

SEARCHERS BOARD OFFICERS

- President: Kim Strange
- 1st VP: Sharon Burson
- 2nd VP: Andrew Bloxom
- Director: Doug Flaugh
- Secretary: Aurora Vidin
- Treasurer: Sue Gevedon
- Federation Delegate: Nancy Bird
- Committee Chairpersons
- Editor: Linda Horn
- Historian:
- Hospitality: Lorri Renck
- Library: Inez Flaugh
- Sunshine:
- Veteran Liaison :
- Website: Steve Duncan
- Shop Chairman: Adrian Callard
- Show Chair: Margaret Hogarth

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 5

The Rock Slab News



MAY 2021

The President's Message

Hello Searchers,

I hope this message finds everyone staying healthy and doing well. More and more of our members are reporting that they have been vaccinated against COVID – which is great news. The latest news from the Anaheim Community Center is that they plan on reopening by June 15 and are working on protocols that must be followed when they reopen. We will share the specifics with you as soon as they are shared with us.



April's general meeting program was an overview of making spheres given by our very own Jimmy Peterson. Prior to Jimmy's talk, I wasn't familiar with what it takes to transform a rough rock into a beautiful polished sphere. Through the course of Jimmy's talk, I learned all the steps involve – everything from rough cutting to hand grinding the rough-cut piece to get it somewhat spherical before placing it into the sphere grinding/polishing machine. Jimmy also shared some tips and tricks during his talk. A special thanks goes to Jimmy for sharing some of his knowledge with us and thank you also goes to Margaret and Bill Hogarth who helped videotape and document Jimmy's process.

IN THIS ISSUE

Field Trips	5
Club Meetings	2
Upcoming CFM Shows	8

At our April board meeting, we discussed our continuing transition to using a board Gmail email account to standardize access to a variety of online club tools and resources (such as our website, social media accounts, financial accounts, etc.) without having to use individual personal board member email addresses as the log in credentials. We also reviewed an old club website that hadn't been used since 2013 – and are transitioning some interesting historical information from that old website. Once that work is done, we will formally delete the old unused club website.

For our club to do well in the future, it takes all members to give some of their time and talent to support the club. Officer elections will be coming up in just a few months – at our November general meeting. Please consider supporting the club by filing a board role next year.

POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

One last business item, we have received a couple of questions from members on how to go about paying dues this year. Without in-person meetings, about the only way to do this is by mail. The club's mailing address is; SEARCHERS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 3492, ANAHEIM, CA 92803

That's all for now Searchers. Stay healthy!



Searchers Club Meetings and Presenters

Board Meeting- May 4th ZOOM meeting

Member Meeting- May 11th ZOOM meeting

NOTE: The latest is that the Community Center is still closed

Searchers board meeting – April

The Searchers board met via Zoom on April 12 at 6:30 pm. Items discussed included:

We want to consolidate the Searchers online accounts. Searchers has an old website as well as the one we currently use. We plan to identify and copy the items we want to save, then cancel the old site.

We plan to update the Searchers membership list for 2021.

We're investigating several electronic payment systems that would let users pay dues online, such as PayPal, Zelle, Venmo, or Square.

Although the Anaheim Downtown Center doesn't have a firm opening date yet, they have begun making plans for reopening. We'll pass on more details when they're available.

Doug Flaugh is leading a field trip to the Calico Mountains (Green Ash Hills and Mule Canyon Field Trip) this weekend. See the April Rock Slab for details.

We think there's a good chance that our annual August Searchers picnic will be allowed this year in some form, so we'll start the planning soon.

Searchers general meeting – April

The Searchers meeting was held on Zoom on April 13 at 7:00 pm. At least 19 households attended.

Jimmy Peterson gave a presentation on making spheres. Highlights included:

Spheres bring the inside of a rock to the outside.

Look at all sides of the rock to make sure it's suitable and well-shaped. Vugs, which are openings (sometimes lined with crystals) in the rock, may be acceptable, even adding beauty to the finished sphere.

Start with a cube, then cut off the corners until you're left with a 12-sided rock that resembles a 3-D octagon.

Grind off the remaining sharp corners with an angle grinder so the sphere grinding machines don't catch on a sharp corner, which could throw the rock out at you. The rock should look roughly like a sphere now.

Jimmy puts the rock into a corundum grinding machine first, then into a diamond grinding machine. Both machines have cups that shape the sphere as the machine grinds. Check the cup's size to ensure you'll get the sphere size you want. Diamond cups come with different grit sizes, but for Jimmy's 100-year-old corundum machine, he adds a grit slurry manually.

Jimmy uses a bungee cord to apply pressure that makes the sphere turn randomly; otherwise, the machine will make a groove in the sphere.

Don't work on obsidian on a windy day; dust will scratch it.

Sources for sphere machines and/or supplies include Covington Engineering, Diamond Pacific, and Johnson Brothers. A possible source for angle grinders and wheels is Harbor Freight.

"Gem Cutting: A Lapidary's Manual" by John Sinkankas has basic information about sphere making.

Jimmy makes spheres, belt buckles, and bolos. You can buy them at Nevada Mineral & Book Company (Walter Mroch's shop) in Tustin, Spheres & Stone Creations on eBay, and at the annual Searchers show.

May Meeting May 11th

Speaker: Sandie and Tony Fender, Educators

Topic: Eruption of Mount Saint Helens

Description: In 1980 Mt St Helens erupted in a massive explosion. The presentation covers the mountain before the eruption, during the eruption and the aftermath of the eruption. The presentation also covers how nature has recovered with pictures of the mountain and wildlife today. Tony and Sandie Fender have traveled to the Mountain most years since the eruption to observe and document the regrowth of the environment. Tony and Sandie are retired teachers and are involved in both CFMS and AFMS.

Searchers will have the **General Meeting by Zoom, May 11th 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Zoom is dependent on a computer/tablet/phone with a microphone and camera, and Zoom loaded on it.

If you need to download Zoom, do so at <https://zoom.us/>

We would set an appointed day and time (have Zoom downloaded) and then click on the meeting link below. Then you would click the "join meeting" button, then enable your microphone and enable your video.

If you are using an iPad you might have to touch the screen to see the speaker and video options at the bottom.

NOTE: for those who can't use Zoom, call us, we would love to have you!

Topic: Searcher's Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

The club purchased our own Zoom account when we learned that Margaret would be retiring this year. The Zoom ID that has been set up for our general meetings is;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86169783495?pwd=QzQwTndNc0lSajRNdW5raTZ5NkZaZz09>



Searchers New Logo Wear Website

Here is the link:

<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/searchers-logo-kim-strange.html?product=regular-tshirt>

Once the page loads, the default is a men's t-shirt but the drop down menus on the right side allow the selection of different sizes, colors and types of apparel. In addition, scrolling down on the page then shows a variety of other logo items - from cell phone cases to tote bags to notebooks and everything in between. Let's see if we can work up some sort of standing notification in the slab each month to try to generate some interest. The club earns a small commission on each logo item sold so this is a fund raiser for the club. Let me know if you have any questions.

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 \$60 for 5 gallons. Call 714 904-8573 and make a check payable to "Searchers"

Upcoming Field Trips

Clear Creek Management Area Field Trip

May 15-16, 2021

Meet 8:30am, Depart: 9:00am

Leader: Andrew Bloxom and Jimmie Peterson

Cell# (571)-217-9536 (**Please text message only during business hours)

Email: Andrew.Bloxom@gmail.com



Hobby gem and mineral collectors are drawn to the Clear Creek areas by the presence of over 150 semi-precious mineral and gemstones. One of the most highly mineralized areas in California. The serpentine mass contains two superfund sites, Atlas Mine and Johns-Mansville. Both were associated with the mining and processing of chrysotile asbestos. Other minerals mined from the serpentine mass included cinnabar, chromite, magnesite, and jadeite. The Gem mine (private) located within the serpentine mass is the only source of gem-grade benitoite in the world. They have a fee dig in the tailings if you are interested, but we will not be going on the trip. The rare minerals neptunite and joaquinite have also been found there. Other cool things to hound are jaspers, uvarovite, and plasma agate. We'll do a combination of digging for plasma agate and scouring the stream beds for interesting finds. You can't be disappointed in such a geologically diverse place!

Directions

I recommend using the "download offline maps" feature for Google Maps or your own selection of GPS App which allows off grid maps. There isn't much for cell service in the area.

Coming North on I-5:

Take exit 325 for Jayne Ave (Rt 33) and go west toward Coalinga. Jayne Ave turns into Polk St thru the town of Coalinga and then turns back into Jayne Ave Continue on Jayne Ave and it make a big right sweeping turn and turns in S Derrick Ave and you are in the middle of the Chevron Oil Field, go ~4miles. Turn left onto Lost Gatos Creek Rd. Follow for 21.5mi, turns into Coalinga Rd at the Condon Peak Recreation Area.

Continue another 8.6mi and turn right onto Clear Creek Rd (LOOK FOR SEARCHERS SIGN) Pass over the Ford in the San Benito River. Travel about 2.3 miles, the left just before the locked gate to head up to Jade Mill Campground (36.368356 N, -120.754140 W), SEARCHERS signs will be posted.

Permits

Get your permits ahead of time by visiting the follow site, each car needs a general access permit to CCMA and a special permit for the Serpentine Area (ACEC). <https://www.recreation.gov/vehiclepermits/250848>

May 8-9, 2021 Red Mountain and Ballarat

A few of us will be doing an informal exploratory trip up RT 395 to visit Red Mountain for some mineral collecting and continuing up to Ballarat in search of a beautiful colored marbled. This will be more heavy on driving and we will be prospecting for good collecting locations. Email Andrew for more information.



Searchers Weekend Field Trip to Calico Mountains Green Ash Hills and Mule Canyon Road, April 17-18, 2021

Campers started arriving at the campsite on BLM land Thursday evening, and a Friday morning scouting trip was made to establish road conditions and parking for some of the sites for the weekend. A campfire lasted well into the evening both Thursday and Friday night.

Saturday morning more searchers and guests began to arrive at our 8:30 assembly. After signing the waiver and a quick briefing 12 cars with 20 Searchers and guests caravanned to the first collecting site, Green Ash Hills.

At our designated stopping point we fanned out to collect the petrified palm that covered the hills over a vast area. This area has been collected for over 50 years but you would never know by looking at it as there is material in large quantities covering the hills in all directions. A rock hound can afford to be selective here with so much to choose from.

At around noon, the group reassembled and drove to the second collecting site along Mule Canyon Road. The road was very rough with large dips and stretches of deep sand. All made it without incident. After a quick lunch break, collecting began in earnest. This location is named for its black agate, however the source of the material appears to be petrified wood with lots of earth tones. There are many large boulders in the wash and on the hill tops and these are usually heavily fractured along the grain lines. The key to getting good material here is to find solid smaller pieces up to a few pounds in weight. The group also collected some blue agate in darker matrix, as well as pieces containing red and yellow jasper. Many yard rocks were also collected.

After a couple hours the group returned to their vehicles for the drive along Mule Canyon Road to the third collecting site. This site contains yellow and orange jasper with white stringers as well as red jasp-agate and combinations of the two. To get to the collecting site required climbing up a steep road that is closed to vehicles. Lots of good material was collected before it was time to head back to camp. On the return to camp the group continued along Mule Canyon Road to complete a traverse of the canyon out to Calico Road. A stop at Eddie World for ice cream rounded out the day for some of the participants.

Saturday evening the campers retired to their RVs for private dinners before gathering around the campfire for another evening of fellowship and conversation before a well earned nights sleep.

Sunday morning a small group gathered at the 8:30 am assembly and headed up the road to the last collecting site just $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from camp for lots of petrified palm, petrified wood, jasper, agate and chalcedony in float. It was a relaxing search over a large area and buckets were filled in a little over an hour before the members began breaking camp and heading for home with lots of rocks, smiles and memories.



For field trip information contact:
Andrew Bloxom Field Trips, Searchers Gem and Mineral Society,
andrew.bloxo.m@gmail.com

Show News

The Show Committee is working on and thinking about the show all year around. As you collect or clean out your stash, remember to donate good quality rocks to the Silent Auction. Children's and adults' prizes are needed, both large and small. Be creative! Kids love sparkly or colorful specimens and fossils. Feeling hemmed in by your rock, mineral or fossil collection? Donate extras to the show. Save your trim pieces and donate them to the club for tumbling. Grab bags need lots of tumbled material. Cut slabs for the veteran's hospital lapidary program. Experiment with a new lapidary technique by making several for prizes. Prizes create lots of goodwill at our show and are much loved by our attendees.

Greetings Recreational Rockhounds

Do you or your club hold Mining Claims on BLM Managed Lands?

The Claim Renewal date is September 1, 2021. Do not miss the date to renew your claim.

The BLM has a new method of filing your claim and most of the work is done through the internet, on line.

Below is their front page of the website. Here is the website for your convenience.

<https://mlrs.blm.gov/s/>

Do not let your claim expire!

Introducing the Mineral & Land Records System (MLRS)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing approximately 245 million acres of Federal surface estate and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. As trustee and steward of this land, we set out to provide a geospatially enabled land information system that allows customers to more readily engage with us and take action.

With MLRS, you can research land status, discover mining activity, file new claims, pay your fees, and manage all related mining claim activity online with the BLM. As we continue to implement our vision, the future of MLRS will provide a wide range of mission-critical BLM services and products such as permits, leases, rights-of-way, and more.

MLRS is a transformational platform, designed to improve the customer experience and optimize workflows for the BLM.

Here is the website for your convenience. <https://mlrs.blm.gov/s/>

Happy Rockhounding and enjoy your Public Lands....

Thank you for your continued Support of Recreational Rockhounding and ALAA

American Lands Access Association

www.amlands.org

info@amlands.org

The Mojave Project

Searchers spend quite a bit of time in the Mojave Desert. For beautifully filmed background information about the Mojave Desert from many different perspectives, check out The Mojave Project.

"The Mojave Project is a transmedia documentary and curatorial project, led by Kim Stringfellow, exploring the physical, geological and cultural landscape of the Mojave Desert. The Mojave Project reconsiders and establishes multiple ways in which to interpret this unique and complex landscape, through association and connection of seemingly unrelated sites, themes and subjects thus creating a speculative and immersive experience for our audience."

"The Mojave Project explores the following themes: Desert as Wasteland, Geological Time vs. Human Time, Sacrifice and Exploitation, Danger and Consequence, Space and Perception, Mobility and Movement, Desert as Staging Ground, Transformation and Reinvention."

"The Mojave Project materializes over time through deep research and direct field inquiry through interviews, reportage and personal journaling supported with still photography, audio and video documentation. Field Dispatches are shared throughout the production period at this site and through our publishing partner, KCET Artbound. Installments include those of notable guest contributors. A program of public field trip experiences and satellite events explore the diverse communities and sites of the Mojave Desert. The initial phase of the project is designed to make ongoing research transparent, inviting the audience into the conversation as the project develops. Ultimately, this project is an attempt to create a comprehensive transmedia repository of knowledge relating to the contemporary Mojave Desert." <https://mojaveproject.org/#section-about>.

To view segments, go to <https://mojaveproject.org/field-dispatches/> and select an area of inquiry or an image. Segments that might be of interest to Searchers include Rockhounding 101; Old Woman of the Mountain; Kokowee: Still Searching for the Lost River of Gold; Borax: The Magic Crystal; Gem-O-Rama; Devining Devils Hole Parts I and II; and Landscaping of Belonging: Joshua Trees Climbing Legacy, but check out the other segments, also. Some are quirky, all are interesting. Enjoy!

Sphere Making with Jimmy Peterson Presentation in April

We are currently working on the recording of Jimmy Peterson's Sphere making recording, slide handout, and interview handout. Once completed, links will be posted on the Searchers Program Archive page:

<https://www.searchersrocks.org/meeting-archive>.

Don't forget that Searchers have their own YouTube channel! If you'd like to add some videos, let us know.



Upcoming 2021 CFMS Gem Shows

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

**Due to the ongoing virus
 check to see if any shows are
 still on. Most all have been
 canceled**

2021 Shows

May 1-2, 2021 – Jackson, CA

Amador County Gem & Mineral Society
 Kennedy Mine Gem and Craft Show
 Hwy 49 in Jackson CA
 Saturday – 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday – 10 AM – 4 PM
 Contact: (209) 296-4061, black-wolf@vgolcano.net

June 12-13, 2021 – Escondido CA

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club
 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido CA 92025
 Saturday – 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM-4PM
 Palomar Gem and Mineral Show – presented by the Palomar Gem and Mineral Club. Held in the California Arts Centers museum and ballroom. A beautiful indoor facility. Secure for vendors and comfortable for attendees. 30-35 dealers.
 Website: pgmcshow@palomargem.org

August 14-15, 2021 – Arcadia CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
 "Inspiration Unearth", 62nd Annual Tournament of Gems
 Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia
 Hours: 10-5 Daily
 Contact: Ellen Ferrell 1-727-512-0381
 Email: ellenbf207@aol.com
 Website: pasadenalapidary.org

September 18-19, 2021 – Chico, CA

Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
 2357 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
 Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM
 Contact: 1 530 586-7052; Website: http://featherriverrocks.org

October 9-10, 2021 – Los Altos, CA

Peninsula Gem and Geology Society
 One No. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022
 Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
 Contact: 1 (408) 834-5384,
 steve_jobe@sbcglobal.net
 Website: http://pggs.org

November 13-14, 2021 – Yuba City

Sutter Buttes Gem and Mineral Society
 29th Festival of Gems and Minerals
 Yuba – Sutter Fairgrounds
 442 Franklin Ave., Franklin Hall, Yuba City
 Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
 Contact 916 677-6696,
 horita@comcast.net
 Website: http://sutterbuttesgemmin.org

May Birthstone: Emerald



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 5:30 to 10:00 PM and Saturday 2:30 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	\$25
	Couple	\$35

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**

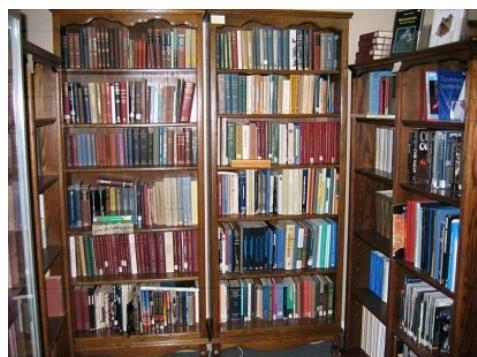
Affiliations: **California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**



THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>

342 S. Tustin Street • Orange, CA 92866
Ph. 714-633-1549



Tony's Lapidary Equipment Repair

Tony Hempen

Owner

26282 Calle Roberto
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
949-922-7271
themp2@yahoo.com