

**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
-



IN THIS ISSUE

- Field Trips 4
- Club Meetings 2
- Upcoming CFMS Shows 9

POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Rock Slab News

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 3



MARCH 2026

The Searchers next meeting:

March 10 2026 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



The President's Message

Greetings Searchers:

Do you know how Vikings used Icelandic Spar to navigate? How to wire wrap a ring? How to identify minerals? How to cut a geode? How much to bid on a piece of malachite? Where to buy a slab of fiber optic glass? What day to visit the Los Angeles Natural History Museum to see the "Unearthed: Raw Beauty"? Which field trip you will attend this Spring? Where to buy a sphere-making machine in good condition with all polishes and cups? Or attend a pay-for-dig at the Oceanview mine? Does the club have a map of local rockhounding places? All these questions came my way in the past 4 weeks. The Searchers is an active club with lots of opportunities to learn much about rocks, gems and minerals.

Would you like to meet new Searchers? Consider volunteering to maintain the membership list on the club's Google Drive.

Welcome new members: [Lisa Chen](#), [Quan Hoang](#), [Eric Barenfeld](#), and [Sherri Sisson](#)

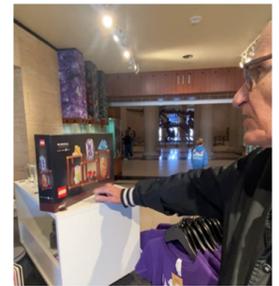
Sincerely, Robin Larzelere, President



LA Museum of Nat History



Yuval D. photographing at the museum



Dale Harwood identifying lego minerals



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



Searchers Club Meetings

Board Meeting- **March 3rd at 6:30 P.M.**

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

Minutes from General Meeting, January 13, 2026

Meeting location: Downtown Anaheim Community Center

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

Thanks to:

Crystal Vasquez for parts and repairs on the faceting machine.

American Opal Society for donating their faceting machine. We want to raise \$900 for repairs that will make the machine usable. Thanks also to Crystal Vasquez who's taken on the job of repairing the faceting machine.

Stacy and Roger Reno for picking up the Wolbers donations with Robin.

Jamie Cassidy-Curtis and Carol Dickenson for helping senior citizens make bracelets at the City of Anaheim library event that we helped support. The library director wrote a summary of the event and sent it to the library employees.

Dues: You can pay your 2026 dues tonight. We also encourage you to wear your Searchers name tags if you have one.

Faceting classes: Watch the Slab for information about faceting classes, which start in January.

CFMS Honoree: We choose Margaret Hogarth as our Honoree candidate this year. The winner will choose a school of their choice to receive a \$2000 scholarship.

Treasurer report: 2025 ended in the red largely because of the deposit we had to pay to reserve the Brookhurst Community Center for our 2026 show. We were able to cover this expense with savings.

Our dues pay for CFMS dues & insurance, California sales tax, our website, office supplies, and bookkeeper. We need other funds, including show profits, to pay other expenses such as scholarships, speakers, storage unit rental, and our CFMS delegate expenses. We need to make \$5000, primarily on the Silent Auction and tables, to cover the show expenses.

Field trips: The field trip in December was to Castle Butte. See the Slab and website for more information about upcoming field trips in 2026. January brings the annual Quartzite show, which includes Pow Wow field trips. Searchers doesn't have a field trip of our own this month. In February, there's a field trip to Turtle Mountains in Vidal, CA on Feb 22 – 23 for chalcedony roses. The March trip will be at Sperry Wash in Tonopah on March 21 – 22.

Show Committee: The first Show Committee meeting is by Zoom on Saturday, February 7 from 11 am – 12:30 pm. Signup sheets for show volunteers are now available on the Searchers website.

Grab bags: Karen Kramer reminded us about the annual March meeting at her home to assemble grab bags for the show.

Art Ravenscroft described what he teaches at the faceting classes. He provides the materials you need, paid for by the class fees.

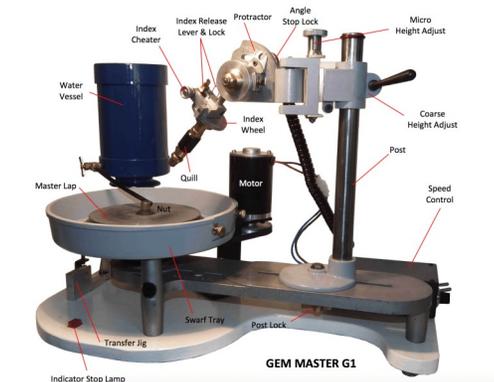
Our speaker this month was Veronica Purpura, who spoke about *The World of Opals*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.



Searcher Presenters and News

March Speaker - Art Ravenscroft presents Faceting Tips



NOTE:

Workshop will be closed for building maintenance on:
Thursday, April 9 **Saturday, April 11** **Thursday, April 16**

April In-Person General Membership Meeting:
Tuesday, April 21 (3rd Tue.)

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

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.		

March Field Trip Sperry Wash Tecopa March 21-22 2026

The next field trip will be March 21-22 to Sperry Wash near Tecopa, CA. This area has produced petrified wood, agate and jasper. There is also an old talc mine in the area and we might also do a side trip to the China Date Ranch for date shakes.

It's been a few years since we've gone to this area and the access road is subject to wash-outs, so we will be doing a scouting trip a week or so before the trip to verify its accessible.

For those who camp, take the 15N to Baker, then North on Hwy 127 to the turnoff to Tecopa, Old Spanish Trail Hwy. Take that through Tecopa to the right turn split for Furnace Creek Rd. Follow signs to China Ranch Rd. Stay on Furnace Creek another ~2.5 miles to a dirt road on the right. The camp will be on the cliff edge, aptly called "Thelma and Louise."

4x4 vehicle recommended for this trip.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Qb2U2SiAHN2YkrFXA>

As usual, there will be a Pot Luck on Saturday evening.

Please let Bob or Bill know if you're interested in this trip and we will notify you in case the trip needs to be cancelled.

Bob Rubino 714-504-4518

brubino54@gmail.com

Bill Hogarth 909-264-1122

whogarth@gmail.com



—Cartoon by Erston Barnhart in *Are We Having Fun Yet? An Irreverent but Affectionate Look at Rockhounds*

via Golden Spike News 11/01

Turtle Mountain Trip Report Feb 21-22, 2026

The field trip to the Turtle Mountains was quite the adventure. Lots of rocks, good food, camaraderie and even one life lesson was thrown in.



We were camped at Blue Cloud Campground which is a BLM campground (dry site), just west of Parker, AZ. It's on a small bluff just off Hwy 62 which meant we had to deal with traffic, both the noise at night and while traveling to the sites for collecting.

The weather was fantastic with highs in the 70's and lows in the 40's. With the recent rains, the desert was the greenest we've seen in quite some time. There were blooming flowers all over.

Half the participants arrived Friday and either had dinner at the camp site or went into Parker and ate at a local restaurant.

On Saturday, we met up at Vidal Junction so that anybody who didn't want to camp could join us. We had 14 people total that day.



Our first site was on the west side of the 95 about 10 miles north of Vidal Junction. We found lots of quartz, chalcedony and druzy quartz.

And now for the life lesson. A sobering reminder and warning to never travel alone in the desert, or at least let people know where you are going. We found a vehicle that looked abandoned/neglected and on closer inspection the occupant was deceased, and had been for a couple of months. We notified the local authorities and spent about an hour giving our story to the CHP and Sheriff.



After dealing with that situation, we were able to continue collecting for another hour or so. That night we had a potluck dinner and talked about the day's discoveries. With only a partial moon, we could look at the stars and ponder our place in the universe.



On Sunday we went to the Whipple Mountains on the east side of the 95 to check out some prospects. The first site was a copper prospect where we found some copper ore and chrysocolla. We went to some other prospects on the east side of Pyramid Butte and found a lot more chrysocolla. After a couple hours there, we went back to an area adjacent to Saturday's site on the west side of the 95. Found more quartz, druzy and chalcedony. We finally wrapped things up around 2pm and either headed home or spent another night at Blue Cloud waiting for lighter traffic on Monday.



Bob Rubino and
Bill Hogarth.



For field trip
information
contact:
Bob Rubino
and Bill
Hogarth



Spare parts & Add'l sets of cups



Jackie Torgerson machine

Cal Clason machine

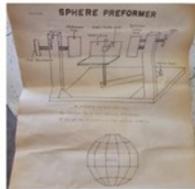
Add'l sets of cups for Clason machine



Polish full to approx. here

100 pound container of 60/90 Grit approx. half full

Various wood V-Blocks & Sphere Preformer



Various types of rock polish and grits, spare parts & items to make add'l polish cups & lots of leather, denim, felt, & other materials used for covering polishing cups



\$799

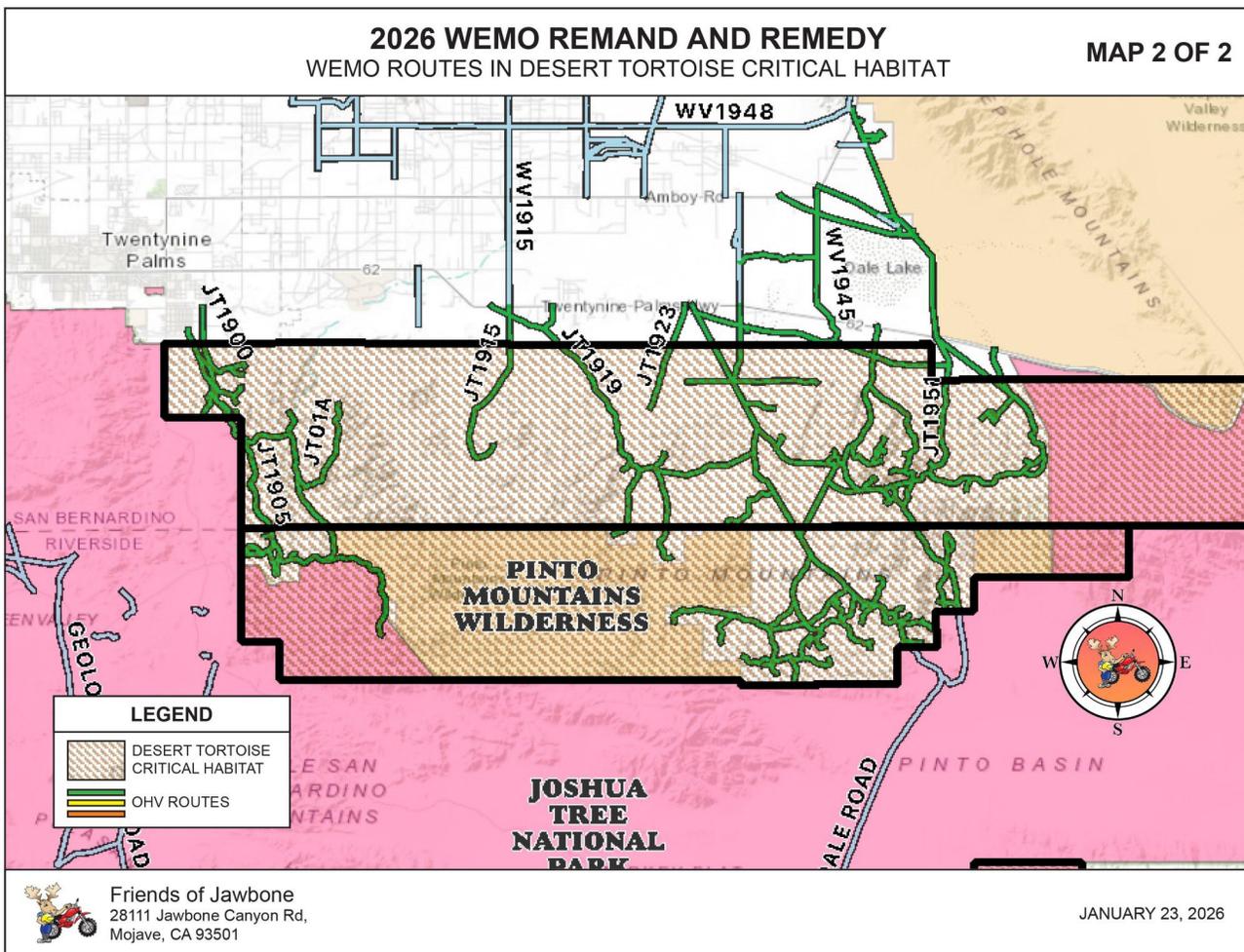
For more info contact Maureen
Maureen1814@yahoo.com

(Note: The tall metal cabinet is NOT included)

NOTE: Road closures take place starting March 31,2026.

2026 WEMO Remand and Remedy.

January 2026 federal court ruling ordered the closure of approximately 2,200 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes in the Western Mojave (WEMO) Desert to protect the habitat of the threatened desert tortoise. The injunction, resulting from a lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), halts motorized access on designated routes in areas like the Rand Mountains and Red Mountain



2026 ANNUAL ROCK, GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW & SALE

Saturday April 25th, 2026 — 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday, April 26th, 2026 — 10 am – 4:30 pm



Activities:

- Dealer Sales
- Door Prizes
- Exhibits
- Silent Auctions
- Demonstrations
- JPK Studio

Products:

- Cabs & Slabs
- Rough Rock
- Fluorescent Minerals
- UV Lights
- Jewelry
- Sue G.'s Gifts

BROOKHURST COMMUNITY CENTER

2271 CRESCENT AVE., ANAHEIM, CA

WWW.SEARCHERSROCKS.COM

Free Parking and Admission!

63rd Annual Ventura Gem, Mineral, Lapidary and Fossil Show

The Ventura Gem Show!

March 7-8, 2026 Sat. 10 am-5 pm, Sun. 10 am -4:00 pm

Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA

Admission is free, Fairgrounds charges for parking.

Kids Activities, gold panning, lapidary, exhibits from private collections of minerals, fossils and lapidary work from throughout So-Cal! Raffle prizes at the end of the show, silent auction held hourly.

15+ dealers in fossils, minerals slabs, etc.

Second-Hand Treasures Store featuring flea market items, used books, plants for sale

For more info- or to enter a display- Jim Brac-Thompson 805-659-

3577 jbraceth@roadrunner.com www.vgms.org

CLUB News

Show Committee Meeting Dates:

Zoom meeting I.D.: 7144759508 Password: 3492

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7144759508?pwd=Y0hrVWtHUUtSszJ3NVFVdnVkcHJUz09>

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

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

Saturday April 18, 2026 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Zoom

Fri. April 24, 2026 Set up 8:30 a.m.

Sat. and Sun. April 25 +26 Annual Show

Activities:

- Dealer Sales
- Door Prizes
- Exhibits
- Silent Auctions
- Demonstrations
- JPK Studio

Products:

- Cabs & Slabs
- Rough Rock
- Fluorescent Minerals
- UV Lights
- Jewelry
- Sue G.'s Gifts

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



Upcoming 2026 CFMS Gem Shows

2026- Shows

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
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 14, 2026- Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM
6th Annual Lake Elsinore Spring Rock and Craft Show
Contact: berylman50@aol.com, (909) 208-6956
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/530281757337262/>

March 14-15, 2026 – Turlock, CA
The Mother Lode Mineral Society
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 North Broadway, Turlock, CA 95380
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Turlock Rock and Gem Show – We will feature 40-50 dealers of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and beads. We have a huge

fluorescent material room, demonstrations, animatronic dinosaur, kids activities, geode cutting, gold panning, and amazing raffles.
Contact: mgibson_76@hotmail.com
Website: <http://motherlodemineralsociety.com/>

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
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

March 20-22, 2026 – Clovis, CA
Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
Clovis Rodeo, 748 Rodeo Dr., Clovis, CA
Hours: Friday and Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Sunday 10 AM-4 PM
The Central Valley 6th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Admission: 13 years and up, \$5.00 good for 3 days
Free Parking!
Website: <https://www.fgms.rocks>

March 21-22, 2026 – San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Gem and Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Tully Rd, San Jose, CA 95111
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Annual Gem and Mineral show. Exhibits/ Vendors/Demonstrations/activities.
Contact: info@scvgms.org
Website: <https://www.scvgms.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 10 AM – 4 PM
Parking will cost \$10. Show will be in the Van Dam building.
Contact: marylandoriole@gmail.com
Website: <http://AVGem.weebly.com>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lemoore, CA
Lemoore Gem and Mineral Club
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore, CA 93245
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
We have vendors from California and several other States selling jewelry, fossils, lapidary rough rocks, carvings, and rock-related kids' activities.
An excellent show for anyone interested in rocks and jewelry.
Contact: lemooregemandmineralclub@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/AndLemoore/>

March 28-29, 2026 – Angels Camp, CA
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds
2465 Gun Club Rd., Angels Camp, CA 95222
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: calaverasgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com
Website: <https://calaverasgemandmineral.net>

March Birthstone – Aquamarine



Aquamarine Color Chart



For a more complete listing of shows go to website: 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

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.

