Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California



Volume 85 Number 11 November 2012

The 891th Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

November 9, 2012 7:30 pm

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

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Program

11/9/2012 To Be Announced.

2/15/2013 The Mines of the Joshua Tree National Park Region

MEANDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT by Ann Meister

Recently, there have been some strange, odd, interesting and disturbing items in the news related to mineralogy and geology. It's amazing what you can find with Google.

EARTHQUAKES: The most disturbing news item is about the group of Italian scientists that face 6 years in jail for manslaughter plus fines for providing "an incomplete, inept, unsuitable and criminally mistaken" assessment of risks posed by the tremors preceding the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake that killed more than 300 people. Since when has earthquake prediction been precise enough to say a week in advance that a town will be devastated by a 6.3-magnitude quake on a specific day? Apparently this is what the town expected. While living in an earthquake prone region with the town built on an ancient lakebed in a valley in the Apennine Mountains, rather than reinforcing existing buildings and building new to strict codes, many collapsed buildings were from the eighteenth century, probably built after the last major earthquakes in 1703 and 1786. This is a scary precedent for the scientific world and public safety policy.

GEOLOGICAL MAP: The Idaho Geological Survey released its first new geologic map of the state since 1978. ID Geological Survey Director Roy Breckenridge, who called the map a work of art, said Idaho rocks haven't changed much since the 1978 map, but a lot of new mapping has been done that adds new information to the most recent map. Also technology has advanced to allow more accurate dating of geologic formations. The map marks the oldest rocks in the state -- a small plug of gneiss in the Pioneer Mountains southwest of Mackay that is 2.7 billion years old.

AMBER: A 100-million-year-old interesting oddity from the Hukawng Valley of Myanmar is a spider attacking a wasp, frozen in amber. Experts at Oregon State University said the discovery is the only fossil of its kind showing a spider attacking prey caught in its web, and indeed, at least 15 strands of unbroken spider silk run through the piece of amber, including some ensnaring the wasp. It is from the Early

Cretaceous (between 97 million and 110 million years ago). Dinosaurs were almost certainly wandering nearby as the spider moved in on the other prehistoric insect, according to researchers. What a unique find!



Caption: This is the only fossil ever discovered that shows a spider attacking prey in its web. (Photo courtesy of Oregon State University) MUSEUM ROBBERY: I have found no updates on the robbery at the California Mining and Mineral Museum. If anyone has any news, please let us know. The Mineralogical Record "Stolen Specimen Alert" does not have pictures of what was taken, nor does the Kristalle website.

GEO-LITERATURE RESOURCES by Ann Meister

You probably all know *The Mineralogical Record* magazine, but have you ever visited their website (www.minrec.org)? It is a fantastic collection of stuff, including an immense mineral art museum; a biographical archive of noted mineralogists, mineral collectors, mineral dealers, etc.; a fascinating label archive that allows you to research labels from old, famous collectors; and the stolen specimen alert with pictures. There's also a comprehensive page of links to museums and mineral dealers. And from the late Curtis Schuh, there is a complete, on-line bio-bibliography of mineralogy and crystallography. You can spend hours browsing the listings and reading the annotations of these

historical works and authors. And to top this all off there is *Axis*, an eclectic journal of mineralogy that permits the publication of more articles and papers than can be accommodated by the magazine including a glossary of obsolete mineral names. In addition, there are also the expected subscription info and back issues, etc. In all, a very interesting and useful website.

PRELIMINARY SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013

This is a preliminary list of nominees for office. It may change. Volunteers are welcome. Committee positions are also open.

President Ann Meister
Vice-President Bruce Carter

President Angie Guzman

Treasurer Vacant

CFMS Director Jo Anna Ritchey

2013 Directors

Geoffrey Caplette
Bob Housley
Leslie Ogg

Leslie Ogg Fred Elsnau Linda Elsnau

Vacant Vacant



Mesolite with Apophyllite, from the Smithsonian Mineral Gallery

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2012 MEETING

The 891st meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California was held on Friday, October 12, 2012 at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA. President Ann Meister called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

The president entertained a motion made by Ahni Dodge, seconded by George Rossman to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2012 regular meeting as published in the October 2012 Bulletin.

Announcements:

President Ann Meister called for volunteers for the 2013 Slate of Officers. Each current officer and director should round-up his/her replacement and report the name to Ann. A new bulletin editor is also needed.

Searles Lake G&M Society Gem-o-Rama at Trona is this weekend and provides great collecting of saline minerals.

The Mineral Locality Symposium sponsored by the Southern California Friends of Mineralogy is Oct 20 and 21.

Burminco's has moved from Monrovia to San Dimas. The remains of rocks are available to pick through. Contact Jo Anna Ritchey for more information. (Note: went, found little of interest.)

Show & Tell:

Nothing, :-(

Program

Program Chair and VP Dr. Bruce Carter introduced our speaker for the evening, Steve Chemtob, PhD candidate in geochemistry at Caltech and a student of Dr. George Rossman. His talk on "Multicolored Silica Coatings on Fresh Hawaiian Lava Flows" proved to be fascinating with instructive images of these micron-thick weathering products. The research has taken him across hot new lava fields of Pu'u O'o on Kilauea and the old Ka'u desert of lava.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm and followed by refreshments.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Meister, Secretary pro tem Dear Jo Anna,

So nice to read about mineralogical history. As I am fluent in German and had 5 years of Latin, I can tell you that "Bauer" is the German word for "farmer", as is "agricola" in Latin. It is still a fairly common last name in German-speaking countries today.

Did you know that the greatest German Poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), at the same time a Statesman, had a famous mineral collection? It still exists and is open to the public, according to the article I saw in a German mineral magazine – Goethite is named for him – My old Encyclopedia Britannica has pages about him and his work, but not a word about his mineral collection! I wish the Mineralogical Record would have an article about him, he knew most of the collectors of his time –

Just a bit of "incidental information" – I am always interested in where names come from - - -

You are doing a wonderful job with the bulletin , and I want to thank you for it - I am now 92 years old and can hardly get out of the house , as I am very handicapped now - which makes me appreciate the bulletin even more

Kay Robertson

How to keep in contact with shut-in's: e-mail?

I would suggest that with the advent of e-mail, we now have an easy opportunity to keep in contact. I think it would be nice if various members would drop a line or two about a field trip you went on, a mineral your purchased, a rock show (Costa Mesa?) or maybe your success (or failure) in mounting a mineral. No, you do not need to already know these people, but like Kay, these older members are knowledgeable and interesting.

Think of this as starting a conversation at a MSSC meeting to be carried on over time. Try it, you might like it!

Jo Anna Ritchey

An invitation for the members and friends of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California To attend an open house at Jewel Tunnel Imports on Saturday 17 December, 2012- 10 AM to 4PM

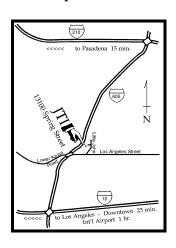
13100 Spring St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706, 626-814-2257 Map available at jeweltunnel.com Refreshments will be served.

Jewel Tunnel Imports is a leading wholesale distributor of mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, tumbled stones and many different kinds of lapidary items like balls, eggs, jewelry etc. made from different minerals. We have a warehouse in excess of 10,000 sq. feet full of mineral related natural history items, perhaps the largest of its kind in the United States.

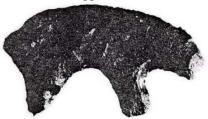
Historically Jewel Tunnel Imports has had limited open house parties for mineralogically and geologically oriented groups such as the students and faculty of various university geology departments and members of certain gem and mineral societies. These open houses, by invitation only, on a few weekends just proceeding Christmas, offer a chance for individuals belonging to these groups to buy minerals and crystals at wholesale prices and to learn something about the wholesale gem and mineral business.

Jewel Tunnel Imports is a wholesale only warehouse and this invitation is only for the date of the open house. If you wish to return during the year to purchase items you will need to obtain your own resale permit from the California State Board of Equalization. If you have items to trade, Rock Currier, owner of Jewel Tunnel Imports, has been known to do that especially if he finds it suitable for his own personal collection.

Directions to Jewel Tunnel Import's warehouse.



"The Chipped Stone Bear"



Picture from: History and Culture, California State Library

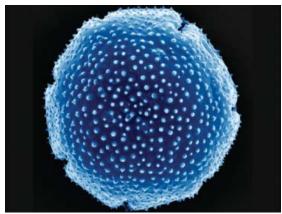
California designated the chipped stone bear as the official state prehistoric artifact in 1991 (actual size about 2.5 by 1.5 inches). Discovered in 1985 at an archaeological dig site in San Diego County, this small stone resembles a walking bear. The bear was created about 7- 8,000 years ago out of volcanic rock by one of California's first human inhabitants. California is the first state to designate a prehistoric artifact as an official state symbol.

Antarctic trees surprise scientists



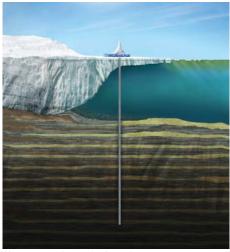
An artist's rendition of Antarctica during the Middle Miocene. New research based on pollen fossil data indicates the continent has experienced previously unknown warm spells.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Philip Bart, LSU



Scanning electron micrograph of a modern southern beech pollen grain that resembles pollen from the last stunted trees on Antarctica, which disappeared in the Late Miocene.

Credit: Sophie Warny and Kate Griener, LSU



Rendering of drilling operations during the ANDRILL 2 campaign in Southern McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, from October through December 2007.

Credit: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Antarctic ice sheets can be unforgiving field sites for scientists looking for fossils, as the ice grinds and pulverizes signs of previous life. The adjacent ocean sediments, however, are a good hiding place for microscopic fossils

from plants — pollen and leaf waxes that provide clues to ancient temperatures. Scientists have now retrieved samples of pollen and leaf wax from 15.5-million- to 20-million-year-old sediments that indicate Antarctica not only received more rain during the Middle Miocene than previously thought, but was also home to trees, albeit stubby ones. The discovery implies that, contrary to previous thinking, the continent has experienced warm periods since the onset of the most recent glaciation.

Sarah Feakins, a paleoclimatologist and organic geochemist at the \underline{K} who led the recent study published in Nature Geoscience, says that a large ice sheet began to develop on Antarctica 34 million years ago. But scientists have thought that for the most part, the continent has been pretty cold since. Then Sophie Warny, a palynologist at Louisiana State University and co-author of the study, reported in a previous study that she'd found high levels of pollen in Middle Miocene ocean sediment collected near Antarctica. "We were surprised by the species that were there and how much pollen was there," Feakins says.

To estimate Middle Miocene temperatures, precipitation and vegetation in the area now covered by the Ross Ice Shelf, Feakins and her team turned to sediment core samples taken from the ANDRILL 2 Antarctic geological drilling project in 2007. The ANDRILL rig drilled through the Ross Ice Shelf, passed through about 400 meters of water, and then penetrated more than a kilometer of sediment. Feakins and her team looked for leaf wax and pollen in sediments taken from between 144 and 1,100 meters below the seafloor — depths that date between 12 million and 20 million years ago.

The team found that concentrations of both pollen and wax spike at 16.4 million and 15.7 million years ago, representing two brief warming spells, each of which lasted less than 30,000 years. In addition, the researchers determined that the leaf wax and pollen didn't blow in from elsewhere. It came from two species of trees — podocarp conifer and southern beech — that grew on the margins of Antarctica and don't spread pollen widely, they reported. If the pollen were blowing in from elsewhere, they would expect to find evidence of more species. "If [pollen and wax] were being transported from the Andes and New Zealand, we would expect to find them everywhere [in the core]," Feakins says.

Feakins used a mass spectrometer to determine the ratio of hydrogen to deuterium in wax molecules, which showed how warm Antarctica was during the temperature spikes. Together with model experiments by coauthor Jung-Eun Lee, a climate modeler at NASA's Jet Propulsion

Laboratory at Caltech, the results suggest that temperatures at the Ross Ice Shelf were 7 degrees Celsius in the summer, whereas the same location reaches about minus 4 degrees Celsius in summer today. Conditions were similar to what parts of Chile experience today, Feakins says. Previous studies have suggested that global average temperature during the Middle Miocene was about 3 degrees Celsius warmer than today, she says, but no one had previously estimated temperatures for this location. For temperatures to be 11 degrees Celsius warmer than today was surprising for the Middle Miocene, Feakins says, "but not completely unexpected because we expect 'polar amplification." That is, when the Earth warms as a whole, polar regions warm disproportionately more than lower latitudes.

"This result is important because it focuses our attention on how the hydrological system can be impacted during global warming," says Mark Pagani, a Yale University geochemist not involved in the study, adding that the finding reinforces what scientists in other fields are finding. The data from this and other studies of the past 20 million years "worry us because it appears that Earth's climate and hydrological systems are very sensitive," Pagani says. Today's atmospheric carbon dioxide levels — 396 parts per million — are creeping up toward levels similar to those at the time of the Middle Miocene warming, which are thought to have been 400 to 600 parts per million. If trees can grow on Antarctica with carbon dioxide levels not much higher than today's, he says, it suggests that small changes in carbon dioxide can lead to big changes in climate.

As for the trees, Feakins says, they may have been shin-height or taller — and likely stunted, not a great big forest. "We don't have fossil trees, so we have to be careful" about drawing too many inferences, she says. The mere presence of these species, however, illustrates just how much warmer Antarctica was in the past and what could happen in the future, she says.

Jay R. Thompson: Thompson is an editorial intern at EARTH.

Publication Date: Monday, September 3, 2012

via Bob's Rock Shop

Editor's Note: Various members at the MSSC have been discussing workshops and how we could set one up, what would be covered, etc. These articles are timely and for those who do not subscribe to Rock and Gem, they are on line at www.rockngem.com. Read the article next:

Promote Your Club in Rock & Gem Magazine!

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Rock & Gem Contributing Author

Rock & Gem magazine is the "official" magazine of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies—our official magazine! They, and Senior Consulting Editor Bob Jones, have done much to promote rockhounding and rock clubs like those to which you and I belong. As you may know, I'm a regular contributing author to Rock & Gem, mostly with articles for their Rock & Gem Kids section. Recently, Rock & Gem Managing Editor Lynn Varon has initiated a "Club Workshop Series" and is soliciting articles describing how clubs have organized a workshop for their own members and/or for members of their communities. The intent is to provide inspiration and models for clubs that currently lack a workshop space. How did clubs acquire their space? How have they organized it? What sort of equipment do they have? What sort of activities do they provide for club members and/or the general public?

To help Lynn kick off the series, I've written three articles describing how the Ventura, Oxnard, and Mother Lode mineral societies of the California Federation have all pursued different models of establishing and maintaining a lapidary workshop. The first article in the series, describing the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society facilities, appeared in the August 2012 issue. Lynn would like to encourage others to send similar articles (and photographs) about their club workshops. For submission details, you can contact Lynn at: Lynn Varon, *Rock & Gem*, 3585 Maple Street, Suite 232, Ventura, CA93003, phone (805) 644-3824, ext. 29, email editor@rockngem.com. For the articles I prepared, Lynn asked for 1,000 words, accompanied by at least a half dozen photos showing the workshop in use, along with captions for each photo.

If you'd like to participate but are unsure of your writing skills, I'm happy to do the write-up if you'll send me photos (as electronic attachments) of your workshop and give me a call to provide the basics—you know, the typical journalistic questions of who, what, where, when, how and why. Who are you and your society? What sort of workshop arrangement do you have? Where is it located? When did you establish this arrangement and when is the workshop accessible to club members and/or the general public? How did you go about establishing your workshop? Why would you encourage other clubs to follow a similar model and strategy? My contact info is (805) 659-3577, <jbraceth@roadrunner.com>.

This is a great opportunity to publicize your own club's efforts while providing inspiration to other clubs seeking to establish a workshop. Let's all take advantage of this great opportunity and help to spread the wealth of knowledge we've all accumulated to assist our fellow clubs!

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Senior Consulting Editor Bob Jones, have done much to promote rockhounding and rock clubs like those to which you and I belong. As you may know, I'm a regular contributing author to *Rock & Gem*, mostly with articles for their Rock & Gem Kids section. Recently, *Rock & Gem* Managing Editor Lynn Varon has initiated a "Club Workshop Series" and is soliciting articles describing how clubs have organized a workshop for their own members and/or for members of their communities. The intent is to provide inspiration and models for clubs that currently lack a workshop space. How did clubs acquire their space? How have they organized it? What sort of equipment do they have? What sort of activities do they provide for club members and/or the general public?

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This is a great opportunity to publicize your own club's efforts while providing inspiration to other clubs seeking to establish a workshop. Let's all take advantage of this great opportunity and help to spread the wealth of knowledge we've all accumulated to assist our fellow clubs! via AFMS Newsletter 10/2012.

Land Closures by Management DecisionsBy John Martin, CFMS PLAC-SOUTH

plac-south@antelecom.net

With the slowdown in legislative action this election year the Public Land Use (Restriction) bills before congress are mostly on the back burners for the remainder of this congressional session. It does not look likely that much will be happening until after the November election. That does not leave very much time for any action on the bills that have been introduced and referred to the appropriate committees for review and recommendations. If no action has been taken the bills introduced during this session will die in committee and need to be reintroduced during the next congressional session. There is one "unless", and that "unless" is, if the Land Use Bills before congress are consolidated into one large piece of legislation and attached to some other bill, like what happened in 2008 with the "Omnibus Land Bill Act of 2008", which made it a federal felony to collect vertebrate fossils on Federal Public Lands, then there would be cause for concern.

This does not mean that all is well for Amateur Rock, Mineral and Fossil collecting on BLM and USFS managed Public Lands. These Federal Agencies, through Congressional Mandate several years ago, must provide to congress a Land Management Plan for all managed land under their jurisdiction. The creation of these plans has been in the development cycle for several years. They have been labeled Resource Management Plans (RMP) and Travel Management Plans (TMP) and through congressional mandate are required to have open public hearings and input from all stakeholders. Included in these management plans are the allowable activities and the designated roads and trails within the managed areas. All roads and trails within the management areas must be identified and publicized. These roads and trails may lead to Rockhound collecting sites. If the road to the collecting site is not on the list of approved open roads the only way to get to the collecting site is by foot. This access battle for open roads has been waged for several years now and some process is being made thanks to a few concerned Rockhounds.

There are more dangers to Rockhounds in some of these RMPs and TMPs than roads. One example is in the Bakersfield Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision. http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/planning/caliente_rmp_revision.html#Draft

This plan is in its final stage of review and is close to approval and implementation. As an example, when this plan goes into effect, it will close the collecting area known as Horse Canyon, near Tehachapi, California. The Horse Canyon Agate is unique. This **is the only green**

tubercular agate in North America. Under this RMP access to this collecting site will be closed and so will collecting of any kind within the area of the canyon under BLM control. This type of language is appearing in many of the Land Management Plans being released for public review and comment before presentation to congress for final approval.

Even though congressional action has slowed, Rockhounding sites are in greater jeopardy of loss through internal Public Land Management review and decisions. With a stroke of the management pen collecting sites and access may be closed in the name of resource protection.

It is up to Rockhounds to make their voices heard so collecting sites and amateur collecting on public lands remain a viable hobby now and for future generations to enjoy.

via CFMS Newsletter 11/2012



Rhodochrosite crystal

A close-up of a brilliant red on white Rhodochrosite crystal from the mineral collections of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

Calendar of Events

November 3 - 4: LANCASTER, CA: Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club, Antelope Valley Fairgrounds 2551 West Avenue H. Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

November 3 - 4: RIDGECREST, CA Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society, Desert Empire Fairgrounds 520 West Richmond Road. Hours: 9 - 5 daily

November 3 - 4: SAN DIEGO, CA San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. Hours: Sat 9:30 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

November 3-4: **ANAHEIM, CA**: American Opal Society; White House West Wing Event Center; Hobby City/Adventure City, 1238 S. Beach Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children (under 15) free

November 9-11—SANTA ANA, CA: Fall West Coast Gem & Mineral Show; Martin Zinn Expositions LLC; Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport; 2726 S. Grand Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 80 retail and wholesale dealers

November 17 - 18: OXNARD, CA: -Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way Hours: Sat 9 – 5; Sun 10 – 4

December 1 - 2: BARSTOW, CA Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society, Cora Harper Community Center, 841 South Barstow Road (North of I-15) Hours: 10 - 5 daily

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9-11—COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 weekend pass, children 11 and under free.



NOV. 9 - 11, 2012

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MSSC Advertisement Policy: Mineral-related ads have always been acceptable in the 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 e-mailed to the editor at bulletin@mineralsocal.org and the payment should be sent to the MSSC Treasurer at 1855 Idlewood Road, Glendale, CA 91202-1053. The Bulletin Editor reserves the right to decline requests for space if material submitted is judged to be inappropriate

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Vice	Bruce Carter	programs@mineralsocal.org
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2010-	Leslie Ogg	webmaster@mineralsocal.org
2010-	Linda Elsnau	publicity@mineralsocal.org
2010-	Fred Elsnau	
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		Jo Anna Ritchey (See CFMS) NFERENCE COMMITTEE
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		•
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Give-away Ta	able	Gene Reynolds
Food		Ann Meister & Sugar

White

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 and collecting 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 Micromount 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. The Society's contact information: Mineralogical Society of Southern California 1855 Idlewood Rd., Glendale, CA 91202-1053 E-mail: bgbrdpen@earthlink.net Web: http//:wwwmineralsocal.org The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.

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