crater at Winslow. Personally this place didn't do much for me, but it is a big crater if you want to see it.

Kid's Corner

This is the section for new and upcoming Searchers. The information will be coming from a newsletter for kids called *Mini Miners Monthly* by Diamond Dan Publications. He is kind enough to allow us to use parts of his newsletter. This is from Vol. 9 No. 4.

Mineral Art By Emma Fajcz

Have you ever thought about drawing pictures of the minerals in your collection? This would be a creative way to record your collection. Drawing minerals it can be a lot of fun, and can improve your skills as an artist.

This month, pull out a few of your favorite specimens and draw them. Try to replicate their shape, color, and texture as accurately as you can. Colored pencils are a wonderful medium to use for this kind of drawing. They allow you to layer colors to make it look just right. Here are three mineral drawings that I've done recently, along with a few facts about that mineral.

Rainbow Calsilica

There is a dispute about whether Rainbow Calsilica is a real mineral or if it is man-made. A famous mineralogist named Sid Williams analyzed it and decided that it is a real mineral. According to Williams, allophone is responsible for Rainbow Calsilica's spectacular blues and greens. Interestingly enough, allophone is a mineraloid, not a genuine mineral. However, others have evaluated Rainbow Calsilica and said that it is man-made. This mineral is supposedly mined in Chihuahua, Mexico.



Rainbow Cabochon by Emma Fajcz
4.3 in. by 2.9 in.
Graphite pencil, gel pen, and colored pencil.



Lozenge by Emma Fajcz
2 in. by 1.6 in.
Graphite pencil, gel pen, and colored pencil

Fluorite

Fluorite exhibits a special characteristic called fluorescence. Although fluorite usually glows blue under ultraviolet light, it can also glow in such colors as yellow, white, and green. This mineral has a hardness of 4 on Moh's Scale and can be scratched with a knife.

This mineral is known for its vibrant purples and greens, among its broad range of colors, and is a widely sought-after mineral. That's probably why fluorite is known as the world's most colorful mineral.



Crystal Top by Emma Fajcz
3.2 in. by 2.4 in.
Graphite pencil, gel pen, and colored pencil.

Agate

This mineral was named after a river in Sicily named Achatas, where it was discovered between 400-300 B.C.

Agate's most distinguishable characteristic is its banding. It usually contains more than one color. However, since agate is porous, it is easy to dye. That's why you might see some agates in unnatural or remarkably vivid colors. Since this mineral is rather hard, it is easily fashioned into beautiful bowls, rings, and other jewelry. Royalty in ancient times and even in the Renaissance enjoyed collecting agate bowls. With your parents' help, go online and find some pictures of agate bowls. Many of them are quite spectacular. I hope each of you will create some mineral art this month and learn more about your mineral collection in the process.

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Darryl Powell, editor Emma Fajcz, contributing editor

Searchers Rock 'N' Kids Page

Palos Verdes Searchers and Rock 'N' Kids Field Trip

Led by Dave Nelson and Norbert Bernhardt

This past Saturday, July 11, 2015, all enjoyed a day along the shores of the Palos Verdes peninsula scrambling and climbing over boulders looking for Barite. This was our first official Searchers Rock 'N' Kids field trip which also included adult Searchers.

We had 20 adults and 10 kids. The weather was super nice! A great place to go in the summer when the desert gets to hot!



Quite a bit of Barite was found and especially the Bunch family found a big seam along a large (huge) boulder. That was quite exciting for them!



The field trip ended in mid afternoon and all were pretty tired when they got back to the parking lot on top of the bluff. The next couple days, a lot of us realized that we must of done quite a bit of boulder hopping because our legs were really sore!!

Our Searchers General meeting was the Tuesday after the trip and Amelia, Olivia and Sophia Bunch were the first kids in our club to receive their FRA (Future Rockhounds of America) membership patches. Congratulations!!



Their project on that meeting night was to mount a small Barite specimen in a Perky Box and label it. They have officially started their rock and mineral collection!

I have included some pictures of the field trip taken by Tom Hogarth and I. Also one picture with Amelia, Olivia, Sophia and their instructor, Norbert Bernhardt, showing them how to mount the barite specimen in the Perky box.



The next Rock 'N' Kids activity will be announced soon. Tentative, a pool party at Norbert's house, including a few projects on rocks and minerals and then a rock dig through Norbert's rock pile. Kids to keep some for their collection!



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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