

**SEARCHERS
BOARD AND
CHAIRPERSONS**

- Slab Editor: Linda Horn
anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
- President: Robin Larzelere
anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
- 1st VP: Brian Lamberson
- 2nd VP: Bill Hogarth, Bob Rubino
- Secretary: Jamie-Cassidy Curtis
- Treasurer: Gwen Sharp
- WorkShop Chair: Caleb Guyer
- Show Chair: open
- Webmaster:
- Federation Delegate: Nancy Bird
- Director: M.C. Kao
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IN THIS ISSUE

- Field Trips** 4
- Club Meetings** 2
- Upcoming CFMS Shows** 9

POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Rock Slab News

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 7



JULY 2026

**The Searchers next meeting:
July 14th 2026 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**



The President's Message

Hello Searchers,

Congratulations to Margaret Hogarth for being selected as the CFMS Scholarship Honoree for 2026. Margaret will select an earth science student to receive a \$2,000 scholarship from CFMS. Margaret was selected based on her years of service to our club, and participating in CFMS events.

The Searchers pays for a storage unit in Anaheim. It is 21 ft. x 10 ft., currently \$3,200 per year. If anyone has any thoughts on how to reduce the cost of storage, please contact a board member. The storage keeps all the material that is donated to the club, up until the April Show. A 10 ft. x 10 ft. would also work, or storing rocks outside.

The current size of our Show, 41 vendors at the Brookhurst Center, is too big for the volunteer Show Committee of 5 people. No large show is being planned, at this time. Other suggestions: Saturday morning shows on one topic, like Jade Day. Renting a table at the Long Beach Farmers Market or the Santa Ana downtown first Saturday, using the club's room credit at the Downtown Center to reserve Hall A for a one day sale, or a VIP dinner and high-grade auction. I contacted the Brookhurst Center to ask about an exception to paying all the rental fee a year in advance.

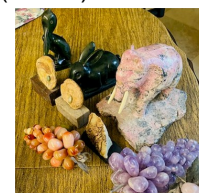
Workshop has added a sign-up sheet on the Workshop tab of the Searchers Website. If you are attending workshop, and have not signed up for maintenance, please sign the sheet. Two hours of cleaning the table covers, cleaning a slab saw, or changing a wheel on the genie is now required for use of the workshop.

The club received an estate donation from an attendee at our Show. Thank you to M.C. Kao for picking up the 16 boxes. It is a collection of spheres, and rock art items. If you are interested in photographing the items, please contact me (anaheimsearchers@gmail.com). We will meet at the storage unit and catalog what was donated. Some of the items are shown here.

Robin Larzelere, President

Welcome new members: Hayden Escobar, Matt Escobar, Tina Wu, Goldie Wu (Junior)

Ernesto Valasco



Searchers Club Meetings

Board Meeting- **July 7th by Zoom at 6:30 P.M.**

Member Meeting- **July 14th Doors open at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM**

Minutes from General Meeting, May12, 2026

Meeting location: Downtown Anaheim Community Center

Call to Order: The meeting began at 7 PM by Robin Larzelere.

Show: The show was a success! We covered all expenses for the show, and now have plenty of money for upcoming expenses such as our speakers and scholarships. Attendance was about 950, slightly less than last year, but we estimate that the attendees spent an average of \$25 more each than the previous year. (Some vendors did well, but not all.)

The show inspired two donations: 15 boxes of minerals and spheres from Carla Fuches in Westminster and Christopher Bork in Irvine.

Our Searchers website traffic has greatly increased recently (from 30 views each day to 120 views each day), and has remained high even after the show. We didn't have social media advertising this year due to the AI changeover by Google, so the increase is probably due to the paid advertising and bookmarks we used this year.

We plan to have a "thank you" potluck. We'll also plan a meeting to discuss dealer contracts and a venue for 2027. Details of both are TBD.

Cal State Fullerton scholarship: Gwen, Nancy, and Robin attended the awards dinner, where a vulcanology student received our scholarship.

Flint Knapping class: To be held in the San Bernadino mountains at the Redbird Visions Foundation outdoor camp. Details were sent in an email.

Mineral trays: The trays at our show weren't picked up by high school teachers as planned so we gave some to the CSUF geology student volunteers at our show, who loved the trays. Please suggest names of junior colleges with geology departments or geology clubs; we can promote our club by giving them trays too.

Picnic: Our annual picnic is June 20. See the website for details, and sign up to bring food, drinks, or bbq items.

Thanks: Margaret and Bill Hogarth washed the show tablecloths and fixed a broken dolly.

Faceting: You can now register to use the faceting machine at the workshop.

Bracelet making outreach: we had a bracelet-making event today for the Anaheim Library Geology Hour at the Miraloma Family Center. Thanks to Carol Dickenson and Elaine Foster who helped for Searchers.

There will be another event in June. Details will be provided later.

Continued on Page 7

Searcher Presenters and News

July Speaker - David Balenson

Title: The Wonder of (Collecting) Sand



Abstract: Sand, the second-most used resource on Earth after water, permeates our lives and our culture. From beaches to riverbanks, deserts to mountains, and even beyond Earth, on the Moon and on Mars, sand is ubiquitous. Its versatility is astounding; from arts and crafts to abrasives, and from glass to computer chips, our reliance on sand is extensive. Wikipedia defines sand as "a granular material composed of finely divided rock and mineral particles," characterized primarily by its grain size, smaller than gravel yet coarser than silt.

In this presentation, I will share my fascination with sand, cultivated through over 200 samples collected around the globe over the past two decades. We will delve into the myriad types, colors, and granularities of sands, unveiling their diverse beauty. Utilizing a digital microscope, we will scrutinize sand up close, unveiling a largely unseen world. We will also explore the intersection of sand and art, where it serves as both subject and medium. Finally, I will provide insights into resources for further exploration and collection of sand, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for this remarkable resource.

Bio: David Balenson is the Interim Director of the Networking and Cybersecurity Division and a Senior Supervising Computer Scientist at USC Information Sciences Institute, a world leader in research and development of advanced information processing, computer, and communications technologies, headquartered in Marina del Rey, CA. He has over 35 years experience managing and conducting research and development of innovative solutions to challenging cybersecurity problems for government and commercial customers.

David is a native of Baltimore, MD and currently lives with his wife of over 35 years in Olney, MD. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science from the University of Maryland.

David enjoys collecting stamps, coins, rocks, sand, bottles, and dried flowers. He collected his first rock (a cut geode) as a child at a gem and mineral outside Baltimore and his first sand sample at Pebble Beach, California in July 2003. He loves traveling the country and world adding to his collections.

David is a member of the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Montgomery County (GLMSMC), the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Leisure World (GLMS-LW), and Culver City Rock and Mineral Club (CCRMC), and the International Sand Collectors Society. He exhibits his sand collection at the Annual GLMSMC Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show held every March at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Maryland. Warmest wishes



Saw Oil Available

The club supplies saw oil at a good price. It is located at Jim Peterson's home. Bring your own 5 gallon container. The cost is \$70 for 5 gallons to members. \$80 for non-members. Jim Peterson 714 904-8573

Call 714 904-8573 and make a check payable to "Searchers"

Fields Trips

July		
August		
September 12-13, 2026	Quartz points, Big Bear, CA	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth
October 3-4, 2026	Rainbow Ledge, Ridgecrest, CA	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth
November 7-8, 2026	Buffington Pockets, NV	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth
December 5-6, 2026	Bird's Eye Rhyolite, Johnson Valley, CA	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth
	*Dates and locations are planned to the best of our abilities. Dates and locations may change with weather or other conditions.	

Field Trip Report Clear Creek



The Clear Creek rockhounding trip on June 6 was attended by 21 enthusiastic Searchers, 13 of which camped in the fantastic Jade Mill campground within a beautiful Oak Woodland. The weather was wonderful with clear skies and moderate temperatures high in the San Benito mountains above Coalinga. This trip is a little different from other trips in that a) it's farther afield than our usual trips with a 6 hour drive, b) it requires navigating the reservations.com website to pay for and attain 2 different permits, and c) there's little or no cell coverage once you leave Coalinga. But for the Searchers who attended it was worth it.

We headed in to our usual spot – which we discovered is an actual mine location and has a name, Junilla Mine – where was spent some time surface collecting plasma agate and enjoying the outdoors and beautiful views down the mountain and out into the Valley. The mine is getting played out for the huge boulders of plasma but there were many hand-sized pieces and smaller, some with bright red cinnabar!

We stayed until lunch time and then moved down to spot #2, the Aurora Mine, which is “mostly” closed but which several hardy souls ventured within. As semi-supreme leader I advised all that this was not a Searcher-sponsored part of the trip and they were on their own, but that deterred no one. The mine had several passages and shafts (I was told) and there was wonderfully cool air coming out the entrance. The less hardy - but no less adventurous – continued the search for rocks and minerals around the mine opening and surrounding area.

We were going to head back to hound along the creek, but before that Bert wanted to check out a mine but it was a bust, so we got our feet wet on the way back looking for more pretties.

The usual pot luck was attended by all the campers and despite not being able to have a campfire we all enjoyed being in the outdoors with friends.

This is the last trip before the heat dies down and the next trip season starts up in September. Keep an eye out in the Slab or the Searcher Website for more!



Clear Creek Photos



For field trip information contact: Bob Rubino and Bill Hogarth

Ideas for Revenue for the Searchers for 2027

There is a shortage of volunteers for planning the Show, executing the work needed to put on the Show, and working the Saturday portion of the Show. Perhaps Searchers need to put on smaller events, and get experience for a large Show? Which of these look appealing if you were volunteering.

Lapidary Workshop

Teach cabochon cutting, wire wrapping, or tumbling. Charge \$40–75/person for a 3-hour class, limit 5–10 seats. Sell supplies on-site for extra margin.

Fluorescent Mineral Night

Rent a dark venue, display UV-reactive minerals, charge \$15–20 admission. Add a glow-rock raffle. Add dinner and drinks.

Rock & Fossil Dig Experience

Partner with a local quarry or retired expert rock and mineral dealer. Part of the time would be educating and explaining, the other part would be prospecting in the quarry tailings or dealers' yard. \$20 per person to attend, group size 20 to 25

Jewelry Identification Night

At a local jewelry store that specializes in jade. Bring in GIA expert, serve wine and snacks.

Tourmaline Day

Like the Jade Day at the Downtown Center. But charge \$10 to attend.

An afternoon or evening at local farmers' market, or Santa Ana Art night (first Saturday of the month) The club would set up a table and sell what it has, and have vendors sell from the table, donating a portion of their sales to the club.

2027 Show

Rent the Brookhurst Center Main Hall and the Silent Auction Room, but no patio. 20 vendors. The 2027 would be profitable by \$1000 using modest estimates.



CLUB News

General Meeting Minutes Continues from Page 2

Lapidary camps: Camp Paradise registration is open for this summer.

So far, responses to the survey about having a lapidary camp here in southern California are positive. CFMS will send the results later.

Field Trips: The May field trip is a day trip this Saturday at Lavic Siding. The access road is packed dirt, so you should be able to get there in higher clearance two-wheel drive vehicles.

Treasurer: Our CD will soon be mature. We made about \$190 in interest.

Workshop: Caleb and Randy have both been certified by Art on our faceting machines. Crystal Vasquez has finished repairing one of the faceting machines. Stay tuned for more details about what's needed to let you do faceting at Searchers workshops.

Boxes: Please grab a box and fill it with donations for the show, such as rough, mineral samples, or other things that can be used for prizes, the Silent Auction, or raffles.

Our speaker this month was Art Ravenscroft (our faceting instructor), who gave a presentation about faceting tips.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.



Natural History Museum of Los Angeles

Tony Kampf, Curator Emeritus, at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is highly recommending a visit to a new exhibit at the Museum, called "**Unearthed: Raw Beauty**". Here is a link to the information about "**Unearthed**":

<https://nhm.org/unearthed-rare-mineral-exhibition>

Upcoming 2026 CFMS Gem Shows

2026- Shows

July 31, August 1-2, 2026 - Nipomo, CA
Nipomo High School, 525 North Thompson Avenue, Nipomo, CA 93444

Orcutt Mineral Society

Hours: Fri & Sat, 10 am to 5 pm; Sun, 10 am to 4 pm

Orcutt Mineral Society's 58th Rock & Gem Show

60 outside and 12 inside dealers; kids booth and food trucks.

Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com / 805-929-2783

Aug 15-16, 2026 - Tehachapi, CA
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East F Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Hours: Sat 9am - 5pm; Sun 9am - 4pm

Tehachapi Valley Gem , Mineral and Jewelry Show. Family activities, Awesome vendors, raffles & much more.

Contact: travis462@outlook.com

Website: tvgs.net

Aug 22-23, 2026 – Escondido, CA
California Center for the Arts, The Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

9,000 square feet of faceted stones, handmade jewelry, cabs, lapidary rough, minerals, slabs and more. Admission \$5, under 12 Free. Free parking.

Contact: PGMCshow@gmail.com

Vendors Contact: toniflo

Sept 18-20, 2026 – CFMS Show - Reno, NV

Grand Sierra Resort, Silver State Pavilion, 2500 East 2nd Street, Reno, Nevada 89595

Reno Gem and Mineral Society

Hours: Friday and Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

The Jackpot of Gems is one of the premier gem and mineral shows in the western United States, attracting collectors, families, educators, students, and enthusiasts from across the region. The Show features dealers from around the country, competitive exhibits judged under AFMS rules, demonstrations, educational programming, and hands-on activities for children.

The 2026 Show is especially significant as it is being held in conjunction with the CFMS, expanding both our reach and our impact.

Contact: showdirec-tor@renogemandmineralsociety.org

yd41615@gmail.com

Website: palomargem.org

Sept 19-20, 2026 - Arcadia CA

Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Hours: Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM
66th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Contact: marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com / (626) 260-7239

Website: pasadenalapidary.org

Sept 19-20, 2026 – Chico, CA

Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair St., Chico CA 95928

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society

Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

Feather River Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show.

Admission is \$6 for adults, free for 16 and under. Free Parking courtesy of the Feather Lapidary & Mineral Society

Contact: shows@featherriverrocks.org

Sept 19-20, 2026 – Monterey, CA

Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Website: cvgms.rocks

Sept 26-27, 2026 - San Luis Obispo, CA

Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club

Hours: 10AM - 5PM

Gems By The Sea will feature dealers selling a fantastic array of gems, minerals, fossils, carvings, jewelry, beads, jade, crystals, meteorites, lapidary and metaphysical items. Also unique handcrafted items by local artisans.

There will kids' activities and demonstrations of jewelry-making and lapidary crafts. \$5 Admission (Children, 12 and under free).

Free parking

Contact: 2026show@slogem.org

Website: slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/

CFMS now publishes a link with the show info and a map to the shows

<https://cfmsinc.org/shows-maps/>

July Birthstone – Ruby



Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

General Information

Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

www.searchersrocks.org



General Meetings: 7:00 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Board Meetings: 6:30 PM, 1st Tuesday of each month, Jan - Dec.

Workshop: Thursday 4:30 to 8:30 PM and Saturday 2:30 to 6:00 PM

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 \$40

Each additional household member is \$20

Valid Jan.1-Dec.31 The dues are prorated for new members. If new members sign up from October to December, their dues are good for those months, plus the entire next year.

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

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Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Click here for a link to the CFMS newsletter <https://cfmsinc.org/newsletters/>

Check out our "new" Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/searchersgemandmineral/?hl=en>

THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>

342 S. Tustin Street • Orange, CA 92866

Ph. 714-633-1549

Hours may vary, please call before coming.

