The Rock Slab News

VOLUME 63, ISSUE II NOVEMBER 2026

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: Yuval Dohn
- Webmaster:
- Federation Delegate: Nancy Bird
- Director: M.C. Kao



IN THIS ISSUE

Field Trips 4
Club Meetings 2
Upcoming CFMS Shows 9

POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Searchers next meeting:
Nov. 10th 2026 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



The President's Message

Hello Searchers,

Hello Searchers,

Thank you to **Walt Lombardo**, **Nevada Mineral and Book Store** in Orange, who had too much local, high-grade, rough rock to pick up. He graciously donated much of it to the Searchers, and our members went and picked it up. The 2027 Show will be startling.

Workshop News: **$15 per visit**, raised from $10.

Financial News: The club is carrying $1,400 a month in expenses, and would like help increasing income. Searchers can apply for grants in the area of Senior wellness (mental health, physical activities, and creative projects) from local foundations. If you have experience writing grants, please volunteer.

The local community colleges are offering Senior education – Irvine Valley College has **Wire Wrapping** and **Lapidary workshop**, and Santiago Canyon College has lapidary workshop. Our club has the expertise to show others the same skills, during our Workshop, **and increase the club's income**. Please consider what lesson you could provide a "kit" of materials for, and show a student a new skill. Lessons can be 1.5 to 2 hours long, still leaving time for yourself in workshop. Saturday attendance has been lower, so Saturdays would be less noisy, and easy to teach a small group.

Gwen Sharp, Carol Dickinson, Tracy Reed and myself sold items and made polished stone rings at the O.C. Farm Supply in Orange, on Saturday, Oct. 17. Thank you to Amy Bokn for the shade structure.

Robin Larzelere, President

Welcome new members: Tanya Cwik, Jiyang Guo, Fred Wendell, Dawna Olsen, Erik Xu



High grade rough



OC Farm Supply Harvest Event, Gwen Sharp,

Robin L., Carol Dickinson, Tracy Reed

Searchers Club Meetings

Board Meeting- **Nov. 3rd by Zoom at 6:30 P.M.**

Member Meeting– **Nov. 10th Doors open at 6:30 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM**

Minutes from General Meeting, September 9, 2026
Meeting location: Downtown Anaheim Community Center

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

Museum: The Hilbert Museum of California Art has a rock event going on through October 4.

Santa Ana Art Walk: This event, going on now, is very popular, especially on Saturday nights. If you go, consider talking to other attendees about our club.

Searchers 2027 Show: This will be at the Brookhurst Community Center on April 3 and 4. Please consider volunteering to help at the show, and make donations for the Silent Auction/raffle/door prizes.

Other clubs' shows: Upcoming shows include:

American Opal Society show at the end of October

Pasadena show

Elsinore show on September 25

Nominating Committee: The committee is James La Borde, Veronica Purpura, and Carol Dickinson. Contact one of them if you want to run for a position for next year's Searchers board. Our elections are held at the November meeting. See the Searchers website for more information.

Field trips: Next month's field trip will be on October 3 & 4 at Rainbow Ridge. We'll go to a claim belonging to the Indio Wells club for multi-colored jasper and agate.

Storage unit: We recently cleaned up our storage unit. There are a few items on a table in back that you can take for a small donation.

Camp Paradise: this camp has two 1-week sessions each year (around mid August) in northern California, near a town called Clippers Mill. It's about $600 a week, which includes room and board as well as classes. (You may have to pay a small fee for supplies in some classes.) Searchers members who've attended highly recommend it; some people go almost every year. Registration usually occurs around mid -April.

Note that our club has been working to have a similar camp here in southern California. CFMS and other clubs are interested. Tentative plans are for Easter week next year.

VHS tapes: we're looking for a volunteer who can convert old VHS tapes to digital files. For example, one tape is from the 1996 show.

Our speaker this month had to cancel at the last minute.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Searcher Presenters and News

November Speaker—None
Pie Night and Elections





Christmas Party
And Gift Exchange

Dec. 8th
Potluck







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

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.	

November Field Trip 11/7-8 2026 Buffington Pockets Nevada

Buffington Pockets Nevada - Guide Jim McGeough

The November trip will be to the Buffington Pockets area near Las Vegas. There's a nice agate field, purple agate with greens and whites. The whites would also polish so this is nice cutting material. Nearby there are both Selenite blades protruding from the sand, and large flat sheets of Selenite so we will investigate them also.
The Sunday AM trip has not been defined yet, but this whole area is interesting and there is lots of good material to be found.
The camp will be typical BLM dry camping off the Valley of Fire Highway South of interstate 15. **THE EXACT LOCATION IS NOT KNOWN YET. We will have Searched signs out, but if you let me know you're coming, with your text phone#, I'll send you a Geotag as soon as we do**. It's reachable by most vehicles. The trips will be up sandy washes so 4x4 will be necessary. We will have some carpool opportunities for anyone who doesn't have a 4x4, but seats are limited.
We will leave the campground at 0900 both days; you will want to bring your lunch, as we will not be returning to camp for lunch. Saturday evening is our usual potluck. Most folks will probably hit the road in the early afternoon Sunday, but some diehards often stay all day (or longer). Needed tools are mostly a rock pick and spray bottle, much of the agate is found in float. Sometimes a small pick or shovel comes in handy. Don't forget lots of water, sunscreen, hats etc.
We hope to see you there, if you have any questions please contact Bill Hogarth at 909.264.1122 (whogarth@gmail.com) or Bob Rubino at 714-504-4518 (brubino54@gmail.com).

Rainbow Ridge Trip Report

Wow, what an adventure! There were daring deeds, rough roads, wild animals, and HEAT. Yet the 18 adventurous spirits seemed to have fun and even came home with some pretties.

Rainbow Ledge is a claim in the El Paso range owned by the Indian Wells Gem & Mineral club in Ridgecrest (Inyokern?). They are protective of the claim and the area – as they should be with the increase in traffic into the desert areas over the last 10+ years. Much of the traffic treats the desert either as an amusement park/trash dump or as a free supply of material (mines and water) and space (solar spread) to be exploited. The people who go for semi-spiritual relaxation and appreciation of nature's bounty are becoming fewer and fewer.

For field trip information contact: Bob Rubino and Bill Hogarth

Since our last visit, 4-5 years ago the desert has received 3+ heavy storm seasons which have a tendency to degrade roads, and this trip was a good example. Because we had a local guide, we did not scout the roads like we often do, and that was a mistake. This is probably a good opportunity to remind folks when we suggest high-clearance, AWD or 4x4 vehicles, we mean it. And when we ask for trip attendees to let us know ahead of time it's because we often have extra seats, but it's on a first-come basis and we were running out of extra space in the week leading up to the trip.(Thanks to Mike Yamada for helping.)Luckily, we had some cancels and a couple others who wanted to chance their 2WDs, so everyone who showed up this time was able to do the trip.

Our Guide, Charlie, from IWG&M was a wonderful guide along those roads and brought samples of the things we would be hopefully finding. There was waxy Opalite, all sizes of jasper with subdued coloring, and even some small pieces of agate.

About a half dozen campers arrived on Friday and the camp area had room for many more. Other, more civilized, trippers stayed in Ridgecrest. Mostly we hid from the sun until dusk when the temperature dropped into the 80's. The sun was relentless all weekend, with temps around 100, and the desert is mostly scrub so there was little shade. But the light breeze was wonderful! We were far enough away from most civilization that the only noise was the noise we made, very peaceful. And the nights, before the moon rose, was brilliant with the Milky Way visible across the sky. We had campfires Friday and Saturday for those who were camping.

Saturday got us up, sorted and out by 9:00am and we stopped by a new opalite dig that Charlie introduced us to before running out to the claim. Sadly, one of the 2WD vehicles with 4 people got a flat tire after that and had to abandon the trip and return on the spare. We tracked their progress by cell phone as they had the tire patched in Ridgecrest.

Next stop was Rainbow Ledge which is a large area of multi-colored jasper. The rock is solid and very hard – perfect for polish and lapidary. The float is well picked over, but the stream beds release prizes and refrigerator-sized boulders could be attacked with pick and sledge (remember, it is a claim) for bigger pieces. It was early afternoon when we left there, but the sun was brutal and we decided to head back.

Several more left for home or back to Ridgecrest for their hotel's AC, leaving about 9 folks. We offered Charlie to share our potluck, but he had plans. Too bad, it was one of the better potluck dinners we've had. Then fire pit, open sky, and bed.

The Sunday trip was without Charlie and went to a place rumored to have Moss Agate near Indian petroglyphs. Alas, the 5-mile drive there was excessively bumpy with us having to rebuild a drop in one spot so the vehicles could make it "safely." The Sunday Group were real hardy souls and all chipped in with good attitudes. Special thanks to Engineer Virgil for designing the ramp, Jeff Bokn who was crew foreman, and our cheerleader and videographer, Mic who documented it all. Did I mention it was hot?

We made it to the final spot an area called Sheep Springs where lots of animal tracks, birds, and little critters. The rockhounds went out and found some material, but it was slim pickin's. We also saw a boulder with many metate holes used for grinding grain and seeds by first nation peoples. After another vehicle fix using zip-ties, we called it "done" and turned back to camp where we bid goodbye to everyone and headed back to civilization.

Suppliers for Rock related items

Local Places



Nevada Mineral and Book Company - Walt Lombardo - local store rocks, minerals, polished rocks, books 342 S. Tustin Ave., Orange CA store hours vary, call first 714-633-1549 https://www.minbooks.net/
Beads and Wire - local store - Beads Store 949. Tustin Ave. Orange, CA open Fridays through Monday

Johnson Bros. Lapidary Supplies - local store - saw blades, grit, tools https://johnsonbrotherslapidary.com/products/d-100-rw-nova?variant=46542201913594 1452 N. Battavia Ave., Orange, CA 714-771-7707

House of Gems - local store - beads, carved rock novelties, wire, cabs 1672 Lincoln Ave., Anaheim Monday through Friday 9:30 to 5 657-202-5949 https://www.houseofgems.com/

A to Z Jewelry and Crystal Shop - local store - 7351 Heil Ave., Unit A, Huntington Beach 714-292-3653 https://www.etsy.com/shop/AZJewelrySupplyStore?ref=seller-platform-mcnav

On Line



Fire Mountain Gems https://www.firemountaingems.com/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=359379364&gbraid=0AAAADfOFGRf8QEGxuH4A0oOmSa8Y-yB4&gclid=CjwKCAjwhNbTBhB4EiwAsFSg-vITcySlQ-IL6ij7GmTt8t6chEPd8zMGU_KoPAoYbI0J3ssc2ceFrBoCPV8QAvD_BwE



Rio Grande -online https://www.riogrande.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoqNBx3dnmjTflZ9pOysbsEvRAKrCU4_WwflT3TEZh1tMl8ea2fN - wire, beads

Minnesota Lapidary - online, https://lapidarysupplies.com/ you call by phone to order - 888-612-3444

Kingsley North Lapidary Supplies - saw blades, grit, tools
rocktumbler.com - tumbling information and tumbling supplies

Shipwreck Beads - discount beads https://www.shipwreckbeads.com/?srsltid=AfmBOop0dJjeN0EAwYgdCF0kyzVQ4bhMc4GpH-GE8VfJRcqtJ01SikHI

Dollar Bead
https://dollarbead.com/?srsltid=AfmBOorEzg2ee5s0BnI_FeGRN_g61WYdTLA_u1qOJIMiPvUdGvMS3S2z

You Tube

Michigan Rocks channel for rock tumbling videos
William Holland School of Lapidary - you tube videos Larry Carby or Rick Marshall
Highland Park Lapidary channel on You Tube
for wire wrap videos and jewelry https://www.wirejewelry.com/pages/ws_wants_you_back.html?srsltid=AfmBOoqOcAPTcAkDB9tnw_Cg8xUFD0Xs1xT-y_elSUiWuFtTEunYVeZJ

Irvine Valley College Emeritus Institute - wire wrap and lapidary at a workshop in south county Course No. 75065 CRN https://www.ivc.edu/emeritus

Show Committee meetings (at Veronica's house), 2-4 p.m.

Show News November, 2026



The Show Committee co-chairs and members are hard at work preparing for the show. We have booked security, tables, the facility, the food truck, Miss Anaheims, and are preparing dealer contracts and a hundred details. We organized the storage unit and evaluated materials we already have on hand.

With our recent financial pressures the board voted to move the Silent Auction out onto the patio. Luckily, an anonymous donor gave the club $1,550 to cover the rental of the Silent Auction room, so that we can treat our members and customers in the best way possible. It will also make our silent auction far more successful. Thank you! We are thinking very hard about costs and making adjustments wherever we can.

How can you help the club? Low-hanging fruit include donating an item to the Searchers for the Searchers Sale Table. This show table has potential to make the club far more money. It can include slabs, rough, or creations. Donate quality material to the silent auction, our biggest earner. We need a lead person to sign up Searcher demonstrators for 2-hour shifts Saturday and Sunday demonstrating cab making. Will you help?

We need small and large prizes for grab bags and door prizes. Raffle or opportunity drawing items are much appreciated and don't have to be rock-related. Our $5 bags sell out on Saturday every year. We already have hundreds of bags ready for materials. Can you help out? Tumbled rocks, cut offs, small slabs, fossils or crystals, all would help. Our limiting factor each year has been not having enough $5 bag material. Our goal has been to sell 100 bags (a free $500 for the club!), but we've always fallen short. Do you have decorations we could borrow? We are forgoing paid decorations.

We welcome you to the show meetings and grab bag stuffing.

Show Committee meetings (at Veronica's house), 2-4 p.m.:
Sunday, November 15, 2026
Sunday, December 13, 2026
Sunday, January 10, 2027
Sunday, February 7, 2027
Sunday, March 7, 2027
Sunday March 21, 2027 (optional, if needed)



Grab Bag Stuffing (at Gwen's house)
Saturday, February 13, 2027, 9-11

Thank you, the Show Committee

2027 Show News: A huge thank you to Mike Layborne, Steve Duncan, Bill and Margaret Hogarth, and Jimmy Peterson and Caleb Guyer for picking up two trucks worth of high grade rough in Orange. It was a very hot day, and they emptied buckets and sorted on a hill for two hours. An anonymous donation came in for the Silent Auction room at the 2027 Show. This is a good start for our Show!

NOTE: News from Victorville Club The 2027 Tailgate will be held at a new location and a different weekend. It will be held at the Slash X cafe on 247 between Barstow and Lucerne Valley, on March 19th, 20 and 21st.

Upcoming 2026 CFMS Gem Shows

2026- Shows

November 7-8, 2026 – Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest CA 93555 Hours: 9-5 Contact: showchairman@iwgms.org Website: https://iwgms.org

Nov 7-8, 2026 - San Diego, CA
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4
Gem Diego Show: Free Admission & Parking. Eateries next door. Free Gem ID, 28 dealers, 20+ exhibits, demonstrations, Kid's zone, gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, rough, cut stones, books, jewelry, slabs, door prizes & grand prize raffle (do not have to be there to win), and plenty more! Trained Service Animals Only!
Contact: benton.luannz@gmail.com
Website: SDMG.org

November 14-15, 2026 – Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: show@ccmgsclub.com
Website: http://www.ccmgsclub.com

November 21-22, 2026 – Santa Cruz, CA
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society
The Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: scruzmgs@gmail.con
Website:
https://www.eventbrite.con/e/santa-cruzrockin-
gem-mineral-and-jewelry-holiday show-tickets-2003175174872

2027

February 20-21, 2027 – Antioch, CA
Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds,
1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA 94509
Hours: Sat 10-5. Sun 10-4
Contact: jennheath50@yahoo.com
Website: www.antiochlapidaryclub.com

March 6-7, 2027 – Newark, CA
East Bay Mineral & Lapidary Club
Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Ave.,
Newark, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: info@ebml.club
(510) 353-3787
Website: http://info@ebml.club

March 6-7, 2027 - Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: info@vgms.org
Website: vgms.orgail.con

March 13-14, 2027 – Turlock, CA
Mother Lode Mineral Society of California
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway, Turlock, CA 95380
Hours: 10-5
Contact: (209) 961-3942
show@mothelodemineralsociety.com
Website: https://turlockgemshow.com

March 19-21, 2027 – Barstow, CA
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Slash X Ranch Café, 28040 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA 92311
Hours: Sat & Sun 9-5
Contact: (760) 243-2330, rsvp@vvgmc.org
Website: http://vvgmc.org

March 20-21, 2027 – San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose, CA 95111
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (408) 691-2656
inbox@scvgms.org
Website: http://www.scvgms.org

April 11-12, 2027 – Mariposa, CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007 Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa, CA 95338
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: mgmc@sti.net
Website: https://mariposagemclub

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

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

November Birthstone – Topaz and Citrine









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 9:00 PM and Saturday 2:00 to 7:00 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

Charter Date: April 20, 1958
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.







