

SEARCHERS BOARD AND CHAIRPERSONS

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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

The Rock Slab News

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 10



OCTOBER 2026

The Searchers next meeting:
Oct 13th 2026 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The President's Message

Hello Searchers,

CFMS had a well-attended Show in Reno. **Our club is approved by CFMS to create a southern CA lapidary camp, similar to Camp Paradise.** CFMS will have two members helping with guidance and seed money. Our club will provide equipment and teachers, starting out with a small camp – a two-day weekend retreat. Locations to be decided, but it will be within a two-hour drive of Anaheim. If you are interested in teaching a 3 hour workshop on a Saturday or Sunday, please contact anaheimsearchers@gmail.com

Tourmaline Day – Lauren of the Oceanview Mines is not scheduled yet due to her working at Oceanview on Saturdays.

The Cal State Fullerton Geology Dept. has contacted us to help with their fundraising event, Oct. 2-4 at the Coyote Country Club in La Mirada. They are accepting donations of rock-related baskets for auction, or a donation to pay for a geology student to attend the event. Contact Toni Miller, Cal State Fullerton, tamiller@fullerton.edu to donate.

OC Farm Supply in Orange has invited our club to have a table at their "Harvest Day" on Saturday Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will be making polished stone rings, come over and enjoy their festival!

Nominating Committee has formed: There are two board seats open. Would you like to see your ideas for the club take shape? And learn how a non-profit corporation works? (just like an HOA board) Please contact: opalman@gmail.com

2027 Show Committee is: Margaret Hogarth, Veronica Purpura, Natalie Larson, Steve Millbern, Mike Yamada, Gwen Sharp, Virgil Talbott, Stacy and Roger Reno, and Bob and Debbie Tanner.

Workshop News: **The Downtown Center has asked us to pay for our time in the Center.** The board voted to raise **workshop fees to \$15 per visit** to help cover the cost.

For the Show: Please consider donating your unused equipment and high-grade rough now, to pay for club time in the Downtown Center. It is in a great location with air conditioning and a helpful staff. The Show can be a solid source of income to cover the higher costs.

Robin Larzelere, President

Welcome :Devan Bennion for Faceting



Reno Gem and Mineral Club Display



Searchers Club Meetings

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

Member Meeting- Oct 13th Doors open at 6:30 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM

A Rockhound's Home

Rocks on the lawn, rocks in the shed

Shovels & hammers under the bed

Boots & knapsacks beside the front door

Clay & grit all over the floor

Slabs & specimens on the chairs

Boxes of crystals on the stairs

A Rockhound's home is such a disgrace

But, oh, it's such a happy place!

Digger Purdy

Searcher Presenters and News

October Speaker—Craig Parrot Oregon Sunstones



JADE Fest

<https://bigsurjadefestival.com/>

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/784837315504288/permalink/2003792050275469/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Dad's Rock Shop, Orange CA display cases for sale

Contact: Michaelslapidary@gmail.com

Berg Selector brand glass jewelry display case
36" wide 40" tall x 24" deep \$500 to \$700 obo

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

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.	

Ridgecrest Field Trip. Oct 3-4, 2026

We'll be having a field trip to Ridgecrest that is hosted by the Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society (IWGMSWebsite: <https://iwgms.org/>) on Oct 3rd and 4th. They own the Rainbow Ledge Jasper Agate claim and will be showing us around. Possible gem and mineral sightings can be opalite, jasper and moss agate.

The Rainbow Ledge material is justifiably famous; it cuts great cabs.

For people who are not a member of the Indian Wells club there will be a \$5 donation to the club, these funds are used to defray the cost of maintaining the claim.

Camping or day tripping is OK on this trip.

Directions to the campsite: From Orange County take 15 north to 395 north. Just before Ridgecrest turn-off, turn west onto Brown Rd (Brown Rd in some sections is called Randsburg Inyokern Rd). Go 1.9 miles and turn left onto Wiknich Rd. There is a gun range at this intersection, there will also be a Searchers sign (a "superman" S). We will be camping roughly a mile up Wiknich Rd. There are several possible sites, there will be a Searchers sign marking the campsite. This will be a dry camp, bring everything you need. The campsite should be accessible by all vehicles.

Saturday collecting:

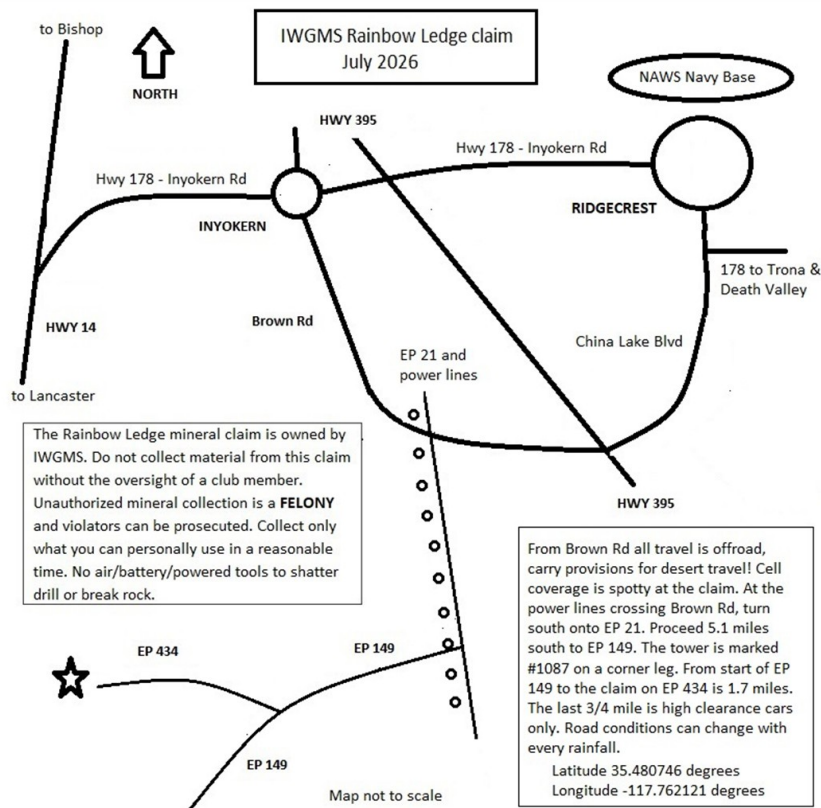
We will leave camp at 0830. We will not be returning for lunch so pack a lunch. We will then meet any folks who are just arriving at the junction of Brown Rd and the power line Rd. This Rd is about 2.8 miles from the 395/Brown Rd junction, and about 1.2 miles from the Brown Rd /Wiknich Rd intersection. We will leave from the Brown Rd/power line Rd junction at 0900 to head to the collecting site. A high clearance vehicle is recommended. At Rainbow Ledge most collecting is float, bring your spray bottle and rock pick. We will spend most of the day here.

Saturday evening at camp we will have a potluck (and campfire) for everyone who wishes to participate. Firewood is appreciated.

Sunday collecting:

We will leave camp at 0830. Sites we'll be exploring are still being worked out, but we'll let you know as the date get closer.

Contact Bill Hogarth at (909) 264-112 or whogarth@gmail.com ASAP so we can have a firm count on who will be attending.



For field trip
information
contact:

Bob Rubino
and Bill
Hogarth

November Field Trip 11/7-11/8 2027 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 was 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. It's reachable by most vehicles. The trips will be up sandy washes so 4x4 will be necessary. We will have some car-pool 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 900.264.1122 (whogarth@gmail.com)

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=0AAAAADfOFGRf8QEGxuH4A0oOmSa8Y-yB4&gclid=CjwKCAjwhNbTBhB4EiwAsFSg-vITcySIQ-IL6ij7GmTt8t6chEPd8zMGU_KoPAoYbIOJ3ssc2ceFrBoCPV8QAvD_BwE

Rio Grande -online https://www.riogrande.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoqNBx3dnmJTfIZ9pOysbsEvRAKrCU4_WwflT3TEZh1tMI8ea2fN - 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=AfmBOop0dJjeNOEAwYgdCF0kyzVQ4bhMc4GpH-GE8VfJRCqtJ01SikHI>

Dollar Bead https://dollarbead.com/?srsltid=AfmBOorEzg2ee5s0Bnl_FeGRN_g61WYdTLA_u1qOJIMiPvUdGvMS3S2z

You Tube

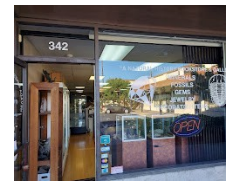
Michigan Rocks channel for rock tumbling videos

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_eISUIWuFtTEunYVeZJ

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



CLUB News

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

Sunday, October 11, 2026
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, OR
Saturday, March 6, 2027, 9-11



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.

This month's "Mini Miners Monthly" is ready for you to enjoy!

It is a large file, so emailing it to you will not work. Please go to this DropBox link to safely download it to your computer.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hx9f9i9et6a0jd40ozk85/Mini-Miners-Monthly-August-2026.pdf?rlkey=ogg8yxa5xglto1xsb9bkh1l74&st=haw57m6f&dl=0>

I have been playing with the design, as you will see. Please offer feedback.

We continue to receive contributions from some of our young readers. Please enjoy their contributions in this issue.

This is also a reminder that if you have an article, artwork, story, or pictures to share, please email them me, Darryl Powell, for inclusion in future issue(s) of "Mini Miners Monthly."

Blessings to all, Darryl aka Diamond Dan

AOS Show 2026

The AOS annual Opal, Gem and Jewelry Show is coming up! The date is October 31- November 1 at the Velvet Rose Event Center in Orange off the 55 FWY and Chapman/Flower intersection. Address is 300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868. Show hours are 10am-6pm on Saturday and 10am-5pm on Sunday.

Our Sponsors are in and vendors of opals, gems, minerals, lapidary, equipment and more are signing in. Tickets are on sale at the venue or through Eventbrite. \$5 adults and kids 15 and under are free. Students also get in free with proof of student ID. Parking is free and plentiful. Tickets purchased through Eventbrite will receive THREE total drawing tickets at admission instead of one with regular admission.

Vendors, members and guests have donated numerous prizes and gifts. Grand prize is a custom piece donated by master jeweler Stan McCall of Custom Creations. Attendance isn't necessary to win but legible name and contact info on your submitted ticket is needed. Drawing will take place at 4pm on Sunday and guests don't have to be there to win so long as drawn tickets are legible. Absent winners will be contacted and their prize delivered separately.

Patio will have geode cutters, gold panning, non-profit groups and more vendors. The Opal Show scavenger hunt is available for all participants with a small bag of rough opals upon completion (while supplies last). Sergio's food truck will be available at the venue entrance. See the American Opal Society's website for more details (<http://opalsociety.org>).

Discounts given to new members joining the American Opal Society during the show. Dues renew annually and the club has monthly meetings at the Downtown Anaheim Center on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

Hello, it's Veronica from the AOS club regarding the upcoming opal show on October 31 (Saturday) to November 1 (Sunday) with Friday set-up (October 30th). We have space for demonstrators in the hallway. The patio space will be mainly for non-profit groups, such as CSUF geology, Route 66 Prospectors, North OC Gem Society, South Gem Society, SCC Gemology, etc.

I'm including info regarding volunteering tasks as examples, the scavenger hunt game (which we utilize to help guest explore the whole show). and newsletter blurbs and show flyer files you can use to talk about the show.

The hours for the show are 10am-6pm on Saturday and 10am-5pm on Sunday. We have raffle drawings on Sunday at 4pm. Show set-up is on Friday, October 30 from 12pm-7pm (the club does arrive earlier to start setting up tables, but vendors can set up after the tables are up and security arrives). We have 24hr security throughout the event, a food truck from 11am-2-3pm on Saturday and Sunday, and plenty of parking.

Please let me know if you can participate as a non-profit group (you get at least two tables to promote your organization and even sell some things) or a demonstrator (let me know when and for how long and what you'll be demonstrating). I intend to spend about two hours each day demoing dremel work on opals during the show. Hopefully we can get Carmina to do faceting demos and Corey on the cabbing machine. If anyone else wants to demonstrate for the show, please let me know.

Veronica Purpura AOS Show Chair



American Opal Society proudly presents
56th Annual OPAL, GEM & JEWELRY SHOW

!Fabulous Location!

Velvet Rose Event Center
300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868

Oct 31st & Nov 1st, 2026

Saturday 10AM - 6PM
Sunday 10AM - 5PM

Opal and Gem Dealers from around the USA and beyond
Rough and Cut Opals, other gemstones, jewelry & supplies
Huge Drawing Grand Prize custom design by Stan McCall
Many other prizes: gemstones, jewelry, books, tools, surprises
Free Demonstrations gemstone cutting, jewelry making, gemstone identification, faceting, gold panning and more!

ADMISSION \$5.00 ADULTS
STUDENTS WITH ID & CHILDREN UNDER 15 FREE
FREE PARKING

American Opal Society, Inc.
PO Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875
Contact: Veronica Purpura (714) 501-9959
info@opalsociety.org <http://opalsociety.org>
(dealer inquiries welcome)

DIRECTIONS: Exit Chapman from the 57 towards Orange. Turn onto Flower Street and go straight. Make a right into the venue just after passing Larkspur Drive. Parking lot is in the back. There is a church next door.



Upcoming 2026 CFMS Gem Shows

2026- Shows

Oct 3-4, 2026 - Grass Valley, CA
Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228
McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949
NCGMS

Hours: 10 am - 4 pm
"Earth's Treasures" Gem & Mineral Show
Contact: (530) 885-4338

Oct 10-11, 2026 - Redwood City, CA
Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061
Peninsula Gem and Geology Society & Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Contact: impreciaconstruction@gmail.com / 650-575-3144
Website: pggs.org / sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org

Oct 11, 2026 - Fallbrook CA
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook CA 92028
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
Hours: 9am-4pm
Fall Festival of Gems and Minerals - a celebration of Earth's exotic treasures! A street fair with minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry, and so much more. Our children's activities are family-friendly and free. Free parking, free admission, and lots of fun!
Contact: fallbrookgems@gmail.com
Website: fgms.org

Oct 17, 2026 - West Hills, CA
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
Hours: Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm
27th Annual Gem Show
Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com
Website: rockchippers.org

Oct 17 - 18, 2026 - Santa Rosa, CA
Memorial Hall, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, California 95404
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Hours: Saturday 10 am to 6 pm; Sunday 10 am to 5 pm
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society 49th Annual Mineral & Gem Show
Contact: vcommons@outlook.com / 408-691-7823

Oct 24-25, 2026 - Sacramento, CA
6151 H. Street, Sacramento CA 95819
Sacramento Mineral Society
Hours: Sat 10am - 5pm; Sun 10am - 4pm
It's our **90th Anniversary** show! Celebrate with us at Sacramento Mineral Society's Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. This year will be bigger & better than ever! Come see our Science Museum, Gem Trees, Live demos, Displays, Raffles, Rare Specimens, Fossils & more!
Get \$1 off with the flyer below! [Facebook Event Info](#)
Contact: gemshow@sacgemshow.com, (916) 662-5819
Website: sacgemshow.com

Oct 31-Nov 1, 2026 - Orange, CA
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower Street, Orange, CA 92868
American Opal Society
Hours: Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 10am-5pm
Come visit our **55th Annual Opal, Gem & Jewelry Show!**
Opal and gem dealers from around the USA and beyond. Huge drawing! **GRAND PRIZE:** custom design by Stan McCall
Admission \$5 Adults; Students with ID and Children under 15 FREE
FREE Parking
Contact: info@opalsociety.org (714) 501-9959
Website: opalsociety.org

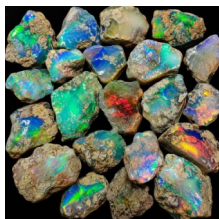
November 7-8, 2026 - Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest CA 93555
Hours: 9-5
Contact: showchairman@iwgms.org **Website:** <https://iwgms.org>

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

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

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

October Birthstone – Opal and Tourmaline



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 5:00 to 9:30 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. 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>

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.

