



# **Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California**

Volume 88 Number 8 - August, 2015

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*The 924<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California*

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*With Knowledge Comes Appreciation*

**August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015: 12:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.**

**MSSC Annual Picnic  
Bruce & Kathy Carter's House  
146 Highland Place, Monrovia, CA**

***Program/Potluck:* Tell us about your favorite California Mineral**

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**Remember:** If you change your email or street address, you must let the MSSC Editor and Membership Chair know or we cannot guarantee receipt of future Bulletins

## About the Program/Picnic: Your Favorite California Mineral It's Show & Tell Time

What's your favorite California mineral? Bring the specimen so we can all admire it. Why is it your favorite? Where did you find it? Let's hear some outrageous collecting (or silver-picking) yarns (sometimes they're kinda like fish stories). We'll share our memories during Show & Tell. In addition, bring pictures and/or other items to support your wild tale. Bring pictures whatever else you think others will enjoy.

Please RSVP to Cheryl Lopez at Phone: (626) 351-6283 or email: [membership@mineralsocal.org](mailto:membership@mineralsocal.org)

**Please RSVP by August 6th**

So we know how many are coming and how many tables and chairs we need. If you call, there is an answering machine so please CLEARLY IDENTIFY YOURSELF and HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR PARTY.

Lunch will start at 1:00 P.M. Please bring your own special potluck offering to share, MSSC is supplying the plates, cups, napkins, knives, forks and spoons and will also supply water and ice but don't forget a serving utensil for you dish if needed.

The swap tables will be set up as well, Want more details, check your July, 2015 bulletin

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**From the Editor:** Linda Elsnau

The picnic is almost upon us! Don't forget to RSVP and I look forward to seeing you there! The last few bulletins have had so much club business there hasn't been any space for the "fun" stuff so I have made an effort to put some fun and educational pieces in this month's bulletin. We have an interesting report on the Northern California Micromineral Association 2015 Conference provided by our member Marek Chorazewicz—Thank you Marek. Also, thank you Gene Reynolds for the favorite California Mineral Pic. I'm always looking for contributions from you, our wonderful, intelligent, informative, talented, etc. members for the bulletin. Think about what you have to offer the group and send it to me.

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**MEANDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT** by Ann Meister

**LET'S PICNIC!!!** It's that time of year again – time to enjoy the food, fun and friendship of our annual picnic/pot-luck and swap. Join us at the home of Bruce and Kathy Carter on Sunday, August 9 at noon. RSVP to Cheryl Lopez by August 6. This year, for our member-contributed "program," we're celebrating our favorite California mineral. Whether it's a self-collected ugly saline such as hanksite from Searles Lake or a stunning gem benitoite from San Benito County or a blue-cap tourmaline from San Diego County, bring it along and tell us your collecting story – even if it was "collected" using the silver pick method. The detailed announcement on the picnic was in the July *Bulletin*.

I have never reviewed a musical program in the *Bulletin*, but this one was tangentially in our sphere of interest. On June 29 I attended the World Premier of *Earth Speaks* by Reena Esmail who is the composer-in-residence with the Pasadena Master Chorale (PMC). The PMC, a seventy-five voice auditioned choir, was conducted by Jeffery Bernstein with accompaniment by horn and piano. *Earth Speaks* explores different perspectives on our earth through the lens of three Pasadena institutions. The work is divided into three parts. The first, Three Native American Songs, looks at the earth through the lens of California's Native Americans particularly the Tongva tribe which lived in the area that is now Pasadena. The second section, Fault Lines, looks at the earth through its shifting motion, namely through earthquakes and uses the US Geological Survey office in Pasadena as a resource. The last section, Curiosity, is in essence, Earth's perspective on what lies beyond it, through the lens of the Mars rover Curiosity and uses Pasadena's JPL as a resource. It is the second and third sections that intrigued me with respect to our hobby and interests, since we have recently had two talks on Mars and the Curiosity rover, as well as our ever-vigilant interest in the movement of the earth beneath our feet.

Fault Lines combines information from the USGS with excerpts of the poem "A Geology" by California-poet Brenda Hillman. Fault Lines is haunting in that it begins with the PMC chanting, more than singing, a list of California earthquakes beginning with "On January 17th, 1994 at 4:31 AM local time, the Northridge

Earthquake struck the San Fernando Valley region of Southern California with a magnitude of 6.8 and focal depth of 19 kilometers,” and then continues with six more major California ‘quakes presented in the same manner. This becomes a background descant to various lines of the poem, such as the phrase, “A California is composed of moving toward, away or past.” In addition, this section is modeled on the seismographic representation of an earthquake, from the rumbling P wave to the slowly receding aftershocks. The section ends with the line, “We’re still growing but the stitches hurt.” All rather eerie... The text for Curiosity effectively uses a combination of stops on the map that Curiosity has traversed and short haikus written by people around the world and submitted to an online haiku competition. Should you ever get a chance to hear this work, it is well worth it. (Note: “A Geology” was published in Hillman’s book *Cascadia*.)

**Gems in the News:** The Bahia Emerald is still locked up at the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department. Though it was thought that legal owner of the 380 kilo emerald had finally been ascertained among the eight people who have staked their claims, now the Brazilian government is claiming that it is a national treasure and want it returned because they say that it was illegally extracted and exported. So a federal court in Washington D.C. issued a restraining order that prevents anyone from doing anything with the stone. The emerald has been the center of intrigue since it was found in 2001. Also in the news, an 8.52 carat white diamond shard was found in June at Crater of the Diamonds State Park in Arkansas. It is the fifth largest diamond discovered by a visitor since the park was established in 1972.

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## MINUTES of the July 10, 2014 Meeting

The 923<sup>rd</sup> Membership Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC) was held Friday, July 10, 2015 at Pasadena City College’s Geology Department. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Ann Meister.

### Regular Business

- President Ann Meister welcomed all members and guests;
- A **Motion** to approve the Membership Minutes of June 12, 2015 as published in the *Bulletin* for July 2015 was made by Rudy Lopez and seconded by Angie Guzman. There was discussion regarding last month’s presenter’s mention of crystalline asbestos, therefore, the possibility of an amendment to the Minutes was at hand. After further discussion, however, it was decided that the content of Mr. Zzyzx’s presentation did not require an amendment. The motion to approve the June 12, 2015 Minutes was put to a vote and **passed** unanimously by the membership;
- Deadline to submit items to Linda Elsnau for the *Bulletin* is Friday, July 24, 2015;
- Parking tickets from last meeting have been taken care of and Bruce Carter has again spoken to the security guards. We should not have further problems;
- Leslie Ogg has been working on the website survey (to find out why people are not coming to the meetings). All are encouraged to look at the survey. Linda will also post the survey in the August *Bulletin*;
- CFMS Director, Jo Anna Ritchey, attended the convention in Lodi, CA. and has no new information. The Federation is trying to update their website;
- Rudy Lopez reports that the Urban Nature Fest at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County was successful. Rudy thanked to JoAnna Ritchey, Angie Guzman and Marek Chorazewicz for helping out. MSSC had a great spot and is invited back for next year’s event. Using the Dino-Light microscope, the micro mount demonstrations were a draw to our exhibit table and a big hit! MSSC has a new exhibit sign, too;
- The Picnic will be Sunday, August 9, 2015 at the Carter residence from Noon to 4:30p.m. Please RSVP to Cheryl or Rudy Lopez. The theme is: *Your favorite California mineral and where you found it*. Bring it, show it and tell your story! We’ve invited other clubs to participate including MoRocks, Fallbrook and NHM’s Gem and Mineral Council. We’ll have Rudy’s brisket and pork shoulder, Leslie’s shaved ice, sodas and water brought by Jim, Anne’s bringing a side salad. It’s a pot luck picnic, so bring sides, chips, desserts. There’s a grill available. Be sure to contact Rudy Lopez with your RSVP;

- The next Board meeting will be Sunday, September 13, 2015 at the Carter residence. It will begin at 1pm. Elections are coming up and a slate of officers will be discussed among other topics. All are welcome to attend.

### **Announcements**

- The Delver's show will be September 15<sup>th</sup>. Look for the ad they've placed in our next *Bulletin*;
- On July 16 and 17 at 7:00p.m., the von Kármán Lecture will be on the "Discovery at Mars", the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mariner 4 flyby of the red planet. This coincides with the Pluto flyby on the 14<sup>th</sup>. In August, on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, the von Kármán Lecture will be "Drought, Are We In or Out?". These lectures are Thursday evenings at JPL and Friday evenings at Pasadena City College's Vosloh Forum. For more information and other lectures, visit the JPL website, [www.jpl.nasa.gov/events/lectures.php](http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/events/lectures.php);
- Rudy Lopez announced the field trip to UCLA's Meteorite Gallery will be on Sunday, October 18, 2015. The Gallery is open from 1pm – 4pm and our special presentation, "Origin of the Solar System", will be from 2:30p.m. to 3:00p.m. Admission is free. However, due to parking fee expense, carpooling is advised.
- Note: this will be one week after Trona. If you've never been to Trona, it can be an interesting experience. Wear old clothes and shoes!

### **Show & Tell**

Marek Chorazecwicz had extra specimens from Opal Hill minerals from the NCMA Micromount Symposium give-a-way table. He had also received a package of minerals from Freiberg, Germany for us to look at. We can view these specimens in the coffee room after the meeting.

### **Program**

Program Chair Rudy Lopez introduced the evening's speaker Dr. John Harris of the La Brea Tar Pits. Dr. Harris studied at University of Leicester, Texas and Bristol before becoming Director of Paleontology at the National Museums of Kenya in 1971. In 1980 he joined the staff at the Natural History Museum as Chief Curator of the Division of Earth Sciences. Dr. Harris recently retired as Chief Curator of the Page Museum and is now Curator Emeritus.

One of the richest Ice Age fossil sites for specimens runs from 11,000 to 55,000 years old. The Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits are in an area of Los Angeles known as the Miracle Mile district. Asphalt seeps were first reported in 1769. There is an oil reservoir and, from its Salt Lake Oil Field 1500 feet below the surface, the pits trapped animals and plants. During the Pleistocene time, American mastodon, camels, tapirs, long horned bison, large cats, coyote, varieties of birds and other mammal and animals, as well as plant life, left evidence of their existence in the pits. Today the pits trap mostly birds and insects.

The native peoples used the tar as waterproofing and fuel. The early settlers used mining to extract the asphalt and during the mining process, fossils were found. In 1875, William Denton, a visiting English geologist, was given a *smilodon*, saber tooth cat (or saber tooth tiger) canine fossil by the Hancock family, property owners of Rancho La Brea. Denton was the first to identify fossils from the tar pits showing they were not domesticated animals. Prior to that, in 1906 William Orcutt, a petroleum geologist, brought fossils of the La Brea Tar Pits to the attention of the scientific community. In 1913 the Hancock family gave a 2 year excavation right to the new Los Angeles County Museum.

There are several excavations at the Tar Pits. One of the first groups was from 1907 to 1910 by professor J Z Gilbert with some of his students from U C Berkeley. Later, came Phase II excavations from 1913 to 1915 by the Los Angeles County Museum. Phase II had about 96 excavations going from which approximately a million bones were recovered which yielded 292 species. In these early excavations, bones were cleaned with kerosene and many of the bones were damaged.

The diversity of the animals was evident at these sites as mentioned above: camel, horses, tapirs, mastodons, large cats and others. The condition of the fossils varied. There were male, female, mammal, animal and plant fossils. Finds included fossils that showed weathering, gnaw marks and water wear or pit wear damage. These were rare conditions, however, because bones quickly sank in the "bubbling" tar (asphalt). Mammals, animals, birds, insects and/or plants that were diseased or injured were also found in the pits.



Only one human fossil small group of bones was discovered in the tar pits. In 1914, around 8' below the surface, several human bones were found; they belonged to "La Brea Woman", as she later became known. Examination of the fossils revealed that she was about 4'6" tall, probably around 18 years of age when she died, had lost many teeth during her life and, had given birth many times. She had a very small brain and probably suffered from a cleft palate.

Scientific investigation and dating techniques at a Phase II excavation site, Pit 91, showed that 27,000 years ago the average temperature was 52°F and average rainfall was 39". 20,000 years ago the average temperature was 40° F and average rainfall was 17". Today the average temperature is 60° F and average rainfall is 14". Pit 91 contained huge bone masses which lay untouched for some years after discovery. On June 13, 1969, Asphalt Friday, the excavation continued at Pit 91 with the intention to collect all the fossils, not just the masses. Excavation and research of Pit 91 is ongoing to this day.

The excavation process is detailed. An area is marked off using 3' squares, digging down 6" at a time to expose the bones then taking measurements and making notes. The bones are extracted and sent off to another area to be cleaned and catalogued. The matrix around, on the outside of the site, is processed with a solvent and that gives the microfossils. The microfossils yield another 300 species!

Isotope studies reveal the food chain at the pits in those times. Non-ruminants (i.e., horses, etc.), ruminants (i.e., bison, camel, etc.) and carnivores (i.e., mammals, etc.) were predator, prey or scavenger at the tar pit traps. Dr. Harris provided a more detailed explanation of this segment during his presentation, too detailed for our purposes here.

In 2005, 16 new fossil deposits were found. Fossils and microfossils were packed up, crated and became "Project23" (2008-current). Project 23 actually has 23 huge crates of matrix saved from the new underground parking lot project where 68 fossil deposits were found in 2008. Box 1 of Project 23 has 3 large adult mammal thigh bones, for example. Box 1's asphalt deposits are vertical (whereas Pit 3's are horizontal). There are 2,302 specimens containing 35 carnivores, 12 herbivore and many others totaling 5,500 specimens in all. Project 23 continues to be excavated.

Dr. Harris continued to tell about "Fluffy" (*Panthera atrox*), a jaguar fossil (not a lion), Zed's skull (*mammuthus columbi*), a male, tusked mammoth, 42-52 years old who died about 37,000 years ago, the leaf cutter bee nest in Pit 91 and the skin beetles in Box 1. The Page Museum has the complete saber tooth skeleton.

In Summary, (1) well documented, important excavations began from 1913 to 1915, (2) Pit 91 revealed late Pleistocene micro fauna and local habitants, (3) Project 23 continues to be excavated today and, (4) perhaps [fossil] DNA will play a role in the future.

Our thanks to Dr. John Harris for an interesting and informative presentation and for the wonderful specimens he brought in to show us. Following his presentation, Dr. Harris answered questions from the audience.

Door Prize drawing was won by Linda Elsnau.

Adjournment was called at 8:55p.m. Refreshments were served in the coffee room afterward.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Guzman, MSSC Secretary      Apologies in advance for any misspellings in this Minutes/aag

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### **One of Gene's Favorite California Minerals:**

To get you started thinking about your favorite California Mineral, Gene Reynolds has provided a picture of one of his favorites...and he can't bring it to the picnic, so the picture will have to do:

--Nephrite (gem quality jade boulder)...This fine Jade boulder was found at the bottom of Jade Cove, Big Sur, south of Morro Bay, CA. in the 1950's era..

Now on display at the Museum of Natural History, Pacific Grove, CA. (a very fine museum in the area)



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## List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	September 11, 2015	Fred & Linda Elsnau: "Bones of the Thunder Lizard"
	October 9, 2015	Tony & Sandie Fender: 50 Unusual things in the Mojave Desert or Mount St. Helens
	November 13, 2015	Chuck Houser? Calcite/ Elizabeth R/ Oceanview Mines, Pala/ Minerals/ Mining San Diego County
	December 11, 2015	Forestry Service Monument Program
<b>Field Trip</b>	<b>October 18, 2015</b>	UCLA's Meteorite Museum
<b>Board Meeting</b>	September 13, 2015	Board Meeting at Bruce Carter's house
<b>Annual Banquet</b>	January 9, 2016	At The Oak Tree Room, CoCo's Restaurant, Arcadia

*Note: Dates and programs shown above are subject to change. Check your bulletins to confirm final information each month.*

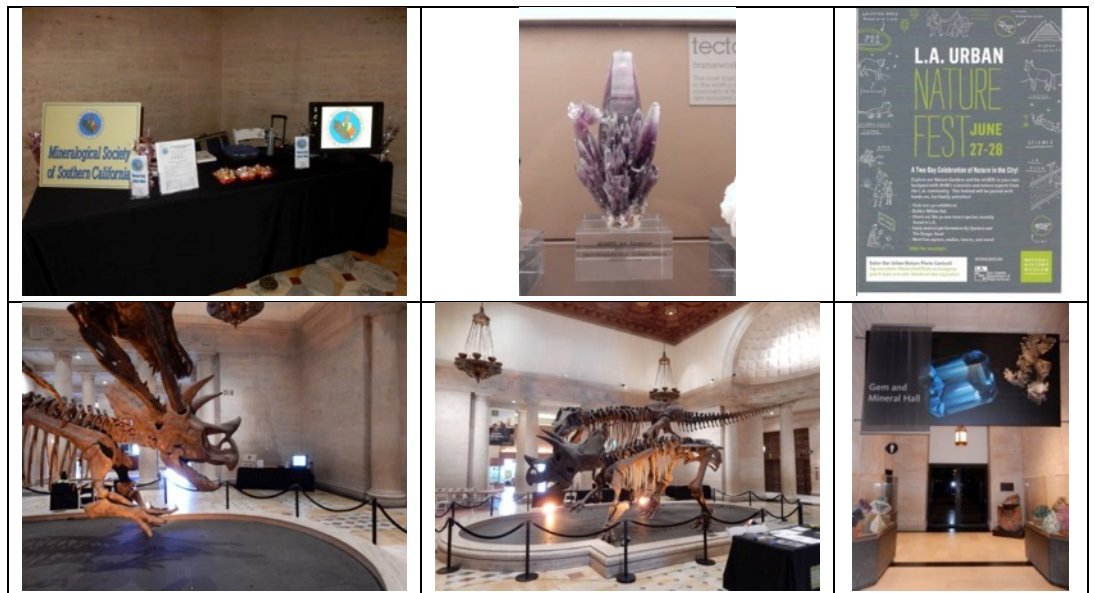
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## MSSC at the L.A. Urban Nature Festival: By: Rudy Lopez

Mineral Society of Southern California: We were invited as an exhibitor for the first L.A Urban Nature Festival at the Natural History Museum on June 27-28th.

Our table was located at the main entrance to the Museum, next to the Dueling Dino's and the Gem and Mineral Hall.

On this weekend at the museum there were at least 21,000 people that attended this festival. The festival covered the entire interior and exterior of the museum grounds. The La Brea Tar Pits had a great presentation set up across from us showing small animal fossils. There was a taxidermy workshop across from us that had a Mountain Lion, Crow and a friendly Skunk. It's been a long time since I have



been to the museum and had a free look at all the exhibits that were open early in the morning and the rest later in the day. The mineral hall is fantastic, here are a few MSSC member collections in the Gem and Mineral Hall. All the special minerals are located in the vault and a must see.



Jo Anna Ritchey, Angie Guzman, Marek Chorazewicz and Rudy Lopez, were at the table for the weekend. I want to thank them for giving their time to help with the event.

We showed over 200 micro mounts. We were using my new toy, the Dino Lite, laptop and a monitor to show our specimens, the micromounts that I had collected from two Pacific Micromount Conferences.

We had a great time meeting and speaking with people from all over the world. People were amazed when we showed them the mineral they were viewing on the monitor under the scope. We had a steady supply of kids dragging their parents over to our table to see what we had. But I think our free candy was the kids' big attraction. One young man from Canada was picking specimens to view and knew chemical break down on each one.



We are invited back next year and will get the same location and we will set up a mineral display next to our table. I will look for more micro mounts at the next conference for next years' festival. We will talk during the year about getting a case and have some great minerals to show. But, we had a good time at the festival and I have some ideas for next year.

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## **NCMA Annual Symposium 2015 Personal Report:**

**By Marek Chorazewicz, Simi Valley, Ventura Co., Southern California**

### **INTRODUCTION**

First time I've heard about the Northern California symposium was during the Blue Bell Mine field trip after the Pacific Micro-mount Conference in February 2015. One of the visiting Northerners, Ted Hadley, recommended it wholeheartedly. I decided to test his recommendation this year, because I had no chance to visit the Placerville area before. And he'd mentioned giant freebie tables too.

### **FRIDAY**

I left my house before lunch on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, and after negotiating Fwy 118 and Interstate 5 I followed Freeway 99 all the way up to Sacramento. The drive took me 7 hours with some brief food stopovers and some small detours due to accidents in the vicinity of Sacramento. From many miles away I was observing a giant thunderhead cloud looming over my destination. After arriving in Placerville I made a stop at my National 9 motel, which had a quite good nightly room rate. The ominous cloud was right above the town at that moment, very dark, but not raining yet. Every few seconds apart a lightning was striking between the center and the outskirts of the cloud. I've dropped off the bags and headed back to the car to get to the evening program at the meeting. At that time the torrential rain started, which made me even happier. I miss the rain a lot, originally hailing from Poland where rain is no stranger.

I've arrived at the El Dorado Community Center a little bit later and out of the rain. The hills and forests in the area make the stay so much more enjoyable. I had no trouble finding the Community Center even with the secret road taking me behind the car dealership. Once at the Center I've found many people already setting up their microscopes. The total at the conference was 29 scopes. Many faces were already familiar from San Bernardino, including our own Bob Housley and Al Wilkins, Joe Marty and Brent Thorne from Utah, Jerry Baird from Nevada, and representatives of the arctic North like Tim Rose, Ted Hadley and Stan Bogosian. I saw many unfamiliar faces too, they became familiar in the coming days too.

I've received a very warm welcome from Theresa Kokinos assisted by her husband Mike, who is a past president of MSSC. I've paid my dues, thus becoming a new member of the NCMA and got set up with a nametag on a lanyard. I've also added my little boxes of freebies to the giant stack in the "treasure" backroom – I've brought with me some melanophlogite, mordenite, phillipsite, and ferrierite collected in the Agoura Hills



area. I also had a very nice conversation with Ann and Si Frazier. Turns out they love everything quartz including melanophlogite pseudomorphs, right up my alley.

After the newbie introduction the first presentation of the evening was "What's Old in Minerals" by Don Howard from Portland State University, Oregon. He annually presents the pictures of mineral samples bought or found at prior year NCMA meeting. The mineral pictures were incredible. We've heard that Don will be inducted into the Micromounter's Hall of Fame later this year. Congratulations, Don!

Afterwards the forum was open for the audience contributed talks. We saw many more incredible micro-mineral pictures presented by Brent Thorne, Doug Merson and Gerry Petitmermet. From Henry Barwood we've also learned about the 405nm violet laser fluorescence in various minerals, useful for identification of trace elements, including chromium and REE traces. Those violet laser pointers are available on the Internet for a few bucks now.

## SATURDAY

On Saturday morning the give-away tables opened under the canopies in the driveway outside of the Center and everybody started the tabletop mining. Also the dollar specimen table has been made available and many people happily found their special beautiful micros and thumbnails for an incredible bargain price.

The morning presentation was Joe Marty's talk about "The Blue Lizard Mine and Other Locations", which I saw already at the Pacific Micro-mount Conference in February, however it was a nice memory refresher. Earlier this year Joe received the 2015 Pinch Medal from The Mineralogical Association of Canada at the Tucson Gem show. The Blue Lizard produced so many new minerals already, but the list keeps growing. There are many minerals waiting for the IMA approval. Many more suspected new mineral are still awaiting the characterization and description as well. There were samples of the Blue Lizard minerals on the give-away tables as well. Some of them are radioactive and have beautiful yellow and green colors. Those in-the-know were hunting for a microscopic speck of that very special rare mineral like e.g. bluelizardite.

After the lunch people started exploring the give-away tables again, while new trays of specimens were appearing very frequently. Soon the tables were full and the early trays had to move off the tables to the driveway. At the same time the silent auction opened with items including minerals, books and even a small microscope. Some people were so busy with the specimens at the give-away tables that they missed the auction end and had to say goodbye to their favorite items snatched by others at the last moment.

In the afternoon Al Wilkins gave the report from the earlier board meeting. The board was happy about the improved facilities, especially the restored restrooms and more resilient plumbing. The decision was made to hold the next year meeting in the same place. The board also decided again to award grant of \$1000 to the CalTech labs to support Bob Housley's incredible work on determining so many new minerals. In the meantime another thundercloud brought some refreshing rain and outside specimen trays got some nice cleaning, as well as some cars interiors too, because their owners forgot to roll up their windows.



Rain Outside the Community Center



San Benito Mts Samples From the Give-away Table



Garnet Hill From the Forest Road Leading to the Top



After the dinner the verbal auction followed. Tim Rose masterfully auctioned off many incredible specimens including a suite of German micro-minerals and some very rare new minerals like fermiite from the Blue Lizard Mine in Utah. The bidding was vicious, bloody and cutthroat. Friends were bidding against friends, newbies against old-timers, in order to add that special specimen for their collection. A few pieces reached into the three digit area.

## **SUNDAY**

On Sunday morning we've heard the last presentation by Henry Barwood from the Troy University, Alabama about the "Mineralogy of the Arkansas Alkalic Syenites". It looks like a small area in the middle of Arkansas has a geology similar to the Mount Saint-Hilaire in Québec, and produces countless rare minerals. The microscopic pictures were of amazing quality with many reaching FOV below 1/2mm. The stories of collecting in the Granite Mountain area were very interesting as well. Henry invited all attendees to join his Southeastern Micro Mineral Symposium at the end on July 2015 in Troy, Alabama. He also brought many samples from the described area for the give-away tables. I was able to snatch one with nice sharp 5mm aegirine crystal.

The presentation and cleanup concluded the meeting. Many people were still loading up the back of their cars and trucks with the give-away specimens. I know I did too.

## **FIELDTRIP**

Stan Bogosian had organized a fieldtrip for the attendees to the Clear Creek area beginning Monday including camping. The Clear Creek area is open again by permit, which can be obtained from the BLM Website. There is a limit for how many days one can visit the area due to some very dangerous state rocks the area is famous for ;-). The same state rock that was saved from the dethronement by some very vocal rockhounds including our June presenter Justin. Back to Clear Creek. Stan had put some very, very nice black melanite and perovskite samples from the fieldtrip area including the Clear Creek Mercury Mine and the Santa Rita Peak melanite/perovskite location.

It was very tempting but I had no time to stay for few more days. The work was calling on Monday. However, I decided to go to my private small fieldtrip on the way back. I've chosen the Garnet Hill in Stanislaus National Forest, Calaveras Co., because I've read about this location for years and had no chance to go there before. It seemed very close on the map, so after the morning program I took off towards the location. The navigation was showing over 80 miles to the destination. It took me one hour to get to Plymouth on Hwy 49, then one hour to get to the Ellis Rd turn off on Hwy 88, then one hour for the last 16 miles on Ellis Rd to the Moore Creek Campground. It was more time than I anticipated, however, the views and forests were worth taking it slow. And then, of course, I spend one hour hiking the forest road leading to the Garnet Hill top. The road is 3 km long and steadily climbing so take caution when you go. Some giant tree trunks have fallen on the road but somebody sawed thru the trunks to keep the road open (thanks to the people who did that). There is a way to drive around the forest service gate on the bottom, but the cuts are too narrow for a regular car or a truck, good for a dirt bike or a small ATV though. By the way, don't forget to take the insect repellent spray. The mosquitos are vicious and waving a branch does not scare them much. They had a buffet dinner that afternoon during my walk.

The top has several cuts and a few dumps. The rock is hard to break, so I decided to look thru the dump material instead. There was a lot of very nice garnet and epidote crystals, some laying on the dumps, some small rocks I had to break up. I've also found a rock pseudomorph after garnet the size of a cabbage with a cubic face on top. The hardest part was to decide which pieces to take back.

The drive back was very nice as the sun was setting while I was driving towards Fwy 99 and all the afternoon traffic was gone. I've got back home after 1:00AM, very tired, but very happy.



Garnet from Garnet Hill

## **CONCLUSION**

The next NCMA Annual Meeting was announced to be held on the weekend of June 3-5, 2016, one week after the next Memorial Day in the same facility. I recommend it strongly to anyone who is interested in micro-minerals or minerals generally. Even if you don't own a microscope you will get a warm welcome, a wealth of knowledge and a lot of mineral samples donated by very generous fellow collectors, free to take home. My thanks to the organizers, presenters and all attendees to make this a very memorable time for me.

#### REFERENCES

The NCMA Website: <http://www.minresco.com/ncma/index.htm>

The NCMA Symposium Webpage: <http://www.minresco.com/ncma/Meeting.htm>

Garnet Hill on Mindat: <http://www.mindat.org/loc-260487.html>

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### WE HAVE A SURVEY!

In an effort to make MSSC a better and more relevant group for you, our members, we have a very short survey on our website for you to fill out. Please go to <http://mineralsocal.org/> and click on the word "survey" on the homepage. You will be redirected to a GoogleForm to take the survey. Thank you for your time in completing this for us.

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### Ride Share Listing

#### Can You Provide A Ride?

#### Would You Like Company On The Drive To Meetings?

We have heard from several of our members that they would like to ride-share with someone to the meetings. We will list the names, general location and either a phone number or an email address of anyone who would like to connect for a ride-share. If you would like to catch a ride or would like company for the trip, let me know at [msscbulletin@earthlink.net](mailto:msscbulletin@earthlink.net) and I'll put the information in this section of the bulletin. After that, any final arrangements made are up to you. Also, If you make a connection that works for you, let me know so that I can remove your information from the bulletin. The Editor

Looking for	Who	Where	Contact at
A ride	Richard Stamberg	North Orange County, near Cal State Fullerton	
A ride	Catherine Govaller	San Bernardino, CA	

\*\*\*\*\*

MSSC Advertisement Policy:			
Mineral-related ads are allowable in the MSSC bulletin. Below is the price per month			
	Business Card	\$5.00	
	1/3 page	\$10.00	
	1/2 page	\$20.00	
	Full Page	\$35.00	
In addition, any advertiser who purchases 12 months of space in advance will receive a discount of 12 months for the price of 10 months. The copy for the ads should be mailed to the editor at <a href="mailto:bulletin@mineralsocal.org">bulletin@mineralsocal.org</a> and the payment should be sent to the <b>MSSC Treasurer 1855 Idlewood Road, Glendale, CA 91202</b>			

**With Knowledge Comes Appreciation!**

**Featured Mineral: Aluminoceladonite**

**Formula:**  $\text{K}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})\text{Al}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$ ,

**Crystal System:** Monoclinic

**Color:** Colorless when pure, grass green when ferrous iron-bearing

**Member of:** Mica Group

**Name:** Named in 1997 by Alessandro Pavese, Giovanni Ferraris, Mauro Prencipe, and Richard Ibberson from celadonite and "alumino" in allusion to the dominance of aluminum in the composition versus iron.



*irocks.com photo*

**Aluminoceladonite :**

$\text{K}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})\text{Al}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$ ,

**Heulandite-Ca :**

$(\text{Ca}, \text{Na})_{2-3}\text{Al}_3(\text{Al}, \text{Si})_2\text{Si}_{13}\text{O}_{36} \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$

**Locality:** Nashik District,  
Maharashtra, India

4.5 cm x 3.1 cm x 2.6 cm



*irocks.com photo*

**Aluminoceladonite :**

$\text{K}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})\text{Al}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$ ,

**Heulandite-Ca :**

$(\text{Ca}, \text{Na})_{2-3}\text{Al}_3(\text{Al}, \text{Si})_2\text{Si}_{13}\text{O}_{36} \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$

**Locality:** Nashik District,  
Maharashtra, India

6.2 cm x 3.8 cm x 3.5 cm



*irocks.com photo*

**Aluminoceladonite :**

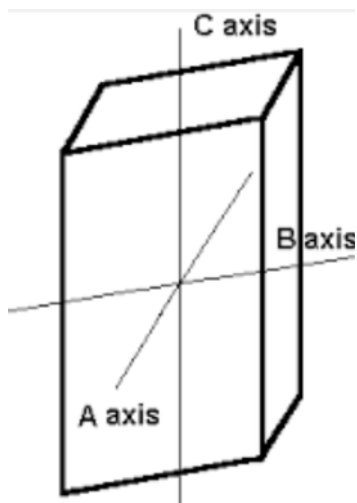
$\text{K}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})\text{Al}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$ ,

**Heulandite-Ca :**

$(\text{Ca}, \text{Na})_{2-3}\text{Al}_3(\text{Al}, \text{Si})_2\text{Si}_{13}\text{O}_{36} \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$

**Locality:** Nashik District,  
Maharashtra, India

7 cm x 4.6 cm x 4 cm & the largest  
crystal is nearly 4 cm tip to tip.



**Monoclinic Crystal:** characterized by lattices with two crystallographic axes at right angles and one axis inclined.



# WEST COAST GEM & MINERAL SHOW

NOV. 13 - 15, 2015

SANTA ANA, CA

Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport  
2726 S. Grand Ave.

(55 Freeway exit 8 for Dyer Rd. to S. Grand Ave.)

80 Great Dealers

Minerals ★ Fossils ★ Gemstones

Jewelry ★ Beads ★ Decorator Pieces

Meteorites ★ Lapidary ★ Metaphysical



Calcite on Amethyst - Antiguas, Uruguay  
Photo by Jeff Scovill

FREE ADMISSION ★ FREE PARKING ★ RETAIL  
WHOLESALE FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS

Show Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6 ★ Sun. 10 - 5

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[www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com) Like us on Facebook ~ [facebook.com/mzexpos](https://facebook.com/mzexpos)

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## Calendar of Local Events:

Only local area shows are listed here. Other CFMS Club shows can be found at: <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

### August, 2015

#### August 7 - 9: NIPOMO, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society, Santa Maria  
Nipomo High School  
525 North Thompson Avenue  
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

#### August 14 - 16: TEHACHAPI, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
St. Malachy's Church  
407 West E. Street  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily  
Website: [www.tvgms.org](http://www.tvgms.org)

### September, 2015

#### September 26 - 27: DOWNEY, CA

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society  
Elks Lodge  
11233 Woodruff Avenue  
Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4

#### September 30 - October 4: YUCCA VALLEY, CA

Hi-Desert Rockhounds

Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree

Hours: 9 - 6 daily

Website: [www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gem.html](http://www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gem.html)

### October, 2015

#### October 3 - 4: BORON, CA

Mojave Mineralogical Society  
Boron Park  
12000 Boron Avenue  
Hours: 9 - 4 daily

### Words of Wisdom:

**The Most Important Thing To Come  
Out Of A Mine...is the Miner!**

## 2015 MSSC Officers:

<b>OFFICERS</b>		
President	Ann Meister	<a href="mailto:president@mineralsocal.org">president@mineralsocal.org</a>
Vice President	George Rossman	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@mineralsocal.org">vicepresident@mineralsocal.org</a>
Secretary	Angie Guzman	<a href="mailto:secretary@mineralsocal.org">secretary@mineralsocal.org</a>
Treasurer	Jim Kusely	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org">treasurer@mineralsocal.org</a>
CFMS Director	Jo Anna Ritchey	
Past President	Geoffrey Caplette	
<b>DIRECTORS</b>		
2013--2014	Bruce Carter	
2013--2014	Bob Housley	
2013--2014	Leslie Ogg	
2014-2015	Pat Caplette	
2014-2015	Pat Stevens	
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>		
Bulletin Editor	Linda Elsnau	<a href="mailto:bulletin@mineralsocal.org">bulletin@mineralsocal.org</a>
Hospitality	Laura Davis	
Membership	Cheryl Lopez	<a href="mailto:membership@mineralsocal.org">membership@mineralsocal.org</a>
Micro Mount Conf. Chairman	Al Wilkins	
Program and Education	Rudy Lopez	<a href="mailto:programs@mineralsocal.org">programs@mineralsocal.org</a>
Publicity	Linda Elsnau	<a href="mailto:bulletin@mineralsocal.org">bulletin@mineralsocal.org</a>
Webmaster	Leslie Ogg	<a href="mailto:webmaster@mineralsocal.org">webmaster@mineralsocal.org</a>

### About the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Organized in 1931, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is the oldest mineralogical society in the western United States. The MSSC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study of mineral specimens. The MSSC is a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports the geology department at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, California. Support is also given to the Los Angeles and San Bernardino County Museums of Natural History. The Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is the official publication of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc.

The MSSC meetings are usually held the second Friday of each month, January, February and August excepted, at 7:30 p.m. in Building E, Room 220, Pasadena City College, 1570 E Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California. The annual Installation Banquet is held in January, and the annual Picnic and Swap Meeting is held in August. Due to PCC holidays, meetings may vary. Check the Society website for details.

The Society also sponsors the annual Pacific Micro mount Symposium held at the San Bernardino County Natural History Museum during the last weekend of January.

Annual Membership dues for the MSSC are \$20.00 for an individual membership, \$30.00 for a family membership. Bulletins are delivered by email, there is an additional annual \$20.00 fee if you prefer paper bulletins mailed to your address. The Society's contact information:

**Mineralogical Society of Southern California**

**1855 Idlewood Rd.,**

**Glendale, CA 91202-1053**

**E-mail:** [treasurer@mineralsocal.org](mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org)

**Website:** [www.mineralsocal.org](http://www.mineralsocal.org) **The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.**

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**DISCLAIMER: The Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is not responsible, cannot be held responsible or liable for any person's injuries, damages or loss of property at or traveling to or from any general meeting, board meeting, open house, field trip, annual show or any other MSSC event.**

MSSC Bulletin Editor  
3630 Encinal Ave.  
Glendale, CA 91214-2415

To:



**With Knowledge Comes  
Appreciation**



**Your MSSC  
Bulletin Is  
Here!**