

## 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: Veronica Purpura & Yuval Dohn
- Webmaster:
- Federation Delegate: Nancy Bird
- Director: M.C. Kao
- 



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## POINTS OF INTEREST

## FIELD TRIPS

## GENERAL MEETING

## SPEAKERS

# The Rock Slab News

VOLUME 63, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2026



## The Searchers next meeting:

Jan 13th 2026 6:30p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

## The President's Message

### Hello Searchers:

**Kendall Despain** was a long-time Searcher, helping for decades with club activities. Thank you to Kendall, he passed in November.

**2026 Membership Dues:** \$40 per person membership fee for 2026, additional persons in the house \$20 each. The members at the Holiday Party General Meeting voted in favor of raising dues, with three members voting no.

**January 1, 2026 Dues** payment can be made by cash or check at a meeting or Workshop, or pay with Zelle ( recipient: [anaheimsearchers@gmail.com](mailto:anaheimsearchers@gmail.com) )

**New members** that paid Oct. to Dec. 2025 do not have to pay – your membership is good until Dec. 31, 2026



**Faceting Classes:** Art Ravenscroft will teach faceting classes starting in January.

Thank you to Chrystal Vasquez and Art for inspecting the Opal Society machine. It needs a few parts, then it is ready to use. Thank you to Brian Lamberson for dubbing the

**Faceting video:** available on our website Media tab – thank you to Brian Lamberson for making that happen by dubbing the DVD.



**2026 Show:** Thank you to David Schanot for Hause Bed nodules for the Show Geode Cut Station. Stacy Reno did a great job on a database for the Dealer Contracts. Contracts were emailed out on December 15. Save some Christmas money to spend at our Show!

**Continued on Page 7**



**JPK Studios Sue G.'s Jewelry**  
**2026 Searchers' Show**  
**Indoor Dealers**  
**Quality jewelry, slabs,**  
**and minerals**



## Searchers Club Meetings

Board Meeting- Jan 6th at 6:30 P.M.

Member Meeting- Jan 13th Doors open at 6:00 PM Meeting at 6:30 PM

### Board Meeting Minutes, November 11, 2025 Zoom meeting 6:30 p.m.

Robin Larzelere, Jamie Cassidy-Curtis, Bill Hogarth, Brian Lamberson, Yuval Dohn, Nancy Bird, Bob Rubino, Gwen Sharp. Absent: Caleb Guyer, MC Kao, Veronica Purpura

#### Old Business:

**Faceting class**—Art will contact Caleb next week.

**Senior events**— Two volunteer dates: Wednesday Dec 17 at the Del'Age Manor Senior Living Apartments and Thursday Dec 18 at OC Pace Adult Healthcare Day Center. Robin, Jamie, and Charlotte Spaulding will attend.

#### New Business:

**Speakers fee**—Currently we automatically offer speakers a \$150 fee. The board passed a motion to instead ask speakers what they want to receive.

**Bill Kordela, our Jade Day speaker**—Bill did a lot of work at Jade Day, such as doing two presentations. The board decided to ask him if he wants to receive anything from us (up to the \$150 honorarium fee we usually give to speakers).

#### **Donation letters—**

MC Kao for a faceting machine, Covington two-wheel grinder with detached motor, additional ½ horsepower motor, water pump, and tubing

Cindy Luna for a 15 lb rock tumbler

#### Reports:

##### **President** — Robin Larzelere

News from the CFMS meeting Robin attended: Madison Vasquez was elected CFMS Treasurer.

Robin suggested Margaret Hogarth be our CFMS honoree to give the \$2000 scholarship.

We won't hold an audit for this year; it's not needed. The board voted unanimously to have an audit in 2026.

The board voted unanimously to pass a motion to donate \$200 to the Miss Anaheim Beautiful Scholarship Foundation.

##### **Treasurer** —Gwen Sharp

We reviewed the proposed 2026 budget. (Note: the storage unit fee is now split between the show budget and the club budget.)

##### **1<sup>st</sup> VP – Programs** – Brian Lamberson

December is our holiday potluck and optional gift exchange. No speaker.

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Field Trips** – Bob Rubino & Bill Hogarth

Bob will do a scouting trip to the Castle Butte area on November 12.

##### **Show Report** – Yuval

##### **Workshop Report** – Robin (Caleb was absent)

Going well.

##### **CFMS Report** – Nancy Bird

## Searcher Presenters and News

### January Speaker - Veronica Purpura World of Opals



This talk will introduce everyone to opals, what they are, how they form, some history about them and the various types and varieties. It's about 30-40mins and I even bring various opals to display and show off.



## Something Things of Interest

Rock and Gem Magazine has a great article on Agates

<https://www.rockngem.com/what-are-agates/>

### 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>

### 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 \$65 for 5 gallons to members. \$75 for non-members. Jim Peterson 714 904-8573

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

## Fields Trips

January 21-25, 2026	Quartzite, Pow Wow field trips, AZ	Quartzite club members	Trips to local collection sites are conducted by Quartzite Club.
February 21-22, 2026	Turtle Mountains, Vidal, CA	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth	Chalcedony roses
March 21-22, 2026	Sperry Wash, Tecopa, CA	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth	
April 11-12, 2026	Mineola Road, Mule Canyon, north of Barstow, CA	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth	Several spots near Calico. Agates and jaspers
May 16-17, 2026	Lavic Siding, South Cadys, Hector Hills, Ludlow, CA	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth	All surface collecting, Jaspers and agates.
June 6-7, 2026	Greenhorn Mountains, Lake Isabella, CA	Bob Rubino, Bill Hogarth	
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.		

## 2026 POWWOW Show

Jan 21 thru Jan 25, 2026

This is an annual event that is put on by the Quartzsite Improvement Association. They started this show back in 1967. With an estimated attendance of 1000 and about 100 vendors that year for a three day event.

Today we have well over 600 spaces and nearly 250 vendors that come from all over the world to attend and sell just about everything imaginable made with rocks, gems, and minerals. This event last 5 days long and will have an attendance of nearly 5,000 everyday.

We offer Free Admission and Free Parking with 2 Shuttle Buses running all day to help get people from their cars to the Vendors. We will also be providing 2 ATM's on-site - both located in the cafeteria area.

**Show address: 235 East Ironwood, Quartzsite AZ 85346**

**Phone Number : (928) 927-6325**

**Email Address: [Powwow@qiaarizona.org](mailto:Powwow@qiaarizona.org)**

**Info: <http://www.qiaarizona.org/2025PowWow.html>**



**58th Annual Quartzsite POWWOW**  
Gem & Mineral Show  
Quartzsite Improvement Association (QIA)

**FREE Parking - FREE Admission**

**Indoor Venue**  
Fine Jewelry  
Gemstones  
Gold

**Minerals & Crystals**  
...and much MORE!

**Unique Designs**

**Outdoor Venue**  
200+ Vendors On ONE Site  
Third Week in January each year

Rough Materials, Slabs, Arrowheads, Wire Wrap, Fossils, Lapidary Equipment, Cabochons, and Much More!

Mookaite, Lapis Lazuli, Turquoise, Labradorite, Opal, Ocean Jasper, Charoite, Malachite, Agate, Amethyst, Jade, Seraphinite, and Much More!

Complete On-Site Food Service at affordable prices. Day/Night Security.

Space reservation and additional information:  
(928) 927-6325  
QIAarizona.org  
e-mail: PowWow@QIAarizona.org



## Field Trip -Turtle Mountain Feb 21-22

We'll be going to the Turtle Mountains near Vidal, CA on Feb 21-22 and looking for desert (chalcedony) roses, along with agates and jasper. There might even be a few geodes scattered around.

If you plan to attend, please contact: Bob Rubino; [brubino54@gmail.com](mailto:brubino54@gmail.com), 714-504-4518 or Bill Hogarth; [whogarth@gmail.com](mailto:whogarth@gmail.com), 909-264-1122. Text or call.



For field trip  
information  
contact:  
Bob Rubino  
and Bill  
Hogarth

## Searcher's Annual Christmas Party



## Castle Butte Field Trip Report – Dec 6-7, 2025

The Searchers' last visit to the Castle Butte area in the western Mojave was 2 years ago. The visit in early December had all new trippers with the exception of the leaders for a total of 12 on Saturday, half of which were there for just the day. And who could blame them with the temperature dropping to the low 30's at night! However the weather was beautifully clear and not windy, with a near full moon. The desert camping experience with friends is a large part of the allure of these trips.

Saturday brought us to the famous Sierra Pelona Banded Travertine Onyx claim owned by the Santa Clarita club of the same name. This claim has been visited hundreds of times for many years and still continues to produce beautiful specimens banded in greens, reds, grays, black and white. Not only is this material colorful, it takes a good polish, too.

The seam was probably visible on the surface decades ago, but now the good material is 4-6 ft down. Fortunately the overburden is usually mostly removed by visiting rockhounds and the seam is still very productive. Unfortunately we were there shortly after a couple of flood-worthy storms that filled in the diggings with a lot of sand. The true rockhounds dug right in (pun intended). And, as we always do, we backfilled enough so small critters like tortoises can find their way out if they fall in.

After lunch we moved on to a new area scouted a few weeks ago with large pieces of jasper and agate in hills of basalt. The new rockhound trippers were having a blast. The clear, cool, windless weather allowed for beautiful views on our way back to camp where we said adios to those not camping. We prepared a potluck, sat around a campfire for a while and went to bed early.

Sunday took the remaining six to the foothills of Castle Butte, stopping in several spots for more jasp-agate material. The rumored bloodstone was only found in one or two very, very small chips, and we're still interpreting whether we found petrified bog and petrified wood. But we did see some desert vistas, did some 4x4 hill climbing, and visited some anonymous desert artwork. Everyone had a good time and left for home Sunday afternoon with plenty of material.



Bob, Jeff, Jim, Margaret, and Amy  
digging for banded Travertine



Bob, Jim, Michele, Burt, Margaret,  
and Bill by Sculpture



Banded Travertine

## CLUB News

### President's Message Continued from page 1

#### Show Committee Meeting Dates:

##### Saturdays:

**Jan. 3, 2026** 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Zoom**

Zoom meeting I.D.: 7144759508 password: 3492

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7144759508?pwd=Y0hrVWtHUUtSszJ3NVFVdnVkcHJUZz09>

**Feb. 7, 2026** 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Zoom**

**March 7, 2026** 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in-person and **Zoom**

**April 4, 2026** 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in-person and **Zoom**

**April 20, 2026** 11:00 – 12:30 **Zoom**

**Fri. April 24, 2026 Set up 8:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun. April 25 +26 Annual Show**



**Bead Bracelet Making for Seniors** was much fun. Jamie-Cassidy Curtis, Carol Dickinson, Charolette Spalding, Amy Bokn and myself helped at the request of the Anaheim City Library Mobile program. Thank you! **Bruce Wight and Mike Yamata will present on field trips at SOCGEMS –Jan. 19, 2026, 6:30pm, at the Dorothy Visser Senior Center in San Clemente** Both are Searchers, Bruce has professional level photography skills. Worth seeing this presentation!

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#### Robin Larzelere, President

Welcome new members: **David Blanzly, Helen Asuncion and Evelyn Asuncion, Art Ravenscroft, Jeff and Amy Bokn**

**JPK Studios**

**SEARCHERS**

**65TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW**

Saturday, **April 25th, 2026** / 10am - 5pm

Sunday, **April 26th, 2026** / 10am - 4:30pm

**Sue G's Jewelry**

Photo courtesy of Veronica Purpura of Zincite crystal from Poland





**BROOKHURST COMMUNITY CENTER**

2271 W. CRESCENT AVE, ANAHEIM, CA

[www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)





# Upcoming 2026 CFMS Gem Shows

## 2026- Shows

For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site:

[www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

**January 17-18, 2026, Exeter, CA**  
Tule Gem and Mineral Society  
Exeter Mineral Building, 324 N. Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA  
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM  
2026 Gemboree-o Rock and Mineral Show. Food and snacks. Free admission and parking.

Contact: [ebcalpoly@aol.com](mailto:ebcalpoly@aol.com)  
Website: <http://tulegem.com>

**February 28-March 1, 2026 – Vallejo, CA**

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society  
McCormic Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive (Solano County Fairgrounds), Vallejo, CA 94590  
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM  
Contact: (707) 644-9764, [vgms01@yahoo.com](mailto:vgms01@yahoo.com)  
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

**February 28 & March 1, 2026 – Newark, CA**

East Bay Mineral and Lapidary Club  
The Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thorton Ave., Newark, CA 94569  
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM  
Exhibits, Educational Presentations, Demonstrations, Gem ID, Kids' Spinning Wheel, Door Prizes, Geode Splitting, Live Auction. \$8 Admission, Kids 12 and under Free, Seniors 65+ free on Sunday, March 1  
Contact: (510)j 353-3787, [info@ebml.club](mailto:info@ebml.club)  
Website: <http://ebml.club>

**February 12 – March 1, 2025 (13 days) – Indio, CA**

San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society  
Riverside County Fairgrounds, 46350 Arabia St., Indio, CA 92201  
Hours are Thursday-Friday (12-13th, 19-20th, 26-27th) 3 pm-10 pm. Saturday-Monday (14th-16th) 10 am-10 pm and Saturday-Sunday (21-22nd, 28th-March 1) 10 am-10 pm.  
2026 Riverside Co. Fair and National Date Festival has a Gem & Mineral Building. For vendor space see [datefest.org](http://datefest.org) or call 760-863-8247. San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society helps with management of the building. Indoor space 10 feet x 10 feet is \$1000.00 and all space applications are available through the fair website.  
SGMGS has been involved in managing the Gem & Mineral building at this fair since the 1940's and it is a fun crowd and busy show. We hope you can join us in February 2026.  
Contact: (951) 963-6751, [peggyrichard@yahoo.com](mailto:peggyrichard@yahoo.com)  
Website: <http://sgmgs.org>

**March 7-8, 2026 – Ventura, CA**

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001  
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM  
Ventura Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Exhibits of gems, minerals, fossils & lapidary arts; jewelry-making demos; gold panning; raffle prizes & silent auctions; rummage sale & plant sale; 15+ dealers; kids' activities. A SoCal tradition for 6 decades & counting!  
Contact: (805) 312-8467, [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)  
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

**March 13-15, 2026 – Apple Valley, CA**

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club  
7 Miles down Stoddard Wells Rd., Apple Valley CA  
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM daily  
Stoddard Well Rockhound Tailgate  
Contact: (760) 490-8401

**March 15, 2026 – Fallbrook, CA**

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society  
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA 92028  
Hours: 12 Noon – 3 PM  
Rough and Cut – This is a kind of clearance sale for miscellaneous minerals. Includes some fine minerals flats of lower end minerals, and lapidary rough. For the kids, there is a rock pile. \$5.00 for a bucket to be filled as many times as they want. Also, larger very nice garden rock. Good family event and open to the public.  
Contact: (760) 728-1130, [info@fgms.org](mailto:info@fgms.org)  
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

**March 28-29, 2026 – Lancaster, CA**

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club  
Location: Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W Ave H, Lancaster, CA 93534  
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 20 AM – 4 PM  
Parking will cost \$10. Show will be in the Van Dam building.  
Contact: [marylandoriele@gmail.com](mailto:marylandoriele@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://AVGem.weebly.com>

## January Birthstone – Garnet





# Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

## General Information

Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

[www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)



**General Meetings:** 6:30 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Doors open at 6 PM

**Board Meetings:** 6:30 PM, 1st Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

**Workshop:** Thursday 5:30 to 9:30 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](http://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](mailto: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

**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>

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Hours may vary, please call before coming.

