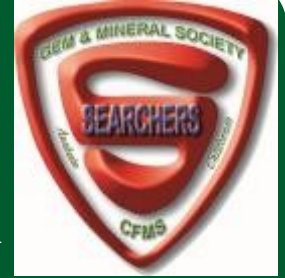


The Rock Slab News



The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2014

SEARCHERS BOARD OFFICERS

- President: Jay Erb
- 1st VP: Veronica Purura
- 2nd VP: Steve Duncan
- 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 friends,

This is my last message for 2014. What a busy year it's been! As I write this, it is just days before Thanksgiving and I would like to thank the members who have participated in making 2014 a banner year.

Let's start with thank yous to Robert and Sharon Burson who Co-Chaired our successful 2014 Show last May. What a great Show it was. We're looking at yet another excellent Show this coming May. Please see Margaret Hogarth on how you can become involved! Thank you, Margaret.

Probably the one thing that I most wanted to see put through this year, was the re-certification of our 501 C 3. My biggest thanks go out to Robert George and Fred Hanson who were key contributors to that success.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Searchers functions over this last year. The 2014 Show, the Irvine and Anaheim Arts children's shows, the Brookhurst display, the Searchers picnic, the Searchers CFMS table and the (currently on hold) BLM Barstow display case. Thank yous also go out to the producers of our Rock Slab, our e-mail blasts, the December dinner and our website. More thanks go out to the folks who run our twice weekly Workshop. I would like to thank everyone who helps our meetings flow. The unsung heroes who help with the snacks, coffee, raffles, silent auctions, library, membership, T-shirt sales and everything else I miss from behind the podium.

Thanks to the totally behind the scenes names that seem to pop up every time I need help... Adrian, Herb and John.

I would like to thank the Board for their enthusiastic support:

1st VP and Programs - Veronica (the Organizer); 2nd VP and Field Trips - Steve (Follow Me) Duncan; Treasurer - Charlotte (Chex); Secretary - Jamie (Minits); Director - Jimmy (Mr. Nice) and especially my undying thanks goes out to Kim (My First Lady) our CFMS Delegate for wading into the muck and mire, to fight the alligators of bureaucracy that threaten to consume our collecting sites.

Have a great Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, have joyous Holidays and a marvelous New Year. 2015 will be our best year yet.

Finally,

Become a rockhound activist. We're not asking you to "rock the world", but protect what you love.

Jay

Holiday Party Time. See Page 6 for details.

Field trip see page 2 for details.



Field Trips



DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
12-13 & 14 2014	Jim Peterson	Coliseum mine & Copper World Mine	Planned

Field Trip Colosseum and Copper World Mines

December Field Trip Dec 13 & 14

Trip leader Jimmy Peterson cell (714) 904 8573

For field trip
information

contact: Steve

Duncan V.P. Field
Trips, Searchers

Gem and Mineral
Society,

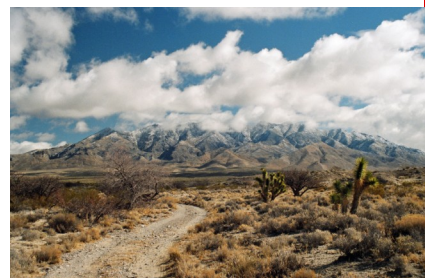
(714) 7247102

(cell) or

wsd@iteris.com



Our Dec. field trip will be a little different as we will be staying at Whiskey Pets in Primm or the Gold Strike In Jean. and then going up to the old Coliseum mine. We will be collecting pyrites, calcopyrites and other iron minerals. We



will meet Sat. morning @ 8:30 at the Yates Well Rd. off ramp on I-15. This is the Copper World Mine area 1st off ramp west of Primm. It is also the off ramp for the big solar electric plant. The road is steep and rough so a high clearance vehicle is required. We will go to a buffet at one of the hotels for our Sat. night potluck. Sun. morning we will go to the copper world mine off Cima Rd. It is on the way toward home. For people joining on Sunday we will meet at the Cima Rd off ramp on I-15 at 09:00. Wear warm clothing as the mines are at aprox. 6000 feet altitude. Bring a small (or bigger) hammer to break rocks. The room rates currently are just under \$50 per night for two people. It is a good idea to make reservations early. Hope to see you there.



Colosseum Mine



Trip Report: Clear Creek



Clear Creek is a four hour drive North of Anaheim. The first three hours are a tedious, and boring drive on the I5 to Coalinga. But the last hour of the trip is on a beautiful, winding country road through scenic but barren rolling hills interlaced with pine and oak forests, ranches, and meadows with grazing cattle, deer, and other wildlife. Many of the oak trees are giants more than 6 feet in diameter, And the air smells clean ! A deteriorating BLM kiosk on the right side of the road marks the beginning of Clear Creek road and the BLM management area. A short distance beyond this marker is a huge new BLM headquarters building which appears to be unoccupied. Another mile or so up the road is a new but spartan campground. When I arrived late Friday afternoon, a few earlier Searchers had set up, but were off scouting. More Searchers arrived on into the evening, and early Saturday morning.

In all, 12 Searchers and a couple of rockhounds from other clubs participated in this outing.

At 9AM Saturday we departed for the Aurora mine which is about 20 miles further up Clear Creek road. We explored this area and found a deposit of Plasma Agate containing Myrakite (a pink cinnabar material) which stains the green agate. Most of us spent the rest of the day rolling plasma agate boulders from this deposit down the hill to where the cars were parked, and loading it. Others scouted for and found other promising materials in the area.

After returning to camp and dining, we had an unusual campfire production I'd call "fun with fire pit fire starring Ira, Terry Lynn ,Tracy. And the rest of us were the rest of the cast. Nothing dangerous, but, it was a real hoot, including many stores, jokes, etc. - a very lively and fun time. Other highlights of the evening were a small herd of elk moving up the canyon, alongside our camping area. Also, most awesome was the Milky Way which was incredibly bright out there so far from any city lights. It was an experience not available in Southern California - unforgettable !

Sunday morning, Jimmy, Linda, and Laura drove back up to the mine to collect. The rest of us statred out for home slowly, collecting plasma agate, jadeite and other rocks in the creek bed on our way home. By my reckoning, we probably collected, in aggregate, over a ton of quality materials on this trip

This was a terrific , fun and productive field trip and I certainly want to repeat it again, in a year or so. Also, consider, the world's only Benitoite mine, a fee screening operation, is located close by.

Herb

Planning Ahead

Searchers,

It's never to early to start saving material for the Show silent auction. When you are collecting, collect a piece or two for the silent auction. When you are slabbing set one aside for the silent auction. This is an easy way for you to give something back to the club. We have a reputation for having the best silent auction around and we want to continue that tradition. Normally I collect material for the show in the spring, but if you have things cluttering up the house that you want to get rid of you can always bring them to the club meetings and I will store them until the auction. Thanks in advance for helping out the club

Regards, Steve Duncan 714 724 7102 (cell)

Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
12-2014	No meeting	Christmas Party

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

www.cfmsinc.org

Upcoming 2014 & 2015 CFMS Gem Shows

DECEMBER 2014

December 6 - 7: BARSTOW, CA Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Cora Harper Community Center 841 Barstow Road (North of I-15) Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Vivian Watts Email: vivlea22@yahoo.com

December 12 - 14: RIALTO, CA Orange Belt Mineralogical Society Across Street from Rialto City Hall 105 South Palm Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3 Contact: Ken Gard or Jessica, (909) 887-5507 - Shop (909) 381-0089 Email: ken-gard@roadrunner.com Website: OBMSrocks.yolasite.com

2015

JANUARY 2015

January 17 - 18: EXETER, CA Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia Exeter Veterans Memorial Building 324 N Kaweah Avenue, Hwy 65 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Bill Bingaman, (559) 741-6381 Email: bandg-bing@aol.com Website: www.tulegem.com

FEBRUARY

February 13 - 22: INDIO, CA San Gorgonio 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 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 Fairgrounds 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: georgersilva@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:

December Birthstone - Turquoise

December Birthstone Poem:

If cold December gave you birth
The month of snow and ice and mirth
Place on your hand a turquoise blue
Success will bless whate'er you do



December Birthstone properties The word Turquoise is derived from the Greek word "Turkoi" meaning "Turkish" because it was first brought from Turkey. It is a blue to gray green mineral consisting of copper aluminum phosphate. It is the only gemstone belonging to the phosphates family. It is a hydrous phosphate of aluminum with a small percentage of copper which gives it the blue coloring. When associated with iron the color tends to be greenish.

Turquoise is formed over millions of years by a chemical reaction that occurs when water leaks through rocks which contain specific minerals such as copper and aluminum. The percentages of the minerals in the rock dictate the gemstone's shade. Natural turquoise may have been cut and polished, but no artificial changes have been made to the gemstones.



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

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.



In the Field: Pyrite & Calcopyrite

Pyrite is a very common mineral, found in a wide variety of geological formations from sedimentary deposits to hydrothermal veins and as a constituent of metamorphic rocks. The brassy-yellow metallic color of pyrite has in many cases lead to people mistaking it for Gold, hence the common nickname 'Fool's gold'. Pyrite is quite easy to distinguish from gold: pyrite is much lighter, but harder than gold and cannot be scratched with a fingernail or pocket knife.



Named in antiquity from the Greek "pyr" for "fire", because sparks flew from it when hit with another mineral or metal. Typically cubic or pyritohedral (pentagonal dodecahedral), and combinations are common, resulting in striated faces. Less frequently octahedral, most commonly massive, granular, and sometimes radiating, reniform, discoidal or globular.

<http://www.mindat.org/min-3314.html>



Chalcopyrite has a golden yellow color, which often resembles Gold. However, its physical properties such as streak and tenacity are very different from Gold and can easily distinguish it. Chalcopyrite is a beautiful mineral, with good crystals being fairly common. It is also readily available, with quality specimens being surprisingly affordable. "Peacock Ore" which is sold to many amateur mineral collectors often as a variety of Bornite, is in fact almost always Chalcopyrite treated with acid to produce an iridescent tarnish. Though some Chalcopyrite is naturally iridescent, wild colors such as strong blues and purples are usually formed from acid treatment. Crystals resemble tetrahedrons and octahedrons,



Peacock ore

but they are slightly asymmetrical and therefore are categorized in the tetragonal system. Also occurs massive, grainy, reniform, and as groups of small, distorted crystals. Crystals are commonly striated in different directions on different crystal faces. - See more at <http://www.minerals.net/mineral/chalcopyrite.aspx>



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. 11.

How Does “Color” Work?

Let's start with the light itself. Suppose you are outside and your mineral collection is laid out on the picnic table in the backyard. The light shining on your minerals is coming from the sun. The sun gives off (scientists would say “emits”) white light. “White light” is light that

has all of the different wavelengths of light that are visible to the human eye. Each wavelength is a different color of light!

The minerals on your table are able to soak up some of the wavelengths (colors). Scientists don't say “soak up;” they say “absorb.” At the same time, some of the wavelengths (colors) bounce off of the minerals. Scientists don't say “bounce off;” they say “reflect.”

When a mineral doesn't absorb any wavelength (color) of light, you will see it as white. This means that it reflects all of the wavelengths and your eye sees them all at once. Your brain takes this light information and mixes all the colors together and you see a white mineral specimen.

But say you have a dark blue azurite specimen on the table.

The specimen absorbs (soaks up) all of the wavelengths (colors) of the sunlight EXCEPT dark blue. The blue bounces off of the specimen and goes to your eye. Your brain takes that wavelength (color) information and tells you, “What a pretty BLUE azurite specimen!”

Now you have a large SCHORL crystal on the table. For those who may have forgotten, SCHORL is the name for black tourmaline. Why is it black? Your eye sees it as black because it absorbs ALL of the light and reflects no wavelengths (colors) back to your eye. In other words, black is the absence of light! But you already knew that. So, here to the right you have a SCHORL crystal with a green fluorite cube. Let's do a quick test: why is the fluorite green? Wait for it.....wait for it.... wait for it....

Because it absorbed all wavelengths (colors) except green. The green bounced off of the crystal (reflected) and went to your eye and your eye sees it as green! Ta Da!



Now you know why your minerals have different colors.



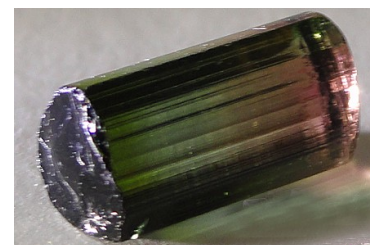
Can Light Go Through Minerals?

There are many different ways to describe the look and the physical properties of a mineral. Some of these have to be done using special equipment (like “specific gravity” which you can read about in this issue. To measure specific gravity you need a “Jolly Balance”). To measure hardness you need a set of minerals in the Mohs’ Hardness Scale. However, color is determined simply by looking at the mineral and describing the color. Another description that you can do with the mineral specimens in your collection is “Transparency.” Transparency is a description of how much light goes through a particular mineral. This is very easy, and includes only three simple categories. Here they are:

Transparent A mineral is described as transparent if light travels through it. Quartz crystal, beryl (like emerald and aquamarine), some specimens of gypsum, and some specimens of calcite can be described as transparent. When you hold them up to a light, you can see right through them as if they were pieces of clear, perfect glass.



Translucent A mineral is described as translucent if light can pass through it, but you can't see through it because there are inclusions or other things inside the specimen. You can see shapes and shadows through the specimen, but not clear objects. Minerals that are sometimes transparent can, very often, be translucent. Other examples of translucent minerals are tourmaline, some quartz, calcite and fluorite specimens, etc.



Opaque A mineral is described as opaque if it doesn't let any light pass through it at all, even when it is sliced into thin pieces. Examples of opaque minerals include galena, pyrite, sphalerite, marcasite, etc. Go to the specimens in your collection and try to look through them. Are they transparent, translucent or opaque? This can be a challenging project. There are some specimens that are translucent. However, on a very, very thin edge of a crystal, you may be able to see right through that edge. You may end up describing the specimen as “translucent (with some transparent edges).”



Also, keep in mind that there are surprises in the mineral world. Minerals like sphalerite are nearly always opaque. But once in a rare while, a unique and wonderful specimen is found that, on a thin edge, is translucent! On the other hand, some mineral species, like galena and pyrite, are opaque and will never, ever be translucent. Have fun. If you keep a catalog of your specimens and their properties, analyze them and write down the “Transparency” of each specimen.

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

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