



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

Volume 89 Number 9 - September, 2016

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*The 937<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California*

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*With Knowledge Comes Appreciation*

**September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.**

**Pasadena City College  
Geology Department, E-Building, Room 220  
1570 E Colorado Blvd., Pasadena**

**Program: The Nature of Welo Opals Part 2** - Presented by Gabriel Mosesson

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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: The Nature of Welo Opals Part 2** - A presentation by Gabriel Mosesson Ethiopia Imports has been working with Welo Opals since their discovery. Gabriel is well experienced in working with these opals which he polishes, and sets into his own jewelry designs. His hand carved opals display his unique style of cutting. Gabriel collaborates with other local jewelers in the Los Angeles area, creating one of a kind custom jewelry designs. and participates in Gem & Jewelry Trade Shows across Southern California.

Welo opals were discovered in 2007 in Welo, Ethiopia. Since then, Welo opals have been captivating the gem world and have risen to the top of the list for most precious gems due to their beauty, depth, fire, diversity and ease to work with. Gabriel Mosesson of Ethiopia Imports will talk about the discovery of the Welo opal in 2007. He will also discuss and show samples of the opal's unique characteristics including diversity in color, and types of fire patterns. The lecture will cover information on lapidary techniques, cutting and polishing Welo Opal, as well as recommendations on setting Wello opals in fine jewelry. The presentation will include a slideshow of Gabriel's opal collection. Samples of Wello opals will be on display during the lecture, including rough, polished, hand carved opals, and rare opal specimens. Opals will also be available for purchase after the lecture.

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**From the Editor:** Linda Elsnau

Summer is almost over and hopefully the weather will cool down a bit soon. Thank goodness for air conditioners, but OMG the electric bill! *(Article placement is a B\*\*\*\*! Continued on Page 7)*

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**MEANDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT** by Ann Meister

Thank you everyone for bringing such delicious food to the picnic! Special thanks to Rudy for the succulent pulled pork and barbeque brisket. Salads, desserts, Hawaii shave ice, oh my. Such a fine spread with so many home-made goodies. I ate too much. And then the silent auction, definitely a crowd-pleaser. So many items! Thanks to Rudy and Cheryl and their helpers for the setup of tables and sunshades as well as providing lots of the items for a successful sale. Wow. And all the wonderful people who attended. There were at least 40 members, guests and visitors, including from Morocks and Pasadena Lapidary, and also Jolyon Ralph from mindat.org who was visiting from the U.K. It was all so super. Thank you Bruce and Kathy for letting us gather in your comfortable back yard again. (And thanks for Kathy's chocolate zucchini bread that was tasty and healthy...)

The fire season this year is already horrible and the losses are terrible. My heart goes out to the people and their animals who lost everything, to the natural environment that is devastated, and to our damaged infrastructure. The Blue Cut fire in particular showed the vulnerability of the greater LA area as the closing of I-15 and the railroad routes through Cajon Pass disrupted travel and commerce. But, in a flash of inspiration, I wondered if the Blue Cut fire will uncover more of the actinolite collecting area near Wrightwood and perhaps help to wash more down if we ever get any rain. Maybe there is a bit of good in all the bad. Are there any other collecting areas burned in the other fires?

Another of my cerebral musings concerned technology and what fully autonomous cars would do to field collecting. First of all, how would you get to a collecting area? A fully autonomous car has no steering wheel. Secondly, with the sensor technology in the cars and the ability to broadcast your GPS location, since many collecting areas are "closed," it would make enforcement of restrictions much easier. That's a real bummer.

On the topic of field trips, I recently received an announcement from Mining Supplies & Rock Shop in Hesperia that they are offering local day trips for a fee. See their website at [www.miningsuppliesandrockshop.com](http://www.miningsuppliesandrockshop.com)

OK, the National Election mania has numbed our brains. But we still need candidates for MSSC offices (including President) and directors for 2017. Our election is in October. Think about it...

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

For those interested, the **Von Kármán Lecture** on September 22 and 23 is titled “Revealing Saturn: Cassini Science Highlights and the Grand Finale.” Thursday is at the Von Kármán Auditorium at JPL and Friday is at the Vosloh Forum at PCC. Start time is 7 PM.

The **UCLA Meteorite Gallery** talk is on Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 PM. The speaker is Professor Kevin McKeegan, a meteorite researcher at UCLA who uses ion probes to obtain isotopic compositions of small grains (including comet and solar-wind samples collected by spacecraft). The title of his talk is “Calcium-Aluminum-rich Inclusions: The Solar System’s First Rocks.” The Meteorite Gallery (Geology room 3697) is open with a docent present every Sunday from 1 till 4. The lecture is in Slichter Hall 3853 near the Meteorite Gallery.

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## MINUTES of the August 21, 2016 Meeting/Picnic

The 936<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC), our annual **Picnic**, was held Sunday, August 21, 2016 at the Carter residence.

The abbreviated Membership meeting was called to order at 1:04p.m. by President Ann Meister. The Picnic meeting was informal and most Regular Business was dispensed with.

### WELCOME

President Ann Meister welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming to our annual picnic. Invitations had been extended to Pasadena Lapidary, Monrovia Rock hounds and the Fallbrook Club. Thank you to the Carters for again hosting the Picnic!

### Announcements:

The Silent Auction will close at 3:15 p.m., at which time everyone is directed to bring your winning bid slips and payment to Membership Chair, Cheryl Lopez, cashier;

Regular business is suspended until the next **Membership Meeting** on Friday, September 9, 2016 7:30 p.m. to be held at the Geology Department of Pasadena City College;

*Bulletin* Editor, Linda Elsnaus deadline for this month is Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>;

The next **Board Meeting** will be on September 18, 2016 here at the Carter residence. Everyone is invited. However, please let Ann know if you plan to attend;

A few discussion topics: (1) National Monuments in CA with regard to **NO mineral collecting of any kind** – irrespective of complaints raised as to research and/or educational purposes. (2) The International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s September Convention in Hawaii will discuss **NO collecting anywhere**, as well as, *restoring* collected things to Nature. [*Secy. Note: “A huge potential threat to fossil, meteorite and mineral collecting, owning, selling and buying...”*] The Smithsonian recently found in their collection, a dolphin that was collected 1880! What will happen to or be the disposition of this collected item? (3) The Cal-Tech commencement speech where pseudo-scientific thinking is dismissing the authority of the established scientific community = a mistrust in science. These are all topics warranting further discussion.

**Other announcements:** (1) Gene Reynolds brought copies of articles of interest from *Mineralogical Record* (MR) mentioning Dr. Sinkankas (gemologist), Dr. Pough (mineralogist) and another prominent expert and from *Rock & Mineral Magazine* that addressed early micro mounting; Gene told us about the easiest field trip he went on at the Dolomite Mine up by Lone Pine where one can find dolomite by the side of the road! Gene also mentioned the MR bi-monthly web posts – a good resource. (2) Rudy Lopez announced guests he recently met who work at JPL. Maybe they’ll become MSSC members. The per person cost of the Banquet in January will be increased by \$1.00. The Urban Nature Fest will be early in 2017, March 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> – volunteers are welcomed to help man our tables. Next month’s Membership Meeting presentation (Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>) will be “*Ethiopian Opals, Part II*” by Gabriel Mosesson.

Ann Meister introduced a visitor, Jolyon Ralph, founder of Mindat.org from the U K. Mindat.org is the world's largest database of mineral information that actually started in 1993 as a pc database project before it became [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org) in 2000. It is an excellent resource for us and other enthusiasts and scholars around the world.

The official meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m. Enjoy the pot luck picnic!!

The Silent Auction was well stocked with lots of mineral specimens, boxes, equipment (drill bit, electric saw, hammers, etc.), Mineralogical Record magazines and other goodies. The cashier was kept busy at the close of the auction! What a wonderful success!

Bruce introduced Tony LeBeau. Tony, a student at Cal Poly, is assisting Bruce with his research on Santa Cruz Island. Bruce presented Tony with a particular rock that has special meaning to them. Congrats, Tony!

Thanks to everyone for coming and making the pot luck and silent auction a success. As for the food, it was great! The meats, salads, fruit, veggies, dips, chips, yummy goodies, other foods and shaved ice were all wonderful. The sodas, water and other drinks were nice and ice cold! Thank you to those who helped set up and those who cleaned up. Great job! We extend a big THANK YOU to Bruce and Kathy Carter for hosting the annual picnic. Thank you all for coming. A good time was had by all!

Respectfully submitted: Angie Guzman, MSSC Secretary

Apologies in advance for any misspellings or omissions in the Minutes/aag

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

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	October 14, 2016	Dr. George Rossman - Topaz - Sources, Color, & Treatments
	November 11, 2016	Chuck Hawser: Geology from So Cal up the Owens Valley to the Bishop/Mammoth area, from a small plane.
	December, 9, 2016	Leslie Neff & Larry Hoskinson - A Tourists Guide to Finding Opal in Cooper Pedy Australia
	February, 2017	Alan Rubin - Solar System
<b>Annual Banquet</b>	January , 2017	Aaron Celestain - LA Museum Director-- <i>to be announced</i>
<b>Board Meeting</b>	September 18, 2016	Board Meeting at Bruce Carter's house

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

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**LA Urban Festival** By: Rudy Lopez

This is the thank you note MSSC received from the LA Museum of Natural History:

*"Hi Nature Fest Exhibitors,*

*First, a belated thank you for making our second year celebrating nature in LA a resounding success! We had a modest increase in attendance from our first year and hope that the word continues to spread to make the LA Urban Nature Fest a pillar festival for the community. In that vein, we're already looking at next year and are considering moving the date of the festival to mid- March 2017. We'd like your input to see if that change would work for the majority of you! Please check your calendars and let me know if March 18 & 19, 2017 would work, and then pencil us in!"*

**MSSC has accepted the invitation for March 18 & 19, 2017**

MSSC have been invited to participate in the 3rd LA Urban Festival at the LA Museum of Natural History.

The dates have changed, next year it will be held in March, 2017.

What does this mean to us? Time to get ready now, we will continue to have a mineral display and I hope some members will step up and not just help, but display their minerals.

We have two 3'X2' display cases and I displayed about 15 minerals in each case. So! Please let me know. The display cases are located in a secure area and covered up at night.

We will need minerals to give away to the kids and young adults that stop at our tables. Small minerals that are identified by name and location is preferred. But, I will take what you have as long as I can put them in small plastic bags.

We gave 800 minerals away at the last LA Urban Festival and I think we might hit 900 or more at the next one. We have a very good location near the museums main entrance and Museum's Mineral Hall, so we get a lot of traffic. All donations can be given to me and I will gladly bag them up for the festival.

Please help us at the tables, a few hours or so are fine. One of the benefits of working the festival is free admittance and free parking. You can help and take the rest of the day and check out the museum and the rest of the festival. You can take the Gold Line from Pasadena to the museum and don't drive. The train drops you off a block away and makes for a short walk to the museum. SO, please help out one way or another.

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### **HISTORICAL NUGGETS** Contributed by Anne Meister

From the "Club and Society Notes" in *Rocks and Minerals*, Vol. 8, No. 4, Dec. 1933: Mineralogical Society of Southern California"

The 24th meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California was held Oct. 9 in the Pasadena Public Library. Mr. Earl Draper, superintendent of the Emsco Asbestos Co. spoke on the geology and mining of asbestos, illustrating his splendid talk with specimens of chrysotile of various colors and samples showing the variations in length of fibers as found in widely distributed commercial deposits. A talk also was given by Mr. M. R. Ebersole, advertising manager of the Emsco Asbestos Co., on the history, fabrication, and uses of asbestos products.

Wendell O. Stewart, a member of the society exhibited a table of volcanic bombs from Haleakala Crater on the Island of Maui, Hawaii, and spoke a few words on his experiences while collecting minerals on the Hawaiian Islands during the past summer.

Fifty members attended the field trip Oct. 15, held on Parker Mountain in Soledad Canyon, where excellent calcite and quartz geodes, and blue agate nodules were found in a dike of weathered igneous rock. Howlite and Colemanite borax were also collected at the Sterling borax mine in Tick canyon, a tributary to Soledad Canyon.

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### **ANNUAL PICNIC/SILENT AUCTION 2016 Report**, by Rudy Lopez

I would like to thank Bruce & Kathy Carter for the use of their beautiful home and back yard. I would also like to thank Cheryl Lopez and Angie Guzman for coming early and help unload the silent auction items, set up tents, tables and take down everything and repack my truck while sweating in the hot sun. Thank you Cheryl & Angie, I owe you big time

We had a great time at our annual picnic on Sunday the 21st at the Bruce & Kathy's beautiful home. We had a great showing of members from MSSC, guest members from PLS and MOROKS also attended. There was plenty of food to go around, great deserts, salads, Hawaiian Ice, and a variety of drinks.

The silent action was a huge success, we made \$ 494.00. We had 7 tables full of great items for sale and some of the items were highly bid on. Hopefully we can continue the silent auction at the annual picnic. See you next year!

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**Mineral of the Month: Scapolite**

**Note:** A series between Marialite and Meionite

This term generally refers to just the marialite-meionite series, not the full scapolite group, so excludes silvialite. Used as a generic term when the exact chemical composition in the solid solution series has not been determined.

**Series Formula:**  $Na_4Al_3Si_9O_{24}Cl$  to  $Ca_4Al_6Si_6O_{24}CO_3$

**Crystal System:** Tetragonal

**Name:** Named in 1800 by José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva from the Greek ζκαποζ meaning "a shaft" in allusion to the long prismatic habit of the crystals.



*irocks.com photo*

**Scapolite**

**Locality:** Bancroft area, Hastings Co., Ontario, Canada  
9.4 cm x 5.8 cm x 4.4 cm



*irocks.com photo*

**Scapolite**

**Locality:** Marble occurrence, Morogoro, Uluguru Mts, Morogoro Region, Tanzania 1.6 cm x 1.1 cm x 1 cm



*irocks.com photo*

**Scapolite,**

**Vesuvianite :**

$(Ca,Na, )_{19}(Al,Mg,Fe^{3+})_{13}( ,B ,Al,Fe^{3+})_5(Si_2O_7)_4(SiO_4)_{10}(OH, F,O)_{10}$

**Locality:** Olmstedville, Minerva Township, Essex Co., New York, USA  
5.8 cm x 4.2 cm x 3.2 cm



*irocks.com photo*

**Scapolite**

**Locality:** Marble occurrence, Morogoro, Uluguru Mts, Morogoro Region, Tanzania  
3.7 cm x 1.1 cm x 1.0 cm



*irocks.com photo*

**Scapolite**

**Locality:** Manang District, Gandaki Zone, Nepal  
9.5 cm x 5 cm x 4.4 cm



*irocks.com photo*

**Scapolite**

**Locality:** Pamir Mts, Viloyati Mukhtori Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan  
1 cm x 0.7 cm x 0.7 cm

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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	

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**WEST COAST GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

**NOV. 11 - 13, 2016**

**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*  
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*Meteorites ★ Lapidary ★ Metaphysical*



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Photo by Jeff Scovil©*

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

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**From the Editor, Continued:** I seem to always leave my section to the last and this month it just won't fit in the normal space! So here we are on page 7!

As happens every year about this time, we need our membership to consider stepping up to an elected or voluntary position within the MSSC organization. It is unfair for the same few officers and board members to have to fill these positions for years with no end in sight. If we want MSSC to continue and thrive, we need new blood to offer new ideas and new energy to the management positions. Think about it... what can you do to help?

## Calendar of Events:

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

### SEPTEMBER

**September 16 - 18: PLACERVILLE, CA**  
**77th CFMS Show & Convention**  
 Hosted by El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society  
 El Dorado County Fairgrounds  
 100 Placerville Drive  
 Hours: Fri - Sun 10 - 5 daily  
 Web Site: [www.cfms2016show.com](http://www.cfms2016show.com)

### October 15: WEST HILLS, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers  
 First United Methodist Church  
 22700 Sherman Way  
 Hours: 10 - 5

Website: [www.rockchippers.org](http://www.rockchippers.org)

### October 15 - 16: WHITTIER, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society  
 Whittier Community Center  
 7630 Washington Avenue  
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily

### OCTOBER

#### October 1 - 2: BORON, CA

Mojave Mineralogical Society  
 Boron Recreation Park  
 26998 John Street  
 Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4

#### October 1 - 2: VISTA, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
 Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue  
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

#### October 8 - 9: TRONA, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
 SLGM Show Building  
 13337 Main Street  
 Hours: Sat 7 - 5; Sun 7 - 4  
 Website: [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)

#### October 9: FALLBROOK, CA

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
 Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Building  
 123 West Alvarado Street  
 Hours: 9 - 4  
 Website: [www.fgms.org](http://www.fgms.org)

### NOVEMBER

#### November 5 - 6: ANAHEIM, CA

American Opal Society  
 Business Expo Center  
 1960 S. Anaheim Way  
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5

Website: [www.opalsociety.org/](http://www.opalsociety.org/) [Show Page](#)

#### November 5 - 6: RIDGECREST, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society  
 Desert Empire Fairgrounds  
 520 South Richmond Road  
 Hours: 9 - 5 daily

#### November 19 - 20: OXNARD, CA

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
 Oxnard Performing Arts Center  
 800 Hobson Way  
 Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Website: [www.oxnardgem.com](http://www.oxnardgem.com)  
[Show Page](#)

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<b>MSSC Advertisement Policy:</b>			
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>			



## 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>		
2015--2016	Bruce Carter	
22015--2016	Bob Housley	
2015--2016	Leslie Ogg	
2016-2017	Pat Caplette	
2016-2017	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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MSSC Bulletin Editor  
3630 Encinal Ave.  
Glendale, CA 91214-2415

*To:*



**With Knowledge Comes  
Appreciation**

***Your MSSC  
Bulletin Is  
Here!***