

The Rock Slab News



The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2015

SEARCHERS BOARD OFFICERS

- President: Jay Erb
- 1st VP: Veronica Purura
- 2nd VP: Robert Burson
- Director: Jimmy Peterson
- Secretary: Jamie Cassidy-Curtis
- Treasurer: Charlotte Spalding
- Federation Delegate: Kim Campbell Erb
- Committee Chairpersons
- Anaheim Arts Council: Beth Pelfrey
- Editor: Linda Horn
- Historian: Beth Pelfrey
- Hospitality: Lorri Renck
- Library Membership: Beth Pelfrey
- Monthly Drawing: Skip and Connie Cone
- Sunshine:
- Veteran's Coordinator: Larry Richey
- Website: Walter
- Workshop: Adrian Callard
- Rock's Kids: Terri Benedict

IN THIS ISSUE

Field Trips	2
Club Meetings	3
Upcoming CFM Shows	4
Kids Corner	7

POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

The President's Message



Hello Searchers and Visitors!

Let me start with the meeting schedule. Unlike our difficulties last year, we will have regular meetings on Feb 10 and Mar 10 the second Tuesdays of those months. In April, however, the Community Center will be closed on April 6th and then re-open on April 20th. Since our Show is the first weekend in May, we really need that April meeting, so **our April meeting will be on Tuesday April 28!!**

I hope that everyone has had an opportunity to go to Quartzsite. As I write this, we have not yet gone, but our trip will be during the end of the Pow-Wow session. Perhaps Kim and I will see you there?

We need volunteers:

We always need more volunteers for the Searchers' show in May. Please talk to Margaret, Virgil, Adrian, Steve or any of the other Show committee members to find out who needs additional help. What the heck, you'll be there anyway, right?

We also need someone to organize refreshments at the monthly meetings. The title for this person is Hospitality Chairperson. Sharon B has been trying to hold this position as well as Membership Chair for quite awhile and could use some relief. Please talk to Sharon about this position.

The Searchers need multiple volunteers to help create a Youth Program. The AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) has created a great (FREE) program of Earth Sciences merit badges. We really need a coordinator and some mentors/counselors for the badge program.

Finally, we need a regular representative to the Anaheim Arts Council. These are the people who grant us access to the Community Center as well as the Brookhurst Center. They meet monthly. As a bonus, the Searchers will pay for your admission to the annual Soiree. It's fun, really! The Arts Council is also a great place for a lapidary artist to make connections.

I also need special field trip ideas. I am looking for one-day field trips, both collecting and informative to pass on to Robert, our Field Trip Chair and to our Youth Program coordinator.

Well, off to Quartzsite, Jay

Fellow Searchers, just a friendly reminder: If you haven't paid your dues for 2015 now is the time to pay them. You may mail a check to the Anaheim Searchers Gem and Mineral, P.O. Box 3492, Anaheim, CA 92803 or pay at the monthly General Meeting. Questions can be directed to the Membership Chair, Sharon Burson 562 706 2054.



See Page 3 for Show Information See page 2 for Field Trip details

Field Trips

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
2/21-22/2015	Curt Clark	Lake Havasu City	Planned
3-21,22-2015	Jim Peterson & Robert Burson	Opal Mt.	tentative



Field Trip: Lake Havasu

Searchers February field trip will be the an area just outside of Lake Havasu City. Different types of agate and jasper are plentiful in the area. There is red jasper with white and blue striping. The agates come in many colors, mostly pastel colors. There is also a site with a nice purple agate. Pieces are all float, large and small. Buckets, hammers, a spray bottle and good walking shoes



are all you need for some great rock gathering. The road in is not long, but it does have some deeper sandy areas and a couple of steep, short climbs. 4 wheel and high clearance is highly recommended. Temperatures should still be pleasant. Always bring things for all conditions.



There is a BLM dispersed campsite called Craggy Wash just down the road and motels and food in Havasu.

Directions: Drive will take around 4 to 5 hours. Take 15 toward Barstow to the 40 to the Arizona border. At the 9 mile marker take highway 95 South toward Lake Havasu. The BLM site is on the left side around 11 miles from the 95 turn off. It is down a dirt road a little ways into a wash. GPS: 34° 35.636'N 114° 21.616'W .

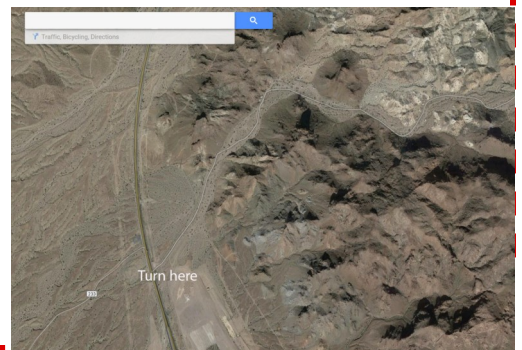


Field Trip will start 9 AM (California time) from the McDonalds in the Walmart shopping center on the east side of 95. Very close to the airport on the North side of town. 6501 Showplace Ave.

Staying in Havasu: There are lots of motels in Havasu, some in the \$60 range. Lots of good places to eat too. We have set up a special deal at the Travelodge. Normally 120, you can stay for \$79 if you mention Searchers or Jack Horn to JC at the registration desk. This is a very nice, clean motel with free breakfast. There are a lot of different activities going on in Havasu, make any reservations early to make sure you have a place.



Any questions - Jack or Linda Horn
714 779-6664 or
Curt Clark 714 639 9927



BLM camp site location

For field trip information contact: Robert Burson V.P. Field Trips, Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, bursonrocks@verizon.net

Trip Report: Quartzsite

Several searchers went to Quartzsite to shop at the Pow Wow and Desert Gardens. This was our first time to Quartzsite. Traffic and parking did not seem as bad as we thought it would be. So much to see, so little time. We spent part of one day at the shows and most of time hunting rocks, both with the scheduled field trips and with the people we met last year in New Mexico. Rocks, rocks everywhere! Everyone probably left with more than they came with.



Show Information Always can use help

Would you like to:	Contact	Phone	Email
Be a demonstrator	Bob Gilland	714-776-4958	rgilland@sbcglobal.net
Donate a door prize			
Set-Up/Tear Down	Margaret Hogarth	(C) 909-815-3045	hogarth.m@gmail.com
Load/Unload the trailer	Margaret Hogarth	(C) 909-815-3045	hogarth.m@gmail.com
Help with Fri. Night Dinner	Adrian Callard	714-368-9575	adricyn@hotmail.com
Help with Hospitality	Karen Kremer	714-639-8082	karenandkay@aol.com
Help with Hospitality	Teri Lynn Wheeler	714-425-0983	We34god@yahoo.com
Hourly Door Prizes	Teri Lynn Wheeler	714-425-0983	We34god@yahoo.com
Kitchen	Adrian Callard	714-368-9575	adricyn@hotmail.com
Security	Virgil Talbott	714.871.7900	virgiltalbott@roadrunner.com
Donate to the silent auction	Steve Duncan	714-724-7102	wsd@iteris.com
Sell at the Searchers' table	Margaret Hogarth	909-597-7033	hogarth.m@gmail.com
Have a display case	Veronica Purpura	714-974-3982	angeldragonoflight@yahoo.com
		(C) 714-501-9959	

February Guest Speaker Stan will show how he approaches the photography of gems, minerals and jewelry in his work, and how you can adapt his techniques with low-cost equipment to improve your photography. Stan will demonstrate how to build up lighting for specific subjects, how to choose backgrounds, what cameras and lenses are suited for this type of photography, and discuss how simple photos can be transformed into dramatic images with post-production computer techniques.

Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
2-2015	Stan Sholik	How to Photograph Your Jewelry, Crystals and Specimens
3-2015	Justin Zzyzx	Rockhounding 101
4-2015	None Different date 4-28	Rock Swap

Upcoming 2015 CFMS Gem Shows

For a more complete listing of shows go to website:

www.cfmsinc.org

FEBRUARY 2015

February 13 - 22: INDIIO, CA San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, Cabazon Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival 82-503 Highway 11 Hours: 10 - 10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674 Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 27 - March 8, IMPERIAL, CA Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society Imperial Valley Expo 200 East 2nd Street/dd Hours: Weekends noon - 10 pm; Weekdays 4 pm - 10 pm John Pyle, Jr. (760) 562-3453 Email: jcwus@sbcglobal.net Website: www.IVGMS.org

February 28 - March 1: VALLEJO, CA Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society Solano County Fairgrounds, Mc Cormack Hall 900 Fairgrounds Drive Hours: 10:00 - 5:00 daily Contact: Dan Wolke, 707 334-2950 Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net Website: www.vjgems.org

MARCH 2015

March 6 - 8: 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 Website: www.mgscv.org

March 7 - 8: ARCADIA, CA Monrovia Rockhounds Los Angeles Arboretum 301 Baldwin Avenue Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624 Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com Website: www.Moroks.com

March 7 - 8: VENTURA, CA Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Ventura County Fair-

grounds 10 West Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725 Email: info@VGMS.org Website: www.vgms.org

March 14 - 15: SAN MARINO, CA Pasadena Lapidary Society San Marino Masonic Center 3130 Huntington Drive Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239 Email: joenmar1@verizon.net Website: www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org

March 14 - 15: TURLOCK, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494, cell (209) 484-4416 Email: terry_mcmillin@yahoo.com Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 21 - 22: LEMOORE, CA Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society Trinity Hall 470 Champion Street Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Keith Olivas (559) 622-9440 Email: georger-silva@sbcglobal.net

March 28 - 29: ANGELS CAMP, CA Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society Calaveras County Fairgrounds 101 Frogtown Road hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277 Email: amy95247@yahoo.com Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 28 - 29: ROSEVILLE, CA Roseville Rock Rollers Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds 800 All American City Blvd Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114 Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com Website: www.rockrollers.com

APRIL 2015

April 4 - 5: CHICO, CA Paradise Gem & Mineral Society Silver Dollar Fairgrounds 2337 Fair Street Hours: 10 - 4 daily Contact: Manuel Garcia, (530) 877-7324 Website: www.paradisegem.org

April 11 - 12: MARIPOSA, CA Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society Mariposa County Fairgrounds 5005 Fairgrounds Road (south of Mariposa on Hwy 49) Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Randy Bolt, (209) 742-7625 Email: rockmuseum@sti.net Website: www.camineralmuseum.com

April 18 - 19: SAN JOSE, CA Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society Santa Clara County Fairgrounds 334 Tully Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Frank Mullaney, (408) 265-1422 Email: info@scvngms.org Website: www.scvngms.org

April 18 - 19: THOUSAND OAKS, CA Conejo Gem & Mineral Club Borchard Park Community Center 190 Reino Road at Borchard Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734 Email: rmsorca@roadrunner.com Website: www.cgamc.org

April 25 - 26: SANTA CRUZ, CA Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium Church Street & Center Street Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Dean Welder (408) 353-2675 Website: www.scmgs.org

April 10 - 12: VISTA, CA Vista Gem & Mineral Society Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue Hours: 9 - 5 daily Contact: Ray Pearce (760) 535-5524 & Simon King (619) 991-2226 Email: vistarocksgms@gmail.com Website: www.vistarocks.org

February Birthstone - Amethyst

The word Amethyst is derived from the Greek word "amethystos" which means "remedy against drunkenness" which is reflected in the properties of this stone. A variety of crystallized quartz, of a purple or bluish violet color, of different shades. It is

much used as a jeweler's stone. The Amethyst is a member of the Quartz (silicon dioxide) family. Crystal structure of the Amethyst, the February birthstone, is hexagonal.

The traditional colors associated with the Amethyst is a pale lilac to violet to red-violet color through to a deep rich purple color. A popular gem used in jewelry. The meaning of colors through the ages represented many aspects of life. Social, religious, biblical and Christian symbolism were all reflected in the color purple. The original symbolic meaning of the color purple was for penitence and mourning. However, it became symbolic with wealth and power and strongly associated with Royalty as the dyes used for purple materials were extremely expensive to produce.



In the Shop: Cleaning Rock and Mineral Specimens

QUARTZ

Quartz crystals and formations can be stained red-brown from iron, crusted with clay or coated in tougher minerals like limonite or calcium. With some work and the right techniques and cleaners you can reveal the sparkling beauty of your find.

•INITIAL CLEANING

First you need to remove any clay covering your specimens. For a prize specimen use old toothbrushes, toothpicks, and bamboo skewers. If you have intricate formations or a lot of specimens, try putting them outside in the shade to dry to the point where the clay cracks, then hose with spray nozzle set at maximum force. You will likely need to repeat the process several times, allowing the clay to completely dry between hosing. Make sure you do not do this in a sink or bathtub as clay will clog the pipes - do it outside! Make sure all clay is removed before moving on to your next step.

•REMOVING ALGAE

If your specimen has organic material like algae on it, use household bleach to clean it. Rinse well and let it dry for a good day before using any acid cleaning method.

•REMOVING IRON STAINS

Put the specimens in a plastic bucket and cover them with our prepared oxalic acid solution as outlined above. Be aware that too much time in the solution can turn quartz yellow. Let your specimens soak for one to several days.

If staining is very heavy or you want to speed the process along you can heat the solution by standing the bucket in the hot sun. There are some who use an old crock pot instead of a plastic bucket, and heat their acid solution that way. If you choose these methods :

1. **DON'T** heat the solution on your kitchen stove and never boil the solution - it puts off poisonous fumes.
2. **DON'T** use any kind of metal container
3. **DO** this procedure outside
4. **DO** wear rubber gloves at all times.

When the crystals are clean to your satisfaction, rinse and rinse and rinse them. If you have hard water in your area, it is smart to use distilled water for rinsing to prevent possible yellow staining. Soak them in clean water for a day and then allow to dry. If the crystals develop a powdery coating as they dry, soak them in a baking soda solution of about 1/3 cup to a gallon of water then rinse them well.

Other methods for removing iron stains include:

1. Iron-out: A commercial bisulfate cleaner used for getting iron stains out of kitchen and bathroom fixtures. Follow all precautions outlined by the manufacturer. Add about 1 tablespoon of Iron Out to a pint of warm water in a plastic bucket or container. Soak your crystal clusters in the Iron Out solution for 5-20 minutes or up to a maximum of 1-2 hours and then thoroughly rinse your mineral specimens. The liquid can be poured down the drain
2. Naval Jelly: Contains phosphoric acid and is sold for getting rust off metal but will work on quartz crystals. Follow all precautions outlined by the manufacturer. Just paint it on and then wash it off.

Con. On page 6



In the Shop: Cleaning Rock and Mineral Specimens (con.)

•REMOVING LIME CARBONATES, CALCITE, AND BARITE

First try cleaning them using ordinary White household vinegar and washing ammonia. Soak your specimens for 8-12 hours in full-strength vinegar. Wash the crystals well and then soak them for an equal amount of time in washing ammonia. Rinse well and wipe dry. If they are not completely clean, repeat the process. You may need to repeat several times.



Very resistant calcite encrustations, limonite or other tough mineral coatings on quartz may require you to wash them in a muriatic (dilute hydrochloric) acid solution. **WARNING:** If the specimen contains pyrite crystals muriatic acid will damage the pyrite. Also remember that calcite crystals should never be treated by this process. Muriatic acid (sold as concrete or pool cleaner) is much stronger than simple vinegar or oxalic acid, and must be used with extreme caution.

You'll need rubber gloves, goggles, large boxes of baking soda, 5 plastic buckets, and a secure outdoor space to work in:

- In the first DRY bucket put your DRY crystal specimens that need cleaning.
- Fill a second bucket with water for rinsing
- Your third and fourth bucket are filled with a strong baking soda solution to neutralize the acid.
- The fifth is for draining the muriatic solution into when you need to check the progress of the cleaning.

You can use the muriatic full strength or dilute it. If you DO dilute it remember to add the acid to the water. Wearing gloves and goggles, pour enough muriatic acid over the crystals to completely cover them. Be careful not to breathe the fumes from the acid! Expect the solution to bubble vigorously if you are removing calcite or other alkaline minerals. In most cases you can leave the solution to work until this action stops. Check your quartz clusters after five minutes as sometimes they are held together by calcite and you will end up with a bunch of loose crystals.



When they are clean to your satisfaction you need to neutralize the acid. Remove them to the baking soda solution for 15 minutes, then proceed with rinsing. Because the acid has penetrated the specimen it is best to wash very thoroughly. A good rule of thumb is total washing time should be three times the duration the specimen was in acid. If you just briefly dipped it for 5 minutes to remove some calcite then a 15 minute wash will be adequate. If you left your quartz specimens in for for a full day, then you should rinse them for at least three days. Washing is basically placing your specimens in clean water and keeping the water clean as the acid diffuses out of the specimens. It is best if you can set a water supply on a slow trickle into the bucket to constantly provide clean water. Otherwise changing the water as often as possible will work.

Taken from <http://www.inlandlapidary.com/content/cleaning.asp>

Kid's Corner

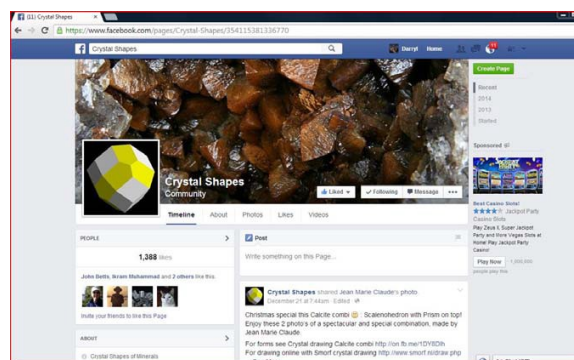
This is the section for new and upcoming Searchers. The information will be coming from a newsletter for kids called *Mini Miners Monthly* by Diamond Dan Publications. He is kind enough to allow us to use parts of his newsletter. This is from Vol. 8 No. 12.

Excellent Minerals to Find on the Internet

The staff at Mini Miners Monthly has been searching the internet for great mineral collecting resources on the internet. We are thrilled to share with you some of our discoveries. There is A LOT MORE available on the internet than mineral dealers. By the way, never forget that there are some sites that you do not want to be visiting. Always have an adult help you search and guide you through the bad stuff.

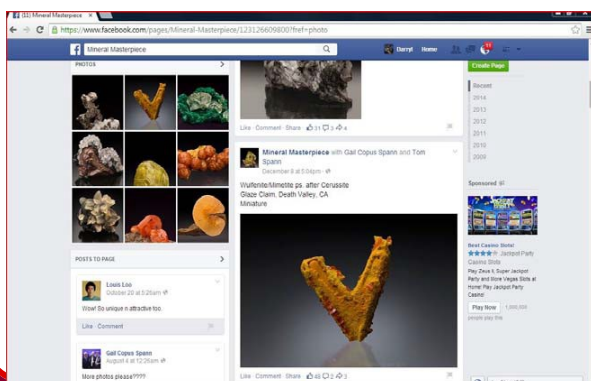
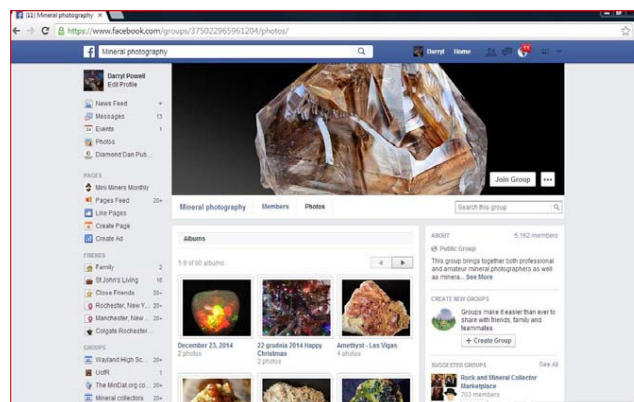
For example, we recently found a Pinterest page that has one of the best collections of high-quality photos of high-quality mineral specimens. For some reason, the person who runs that Pinterest page has chosen a really foul swear name for his identity

Now, let's take a look . . . FACEBOOK Crystal Shapes Community This is an excellent Facebook page. Real crystal specimens are pictured. Then, a matching crystal drawing is presented that shows you, step by step, the different forms that are part of the specimen. The crystal drawings are prepared on a very interesting website called Smorf crystal drawing. We'll tell you right now, Smorf is difficult to use. But you can't break anything! So try it. Mess around with the different fields and see what you can create.



What we like about this Facebook website is that you can compare real life crystals with carefully prepared, accurate drawings. You can see, step by step, how a crystal specimen is formed. If you spend a lot of time on this page, you will learn A LOT about crystals and crystallography in a hands-on, easy-to see way.

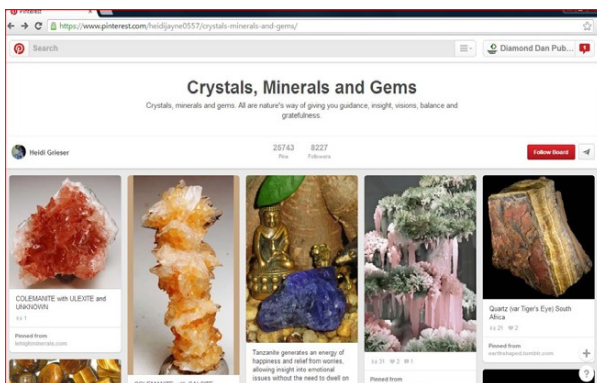
Search "Mineral Photography" in the search bar of your Facebook home page. A number of options will come up. We have discovered that "Mineral Photography" sites end up being collections of great photos of really good specimens. There doesn't seem to be a lot of information about the art of photography.



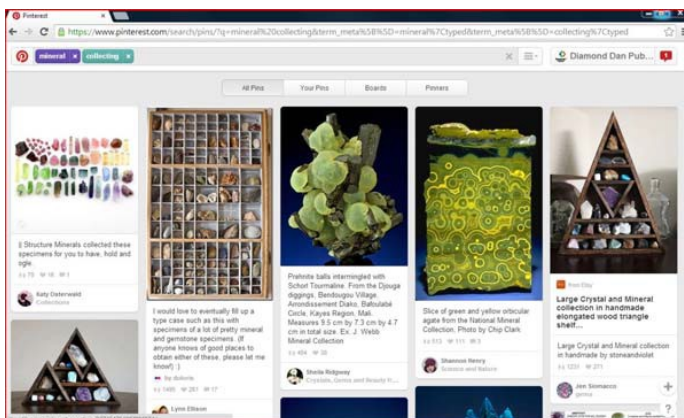
And do you want to see some truly awesome mineral specimens and photos? Visit "Mineral Masterpiece" on Facebook. "Mineral Masterpiece" is a business. Mini Miners Monthly has no connection to this company. We simply find their photos awesome!! We think you will truly enjoy "mineral eye candy!"

Excellent Minerals to Find on the Internet

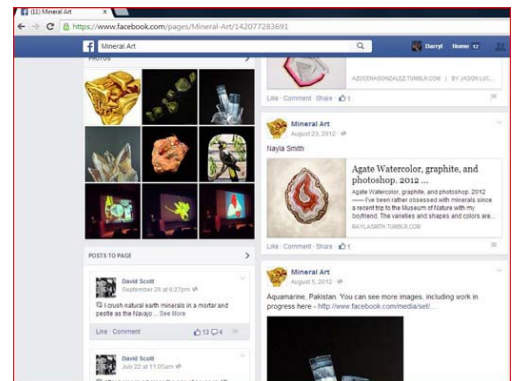
The last Facebook page (for this month) is “Mineral Art.” As you know by now, Mini Miners Monthly has a great love for mineral art. At this Facebook page you can see some terrific mineral art and learn something about creating mineral art of your own.



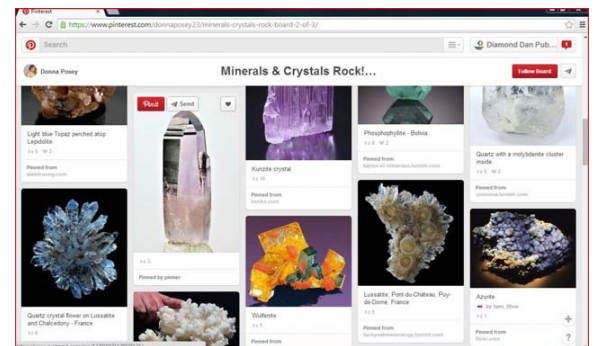
We really like this because there are some excellent collections of mineral pictures that you can find. You might want to just look at them. You might want to try to draw them! By studying the pictures you will learn a lot about which minerals are found with other minerals, the different colors of a mineral species, the different crystal forms of minerals, and much more. It's like going to a museum....without ever leaving your house! One of the nice features of Pinterest is that you can click on a picture which will bring you to the Pinterest page from which it originally came.



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



Pinterest is another website service that you might enjoy. You will have to sign up with an email address and a user-name. As always, ask an adult to guide you (and, for some of you, get permission!) as you sign up and search Pinterest.



Then, you can explore that page and see more and more specimens. You could spend endless hours seeing “WOW” mineral specimens. We typed “Mineral Collecting” in the search bar and pressed enter. This is what we found (to the left). Check it out!! It has great ideas on how to display your specimens..

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

General Information



Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

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

Membership Dues:	Individual	\$25
	Couple	\$35
	Junior (17 & under)	\$10

Valid Jan.1-Dec.31, not prorated

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:

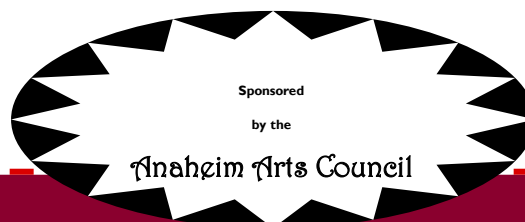
Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

P.O. Pox 3492

Anaheim, Ca. 92803

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



PtCreations

2812-B Walnut Ave.
Tustin, Ca 92780 714-904-2181
www.ptcreations.net

THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>
342 S. Tustin Street • Orange, CA 92866
Ph. 714-633-1549

Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply

Club members show your ID card and receive a 10% off purchases over \$100
Authorized dealer for Garrett, Fisher, and Tesoro metal detectors
5642 E. La Palma Ave., #208, Anaheim, CA 92807 (corner of La Palma and Imperial Hwy.)
714 693-GOLD (4653). Store hours: Tu - Sat 10am - 6pm



The Agateer Lapidary Supply
www.theagateer.com
(657) 464-0400

Licensed Dealer

Saws, Diamond Saw Blades – Cutting Oil – Dressing Sticks
Cabbing Machines – Diamond Wheels – Dop Supplies
Tumble-Bee Tumblers, Grit Kits, Tumbling Media

Free Delivery within Orange County for orders over \$150



15131 Triton Lane #117
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
714-893-6643
www.sccgemology.org