

The Rock Slab News

Volume 47 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 6-10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	6	7 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
8	9	10 7 pm General Meeting	11	12 6-10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	13	14 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
15 pic-nic	16	17 7 pm Board Meeting	18	19 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	20	21 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
22	23	24	25	26 6-10 pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	27	28 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing
29	30	31	1 September	2 6-10pm Lapidary, wire-wrapping	3	4 3-7 pm Lapidary, silversmithing

AUGUST BIRTHSTONES

Peridot & Sardonyx



Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. This gemstone comes in several color variations ranging from yellowish green to brown, but most consumers are attracted to the bright lime greens and olive greens. Peridot, in smaller sizes, often is used in beaded necklaces and bracelets.

Sardonyx is a form of onyx and is recognized by its layers of reddish brown and white banding. It was popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans who carried into battle talismans of sardonyx engraved with images of heroes such as Mars or Hercules, believing that this would bring courage and victory. Because of its attractive banding, sardonyx has long been used to fashion cameos (carved raised figures) and intaglios (the reverse of cameos). This gemstone is found throughout the world. The most attractive specimens are found in India, but material also is mined in Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, and in the United States.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Norbert Bernhardt



Hello Searchers!

I hope all of you are having a great summer! Our extended summer field trip was a blast! We all collected plenty of rocks and gems. Thank you Steve Duncan for all the hard work planning and organizing this trip. Look for future Silent Auctions with material from all the sites where we collected.

The Searchers Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 15th at Yorba Linda Regional Park. This will be a fun event with prizes given out to the winners of the rock and gem identification game that I have put together. 1st prize will be a \$50.00 gift certificate from Nevada Book and Mineral Co., 2nd and 3rd prize will also be a \$25.00 gift certificate from NMBC. Just a few notes on the game: No reference books to be used, there will be a set time limit to complete the game and spelling will determine the winners if there is a tie. I look forward to our next general meeting on August 10. Keith Droste has planned a large Silent Auction. Please see his article in this issue of the Rock Slab News.

Over the next couple of weeks I will be appointing a nominating committee. If you would like to volunteer to be on the committee, please let me know.

See you at the meeting!

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 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
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

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1 st V.P. (Programs)	Keith Droste	714-563-4754
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Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council

FIELD TRIPS

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION & MATERIAL	STATUS
To be scheduled			

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

GENERAL MEETING

By Keith Droste

We have scheduled Adam Dean and his wonderful program on agates.

DON'T FORGET OUR ANNUAL PICNIC

By Keith Droste

The annual Searchers picnic will be held on Aug. 15 at the Yorba Regional Park. This will be a pot-luck with the club furnishing hot dogs and drinks. Everyone bring a side dish to share. If you haven't signed up for the picnic please call Keith Droste at 714-563-4754 or email at drostekeith@yahoo.com. and I will add you to the list. There will be food and fun for all and some prizes too!

UPCOMING CFMS GEM SHOWS

Aug 6 - 8	Nipomo, CA Orcutt Mineral Society St. Joseph's Church, 298 S. Thomson Ave., Nipomo, CA Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Sep 11 - 12	Downey, CA Delvers Gem and Mineral Society Woman's Club of Downey 9813 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4
Sep 18 - 19	Paso Robles, CA Santa Lucia Rockhounds Pioneer Park, 2010 Riverside Drive, Paso Robles, CA Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Oct 3	Fallbrook, CA Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society 123 West Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Oct 9 - 10	Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Show Building
13337 Main Street, Trona, CA
Hours: Sat 7:30 - 5, Sun 7:30 - 4

Oct 9 - 10

Vista, CA
Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA
Hours: Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4

2010 SUMMER EXTENDED TRIP REPORT

by Steve Duncan

The first day of the trip Marcia and I along with Margaret stopped at little Panoche Rd, and met Kris Rowe from the Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics. He was nice enough to meet us and show us around the site. Irene (a new member) joined us here for this day's collecting, with some friends and children. We only spent a couple of hours, but we all found agates and jaspers. This is a nice site, I am not sure it warrants a trip that far just for this site, but it would be a positive addition to any other collecting we did in the area (like Clear Creek if it ever opens up again). Kris has a website, <http://rockhound-field-trips.ning.com>, where he posts field trip info, check it out.

The next afternoon found us at Swimmer's Delight, a park on the Van Duzen river, a beautiful tranquil place with a river flowing slowly beside a cliff. Collecting in and around the river was quite interesting, agates, jaspers, and maybe some jade. In particular collecting in the river was nice, it was hot and the river was cool not cold. The water was clear enough to see the rocks on the bottom. All in all very nice enjoyable stop, I would gladly do it again (for longer).

The next afternoon we collected at Whiskey Flat beach in Oregon, some agates and jaspers, but not the most exciting. This location is probably better in the winter after a heavy rain has brought down some new material. We did meet Margaret's sister here, who showed us around a local arboretum.

The next day was a travel day to Prineville, but since Marcia and Margaret had not been to Crater Lake we went by way of Crater Lake, just as impressively beautiful as I remember. In Prineville we met Jimmy and Esther who continued on for the remainder of the trip. Richardson's Rock Ranch was the next day's target, we started in the moss bed and found some moss which I think will be very nice. We also went to a new pit, the South Blue Bed, here we found some thunder eggs, but until they are cut we won't know what we have. Richardson's was fun, and I would gladly dig in the moss bed again. We left Jimmy Esther and Margaret in Prineville, and went to the Dust Devil Mine in southern Oregon, a sunstone mine. Here we met Norbert and Ana, they continued for the rest of the trip also. The folks running the mine were very nice, and ran their conveyor for us for several hours. We all found some quality sunstones, with the nicest being a 48 carat red sunstone found by Norbert. I was ahead of him on the belt, but being the gentleman I am I let it go by so that he

could find it. Marcia found a nice red sunstone digging in the tailings, and we all found nice schiller stones, as well as a few green sunstones.

Glass Buttes was next, where we joined up again with Jimmy, Esther, and Margaret. Mike and Michelle Lee also joined us here, and continued with us through Idaho. We spent 3 days at Glass Buttes, finding gold sheen, mahogany, double flow, leopard skin, and rainbow obsidian. Norbert was a man on a mission, on a quest for the famous fire obsidian. Searching for days in the traditional spot yielded just a few scant pieces, but in the last couple hours there, at a new spot, quite a bit was found.

After Glass Buttes we went to Homedale Idaho, where we met Else and Don (and Barley the dog). These are friends of mine from the Boise club, who graciously offered to show us around. For the next 3 days we toured the Haystack Butte/Graveyard Point/Succor Creek area. Beautiful country. And with Don and Else's help we did well collecting. Plume agate, moss agate, picture jasper, all quite nice. Everyone was happy with their finds.

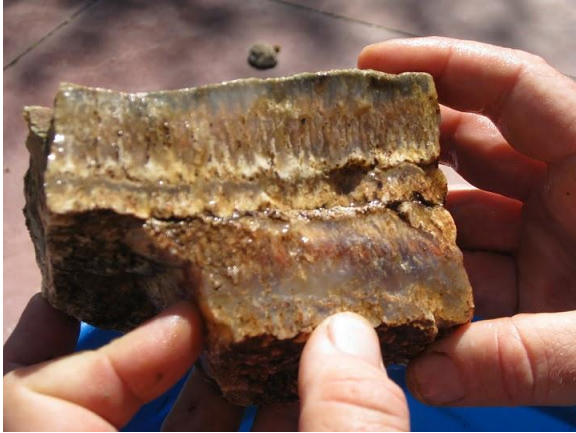
From Idaho we went to Delta Utah, for a 3 day Trilobite Jam put on by Jason and Jake some friends of mine who run American Trilobite Suppliers. Craig and Charlotte met us here for the dig. This was a first time event, but it went off well. There were an assortment of pits to dig in and everyone found decent specimens. The ATS folks took good care of everybody, and there were some interesting talks given by various folks, especially a talk about the Walcott Rust Quarry in New York. The ATS folks are in the process of restoring a big plate of trilobites from there that would appear to be a world class museum quality item. We also took a side trip to the U-Dig trilobite site, because the trilobites there have the advantage of being hard enough to polish.

By now we were approaching the weight limit on the truck, but on the way home we spent a day around cedar city, collecting at Holt Canyon (moss agates) and then up at Brian Head (black and red agate). The Brian Head area in particular, as well as nearby Cedar Breaks is a very scenic place.

All in all the entire trip went very well, we found good material at every target site, and great material at some. No one got injured, no vehicles broke down. It was very hot sometimes, but bearable, we were often told "Glad you weren't here a couple of days ago, it was really hot". The group enjoyed each other's company, and we had several potlucks. I'd rate the trip a success. Norbert liked it so much he has already started planning next summer's trip, which looks like Colorado.

My photos are available at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/116453304778727479234/SearchersSummerTrip2010#>



Plume agate from Graveyard



Jasper from Holt Canyon



Rainbow obsidian



Leopard skin



Picture jasper from the Wild



Little Panoche Rd jasper



Taking a break



Cedar Breaks



Crater Lake



Brian Head Peak

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