

# The Rock Slab News



The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2015

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POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS

## The President's Message

Hello Searchers and Visitors!

I for one cannot wait for the current heat spell to pass. Once the cooler Fall weather hits it will be Field Trip season.

Work continues apace on the calendar for next year's show. Please talk to Margaret or Jenny. We want your best pictures of your BEST STUFF (slabs, cabs, jewelry, spheres, and other lapidary art). There is a space on the website for submitting photos. There's also a place on the website to grant the Searchers permission to use your photo.

We are still looking for nominees to be the recipient of our annual \$500 student scholarship. Some of the qualifications are that the recipient is an Orange County resident, that they shall be attending college/university in the year of the award (2015) and that they have an interest or intent to study geology or related earth science. The application is available on the website.

We had a second good response to creating a Searchers meeting display. Thank you to John Klima. This display idea is not yet organized – as in someone has March and someone else April... It's sort of a catch as catch can activity. Please bring in and set up your display. Multiple displays will exhibit multiple interests and opportunities for creativity. A display essentially consists of one or two Ryker display boxes with your items arranged to show new and prospective members what we do with our finds.

Remember that the pie/dessert meeting, as well as elections, takes place in November. You want to be there. Non-attendance doesn't mean you can't get nominated for a position!

### Jay Erb

President, Searchers Gem and Mineral Society

Become a Rockhound Activist. We're not asking you to 'Rock the World', just protect the places you love.

**It is getting to be that time to plan for the annual Christmas party. See page 6.**



See Pages 2-3 on upcoming Arizona field trip



# Field Trips

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
10/17-18/2015	Steve Duncan	Holbrook , AZ area	planned



## Field Trip Holbrook Arizona

Oct. 17-18, 2015

Leaders Steve Duncan and Cat Van Kampen

The October trip will be to the Holbrook AZ area for petrified wood. This area has the best colored (pinks, yellows, purples etc) wood I am aware of. To aid us in our search I have enlisted the help of a long time friend of the Searchers Cat Van Kampen. Many of you know Cat and know that she is an excellent trip leader. You will need at least a high clearance vehicle for the collecting, but as usual we can car pool people that need it. However if you do need to carpool to the collecting site with someone with a truck please make plans with them, or contact me. We haven't been too full to carpool people yet, but it could happen.



To make things simple we will be staying at the Route 66 RV Park, at 7625 Quartzsite St in Sun Valley Az. This is very much a no frills RV Park, but it is conveniently located. It has showers and restrooms. I plan to be at the RV Park Friday evening. There are also motels in Holbrook, including the very cool Wigwam motel where the rooms are concrete wigwams and they have **great** displays of petrified wood in the lobby.

On Sat we will meet at 9AM at Jim Gray's Petrified Wood Co 147 US-180, Holbrook AZ. We will spend a few minutes looking at the shop and from there we will visit the Petrified National Forest. There is a fee of \$10/vehicle to enter the park. Your entrance fee is good for 7 days if you wish to return later and spend some more time. If you are over 62 that same 10 dollars will get you a Senior pass which you can use for free admission to National Parks for a lifetime. You can get that at the gate, or pick it up in advance. Details at: <https://store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html>

After the Park we will go collecting in the Sun Valley area.

Sat night we will have our traditional pot luck at the RV Park. Bring something good to share and your appetite.

Sunday we will collect the Joseph area. We will leave from the RV park at 8:30 AM

Sunday night anyone who wants can join us at Joe and Aggies Café 120 W Hopi Dr in Holbrook for dinner.

You will want to be sure to bring hats, sunscreen, and lots of water. As far as tools a rockpick and spray bottle at a minimum, you may well want to bring some heavy artillery (pick, shovel, digging bar etc) as you may need to dig out a big piece. The BLM says you can collect 25 lbs a day + 1 big piece for a total limit of 250 lbs/year.



For field trip information

contact: Robert

Burson V.P. Field

Trips, Searchers

Gem and Mineral

Society,

[bursonrocks@verizon.net](mailto:bursonrocks@verizon.net)

on.net

## Field Trip (con)

Email me at [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com) if you have any questions, and it would help if we knew how many folks were coming, so if you plan on coming please drop me an email letting me know how many people in how many vehicles, and whether you plan on staying at the RV Park. You can also call me at 714 724-7102.

Travel Note: The drive to Holbrook is LONG, Google says 8 hours. As you travel to Holbrook on 40 you will pass the Walnut Canyon National Monument. This is a very cool place if you have some time to visit it. You will also pass the giant meteor crater at Winslow. Personally this place didn't do much for me, but it is a big crater if you want to see it.

## In The Field: Rainbow Petrified Wood - Petrified National Forest

Petrified wood found in the park and the surrounding region is made up of almost solid quartz. Each piece is like a giant crystal, often sparkling in the sunlight as if covered by glitter. The rainbow of colors is produced by impurities in the quartz, such as iron, carbon, and manganese.



Over 200 million years ago, the logs washed into an ancient river system and were buried quick enough and deep enough by massive amounts of sediment and debris also carried in the water, that oxygen was cut off and decay slowed to a process that would now take centuries.

Minerals, including silica dissolved from volcanic ash, absorbed into the porous wood over hundreds and thousands of years crystallized within the cellular structure, replacing the organic material as it broke down over time. Sometimes crushing or decay left cracks in the logs. Here large jewel-like crystals of clear quartz, purple amethyst, yellow citrine, and smoky quartz formed. Most of the petrified trees have been given the name *Araucarioxylon arizonicum*. *Woodworthia* and *Schilderia* are two other species occurring in small quantities in the park. Though only seven species of tree have been identified through petrified wood, over 200 species of plants have currently been identified from other Triassic fossils, such as leaves, pollen, and spores.

Petrified trees today lie strewn across clay hills and within cliff faces; each log broken into large segments. The quartz within the petrified wood is hard and brittle, fracturing easily when subjected to stress. During the gradual uplifting of the Colorado Plateau, starting about 60 million years ago, the still buried petrified trees were under so much stress they broke like glass rods. The crystal nature of the quartz created clean fractures, evenly spaced along the tree trunk, giving the appearance today of logs cut with a chainsaw.



From <http://www.nps.gov/pefo/learn/nature/petrified-wood.htm>

See Page 5 for a few more pictures.

**October Speaker:** She was an equipment dealer at the Opal Show last year and has offered to give a presentation demo on her amazing lapidary equipment known as the JoolTool system. A fascinating new design in polishing and grinding of gems, jewelry and more.

## Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
10-2015	Anie Booth	Jooltool
11-2015	none	Pie Party and Cabinet Member Elections
12-2015	No meeting	Christmas Party

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

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

## Upcoming 2015 CFMS Gem Shows

### OCTOBER 2015

**October 5 - 6:** BORON, CA Mojave Mineralogical Society Boron Park 12000 Boron Avenue Hours: 9 - 4 daily Contact: Steve Breckenridge, (760) 559-0872 Email: rock5b@starband.net

**October 3 - 4:** VISTA, CA Vista Gem & Mineral Society Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Ray Pearce, (760) 535-5524 Email: vistarocksgms@gmail.com Website: www.vistarocks.org

**October 11:** FALLBROOK, CA Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility 123 West Alvarado Street Hours: 9 - 4 Contact: (760) 728-1130 Email: fgms@sbcglobal.net Website: www.fgms.org

**October 11 - 12:** TRONA, CA Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society SL G&MS Show Building 13337 Main Street Hours: Sat 7 - 5; Sun 7 - 4 Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356 Email: slgms@iwvisp.com Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

**October 17 - 18:** PLACERVILLE, CA El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds 100 Placerville Drive Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Karen Newlin, (530) 676-2472 Email: info@rockandgemshow.org Website: www.eldoradorocks.org

**October 24 - 25:** LOS ALTOS, CA Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Los Altos Youth Center One No. San Antonio Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Steve Jobe, (408) 834-5384 Email: steve\_jobe@sbcglobal.net Website: www.pggs.org

### NOVEMBER 2015

**November 7 - 8:** ANAHEIM, CA American Opal Society The Phoenix Club 1340 South Sanderson Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Veronica Purpura, (714) 501-9959 Email: info@opalsociety.org Website: www.opalsociety.org/

**November 7 - 8:** RIDGECREST, CA Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society Desert Empire Fairgrounds 520 South Richmond Road Hours: 8 - 5 daily Contact: John DeRosa, (760) 375-7905 Email: jfrocks@dslextreme.com

**November 21 - 22:** APPLE VALLEY, CA Valley Gem Gem & Mineral Club Victor Valley Museum 11873 Apple Valley Road (x Bear Valley Rd.) Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 3 Contact: Cyndy Mandell, 760.508.1080, 760.508.1080 Email: cynmandell@me.com Website: www.vvgmc.org

### DECEMBER 2015

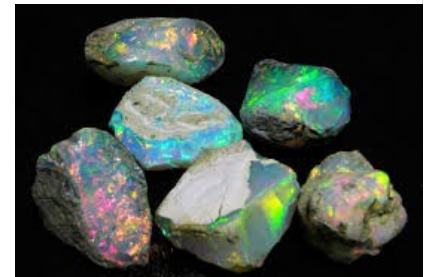
**December 5 - 6:** LAKESIDE, CA El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society Lakeside Rodeo Grounds 12584 Mapleview Street Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4 Mary Ness, (619) 449-0759 Email: ecvgms@gmail.com Website: www.ecvgms.com

### 2016

**January 16 - 17:** EXETER, CA Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building 324 N. Kaweah Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Margaret Buchmann, (559) 799-6034 Email: Margaretbu03@gmail.com Website: www.tulegem.com

**February 20 - 21:** ANTIOCH, CA Antioch Gem Club Contra Costa County Fairgrounds 1201 West 10th Street Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Brenda Miguel, (925) 301-6957 Email: brenda.miguel@yahoo.com Website: www.antiochlapidaryclub.com

**March 4 - 6:** NEWARK, CA Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley Newark Pavilion 6430 Thornton Avenue Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 887-9007 Email: show-chair@mgscv.org Website: www.mgscv.org



## October Birthstone - Opal & Tourmaline

The Opal is a form of non-crystalline silica gel seeped into crevices of sedimentary strata. Through the passage of time and the heating as well as molding processes of nature, the gel has hardened to form Opal gemstones. The October birthstone is closely packed in spherical layers to create three-dimensional spaces to lend radiance and intensity to the stone. Although the Opal is a mineraloid, it exhibits an array of colors.

The internal structure of the opal causes the stone to diffract light thus exhibiting a range of colors. Depending on the conditions under which the stone is created, it can exhibit different colors. Opal hues range from clear and white to vibrant red, yellow, orange, blue, green, magenta, pink, rose, gray, slate, brown, black and olive. Red is the rarest while white and green opals are more common.

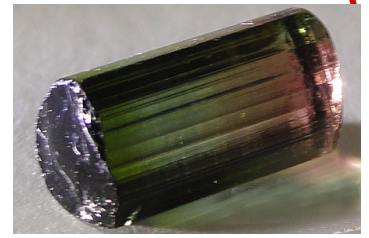
The crystal opal is transparent with a bright spectrum of colors, while the fire opal is translucent with bold hues of yellow, orange and red. Opal gemstones with red hues against a black backdrop are the rarest and most expensive while the green and white opals are more common and less expensive.

Con. on next page

# October Birthstone - Opal & Tourmaline



Tourmaline is a complex mineral with an Aluminous Borosilicate composition, created out of sodium, boron, oxygen, silicon, aluminum and hydrogen atoms and crystals. Metals and impurities present in the crystal structure lend color to the gemstone.



Tourmalines display a wide spectrum of colors from yellow, blue, pink, red, green, black, band brown. A few stones are also dual-colored with outer edges that are green slowly transitioning to transparent layer with a pink or red core. These bi-colored stones commonly found in Brazil are called 'Watermelon'.

## More on the Holbrook area.



What can be found in the area.



Large logs that are well outside the Park. These are too dry to cut and polish but really nice to see so many around.



## Other Local Upcoming Field Trips

2015 MULTI-CLUB FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE Expanded and current information for these collecting opportunities will be published in the Bulletin for the particular month. As always, you should to contact the field trip leader ahead of time because: 1. Sometimes field trips are canceled or changed for various reasons including inclement weather or areas being closed. 2. If we don't know you are coming we won't wait for you and you may not find out the planned camp site was moved until too late. Distributed to the representatives of the Delvers – Long Beach – North Orange County – Pasadena – Whittier – Searchers Gem - Monrovia Rockhounds Mineral and Lapidary Clubs For up-to-date information on these field trips and how to join the trip please **see Kevin Doran, our club's field trip leader or call Joe Goetz at (626)-622-9420.**

OCT 10-11: SEARLES LAKE SHOW & field trips: Pink halite crystals & borax minerals.

NOV 7-8: WHITTIER CLAIM AREA - Barstow for honey onyx, agate, jasper, palm root.

NOV 27-29: THANKSGIVING TRIP - Owens Valley or Afton Canyon.

DEC 12: SALTON SEA - YUHA Fossil Beds, Tour Geothermal Power Plant, Mud Volcano Field.

JAN 24-25: QUARTZSITE ARIZONA

# Searcher's Holiday Banquet

**Mimi's Café December 5th 2015 at 6 P. M.**

**1240 N. Euclid St, Anaheim, CA**

**Price \$20**

Questions: Veronica's cell # (714) 501-9959 or return email ([angeldragonoflight@yahoo.com](mailto:angeldragonoflight@yahoo.com))

Checks made out to: "Searcher's Society" or "Searcher's Gem and Mineral Society"

Cash or Check payments need to be sent to: P.O. Box 3492, Anaheim, CA 92803

Deadline for payments and sign-up needs to be no later than: Monday November 30th

Gift exchange: only those who bring a wrapped gift may participate in the gift exchange (minimum \$10 or more value)

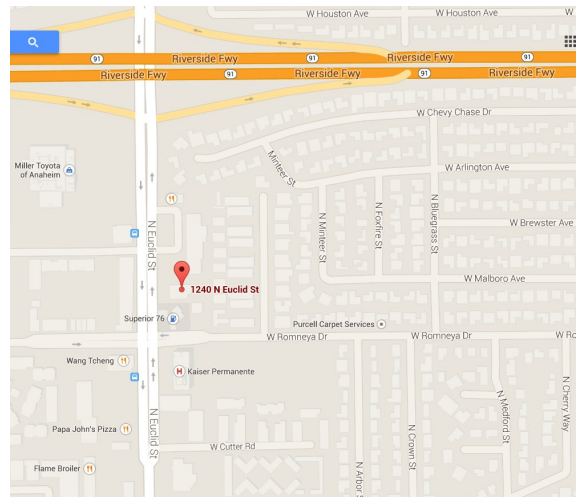
Soups and Salads: All entrees comes with a choice of Caesar salad or a cup of soup. The Dinner entrée of the Blue Cheese & Walnut Salad can come with a fresh baked muffin as your side if you want it.

Dinner Choices: Pot Roast, Roasted Turkey Dinner, Fish or Blue Cheese & Walnut Salad

Desserts Options: Chocolate Mousse, Petite Apple Crisp or Petite Bread Pudding

Please respond and RSVP ASAP to secure your spot and payment before the deadline if you wish to attend the banquet. You do not have to indicate your whole dinner selection (just the entrée choice is fine; although you may indicate the rest if you wish).

Members must pay for their own drinks if non-standard (Searcher's only pays for basic like water, soda, ice tea and such). Alcoholic drinks and others the individual members pays for themselves. (Searcher's takes care of taxes, basic drinks, and tip on the check.



## Kid's Corner

This is the section for new and upcoming Searchers. The information will be coming from a newsletter for kids called *Mini Miners Monthly* by Diamond Dan Publications. He is kind enough to allow us to use parts of his newsletter. This is from Vol. 9 No. 7.

## MEGA Minerals by Emma Fajcz

Most of the samples in our mineral collections are not very large. It's usually quite exciting to get a specimen as big as one's hand, isn't it? However, this month, we'll explore the biggest and often most interesting mineral samples in the world. Can you guess what some of them are? Imagine that one of your quartz crystal specimens was magnified several times. What do you think it would

look like? Well, take a look at the world's largest crystal cluster on display in the Kristall Galerie Swakopmund, Namibia. This nearly ten-foot tall and ten-foot wide specimen is a mass of stunning quartz crystals. Another reason why this specimen is so spectacular is because many of the crystals that make up the cluster are double-terminated, also called floaters. This cluster may contain the world's biggest floater crystals.

Some of the biggest crystals in the world are the selenite, or gypsum, crystals in Mexico's Cueva de los Cristales. Amazingly enough, the largest crystal in this special cave



*Figure 2: Mexico's Cueva de los Cristales. Be sure to compare the person's size with that of the crystals.*

is 36 feet long and weighs 55 tons. Discovered by miners, these crystals are located far underground in a hot, humid cave that was originally filled with water heated by a nearby magma chamber. What an interesting place!

The world's largest gem-quality aquamarine crystal, usually called the Papamel Aquamarine, was unearthed in 1910 at Brazil's Papamel mine. Amazingly enough, this 244-pound crystal had almost no flaws. Another notable aquamarine crystal is the crystal from which the Dom Pedro Aquamarine was faceted. The original crystal was about a meter long, but the three Brazilian miners carrying the crystal inadvertently let go of the crystal, shattering it into three pieces. The famous lapidary Bernd Munsteiner cut and faceted the largest piece of this crystal into the stunning

Dom Pedro Aquamarine, now on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The finished sculpture, titled *Waves of the Sea*, is the world's biggest sample of cut aquamarine at 13 13/16 inches tall.

That was just a taste of all the mega minerals that have been discovered. Take some time this month to look online with your parents' help to see if you can find any more examples of the world's biggest minerals. Have fun finding some giants in the mineral world!

### Photo Credits

Figure 1 (Credits in German): „Laika ac Crystal Gallery (8412169034)“ von Laika ac from USA - Crystal Gallery. Lizenziert unter CC BY-SA 2.0 über Wikimedia Commons - [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Laika\\_ac\\_Crystal\\_Gallery\\_\(8412169034\).jpg#/media/File:Laika\\_ac\\_Crystal\\_Gallery\\_\(8412169034\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Laika_ac_Crystal_Gallery_(8412169034).jpg#/media/File:Laika_ac_Crystal_Gallery_(8412169034).jpg)

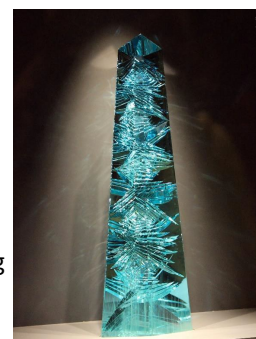
Figure 2: "Cristales cueva de Naica" by Alexander Van Driessche - Gaianauta received this from Alexander Van Driessche via Email. Licensed under CC BY3.0 via Wikimedia Commons - [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cristales\\_cueva\\_de\\_Naica.JPG#/media/File:Cristales\\_cueva\\_de\\_Naica.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cristales_cueva_de_Naica.JPG#/media/File:Cristales_cueva_de_Naica.JPG)

Figure 3: "Dom Pedro Aquamarine 1" by greyloch. Minor editing done to photo. Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 via Flickr. -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/greyloch/9119208377/in/photolist-p2gyoF-eTQjWD-f6BqGp-oWm7cA-oYo2Wp-oWm7ds-hP3Qhd-ho4Amc-qU43qN-55k7zP-eCGCoG-dNM4kw-4QQErN-4QQEKw-4QLsMa-i5ybRk-hv1jpp-ekFQ4N-sBAK1q-56b2eA-fCVGLE-edamp5-D8Wxp-k4oNgN-4JfHW8-sa7sjqfkXksi-f4rzgG-f52w32-e3W7Yf-4FcFyz>



*Figure 1: Kristall Galerie's fantastic quartz specimen.*



*Figure 3: Mr. Munsteiner's beautiful sculpture Waves of the Sea.*

*Mini Miners Monthly* is produced by Diamond Dan Publications, Rochester, New York.  
Darryl Powell, editor Emma Fajcz, contributing editor

# Mineral Name Scramble

Here are some familiar mineral names. The problem is that the letters are all mixed up. Can you put them in the correct order?

ETSIORQU \_\_\_\_\_

MPSUYG \_\_\_\_\_

PRCEOP \_\_\_\_\_

TTBINISE \_\_\_\_\_

PHGRITAE \_\_\_\_\_

MONDIAD \_\_\_\_\_

AGUTIE \_\_\_\_\_

ASEOPTDI \_\_\_\_\_

NOCRIZ \_\_\_\_\_

And now for some really tough ones. These are for the "Expert" Mini Miners.

RTOCSELAOH \_\_\_\_\_

BALTOTIESRIC \_\_\_\_\_

SCUMOTEIV \_\_\_\_\_

Mineral Name Scramble  
ETSIORQU TURQUOISE, MPSUYG GYPSUM, PRCEOP COPPER, TTBINISE STIBNITE, PHGRITAE GRAPH-  
ITE, MONDIAD DIAMOND, AGUTIE AUGITE, ASEOPTDI DIOPHASE, NOCRIZ ZIRCON  
And now for some really tough ones. These are for the "Expert" Mini Miners.  
RTOCSELAOH Orthoclase; BALTOTIESRIC Cristobalite; SCUMOTEIV MUSCOVITE



# Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

## General Information



Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

[www.searchersrocks.org](http://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, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.

Saturday, 3 – 7 PM Free silver-smithing class 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays (schedule varies).

**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)

<b>Membership Dues:</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25</b>
	<b>Couple</b>	<b>\$35</b>
	<b>Junior (17 &amp; under)</b>	<b>\$10</b>

Valid Jan.1-Dec.31, not prorated

**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

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**Charter Date:** April 20, 1958

**Affiliations:** California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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