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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Rock Slab News

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 8



AUGUST 2026

The Searchers next meeting:
Aug. 11th 2026 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

The President's Message

Hello Searchers,

2027 Show Committee is: Natalie Larson, Steve Millbern, Mike Yamada, Gwen Sharp, Virgil Talbott, Stacy and Roger Reno, and Bob and Debbie Tanner. I am comparing two other venues, The 324 Union Hall in Buena Park, and the Sports Basement in Long Beach, to the Brookhurst Center. The show will be smaller in 2027, probably held in April or May, depending on the venue. A tip for advertising from the San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Society – printed yard signs for members to put out in their yards.

Thank you to Dan Anderson for the custom-built pulley cover on the new buffer in Workshop.

Doug Flaug's Mojave maps on the Google drive are now available to share for all members. Please send an email as to which maps you would like. Thank you to Marcos Torres for helping with IT.

AUGUST 27, Thursday – WORKSHOP IS CLOSED DUE TO AN ANAHEIM CITY EVENT.

Our club was contacted by a former Searcher (Kim Erb) who moved to Idaho and joined the local rock club. That club is opening their own workshop and wanted our advice and tips. Compliments to our Workshop supervisor Caleb Guyer, assistant supervisor Randy Barnes, and the helpful members that pass on their experience at every workshop.

Robin Larzelere, President

Welcome new members: Tracy Reed, Korbin Creager, Konrad Fry, Chris Goins, Diana Voegeli



Searchers Club Meetings

Board Meeting- **Aug. 4th by Zoom at 6:30 P.M.**

Member Meeting- **Aug 11th Doors open at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM**

Minutes from General Meeting, June 9, 2026

Meeting location: Downtown Anaheim Community Center

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

Show: The show was a big success, but a lot of work. As usual, there weren't enough volunteer hours to comfortably run the show, but a handful of experienced people and the volunteers who did show up managed to get the essential things done.

To make it easier on everybody, we want to consider doing smaller one-day shows next year instead of one 3-day show (Friday for setting up, Saturday and Sunday for the show). For example, 65 people came to our Jade Day event. It required less work, and our club made a profit. Our regular show requires booking the venue a year in advance, when there are still a lot of unknowns. It's much easier to book one-day events. Please give us your input soon.

New at the workshop: We recently received an anonymous donation of \$1500 to purchase an intarsia machine for the workshop. The board approved a motion to purchase an intarsia machine from Highland Park. Learning videos are available online.

The board also approved a motion to purchase an additional trim saw to eliminate, or at least cut down on, waiting lines for a trim saw.

Our workshop rules now require users to help with the maintenance of the machines.

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

Anaheim Library event, Haskett branch: The library asked us to talk about rocks, and make rings, at their summer program on June 16 at 4 pm. Robin will bring ultraviolet materials.

Other club events:

Bill Dordella (Jade expert) is the speaker at the South Orange County Gem club's June 17th meeting.

Montera has a Jade festival this weekend.

The Delvers club show is on June 20, which is also our picnic day. (Suggestion: you can go from one to the other!)

The Culver City club's show is on June 27 & 28.

CFMS meeting in Reno: we need a delegate to attend this in November. Nancy is unable to make it. We especially have an interest in our proposal for a Camp Paradise-style week of lapidary classes here in southern California. Please let us know if you can be the delegate.

Field Trips: The June field trip, which was held on June 6 & 7 at Clear Creek (near Coalinga), was a fun event. One member found plasma agate, while the others found other nice rocks.

Our speaker this month was Phil Chang, who gave a presentation about "Suisseki: A Different Way to Look at Rocks". Suisseki collectors choose rocks that look like something else, particularly something natural. For example, rocks that look like mountains, animals, faces, or huts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Searcher Presenters and News

August Speaker - None

"Buy, Sell, Trade, Share"

- bring rock related items or demo a skill -
member to member night



There is no speaker for August, it is Buy Sell Share Trade. I encourage people to "bring a skill to show off". I will bring my tumbler, grits, polished stones and talk about tumbling. Someone else can bring wire wrap, and someone else can bring their dremel tool, etc. Please come out and share!



NOTE:

AUGUST 27, Thursday – WORKSHOP IS CLOSED DUE TO AN ANAHEIM CITY EVENT.

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

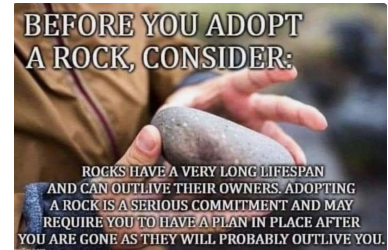
Call 714 904-8573 and make a check payable to "Searchers"

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.	

Searchers Field Trips – Aug 2026

We've been in our typical summer hibernation for field trips, but will be resuming in September with a trip to Big Bear. It will probably be a 1-day trip looking for quartz points on either the 12th or 13th. Bill and Bob will be doing a scouting trip in mid-August to verify what's out there, so we'll have more info in the next Slab.



How to field trip

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
- Hats are good and gloves are good
- Glasses to protect your eyes from flying rock chips 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
- **Continued on next page**

For field trip
information
contact:
Bob Rubino
and Bill
Hogarth

- 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.
 - Don't mess with a rattlesnake
 - 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
 - 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.
 - Spending time with your friends is good
 - 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 to not 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

This has been posted before thanks to Steve Duncan.

Sanitago Canyon College has a two year Gemology certificate course which includes faceting.

<https://sccollege.edu/>

GEM-020-85059 Diamonds
Fall 2026

Instructors

Meeting Information

8/17/2026 - 12/5/2026

Santiago Canyon College, HYBRID (Hybrid)

T, Th 7:15 PM - 10:15 PM

8/17/2026 - 12/5/2026

Santiago Canyon College, SCC U Building U-103 (1 Laboratory)

Dates

8/17/2026 - 12/5/2026

Course Description

Full range of diamond grading techniques, history, diamond substitutes, physical and optical properties, all types of synthetic, techniques of valuing/pricing, famous diamonds, detecting enhancements.

Additional Information

On-Campus Hybrid Instruction. A combination of online instruction and on-campus meetings during the days and times indicated.



GEM-011-85058 Introductory Colored Stones

Fall 2026

Instructors

Miller, Michael J. (Miller.Michael@sccollege.edu)

Meeting Information

8/17/2026 - 12/5/2026

Santiago Canyon College, HYBRID (Hybrid)

M, W 7:15 PM - 10:15 PM

8/17/2026 - 12/5/2026

Santiago Canyon College, SCC U Building U-103 (1 Laboratory)

Dates

8/17/2026 - 12/5/2026

Course Description

Introduction to identification, appreciation, and evaluation of colored gemstones. Overview of the world colored-stone industry. Experience using gemological testing equipment and procedures to identify the most commonly seen varieties of natural and synthetic-fashioned gemstones.

Additional Information

On-Campus Hybrid Instruction. A combination of online instruction and on-campus meetings during the days and times indicated.



CLUB News

For Jade lovers:

The video for the ****2026 International Jade Summit**** just dropped.

A HUGE thank you to speakers Georg Schmerholz, William Ralston Saul, and GIA's Dr. Aaron Palke for making this event a success. I also want to thank the Jade Events Unlimited board, and Mason-Kay Jade and GemIntellect for their generous sponsorship of the event.

Much of the information shared in these seminars is brand new to our industry and couldn't be found anywhere else on the internet until now. I am so blessed to have been able not only to witness these seminars in person, but to emcee the only in-person event which features the top leaders of the Western jade industry today.

These seminars, while very different from each other, together tell a story of hope for the future of the jade industry.

If you watch this video in it's entirety, you'll hear a positive message for sellers and customers alike - and you'll see that the most important gemstone in human history is just getting started.

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

[The 2026 International Jade Summit at the Monterey Bay Jade Festival](#)



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

August 1-2, 2026 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society
Roebbelen Center @ the Grounds, Placer County
Fairgrounds, 700 Event Center Dr., Roseville, CA 95678
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 995-7380
Website: <https://rockrollers.com>

August 15-16, 2026 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East F St., Tehachapi, CA 93561
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: travis462@outlook.com
Website: tvgms.net

August 22-23, 2026 – Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
California Center for the Arts, The Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: pgmcshow@gmail.com
Website: palomargem.org

September 18-20, 2026 – Reno, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society
CFMS Annual Show & Convention
Reno Sparks Convention Center, Reno, NV

Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4

Contact:

showdirec-

tor@renogemandmineralsociety.org

Website: <https://renogms.org>

September 19-20, 2026 – Chico, CA

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4

Contact: shows@featherriverrocks.org
Website: <https://featherriverrocks.org/show-2/>

September 19-20, 2026 – Monterey, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Rd., Monterey, CA 93940
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

September 19-20, 2026 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (626) 260-7239, marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com
Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

September 26, 2026 – Lake Elsinore, CA

Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
32113 Corydon Rd, Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: 10-4
Contact: (909) 208-6956, berylman50@aol.com

September 26-27, 2026 – San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: 2026show@slogem.org
Website: <https://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea>

October 3-4, 2026 – Anderson, CA

Shasta Gem and Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds, 1890 Briggs St., Anderson, CA 96007
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: sgmsrocksredding@gmail.com, (530) 722-7133
Website: shastagemandmineral.org

October 10-11, 2026 – Redwood City, CA

Peninsula Gem & Geology Society and the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society
Community Activities Building, Redwood City, CA 94061
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: impresciacconstruction@gmail.com (650) 575-3144
Website: <http://pggs.org>

October 17, 2026 – West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307
Hours: Sat 10-5
Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.rockchippers.org>

October 17-18, 2026 – Santa Rosa, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Memorial Hall, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: vcommons@outlook.com, (408) 691-7823
Website: srmgs.org

October 24-25, 2026 – Sacramento, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society
6151 H Street, Sacramento CA 95819
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 622-5819, gemshow@sacgemshow.com
Website: <http://sacgemshow.com>

October 24-25, 2026 – Orange, CA

American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower St, Orange, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (714) 501-9959, info@opalsociety.org
Website: <http://opalsociety.org/>
[Opal_Show_Current/opal_show_current.htm](#)

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

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

August Birthstone – peridot, spinel, and sardonyx



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 - Nov

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. Box 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.

