

# The Rock Slab News



The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2014

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## POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

## The President's Message



Hello Searchers and friends,

This month we are presented with an opportunity to shine. Starting in late August, the Brookhurst Community Center has made available to us, the use of their display case. The display case is huge covering 14 feet. We are going to need quite a few donations to fill this case. The donations are temporary as the duration of our display is 3 months. I believe that if we split it up amongst our many varied interests that this could be fascinating. I would love to find someone willing to coordinate the design and set up of this display. I believe that the focus for this display should be on the club, our activities and our members. I believe that including pictures of members on field trips, in the Workshop and creating beautiful works of art would be appropriate. Perhaps you have a different vision? Let's talk! Can you or you and a friend create a small section showing your talents? I would certainly like to include our Veterans in this display too.

I have been informed that the Searchers used to give out awards and stuff for people who had accomplished milestones, like multiple years of membership or having placed a display case at our Show for multiple years in a row. I'm afraid that I'm new enough that I hadn't heard about this. If you're a long-time member and know of these or any other Searcher traditions that have fallen by the wayside, please let me know. I believe that resurrecting traditions from the past would be a marvelous idea.

In September we will have another opportunity to shine. John Klima has restored an old show case donated to us by the Monrovia club for use as a display at the BLM office in Barstow. This is a more traditionally sized case than the Brookhurst one, yet it too will require temporary donations. I believe that the focus for this display should be (but may not be limited to) California minerals with a preference for the Mojave desert with an additional preference for those minerals found within the Barstow district. Once again, I would love to find someone willing to coordinate the design and set up of this display.

It's never too early to start thinking about running for an office or taking a position within the Searchers. Get involved and add to your enjoyment of our hobby.

Also, Become a Rockhound Activist. We're not asking you to rock the world, just protect what you love.

Jay

See Page 5-6 for the results of the Searchers

successful long range trip



THE CREW AT DAVIS CREEK



## Field Trips



DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
9-27-28 2014	Norbert Bernhardt	Big Bear Lake	Planned
10-2014	Herb Beckman	Clear Creek - Jade in streams, plasma agate at Aurora mine	tentative

## Big Bear Lake Trip

**Sept. 27-28 2014 Norbert Bernhardt Cell 714-904-2181**

Our field trip will be to the Big Bear Lake area. This area is about 2 hours from Orange County.

There are 2 areas we will be going to, one has quartz crystals up to 1 ¼” long and the other beautiful dendrites.

We will meet at the Big Bear Discovery Center which is very close to the campground. Hours for the Discovery Center are 8:30am – 4:30pm. You must pick up adventure passes for Saturday and Sunday. You can get your adventure passes ahead of time at Big 5 Sporting Goods or REI. \$5. a day. You could also get them at the Discovery Center but remember they do not open till 8:30am. **If you are sharing a ride you do not need one! The pass is per car.** The 2 trips leave at 8:40am

Saturday will be the trip to Crystal Hill. It involves a dirt road, ok for passenger cars and a then a 1 mile hike. It is mostly a level hike. Bring water, a hat, hiking boots and lunch. I would not suggest shorts. Tools: an Estwing 2 ½ foot pick, rock hammer, gad if you have one, Army shovel, Zip-Loc bags for the crystals. Remember you have to carry this stuff. Happy hour at 4:00pm and Pot-Luck at 5:30pm

Sunday will leave at 8:40 from the Discovery Center and go to collect the dendrites. They are found at a marble quarry dump in Holcomb Valley (also known for its gold). This road is also dirt but passenger cars will be able to make it. It is about 5 miles back from the highway. Hat, hiking boots and water needed. Tools, you won't need much because everything is already broken up. Maybe bring a rock hammer or a 2 -3 lb crack hammer. The pieces are anywhere from 6” to 3 feet high. We planned this on Sunday because it will be quick and easy to collect and for those that want to leave early, you might be done by 11:30am. The distance from the car to the collecting site is about 150 feet.

The campground to stay at is called Serrano and it is very close to the lake, lots of big trees.

When you get to the dam at the lake, on 18, turn left at the dam heading for the town of Fawnskin. Go past Fawnskin a ways and the campground will be on your right. If you miss the first turn off, take the next right turn and that will also lead you into the campground. You must make reservations!! Early. Here is the link <http://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/serrano/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70533>

Many motels in the area. The easiest thing to do is look on the internet and call them.

Here are directions for those that have never been to Big Bear: Take the 91 frwy East to 215 north to 210 East to the 330 Big Bear which eventually turns to 18 after you go through Running Springs. When you get to the dam turn left at the dam onto 38. Follow 38 past Fawnskin and look for Serrano Campground signs. Campground is on you right.



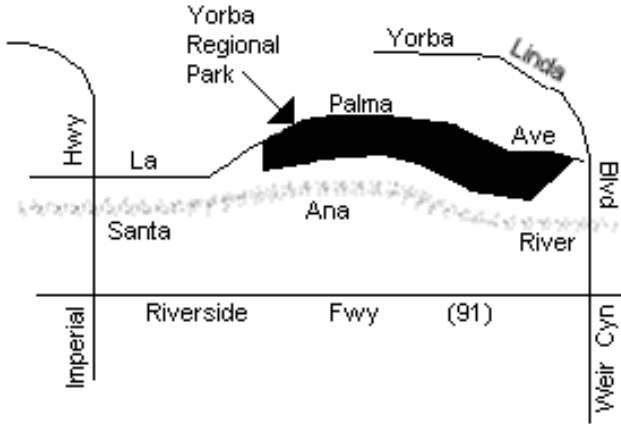
For field trip information contact: Steve Duncan V.P. Field Trips, Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, (714) 7247102 (cell) or [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com)



### Searcher's Potluck-Picnic 2014

Date and Time: Saturday, August 9th from 11am to 3pm  
Location: Yorba Regional Park, 7600 E. La Palma Ave, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807  
Area: Site #6 by Parking Lot #2  
Contacts: My cell # (714) 501-9959  
The Searcher's will provide sodas and water

Please respond to Veronica  
angeldragonoflight@yahoo.com  
if you are planning on attending and let her know what  
you would like to bring.



### August Speaker Topic - Your Money's Worth

Our favorite gemology instructor, Lothar Vallot, from the Santiago Canyon College Gemology Program, returns again to wreak havoc on our ignorance on the subject of purchasing and bargaining gems and minerals. Lothar will discuss what to look for in dealers, how to bargain and how to conduct yourself in order to get the best value for your money .

## Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
8-2014	Lothar Vallot	"Your Money's Worth"
9-2014	Keith Krzywiec	Fossils of the San Gabriel Valley
10-2014	Walt Lombardo	Colored Diamonds

# Upcoming 2014 CFMS Gem Shows

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

## AUGUST 2014

**August 1 - 3:** NIPOMO, CA Orcutt Mineral Society, Santa Maria Nipomo High School 525 North Thompson Avenue Hours: Fri/Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Wes Lingerfelt, (805) 929-3788, Cell (805) 710-1983 Email: info@omsinc.org Website: www.omsinc.org

**August 23 - 24:** SAN FRANCISCO, CA San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society S. F. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Ellen Nott Email: ellen\_nott@yahoo.com Website: www.sfgemshow.org

## SEPTEMBER 2014

**September 20 - 21:** CHICO, CA Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society, Oroville Silver Dollar Fairgrounds 2357 Fair Street Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4 John Scott, (530) 343-3491 Email: jweazel@sbcglobal.net Website: www.featherriverrocks.org

**September 27 - 28:** MONTEREY, CA Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society Monterey Fairgrounds 2004 Fairgrounds Road Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311 Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net Website: www.cvgms.org

**September 27 - 28:** SANTA ROSA, CA Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society Wells Fargo Center for the Art 50 Mark West Springs Road Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Jolene, (707) 528-7615 Email: Jolene@srmgs.org Website: www.srmgs.org

**September 27 - 28:** LODI, CA Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club Lodi Grape Festival Grounds 413 East Lockford Street Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Jerold Kyle, (209) 368-9411 Email: jeroldkyle@yahoo.com Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

## OCTOBER 2014

**October 1 - 5:** JOSHUA TREE, CA Hi-Desert Rockhounds of Moronga Valley Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree 6225 Sunburst Street Hours: 9 - 6 daily Contact: Judy & Roger Thompson, (760) 902-5340 Email: HiDesertRockhounds@gmail.com Website: www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gemshow.htm

**October 10 - 12:** RENO, NV Reno Gem & Mineral Society Craft Show Reno Town Hall Corner of Peckham & So. Virginia Street Hours: Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3 Contact: Theresa Langhans, (775) 475-0842 Email: theresalanghans@yahoo.com Website: www.renorockhounds.com

**October 11 - 12:** ANDERSON, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Shasta County Fairgrounds Briggs Street Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Steve Puderbaugh, (530) 604-2951 Email: steve@applyaline.com Website: www.shastagemandmineral.com

**October 11 - 12:** GRASS VALLEY, CA Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Nevada County Fairgrounds 11228 McCourtney Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Todd Lawson Email: ncgms@hotmail.com Website: www.ncgms.org

**October 11 - 12:** TRONA, CA Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society Gem & Mineral

Building 13337 Main Street Hours: Sat 7:30 - 5; Sun 7:30 - 4 Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356 Email: slgms@iwvisp.com Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

**October 18 - 19:** PLACERVILLE, CA El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds 100 Placerville Drive Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Bob Graton, (530) 676-2472 Email: info@rockandgemshow.org Show Website: www.rockandgemshow.org Club Website: www.eldoradorocks.org

**October 25 - 26:** CAYUCOS, CA San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club Cayucos Vets Hall 10 Cayucos Drive Hours: 9 - 5 daily Contact: Kim Patrick Noyes, (805) 610-0603 Email: kim-noyes@gmail.com Website: www.slogem.org

## NOVEMBER 2014

**November 1 - 2:** CONCORD, CA Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Centre Concord 5298 Clayton Road (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.) Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Harry Nichandros, (925) 289-0454 Email: show-c@ccmgs.org Website: www.ccmgs.org/gem\_show

**November 1 - 2:** OXNARD, CA Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society Oxnard Performing Arts Center 800 Hobson Way Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Contact: Miriam Tetreault, (805) 642-5779 Email: ml\_tetreault@hotmail.com Website: www.oxnardgem.com

**November 8 - 9:** ANAHEIM, CA American Opal Society, Garden Grove The Phoenix Club - Festhalle 1340 S. Sanderson Ave. Hours: Sat 9 - 6; Sun 9 - 5 Contact: Veronica Purpura, (714) 501-9959 Email: info@opalsociety.org Website: www.opalsociety.org

## August Birthstone - Peridot

August Birthstone poem - the Peridot  
 "Wear a Peridot or for thee,  
 No conjugal fidelity,  
 The August born without this stone,  
 'Tis said, must live unloved alone."

August Birthstone - Properties of the Peridot



For those who were born in the month of August the Peridot is the traditional birthstone. The August birthstone poem reflects some of the properties with which the Peridot is associated - love, truth, faithfulness and loyalty. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties for the August Birthstone Peridot are fame, dignity, and protection. The healing properties of the August birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the lungs, lymph, breast and sinuses. The Peridot is also used to enhance prosperity, growth, and openness.

## Other Field Trips

One of our sister clubs (the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society) has just listed an impressive field trip schedule for 2014. Members of their club often join us on our trips, and we are welcome to join them on their. You can never get too much rockhounding right? Anyhow, their schedule is below, if you plan to join them please do get in touch with Joe Goetz (their field trip leader) at (626) 622-9420. This way they will know you are planning on attending, and be able to update you if there are any changes to the plan.

### 2014 Field Trip Schedule

Aug 2 Nipomo Show/Los Olivos: to collect Serpentine, the California State Rock. Possibly collecting Cinnabar and a stop at Ta-jiguas Creek for fossilized whale bone.

For up-to-date information on these field trips call Joe Goetz at (626)- 622-9420 Sept 20-21

Jalama Beach: Agate, jasper, petrified whale bone, travertine onyx, Marcasite and fossils.

Oct 11-12 Searles Lake Club Show & field trips: Pink halite crystals & borax minerals.

Nov 1-2 Whittier Claim Area: honey onyx, agate, jasper, palm root, etc.

Nov 28-30 Wiley's Well Area: Annual CFMS field trip for geodes, agates and other good stuff.

Dec 6 Himalaya Mine Tourmalines: Dig your own pink and green California tourmalines near beautiful Lake Henshaw in San Diego County, 20 miles east of Pala. This is a fee collecting site.

For up-to-date information on these field trips call Joe Goetz at (626)- 622-9420.



## Searchers Long Range Trip Report

The Trip worked out very well for folks willing to brave the summer heat. The first few days at Davis Creek were actually quite pleasant as Davis Creek collecting is in the mountains with trees for shade and it is at altitude to keep things relatively cool. And camping at Lassen creek campground is also very pleasant with a stream running just behind the camp, and with shade from tall trees. The group at Davis Creek consisted of Marcia and I, Jimmy and Ester, Margaret and Bill, Teri and Ira, Ana and her grandson Christopher (Kristopher?), and Robert. Christopher wins the prize for youngest field trip participant (10?), as well as the furthest travelled (he came from Lithuania). I think he had a lot of fun at Davis Creek, and I think we may have created a new rockhound.

We collected for 3 days, day 1 Jimmy led us to the double flow mahogany and gold sheen obsidian, and then to the Pink Lady mine. Good material was found at both locations, with Jimmy always being on the lookout for material with sphere potential. By the time the trip was over I think Jimmy had enough material to keep him busy cutting spheres for a LONG time. Day 2 we went to the rainbow pit. One of the advantages we had on this trip is that Robert made friends with Frank, one of the local commercial collectors, who also owned the local rock shop. Frank helped us find where to dig without bothering any of the commercial claims. The rainbow pit is my favorite location, with lots of very good material. The Davis creek rainbow obsidian is probably the best in the country. For those of you that have never been to Davis Creek it seems like the whole mountain is made out of obsidian. As you dig almost every rock that comes out of the hole is obsidian. Not all of it is great obsidian with phenomena (rainbow/sheen/pattern etc.) but probably 30% or more is very nice. Everyone collected a lot of rainbow, and a few pieces big enough for spheres were found. We had taken a group consciousness about sphere material early in the trip, and the decision was to give all sphere size material to Jimmy, so he ended up with some nice big pieces. Day 3 we went to the electric blue pit. Again Frank the commercial digger was here, and he pointed us to a couple of small holes near his pit which he said were abandoned and promising.





### Long Range trip Report (con.)

Here the digging is harder, and the percentage of good material is a little lower, but the blue that is available is very fine and quite rare, and we dug hard all day. In the middle of the day Jimmy and Robert started unearthing a sizeable boulder, and although for a while it appeared that it was attached to the center of the earth the Searchers are a determined bunch. Frank told us we would never get it, and to cover it up when we finished so he could come back and get it the next day. Hah! After quite the herculean struggle we got it, and using Margaret's Over the Shoulder Boulder Holder (see photos) we were able to load it into Jimmy's jeep. The next

day we pressure cleaned it at Frank's shop and you could see the blue and green color glowing inside it. We also weighed it at 140 lbs! Frank was also very fair with us at his shop allowing us to pick through his pile and take what we want for \$1/lb. And although everyone had collected a lot of fine material most people added a couple of especially sweet pieces from Frank's pile. Frank's contact info is at the bottom of this report, he is a good man to know if you visit Davis Creek.

The rest of the trip at Davis Creek was just your usual fun camping with friends, potlucks, campfires etc. One point for people planning to visit Davis Creek in the future: the good folks at Davis Creek Mercantile put on a BBQ on Friday nights during the warm months. You can order 1, 2, or 3 meats, or the Works. They say the Works feeds 2 or more. The Works might feed 2 armies! You can see in the pictures. Next time I go I will plan on feeding 4 people with the Works. We ended up eating BBQ for days. But that not really too hard to take:-)

After Davis Creek we migrated to McDermitt Nev. It seemed like we had walked into an inferno. It was hot hot hot! The campground is kind of funky, but it did have showers and laundry which we needed badly, so that was nice. Robert never made it to McDermitt, picking up a rock in his windshield on the way and having to head home for a new windshield. And Ana and Christopher decided (probably wisely) that it was too hot and they bailed out the day after arriving in McDermitt. Teri and Ira had been heading home after Davis creek anyway, so the group at McDermitt was quite small, Jimmy and Ester, Margaret and Bill, and Marcia and I. But we are crazy enough to go out in the heat, so we left early for 2 days of collecting. The first day we went to the Cary Green claim, and the second day we collected some petrified wood. Both days we finished the day in a local mercury pit mine (abandoned). There was some very interesting collecting in the pit, with some agate, and some wonderstone type material. In McDermitt we used the services of Blaiden, a local guide and this made the trip more pleasant as he was able to take us directly to collecting locations instead of me leading us around half lost all the time. If you plan to visit McDermitt we can give you Blaiden's contact info if you would like.

As I mentioned the heat was a bit much at McDermitt, so we cut the trip a day short and everyone headed for home, except Jimmy, who can't get enough. Jimmy headed east (into the heat) and collected some picasso marble and tur-ratella agate before coming home a few days later.

All in all, the entire trip was really good. The collecting at all locations was very good, and everyone got as much material as they wanted. When the Searchers go rockhounding the locals are impressed, they are used to clubs who come out and just piddle around. The Searchers don't mess around. We come prepared to work, work hard, and get some fine material.

Special thanks goes out to Margaret, who in addition to supplying Over the Shoulder Boulder Holders, also brought something to haul dirt away from a pit which also worked well, and a large tarp which saved our life on several occasions.

For those planning a visit to Davis Creek the contact is:

Outback Rocks  
 Frank Newman  
 97770 Church Lane  
 New Pine, Oregon 97635  
 541 947 0282      outbackrocks@yahoo.com



# Kid's Corner

We will be starting a section for kids. 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. 7.

## Mineral Stamps

There was a time that there were not many mineral stamps printed anywhere in the world. In the history of the United States Post Office, there have been only two sets of stamps depicting minerals, both of which are pictured here. However, it is now quite easy to find mineral stamps from all over the world. Google "mineral stamps" in the image category, and you will see dozens of mineral stamps from all over the world. Most are very colorful, too.



On the following page are a few of the really colorful and interesting mineral stamps you can find. One of the nice things about stamp collecting is that you can find samples of these stamps at very reasonable prices. It does not have to be an expensive hobby.

Minerals stamps from the country once known as East Germany. (East Germany no longer exists.) Left to right, top to bottom: Gypsum, Zinnwaldite, Malachite, Amethyst, Halite, Proustite.



Mineral stamps from the former Soviet Union. Pictured from left to right, top to bottom are Rhodonite, Jasper, Amethyst, Topaz, Emerald, Malachite.



Russian mineral stamps 1963

Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros (Islands). Pictured left to right, top to bottom: Corundum, Liroconite, Beryl Euclase, Diamond, Chrysoberyl, Plancheite, Kasolite, Tourmaline

Have you heard of these different countries? Go to an atlas and look them up. Then, look them up on the internet and learn about the mineral riches of each country.





An amazing collection of mineral stamps from South West Africa, a nation that became Namibia after 1991. This is a particularly beautiful collection of stamps. Notice that some were issued in SWA (South West Africa) and were then re-issued in Namibia. Many nations have changed names in modern times. It can be a lesson in geography and political change when you study stamps carefully .



In 1965 the nation of East Germany issued a series of four stamps to celebrate the beginning of the Freiberg Bergakademie. The images on the stamps were based on drawings from a very famous book called De Re Metallica. The two stamps to the right picture the silver re,proustite (which is also known as "Saxon Silver") and sulfur crystals with quartz.



And here are some mineral stamps from Canada issued in 1992 .

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



# 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>	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](mailto: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



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