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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Rock Slab News

VOLUME 63, ISSUES



MAY 2026

The Searchers next meeting:
May 12th 2026 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.



The President's Message

Hello Searchers,

The Show was well attended, and many of the Searchers were generous with purchasing items, and with their time. **Jeff Barnhouse, Jeff Dekofsky, Caleb Guyer and Jhenya Menuier (and Kor), Dave Contreras, Dave Long, Jason Sarrow, Char Housky, Kitty Hurt, Nancy Bird, Paul Malone, John Klima, Steve Borden, and the Gevedon's** all staffed their own tables to be Dealers. Thank you for "buying in".

Steve Duncan, Jimmy Peterson, Diana Brantley and friend Lisa, and Elaine Foster ran a busy auction with the help of **Jacob Jee. Jeff and Amy Bokn with Stacy Reno** managed the room set up on Friday. Jeff and Amy then worked the Silent Auction both days. Thank you so much!

More 3-day shifts were worked by **Gwen Sharp, Bob Rubino, Virgil Talbott, Charlotte Spalding, Bill and Margaret Hogarth, Debbie and Bob Tanner, and Robin.** Bill Hogarth provided demonstrations of carving, **Paula Purpura** demonstrated wire wrap both days, **Art Ravenscroft and Carmina Orilla** provided faceting demos, and **Walt Wright** answered fossilized wood questions. Hospitality was anchored by **Robin, Veronica Purpura, Karen Kremer, Debbie Tanner and her granddaughter Dakota.** **Charolette Spaulding** ran the Grab Bag table, **John O'Conner, David Schanot and Virgil Talbott** helped with the Equipment Silent Auction. Thank you to Todd Richmond for bringing his spheres for a club case, as well as Margaret Hogarth, Steve and **Marcia Duncan, Jimmy Peterson, Rick Webber and Bruce and Joanna Wight.**

Randy Barnes made sure the Genie was grinding for two days. **Jim Thorpe** demo'ed, and helped tear down. **Jamie Cassidy-Curtis and Grey Eckley** made sparkling bracelets all day on Sunday. **Paul Kosmala** gave IT help when the hotspot lagged. Searchers Table was anchored by Gwen, Margaret and **Monica Suter**, who also made an appearance at Ring-Making.

And the Show is never complete until the Cal State Fullerton geology club arrives, well represented by **Nils Voigt-Bui, Andrew Azzam, and Angel Beltran-Corona, and Lenny Pena.** The Miss Anaheim Beautiful celebrities helped two days: **Alexa V., Ilyana O. Sofia P. and Samantha.** **Debbie Harmon** is the leader for this non-profit.

Many Thank you's to **Virgil Talbott** for Security Lead. **Linda and Jack Horn** worked security as did **Julie DeWitt, David Nelson, and Margaret Hogarth. Madison Vasquez and Carol Dickinson, Panhia Vang and John Krucek, Autumn, and Yuval,** all helped at membership, raffle, and snacks. Panhia and John stayed for tear-down.

Gwen Sharp has been working on the Show with me since July 2025. A very special thank you to her. A late thank you to the Grab Bag stuffing crew: Bill Hogarth, Amy Bokn, Karen Kremer, Margaret Hogarth, Yuval and grandma Esther, and Elaine Foster.

Robin Larzelere, President

See Photos on Page 6

Searchers Club Meetings

Board Meeting- May 5th by Zoom at 6:30 P.M.

Member Meeting- May 12th Doors open at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

Minutes from General Meeting, March 10, 2026

Meeting location: Downtown Anaheim Community Center

Call to Order: The meeting began at 6:30 PM by Robin Larzelere.

Show: If everyone who came to the show last year returns this year and spends at least \$3 more than last year, Searchers will make a profit. So come to the show and bring your friends!

We need about 200 prizes for the show: door prizes, raffle prizes, grab bag prizes, etc. Please bring some nice prizes to the April meeting, which will be on April 21 after the center reopens. (It's closed several weeks in April for annual maintenance.)

About 13 pieces of equipment have been donated for the Silent Auction. Two still need to be cleaned.

All but 2 show tables have been rented.

Grab bag stuffing will be on Saturday, March 28, at Karen Kramer's house.

We need volunteers for take-down on Sunday after the show. We also need more demonstrators for the show.

We won't have the Wheel of Fortune this year because no one has volunteered to run it. We also won't have games because they're too expensive now. We would need donations.

If you want to sell items at the Searchers table, contact us for details. The table is available for members who volunteer at the show for a few hours.

The Orange County Bead Society has their show at the Bowers Museum on the same days as our show. You could easily go to both shows for a complete day of lapidary fun.

CFMS Survey about possible southern CA lapidary camp: We've been exploring the possibility of starting a weeklong collection of lapidary classes, similar to Camp Paradise. The CFMS now has a survey to find out how many people are interested in attending. Robin brought the survey to tonight's meeting, or you can get it online. The current plan is for approximately 150 students.

Field Trips: The Turtle Mountain field trip was great. Lots of quartz, chalcedony, and druzy quartz on Saturday at a site about 10 miles north of Vidal Junction. On Sunday at the Whipple Mountains, we found copper ore and chrysocolla.

Also a life lesson about ensuring that you never travel alone in the desert, and that you make sure you let someone know where you're going and when you will return. At one of the sites on Saturday, we found a vehicle whose driver had been dead for a couple of months. We notified the local authorities and spent about an hour talking to the CHP and Sheriff. After that, we were able to go back to collecting for an hour or so.

The March field trip will be to Sperry Wash in Tonopah, NV on March 21-22.

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.

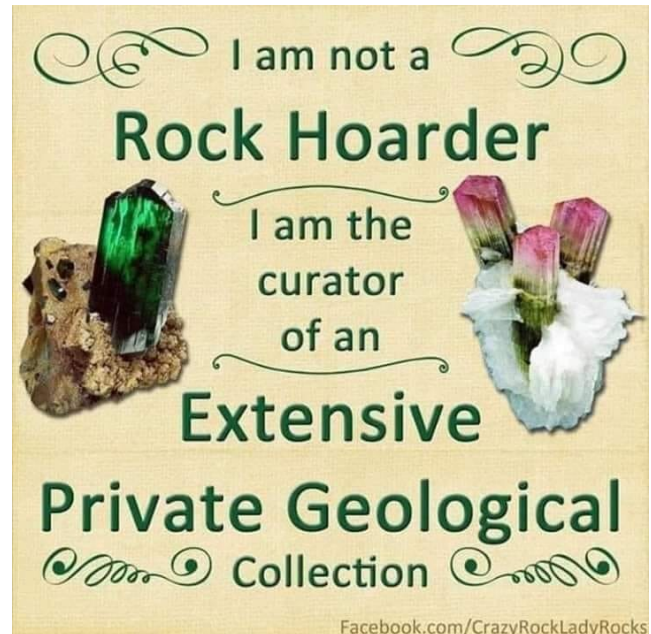
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Searcher Presenters and News

May Speaker - Please see website



SomeLaughs



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 \$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

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.		

Lavic Siding Field Trip Saturday, May 16, 2026

We'll be going on a day trip to a great collecting site that's about 40 miles east of Barstow. Lot's of jasper, jasp-agate, chalcedony and agate.

This is just a day trip so it's great for people new to the club who want to get a feel for what our trips are about. Ideal for younger collectors. We'll be mostly driving on hard-packed dirt roads so most high clearance cars will be fine.

The nearest facilities are at Ludlow, about 8 miles east of the meeting spot. You need to bring all your food and water with you. It's still springtime so prepare for heat. Bring lunch, at least a gallon of water per person for the day, including the wee folks (it's better to have too much than too little). Also bring hats, sunscreen, cover-ups, heavy walking shoes, buckets or daypacks to hold your rocks, etc. Read more about rockhounding at <https://www.searchersrocks.org/field-trips>.



DIRECTIONS

The meeting point is about 150 miles from the Anaheim Community Center. Head NORTH on I15 towards Barstow, turning EAST on I40 towards Needles for about 35 miles to the Hector Rd exit. Use the frontage Rd., National Trails Hwy(Route 66) south of the freeway and travel another 19.1 miles East to Lavic Rd., a dirt road on the right before Route 66travels under I40. There will be Searcher Signs. For those who are GPS-enabled we will be at or near 34.735131,-116.304629.<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2rMBrnWK8Te3bgu7A>

Please RSVP to Bill Hogarth at 909-264-1122 or Bob Rubino at 714-504-4518. Hope to see you there!



April Field Trip to Mineola Road

On April 10-12th, the Searchers went on a field trip to Mineola Road, just outside of Barstow. A few of us arrived on Friday and did some scouting in the area. It was windy, but the temperature was just right to make exploring enjoyable, as long you secured your hat!



Saturday brought less wind and the rest of the group.

We had 10 people in total and left the campsite at 8:30. The route would take us in a circle around Calico Mountain. We would stop every mile or so and find a wide variety of rocks and minerals. We found jasper, agate, jasp-agate, some fossilized swamp and chalcedony.

Sometime when you're driving, you can spot something unusual, and sure enough Mic saw a very rare specimen that way. We pulled over and found a piece of Bowlingite. It had a 1-inch layer of bright blue with a variegated whitish layer throughout. Under that 1-inch top layer was a 3-4 inch layer of pale brown clay like substrate. Yep, it was a bowling ball that some intrepid marksman had taken out to the desert and blown to bits.

We then drove to another site where Mic and Bert hiked up to an abandoned gypsum mine and found some large specimens of gypsum blades!

We headed back to camp around 4 pm and had a great pot luck dinner. It was still a little too windy to have a campfire so we called a night around 9.

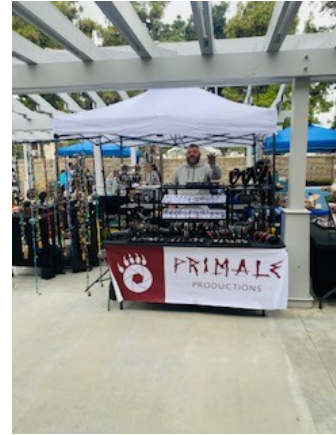
Sunday was spent doing more exploring. We went to a site that promised Paul Bunyan agate. But like Paul Bunyan, it proved more legend than fact. After spending about an hour looking for agate, the rain started to move in and the group split up. Some went home, some went looking for trawertine and other went to Rainbow Basin Park. If you haven't been, the drive around Rainbow Basin is spectacular! You'll need moderate clearance 2WD as it all dirt roads.

The next field trip will be May 16-17 to Lavic Siding, South Cady's and Hector Hills.

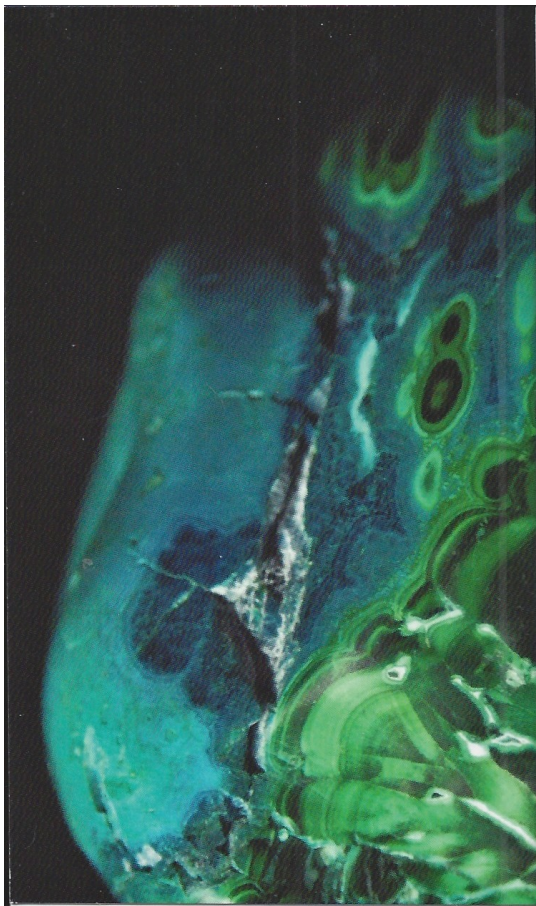


For field trip information contact: Bob Rubino and Bill Hogarth

Photos from 2026 Searchers Show



CLUB News



Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
PO Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231



63RD ANNUAL FIESTA OF GEMS

Saturday June 27 10am - 6pm

Sunday June 28 10am - 5pm

Veterans Memorial Auditorium
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA

- ★ Free Admission ★ Free Hourly Prizes
- ★ Free Parking ★ Grand Prize Sunday

Exhibits · Demos · Workshops
Jewelry, Stone & Mineral Dealers



CulverCityRocks.org/fiesta



Preshow Grab Bag stuffing.

Clockwise from 9 o'clock, Bob Tanner (hiding Amy Bokn), Margaret Hogarth, Debbie Tanner, Yuval Dohn, her grandmother, and Karen Kremmer in the hat.



Upcoming 2026 CFMS Gem Shows

2026- Shows

May 1-2, 2026 – Yucaipa, CA

Adams Street and Yucaipa Boulevard, Yucaipa, California 92399

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Hours: Friday 12 Noon – 9 PM, Saturday 6 PM – 10 PM

The YVGMS show is held along with the city of Yucaipas' Music and Arts Festival. Our 60+ year old annual show features dozens of vendors from across the country offering a variety of jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils and related arts and crafts. The club offers demonstrations of lapidary techniques, a kids booth with games and prizes, geodes and the opportunity to crack it open, a raffle with chances to win a variety of prizes, and of course, gems and jewelry for sale. Proceeds go towards keeping our non-profit club and workshop up and running as well as towards funding our scholarship

May 1-3, 2026 - Vista, CA

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe, Vista, CA 92083

Vista Gem and Mineral Society

Hours: Friday & Saturday: 10am-5pm; Sunday, 10-4

Spring Gem & Mineral Jewelry Show. Show will have finished products, slabs and specimens. Vendors can check in on Thursday night. Overnight camping included with booth rental. Always open for more vendors.

Contact: info@vistarocks.org

Website: vistarocks.org

June 20, 2026 - Bellflower, CA

14515 Blaine Ave, Bellflower, California 90706

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society

Hours: 9 am - 4 pm

Rock & Gem Parking Lot Sale

Contact: guynellallen@sbcglobal.net, (310) 413-4671

Website: website

June 27-28, 2026 - Culver City

Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club

Hours: Sat, 10am to 6pm; Sun, 10am to 5pm

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club's Fiesta of Gems Show

This year's featured gemstone is Malachite, which is celebrated for its rich green colors and natural beauty. Admission and parking are free, making it a perfect outing for families, hobbyists, and gem enthusiasts.

Contact: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com

Website: culvercityrocks.org

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: tvgems.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, hand-made 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

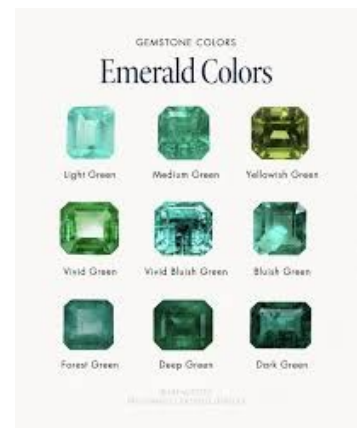
Hours: Friday and Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

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: showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org
y41615@gmail.com

Website: palomargem.org

May Birthstone – Emerald



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

www.cfmsinc.org

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. 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.

