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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 1

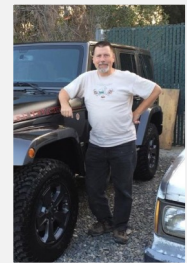


JANUARY 2018

The President's Message

Hello fellow Searchers

Happy New Year



As we celebrate the peaceful transition of power following the November board elections, it is a good time to assess the purposes and goals of the organization, and the methods and activities used to fulfill those purposes and achieve those goals.

We all have our reasons for joining the Searchers; I joined to grow my interest in the lapidary arts, but soon focused on field trips. Others are more interested in the shop, or mineral collecting and display, or jewelry making or geology, youth activities, veterans assistance, etc.

All these and more are reason to grow and support the Searchers. One of my primary goals as president is to ensure that all constituencies prosper and grow with us. For that to happen I need your help. I need you to reach out in support of your interests. Let myself or the board know what you think and how we can help you. You can address the general membership meeting, but it does not need to be in public; you can pull me aside or send me an email or come to a board meeting. We want to hear from you, it is your organization.

In that same vein, I encourage all members to read the various club documents which includes the by-laws, the standing rules, and the job duties. These club documents can be found on the Searchers website. In the coming weeks and months the board will be working on the mundane business of running the organization, but we need you to give us the sense of purpose.

Doug Flaugh
dwflaugh@aol.com



Please remember to bring a rock or slab for the Veterans!

Note: We just discovered that the VA lapidary shop has a faceting machine and now has someone available to teach them. Any faceting rough you could donate would be a great treat for them.

For field trip information contact: Robert Burson V.P. Field Trips, Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, bursonrocks@verizon.net

Field Trips

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
1-17-21 2018		Quartzsite	Planned

Field Trip: It is Quartzsite Time Again

Quartzsite is located in western Arizona, just 20 miles east of the Colorado River on I-10. It's been a rockhound's paradise since the 1960s. These days, it's also a mecca to well over a million visitors each year, most of whom converge on this small town in a wave of RVs during the months of January and February.



At this time of the year, 2,000 vendors of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils and everything else imaginable create one of the world's largest open air flea markets in Quartzsite. Eight major gem and mineral shows as well as vendors of raw and handcrafted merchandise peddle their wares to snowbirds, collectors and enthusiasts, making Quartzsite the place to be the first two months of each year.

Population / Elevation Quartzsite 1,900 people / 876 feet above sea level

Weather / Climate

Quartzsite has a classic low desert climate with extremely low relative humidity and very high summer temperatures. On the average, it receives less than 4 inches of precipitation a year. Stores, shops, restaurants, theaters and homes are air-conditioned year round in Quartzsite. June, July, August and September temperature are in the 100 plus area.

History

In 1856, settler Charles Tyson built a fort at the present site of Quartzsite to protect his water supply from attacks by Native Americans. Fort Tyson soon became a stopover on the Ehrenburg-to-Prescott stagecoach route, eventually becoming known as Tyson's Wells. After the stage stopped running, it became a ghost town.

A small mining boom revitalized the town and it became known as Quartzsite in 1897. It remained a mining town until 1965, when the Pow Wow Rock, Gem & Mineral Show initiated the rockhound winter migration to Quartzsite each year. These days, the population can swell to almost a million during January and February as rockhounds, jewelers and vendors, mostly in thousands of RVs, attend the eight major gem and mineral shows.

Shows and Events - 2018

Desert Gardens - Gem & Mineral
January 01 - February 28, 2018

QIA Pow Wow - Gems, minerals & jewelry
January 17 - January 21, 2018

Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show
January 05 - January 14, 2018

Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama
January 19 - January 28, 2018



More on Quartzsite

Side Trips For Rockhounds

Bradshaw Trail also known as the Gold Road to La Paz, is located in California's southeastern Riverside County. The trail was created in 1862 by William Bradshaw, and was the first trail that crossed the Riverside County desert all the way to the Colorado River. In 1863 it became a well-traveled overland stage route. Originating in San Bernardino, the trail was used to haul miners and other passengers to the gold fields at La Paz, Arizona (now Ehrenberg). More...



Hauser Geode Beds Take the Wiley's Well Road exit from Interstate 10 and continue driving south to the graded dirt road just past the state prison. You will pass Wiley's Well campground (9 miles south of I-10), and Coon Hollow campground (12 miles south of I-10). You will see a dirt road on the right with a marker indicating the route to the Hauser Geode Beds. (This is also the Imperial and Riverside county border.) More...

Opal Hill Mine is still producing fire agate, and rock hounders still frequent the mine for its gem-quality stones. The mine is privately owned but open to the public for a fee. With some hard work and effort, almost everyone leaves Opal Hill satisfied with the fiery agate they take with them. More...

Tumco/Hedges Ghost Town Driving Interstate 8 east of El Centro, California, after you pass through the Imperial Sand Hills, you can see off to the left a small group of mountains that appear dark brown. These mountains are known as the Cargo Muchacho Mountains. More...

Hotels/Motels

There are hotels and motels in nearby (about 20 miles) Blythe, CA

For Quartzsite Area

Camping & RV Parks

There are camping and a plethora of RV accommodations in and around Quartzsite. For more information, contact:

- Quartzsite Chamber & Tourism

1240 W. Main

Quartzsite, Arizona 85346

928-927-5200

<http://www.quartzsitetourism.com>

- Arizona State Parks 602-542-4174

- Arizona National Forests 800-280-CAMP

<https://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html>



Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
1-9-2018	Joe Girtner	The Jewelry Making Process

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: www.cfmsinc.org

Upcoming 2018 CFMS Gem Shows

JANUARY (2018)

January 20 - 21: EXETER, CA
Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia
Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building
324 N. Kaweah Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Margaret Buchmann, (559) 799-6034
Email: margaretbu03@gmail.com
Website: www.tulegem.com

FEBRUARY

February 16 - 25: INDIO, CA
San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
82-503 Highway 111 Hours: 10 - 10 daily
Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674
Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 17 - 18: ANTIOCH, CA
Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds
1201 West 10th Street Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Brenda Miguel, (925) 301-6957
Email: brenda.miguel@yahoo.com
Website: www.antiochlapidaryclub.com

February 24 - 25: VALLEJO, CA
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall
900 Fairgrounds Drive Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Dan Wolke, 707 334-2950
Email: dnewolke@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.vjgems.org

MARCH

March 2 - 4: NEWARK, CA
Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
Newark Pavilion
6430 Thornton Avenue
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Cathy Miller, 510-887-9007
Email: showchair@mgscv.org
Website: www.mgscv.org

March 2 - 11, IMPERIAL, CA
Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society
California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta
200 East Second Street
Hours: Weekends noon - 10 pm; Weekdays 4 pm - 10 pm
Contact: John Pyle, Jr. (760) 562-3453
Website: www.ivgms.org [Show Page](#)

March 3 - 4: ARCADIA, CA
Monrovia Rockhounds
L. A. County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily
Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624,
Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com
Website: www.moroks.com

March 3 - 4: VENTURA, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 West Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Diane Cook, (805) 312-8467
Email: info@vgms.org
Website: www.vgms.org [Show Page](#)

March 10 - 11: SAN MARINO, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Ellen Ferrell, (727) 512-0381
Email: pasadenalapidary@aol.com
Website: www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org [Show Page](#)

March 10 - 11: SPRECKELS, CA
Salinas Valley Rock and Gem Club

Spreckel's Veteran's Memorial Hall
5th & Llano Streets Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Gary Beck, (831) 679-2896
Email: garybeckpca@yahoo.com
Website: <http://salinasrockandgem.pagecloud.com> [Show Page](#)

March 10 - 11: TURLOCK, CA
Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contacts: Terry McMillin, (209) 484-4416
Email: terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com
Website: www.motherlodemineralsociety.com [Show Page](#)

March 17 - 18: SAN JOSE, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Sonia Dyer, (408) 629-5375
Email: sonia.dyer@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.scvgms.org [Show Page](#)

March 24 - 25: 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: robinski@yahoo.com
Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org [Show Page](#)

March 24- 25: ROSEVILLE, CA
Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society
Placer County Fairgrounds
800 All American City Blvd (off Washington)
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114
Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
Website: www.rockrollers.com [Show Page](#)

January Birthstone: Garnet



Rockhound Meditation

Jaka



Rockhounding on my own,
I search for the rocks
I want to bring home.
Walking along creek banks,
wading through water—
I enjoy the warmth of the day,
the ruffling breezes,
the wildness of nature.



Rockhounding is my meditation,
my mind released from worries and stress.
Focusing on the rocks underfoot and around me,
I concentrate on finding only the best.
Each step I take is careful and steady,
my eyes—attentive and alert
as I pack my bag with show and tell treasures
delighted with my gifts from the Earth.



Afterwards, I sit by the creek—
eating my lunch in this rock-world setting—
surrounded by the past,
I am mindful of the present,
and marvel at the colors, the patterns, the shapes.
I feel renewed, my spirit lifted
in the silent company of these age-old rocks.

Before leaving, I carefully study
my new-found collection . . .
then gather my tools,
and evidence of my presence.
Not minding the weight,
I head back to the car—
appreciative of the time for my
rockhound meditation.



Club Updates

Searchers Show Update

Our show meetings will be from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Senior Center at the Anaheim Center on the following dates:

- January 6, 2018
- February 3, 2018
- March 3, 2018
- April 7, 2018

This is all the way down the corridor, past the workshop and the wooden gates. Please notice that there are only 4 meetings scheduled before the show, so please plan to attend. Also, field trip coordinators, please don't schedule field trips on these days!



We have booked security and the show venue, have the fliers printed and have sent out the dealer contracts. All is aligned for making our show successful. Reminder: we need many small prizes for children and adults at the Wheel of Fortune, Hospitality Table, and the Minor Miner sand sifting activity. As you create and collect, please keep these needs in mind.

Show Helpers Needed!

We need the following help during our May, 2018 show:

Grab bag person (before the show and oversight during the show weekend. We have sign up sheets for show helpers, so the grab bag person will know who is expected and when.)

Sign hanging person (morning and evening, Saturday and Sunday)

Canopy coordinator (Friday and Saturday morning, Sunday evening)

Early next year sign up sheets will be available so you can help out throughout the show.

Please let me know if you would like to help!

Margaret hogarth.m@gmail.com 909-815-3045



Field Trip Information

Two new people have decided to take on the task of organizing field trips.

If you have an idea for a field trip, or would like to help lead one, please contact our co-field trip chairs:

Linda Jensen linda.askjaer@gmail.com

Matt Buchanan mattdbuchanan@gmail.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

P.O. Pox 3492

Anaheim, Ca. 92803

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies





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