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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

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FEBRUARY 2014



The President's Message



Hello Searchers,

February is almost upon us and it looks as though we won't have a general meeting this month. This is the first time since I've been with the Searchers that the Community Center has bumped us in favor of a paying customer (we 'rent' the hall for free). In April the hall will be closed for maintenance and our meeting for the second Tuesday is also cancelled. Alas, this illustrates why I believe that we need a long range planning committee with a goal to find the Searchers a 'Home'.

I hope that everyone has had the opportunity to go to Quartzsite. As I write this, I have not yet gone, but my trip will be during the Pow Wow session. Kim and I will be attending the ALAA meeting on Friday 1/24 and the ALAA Clean Up on Sunday 1/26. I hope to see you there!

Other things that are happening:

We need more volunteers for the Searcher's show in May. Please talk to Robert, Virgil, Adrian or any of the Show committee members to find out who needs help. What the heck, you'll be there anyway right?

Finally, it's that time of year. Pay your dues. Since we won't have a meeting in February, you can mail them in to our PO Box at: Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 3492, Anaheim CA 92803.

Off to Quartzsite, Jay Erb **NOTE: There is no meeting in February**

February Birthstone Amethyst

February Birthstone poem - Amethyst

"The February born shall find
Sincerity and peace of mind,
Freedom from passion and from care,
If they, the amethyst will wear."

February Birthstone - Properties of Amethyst

For those who were born in the month of February the Amethyst is the traditional birthstone. The February birthstone poem reflects some of the properties with which the Amethyst is associated - stability, peace, balance, courage, inner strength, sincerity and a calm disposition. The healing properties of the February birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the withdrawal symptoms of any sort of addiction, headaches, insomnia, arthritis, pain relief, circulatory system issues and general healing. The Amethyst is also referred to as the "sobriety stone" as it was once believed to prevent drunkenness and used to treat alcoholism and other types of addictions.



From <http://www.birthdaygems.org>



Field Trips



DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
2-2014	Robert Burson	Brown Mesa & Castle Butte	2/22-23/2014
3-2014	Jim McGeough	Nevada - Agates & Jaspers	Tentative
4-2014	Steve Duncan	Agates and Jaspers & Thulilte South Cadys	Tentative

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

Castle Buttes/Mojave Desert Field Trip

Feb. 22-23, 2014 Robert Burson Trip leader

This collecting area is reasonably close to the L.A. metro complex, two hours and change. The area contains a good cross section of the Mojave Desert geology. The mega borate mines, glacial lake deposits and some volcanics make this an interesting field trip. Possible collecting locations are Sierra Coloma for onyx; Castle Buttes for jasper, palm and scattered agate; borate minerals at US Borax; and last but not least petrified horse tail reed at Brown Buttes. This gives us a lot of possibilities for fun collecting.

Dry camping is available at the Sierra Poloma claim, which is approximately ten miles North of the 58 freeway on Clay Mine Road. Searchers signs will lead you to the camping area. For those who wish to stay in motels there are a few in Boron.

We will leave the campsite @ 9:00am Saturday and Sunday morning. You will want to bring lunch with you as we probably won't return to camp until the afternoon. This is a moderate off road area and 4 x4 is recommended, but skilled drivers in high clearance 2 wheel drive vehicles should be OK.

We will have the usual campfire and potluck on Saturday night; bring your favorite campsite dish.

Digging equipment: shovel, 8lb sledge hammer (for the Sierra Poloma travertine), rock pick, and collecting bag. Attire: boots, hat, sun screen. Also remember this is a dry campsite with no facilities, so bring everything you need including water.

If you have any questions contact Robert Burson 562-706-4892, or Steve Duncan at wsd@iteris.com or 714-724-7102.

Directions: From Anaheim Center, go east on 91 north 215, to Cajon Summit, about 5 miles take 395 split, 45 - 50m, to Clay Mine Rd. Look for searcher signs to camp.

Squiggly Jasper Trip Report

by Norbert Bernhardt

Well! We squiggled! The January 4th trip to the Bullhead City, Arizona area was a huge success. In all, we had about 23 Searchers attending. The hotels and casinos made it easy for us to stay in this area and of course there was also the KOA Campground and free camping behind the AVI Casino. The weather was great!

We departed around 9am and our group headed up Silver Creek Road to the dig sites. First stop was a quartz crystal spot that Jack and Linda Horn had actually located several months ago. Quite a few nice clusters were found.

Then it was a short 1/4 mile drive to go and collect Squiggly Jasper and a colorful jasper/ rhyolite with mauve, violet, yellow and beige colors. Quite a few nice LARGE pieces were found. Yours truly found a squiggly that weighed about 100lbs! Thanks Steve Duncan for the help carrying it up the hill and over all those darn bushes.

The Lake Havasu Club was also there at the same time. It was nice to see Searcher and Havasu members, Curtis and Kathy Clark. They led the Arizona club to the site.

It was time to head off around 3pm and go back to the AVI for a short happy hour and then dinner in the casino. If you missed this trip, you missed a good one!



Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
2-2014	None	No meeting for lack of meeting location
3-2014	Steve Hardinger (Dragon Minerals)	Advice on buying minerals
4-2014	None	No meeting— building maintenance

Upcoming 2014 CFMS Gem Shows

FEBRUARY 2014

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, Banning Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival 46350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10 - 10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674, (951) 288-9025 cell Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 21 - 23: NEWARK, CA Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley Newark Pavilion 6430 Thornton Avenue
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Cathy Miller Email: info@mgscv.org Website: www.mgscv.org

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 Lemoore 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: gloriaroseville-rockrollers@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

In the Shop: Cutting Geodes

Cutting geodes is always a little tricky since they are so round and hard to hold in place to cut in a slab saw. There are probably dozens of ways that rock hounds have come up with that works for them, from simple to complex tools. Here is one simple way to cut geodes in a 10" saw. Notches have been cut in the wood. Different sizes could be created for different size geodes if needed.



In the Field: Notes on Having a Great Field Trip

We are starting a new year of rock collecting so some thoughts on field trips from our Field trip coordinator seemed like a good way to start this column.

Here, in no particular order, are some thoughts about field trips:

- Most trips are for the weekend, although there are some 1 day trips, and some longer ones
- Most campsites are dry campsites (no facilities, no water etc)
- Campsites are usually accessible by any vehicle. Some people tent camp, some sleep in their pickups, some sleep in their RVs, and some sleep back in town at the nearest motel
- Sat night there is a potluck and campfire.
- Collecting trips may require high clearance or 4x4 vehicles, if you don't have one we will carpool you with someone
- Your most used tools will be a rock pick and a spray bottle, this is enough for most trips. When this is not enough you may want sledges, gads, shovels etc. I have found that backpacks are the most convenient way to carry rocks, although you will see many other methods being used.
- I like shoes with stiff soles (as compared to soft soled running shoes), but the soft soles will work
- Glasses to protect your eyes from flying chips should be worn. Hats and gloves are good.
- Sun screen and water are necessary. Snacks when out collecting are good.
- You won't see many critters, and most want nothing more than to be left alone, be careful reaching into holes, under bushes etc. Don't mess with a rattlesnake.
- Many places have been picked over some, that just means that you need to work harder to find good stuff. Look under bushes, on the side of steep hills, etc. Wherever no one looked before.
- Not sure what you are looking for? Ask someone. We will all be glad to help you.
- It never hurts to follow the field trip leader's recommendations about how and where to collect.
- Realize that although finding rocks is certainly the goal, half the fun is in just being out there and spending some time with friends.
- Leave the collecting site cleaner than you found it.
- Fill in holes, if that is not possible slope the sides so that a critter that falls in can get out.
- Don't pick up or bother a tortoise, you will literally scare the pee out of them, and with the loss of that liquid they run the risk of dying of dehydration
- Drink lots of water, and pace yourself. It is easy to become dehydrated.
- Do show your rocks to others, at the trucks, at the campsite etc. We do like to look at rocks
- Bring along friends. You do not have to be a Searcher to come on one of our trips. You will need to sign a waiver.
- Once you have found all these cool rocks there is the question of what to do with them. You can certainly have the coolest yard in the neighborhood (or at least the most rocky), but learning to work the rocks will increase your enjoyment of them. The club workshop is the perfect place to learn how to work with rocks.

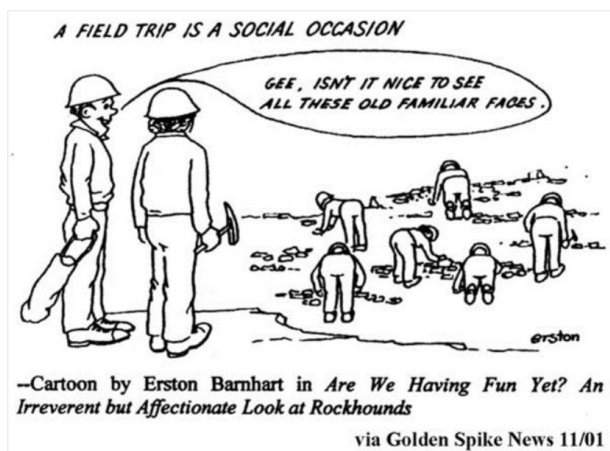


Con. From p.5

- When you are out collecting in the desert you may notice the lack of something: noise. Pause for a moment and enjoy it. Take a second to renew your connection with Pachamama (the earth Mother).
- It is nice to find a great rock, but it is really nice to give that rock to a youngster or rockhounding newbie and watch their eyes light up.
- Breaking out of your everyday routine, and getting out of the city is good
- Finding rocks in the parking lot is good. Finding rocks in the road is good (literally “in” the road)
- Telling stories about the nice rocks you have found is acceptable, telling stories about the great rocks is encouraged.
- I find that when I arrive at a site I am not “seeing” the rocks well, but as some time goes by, and my mind slows down, and I find a few examples, all of a sudden it seems like I can see all the good ones
- The driving can be exciting, collecting requires a different pace
- When traveling to collecting sites we will convoy. There are rules to convoying:
 - Try not to lose sight of the person behind you
 - Definitely not to pass an intersection until the person behind you has caught up to the point that they will be able to see which direction you take

Field trips are one of the great things the Searchers has to offer you. You really ought to take advantage of them, we have a lot of fun.

Do you have questions? Email me (Steve Duncan) at wsd@iteris.com



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

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:

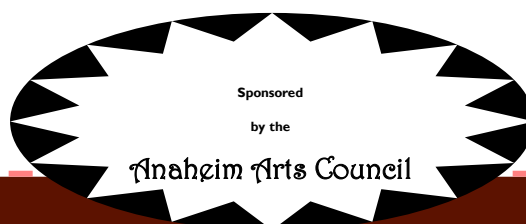
Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

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