

The Rock Slab News

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2008 VOLUME 45 ISSUE 11

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Keith Droste

Here we are in November; the year really went quickly. A lot of rocks have gone down the river, so to speak, and there are still plenty to find. The workshop has been very busy lately, under the able supervision of Herb Beckman, and more and more members are grinding away. We still have room for more, so come on down.

At our next general meeting we will be holding elections. Also, the now famous pie night will be taking place and the second rock swap of the year. You can swap with one hand and eat pie with the other. What else could you ask for. No blackbirds in the pies, please! Just as a reminder, we are asking everyone to hold off with the rock swapping until our business meeting is over. We want it to be fair and make sure everybody gets a shot at the goodies. I myself will be willing to trade for any blue-white diamonds over five carats; save those for me.

Also, just a reminder to sign up for the Christmas banquet on our website. Walter has fixed the slight glitch we had and it is working perfectly. Dinner is on Dec. 6.

By the way, congrats to Walter on his recent marriage. I haven't had the pleasure of meeting his new bride, but I hear she is a lovely lady and perhaps he will bring her to the meeting. Cheers, Walter! That's it for now. Let's all "Rock Around the Rock Tonight!"

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The November program is the election of officers for 2009, **PIE NIGHT** and a rockswap. Please bring a pie (hopefully homemade) to share along with a serving utensil and some rocks to swap. Please do **NOT** start rockswapping until after the election.

SHOW MEETING

The 2009 Show Committee will be meeting the **second week in November**. Notification of day and time will be in a special email bulletin.

From the Editor

This is probably (hopefully?) the last Rock Slab Newsletter you will receive from me as your editor for a long while. I've had a ball! The newsletter gave me the opportunity to fulfill a desire to write and to get very involved with the members and the workings of our club. My husband is truly thankful that I had a reason to learn how to use a computer. I am proud of the fact that I worked on the first **computerized** edition of the newsletter which was September 2005. As the months wore on and I gained more experience and confidence I enjoyed so much writing articles and being able to instill in them a bit of my humorous self knowing that I wasn't working on the "Wall Street Journal." Thank you all so much for your help, your encouragement, your patience and your friendship. I will cherish this experience forever. I desperately need a break from monthly deadlines, but in the future I would still love to contribute to the newsletter. Someone please come forward and volunteer for the newsletter.

Your harried newsletter editor, Kathy Clark

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, Thurs. after general meeting,
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:
Kathy Clark
18661 Silver Maple Way
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations:

- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

SEARCHERS BOARD

Officers

President	Keith Droste	714/563-4754
1 st V.P. (Programs)	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
2 nd V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/724-7102
Director	Clarke Benich	714/639-9927
Secretary	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	909/393-2186
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900

Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Library		
Membership	Bob Gilland	714/776-4958
Monthly Drawing	Skip & Connie Cone	714/827-8675
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/971-6789
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Robert Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2	Karen Martinez	562/423-2832
2009 Show Chairman	Jim Williamson	714/995-9080
Show Co-Chair	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Sunshine		
Veterans' Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714/778-1496

Sponsored by:
Anaheim Arts Council

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Beth Pelfrey

Hello Searchers! I hope this finds you all having had a spooky Hallowe'en. I did! Let's hear if for chocolate! Remember this month we vote on our slate of officers:

President	Norbert Bernhardt
1 st Vice President-Programs	Still TBD. Might it be YOU?
2 nd Vice President-Field Trips	Steve Duncan
Secretary	Kathy Clark
Treasurer	Pat Lynch
CFMS Delegate	Clarke Benich
Director – Immediate Past President	Keith Droste

Now, the job we need filled is the 1st Vice President-Programs.

Please step up and volunteer. Get a pal to nominate you at the meeting. We will have lots of resources for you to draw from to put together fun and interesting programs for Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov and the Holiday Party.

In with those months is a summer picnic/ice cream social/trip to the moon or whatever in place of one or more regular meetings. December is the holiday party. Some month you can plan a silent auction, rock swap, rock bingo or something else in place of a speaker or a video. You can get all the speakers lined up ahead of time, decide and appoint a helper for the meeting you don't have a speaker. Oh! November is PIE NIGHT, elections and maybe a short to do like a rock swap or a game. Remember there are museums in the area that might love to come show us their goodies at a meeting and a field trip could be worked out. For years, the June meeting after the annual Show was a potluck meal for us to get awards and recognition from the Show. See? Another month that could be pre-planned!

SO FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING, BRING A PIE, something to serve it with, happy thoughts and enthusiasm. Call me or one of the other committee members if you have any questions or want to be nominated. I am happy to oblige.

Beth Pelfrey, chair	(714) 774-2754
Betty Nelson, Member	(714) 530-1365
Lorri Rench, Member	(714) 826-1496

PROPOSED DUES INCREASE

As time marches on and the cost of everything else from gasoline to groceries it is time for the club to raise the membership dues. The Searchers Board recommends that our annual membership dues be increased as follows:

Individuals	\$25.00 from \$20.00
Couples	\$35.00 from \$25.00
Children	\$10.00 from \$2.00 each

Our dues have not been increased for a long time. However, because of the very substantial increase in CFMS dues (\$9.75 per adult or child member) the Board has deemed this increase as necessary for the future of the Searchers. This means that for the past several years we actually lost money for every child member of the club.

Why must we pay CFMS dues? Primarily because the CFMS as a large group is able to offer the Searchers liability insurance which provides coverage for all meetings, workshops, shows and field trips. This type of insurance is not affordable and generally available elsewhere.

Every year the cost of the newsletter (printing and postage), monthly programs, and operating and maintaining the workshop has also increased. While we have encouraged members to take electronic delivery of the newsletter there are also costs associated with that such as Internet fees. We also are in the process of revamping the website to make it easier for members and potential members to get current information easier. The cost of our Annual Show has also increased. Some items that were once free now have a hefty price. The cost of professional security for the Annual Show has increased year after year as well as our fee for use of the Brookhurst Community Center, fire permits, plan checks, equipment rental, etc... Our Annual Show, and primary fundraiser for the year, generates revenue mainly from selling space at our show to Dealers and the Silent Auction since we no longer have the big donation award drawing.

This notice is to let the membership know that there will be a vote on this at the November annual meeting.

BULLETIN

At the November annual meeting we will be voting in a slate of officers for 2009
and
 voting on the Board's proposed dues increase.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

The December meeting is the installation of New Officers and Holiday Season Gathering to be held on

Saturday, December 6, 2008, at Marie Callendar's

in the Garden Room, 540 N. Euclid Avenue, Anaheim, California, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

The cost will be \$26 per person which includes tax and gratuity. The dinner includes:

Caesar salad

Cornbread

Fountain drinks, iced tea or coffee (any other drinks such as wine or beer must be purchased by member)

Meal Selections: (includes mixed vegetables)

1. Pepper Crusted Hand Carved Tri-Tip Steak
2. Fresh Lemon Pepper Crusted Salmon
3. Artichoke Mushroom Chicken

Chocolate Cream or Lemon Meringue Pie

The Garden Room holds 65 people maximum so make your reservation soon. To make your reservation go to the Searchers website at www.searchersrocks.org and click on "Meeting Program" which is the second choice down from "Home." When this page comes on go to the bottom to "December."

If you do not own a computer, ask another member to make your reservation for you or feel free to call Kathy Clark at (714) 639-9927 to make your reservation. Please leave a message if no one answers. She will return your call with your reservation number. Cash or checks made out to Searchers Gem & Mineral Society will be accepted at the November meeting and at the Banquet.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
1,8,15,22 6,13,20	3-7pm 6-10pm	Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing) Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping)
7 8 9	9am-6pm 10am-6pm 10am-5pm	Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society Show Redwood Acres Fairgrounds 3750 Harris, Eureka, CA for more info call Toni Tyson (707)725-2890 BLUIS911@msn.com
8 & 9	9am-5pm	Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club Show Antelope Valley Fairgrounds 2551 W. Ave. H & Hwy. 14, Lancaster, CA For more info call Susan Walblom 661-943-1861 Or see www.palmdalegems.org
11	7pm	Searchers Annual Meeting Election of 2009 officers, Pie Night, RockSwap
14,15 16	10am-6pm 10am-5pm	West Coast Fall Gem & Mineral Show Holiday Inn, 3131 S. Bristol St., Costa Mesa, CA (Just south of 405 Fwy. At Bristol) free admission
22 23	9am-5pm 10am-4pm	Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society Show Performing Arts Center 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA for more info call Miriam Tetreault 805-642-5779 or www.ogms.net
23	10am-4pm	Searchers invitation for Openhouse at Jewel Tunnel Imports 13100 Spring St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706 626-814-2257 www.jeweltunnel.com Refreshments will be served. See map on page 7

DECEMBER EVENTS

4,11,18 6 13,20	6-10pm 3-7pm	Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping) Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing)
6	6-9pm	Holiday Dinner and Installation of 2009 Officers Marie Callendar's in the Garden Room 540 N. Euclid Avenue, Anaheim, CA 714-774-1832 For reservations go to www.searchersrocks.org Under "Meeting Programs" and then "December" The cost is \$26 per person (tax & tip included)
6 & 7	10am-5pm	Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Show Cora Harper Community Center 841 S. Barstow Rd, Barstow, CA for more info call

JANUARY EVENTS

8,15,22,29 10,17,24,31	6-10pm 3-7pm	Thursday Workshop (lapidary, wire wrapping) Saturday Workshop (lapidary, silversmithing)
13	7pm	January General Meeting
17 18	10am-5pm 10am-4pm	Tule Gem & Mineral Society Show Exeter Memorial Building 420 N. Kaweah, Exeter, CA for more info call Margaret Buchmann 559-739-0401 or see www.tulegem.org
18	TBD	January Field Trip to Nuevo Dumps near Perris, CA complete info in January 2009 Rock Slab Newsletter
21-25		QIA Pow Wow and Gem & Mineral Show in Quartzite , Arizona. Campsite: Texas Barbeque and The Golf Course

For a complete listing of Gem & Mineral Shows go to www.cfmsinc.org, www.rockngem.com and www.gemfaire.com.
And don't forget the Route 66 Gold Miners at www.route66goldminers.org and the GPAA at www.goldprospectors.com.

**Happy Birthday to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their birthdays in
November & December!!!**

JANUARY FIELD TRIP Sunday, January 18, 2009 Nuevo Dumps

Norbert Bernhardt will lead the January Field Trip on Sunday, January 18, 2009, to the Nuevo Dumps near Perris, California. We will be looking for rose quartz, star rose quartz, clear quartz (not crystal), schorl, garnet and smokey quartz.

There will be more information and a map in the January 2009 Rock Slab Newsletter, but feel free to call Norbert Bernhardt at 714-904-2181 if you need more information sooner.

QUARTZITE, AZ

DON'T FORGET QUARTZITE!!! January 21-25, 2009 (Wednesday through Sunday), the QIA Pow Wow and Gem & Mineral Show will be going on in Quartzite, Arizona. Searchers will be camped at the Texas Barbeque and next door at the Golf Course.

**An invitation for the members and friends of the
 Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
 to attend an openhouse at
 Jewel Tunnel Imports**

Sunday, November 23, 2008, 10 AM to 4PM

13100 Spring St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706, 626-814-2257

Map available at jeweltunnel.com

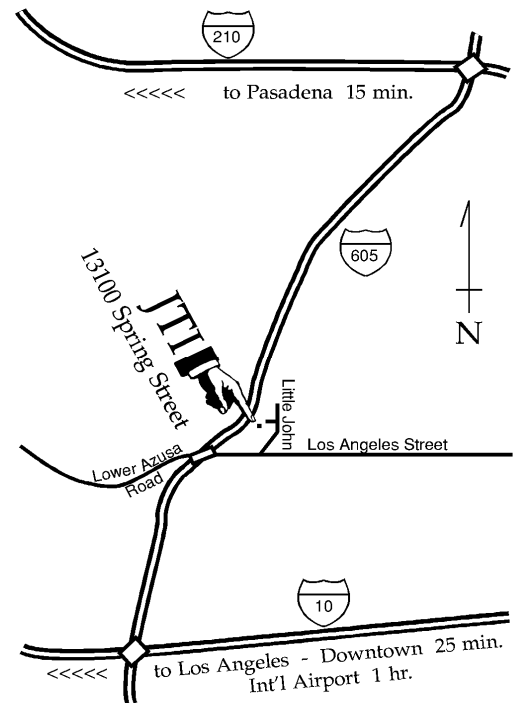
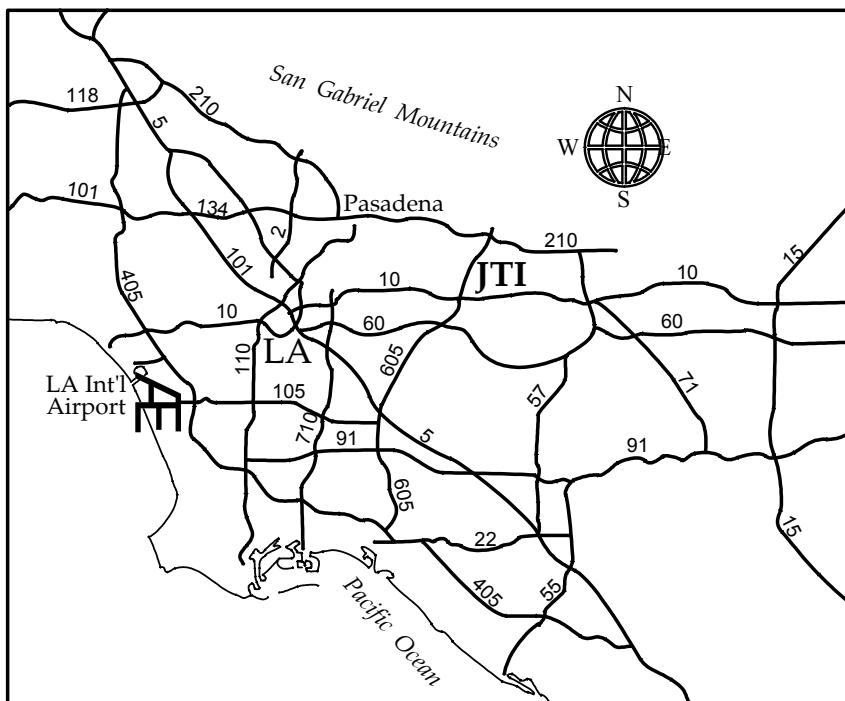
Refreshments will be served.

Jewel Tunnel Imports is a leading wholesale distributor of mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, tumbled stones and many different kinds of lapidary items like balls, eggs, jewelry etc. made from different minerals. We have a warehouse in excess of 10,000 sq. feet full of mineral related natural history items, perhaps the largest of its kind in the United States.

Historically Jewel Tunnel Imports has had limited open house parties for mineralogically and geologically oriented groups such as the students and faculty of various university geology departments and members of certain gem and mineral societies. These open houses, by invitation only, on a few weekends just preceding Christmas, offer a chance for individuals belonging to these groups to buy minerals and crystals at wholesale prices and to learn something about the wholesale gem and mineral business.

The owner of Jewel Tunnel (Rock Currier) is also interested in learning about new sources of mineral specimens and has been known to buy and trade such items. He is a micromounter and always interesting in trading for good micromount material not represented in his collection.

Directions to Jewel Tunnel Import's warehouse.



The following is a write-up about losing access to public lands.

One of the great things about our rockhounding hobby is that we are able to collect rocks ourselves. In many ways a rock which you have personally collected has much more meaning than a slab you may have purchased at a show. And if you then cut and polish that personally collected rock, and wrap or silversmith it into a piece of jewelry it becomes something very special.

The Searchers try to run a field trip monthly during the cooler months, and even creatively try some field trips during the heat of summer. These trips are an opportunity to get out of the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy some of the peaceful beauty that surrounds us. It is important to be reminded of the beauty and serenity of OUR world.

There are plans in work to take many of the prime collecting areas away from us. Senator Barbara Boxer has sponsored several bills which propose to take away large parcels of land that are currently available for us to visit, camp, and collect on. These bills propose to turn these areas into wilderness areas. Congresswoman Diane Feinstein has supported these bills. On the surface the bills may sound like a good idea; that way no developer can tear up a beautiful site and put a strip mall there. But a wilderness area has other restrictions, most notable that one cannot drive motorized vehicles in them. The only way you can access that area is by foot or horse-back. Rockhounding is a multi-generational family affair. I don't see rockhounds hiking for miles into a collecting site and then hauling out their small treasure trove of materials. And certainly there are rockhounds who are physically unable to do this. And families with young children would be unable to do this. In fact most people would not do this. Think about your circle of friends and acquaintances. How many people do you know who do long overnight hikes? In reality this seems to reserve this land for a very small percentage of our population.

I believe that conscientious rockhounding has little environmental impact. We tend to drive on existing dirt roads. We know to not bother the wildlife, especially the desert tortoise. We do not leave large holes that small wildlife can get trapped in. And we should be following the guideline of no more than one 5 gallon buckets per person from a site. I do not believe that we are a threat to the proposed wilderness areas.

Here is an interesting fact. This conservation idea is a tricky one. All rockhounds, I believe, would be unhappy to have a collecting site turned into a condominium site. So legislation to stop development on public lands is attractive to most if not all rockhounds. The problem is the wilderness designation and its associated ban on motorized access. Wilderness designations are out of touch with modern day realities. Public lands are now important recreation venues for rockhounds, mountain bikers, snowmobilers and Off-Highway Vehicle users, all of which are banned in Wilderness areas. Unfortunately the Wilderness lobby refuses to acknowledge the fact that there are other alternatives, such as National Recreation Areas (NRA), which provide the exact same level of protection from development that Wilderness carries.

There are however strong political forces at work here. The California Wilderness Coalition is the driving force behind most of these bills. They are a large well-funded organization. The key word here is "organization." They are organized. Most rockhounds when approached on a one-to-one basis can be shown the facts about the wilderness bills and decide: "This is not in my best interests. I should try to do something about this". But it is important that we all do something about this. The rockhound community as a group is strong.

The best thing that can be done is to write the politicians. There can be real impact from your communications: politicians will see you as a potential vote. The following bills are directly trying to take public land and turn them into wilderness areas:

H.R. 3682 / S. 2109

H.R. 860 / S.493

HR 6156 /S 3069

All of these have been sponsored by or supported by Barbara Boxer and lobbied for by the California Wilderness Coalition. Some of the key people that will be determining the outcome of these bills are U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Dianne Feinstein. I suggest that if you are concerned about some of the current developments, and I think you should be, that you **write to Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein**. Keep your letters short and polite. **You may wish to include the following statement:**

"I am asking you to OPPOSE the following bills: H.R. 3682 / S. 2109, H.R. 860 / S.493, HR 6156 /S 3069. As someone who values recreational access, I am asking you to SUPPORT alternatives including National Recreation Areas (NRA) that do not restrict the public's ability to view and enjoy our nation's public lands."

The local office of Senator Feinstein suggested writing to her in Washington (Senator Diane Feinstein at 331 Hart Senate Building, Washington DC 20510).

The local office of Senator Boxer suggested writing to her at her local address in LA (Senator Barbara Boxer at 312 N. Spring St. LA, 90012).

I do not suggest that you contact the California Wilderness Coalition. They have not been receptive to constructive dialog and appear focused purely on their goal which is to deny you and me access to public land that we currently utilize and enjoy.

I cannot stress how important these issues are. It is scary that things have been progressing so quietly. Some of these bills will be voted on soon. You may turn around one day soon and find out something you love is gone forever.

One side note: Clear Creek Recreation area has recently been closed due to the presence of naturally occurring asbestos which has been present there forever. It is not clear whether this area will ever reopen. In the ongoing war between the people that want to ensure access to public lands and the people that seem hell-bent on denying access to public lands, who do you think would consider this a great victory? No one ever said you had to fight fair in a war.

Steve Duncan
V.P Field Trips
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
714 724 7102 (cell)
wsd@iteris.com

The Rock Slab News

Volume 45 ISSUE 11

NOV / DEC 2008



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE YELLOW & BLUE TOPAZ

Topaz comes from the Greek word meaning "to shine" and the Greeks associated the topaz with strength. Many people also associate the word with fire as well. The Ancient Egyptians used the topaz to represent their sun god, Ra. The yellow topaz was carried to protect against evil thoughts and snake venom. In modern times it was used for healing and upliftment and thought to help people process energy. The blue topaz is also the traditional gemstone for a couple's fourth wedding anniversary. It has also been the official gemstone of Texas since 1969 and is a worldwide favorite because of its blue hues and clear quality. The popularity of blue topaz may be attributed to the curative elements that the gem is thought to have. Some believe that the topaz can lessen the symptoms of insomnia so the wearer may have a peaceful night's sleep. The gem is thought to have a calming effect and other health benefits that are attributed to it include relief from asthma and protection from sudden death. Some believe that the topaz can restore a person's sanity and is thought to warn the wearer of danger and to change color in the presence of poison.



Kathy Clark, *Editor*
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