



Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 86 Number 1 January, 2013

The 893rd meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

MSSC Banquet Saturday, January 19, 2013

Social Hour 5:30 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Speaker 7:30 pm
Oak Tree Room (next to Coco's)
1150 West Colorado Boulevard
Arcadia, CA 91007

Program: Rick Kennedy will present "The California Blue Mine"

Ann Meister says: "Everyone is invited to join us and have a great time. This is our premiere social event of the season!"

Make your Reservation to attend today!

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MSSC Banquet
Saturday, January 19, 2013

This Banquet & Meeting will be held jointly by MSSC and the Natural History Museum Gem and Mineral Council.

The cost of the Banquet will be \$37.00 per person

Make your reservation with Jim Kusely (treasurer@mineralsocal.org).

There is plenty of seating available and the NHM Gem & Mineral Council is joining us. If you made a reservation and circumstances change where you or your guests cannot attend, please notify Jim Kusely **before Wednesday, January 9th, 2013**. Thereafter you will be responsible for paying \$37.00 for each individual reservation regardless of attendance. It would be a shame to miss this event because you delayed making that reservation.

If you haven't done so already, plan to pay your dues at the same time.
Dues are officially due 1/1/2013.

The speaker will be **Rick Kennedy**. Topic: **"The California Blue Mine"**

Banquet Saturday, January 19, 2013
Social Hour 5:30 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm; Speaker 7:30 pm
Oak Tree Room (next to Coco's)
1150 West Colorado Boulevard
Arcadia, CA 91007

Items for the Silent Auction are always needed.
What is gathering dust in your home will be treasured in someone else's home.

About the Program: "The California Blue Mine" presented by Rick Kennedy

Rick Kennedy is an active field collector with an interest in minerals from the western United States. He has a degree in Earth Sciences from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Rick started his mineral business, **Earth's Treasures** in 1985. As the business has expanded he has specialized in fine minerals, rare gemstones and unusual localities.

Rick will be talking about the California Blue Mine. "New discoveries are rare and new discoveries in California have been almost unheard of for a while. This is the story of the discovery and subsequent exploration of the California Blue Mine, a pegmatite in southern San Bernardino County, California. To date, the California Blue Mine has produced some of California's highest quality Aquamarine crystals. Other minerals found at the deposit are Topaz, Smoky Quartz, Orthoclase, Clevelandite, Fluorite, Apatite, Schorl, and Rutile." The talk will cover from the discovery of the deposit to years of hand work by the owner, Dave Schmidt to the recent mining projects with heavy equipment and the subsequent discoveries.

From the Editor:

Hello. When I agreed to become the bulletin editor for MSSC this year, it was with the understanding that I would be changing the format to better fit the e-mail delivery method now in use for most members. I feel it is time to offer a format that is easier for you to print at home if you wish to do so. I'm hoping you will enjoy the new full page format.

I will be starting some “regular” columns as I can get the information together. Some ideas I’ve had are a Questions and Answer columns, a Micro Mineral Corner, perhaps a “Locality of the Month” or a “Mineral of the Month” column. All of these will only survive with input from you, our knowledgeable members. If there is anything you would like to see in your bulletin, let me know and we’ll see if it possible, but remember, if you suggest it, you may be asked to contribute to it as well! (It’s only fair!)

I am also requesting articles and stories from our members to put into the bulletin.. Here are some ideas for you to think about:

- We would still like to see your comments on your favorite or most useful mineral related book or resource.
- How about an article about your latest mineral collecting trip, whether that was to your favorite site or to the latest show.
- What got you interested in this hobby. what first attracted you to collect, study or simply enjoy minerals? If you specialized, what is your speciality and why? Curious minds would like to know! (and thank you Rock Currier for our first article!)
- How about a digital picture and description of a favorite specimen in your collection. Why is it a favorite?
- What is your favorite mineral or location and why?
- Have you seen anything mineral related that you think would be of interest to the group? Visited a museum, seen a new mineral cleaning method, tried a new trimming method....Tell us about it.
- Are you a field collector? Do you remember your very first trip to collect minerals? Tell us about it
- Do you have a favorite collecting story or location? What’s your fondest memory of your collecting trips? Those of us that don’t or can’t go out and collect would enjoy reading your stories. Please share.
- Are you a micro-mineral collector? Why? What attracted you to that aspect of the hobby? What’s your favorite micro specimen? Do you “mount” your micro specimens? What mounting method do you prefer. If you don’t mount them, why not?
- Anything else mineral related that you would like to share with the rest of the members.

Many of our members never make it to a meeting and writing a bit about ourselves can help us reconnect with each other as a group. I would like to make the bulletin a more personal document for our members, but I need your input to make it happen. Please contribute.

These do not need to be long...even a paragraph or two would be welcomed. They can be sent to me via email. I have set up a special email account specifically for MSSC Bulletin business so whatever you send won’t get lost in all of the “junk mail” my regular email account gets. You can contact me at: msscbulletin@earthlink.net If you prefer not to use the internet, you can mail your piece to me at the address shown in the club roster.

Sincerely, Linda Elsnau, Editor

MEANDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT by Ann Meister

★ Well MSSC has stayed alive for another year. I have attempted to implement some suggestions on what we should be doing: the Geo-Literary Resources column was at the request of Richard Horstmeyer. I'd really like to see more members write-up a paragraph on their favorite reference or resource. Several other suggestion died due to lack of anyone volunteering to work on the implementation, such as field trips, a speaker's bureau, and special-interest study groups, such as crystallography. The Pacific Micromount Conference is going strong. Those of you who are not "micro-minded" should come and see what it's all about. Our Program Chairman Dr Bruce Carter has found some great talks for this past year. I applaud his efforts and would love to see more of you at the meetings. The Gem and Mineral Council of the LA County Museum of Natural History joined us at our annual banquet. We again shared an August Picnic with the Fallbrook Society and had our annual Open House at JTI. What else would you like to see the Society do?.

★ The Board started the year trying to update the Society Bylaws and Operating Rules both previously updated in October 1998. However, if the Society wasn't going to continue, it seemed like a moot issue to continue the effort. I think we will now finish our discussions and publish new documents for a member vote this coming year since it looks like we have new energy in the group.

★ I look forward to see you all at the upcoming banquet.

**REMEMBER --- DONATIONS ARE NEEDED
FOR THE SILENT AUCTION AT THE BANQUET.
THIS IS OUR ONLY MONEY RAISING ACTIVITY.
PLEASE HELP**

MINUTES December 14, 2012 MSSC Meeting:

The 892nd meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California was held on Friday, December 14, 2012, in the Stanton Hill Mineralogical Museum at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA. President Ann Meister brought the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on November 9, 2012, were approved.

The following announcements were made:

- 1) the annual banquet will be held on January 19, 2013; additional silent auction items are very much needed;
- 2) the Micromount Conference will take place on February 1st and 2nd, 2013; and
- 3) Linda Elsnau's duties as bulletin editor will commence in February, 2013.

Recently collected halite and hanksite, from Trona, were displayed at "show and tell."

The real star of the meeting was the Mineralogical Museum itself. Vice President, Bruce Carter, provided an account of the founding, history and contents of the Museum, and described the important contributions of such notables as Edwin Van Amringe, H. Stanton Hill, and Louis Vance. He described not only some of the specimens in the display cases, but also the books, models and prospector sets in the Museum.

The contents of Museums have to be labeled, catalogued and organized. Former PCC Professor Janet Gordon described her work, and that of the students she trained, in performing such tasks. It was particularly interesting to learn how dollars were stretched over the years to obtain as many interesting specimens, as possible, at mineral shows, including Tucson.

The Museum is very impressive, with numerous specimens from many classic sites that have either been depleted, or are no longer open to collecting.

Martha A. House described her current course in Mineralogy, which she teaches in the Museum. There are also plans to offer a revised Petrology course that focuses on hand specimen petrology of igneous rocks.

After the meeting was adjourned, refreshments were offered.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Caplette On behalf of Angie Guzman, MSSC Secretary

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 and I'll put the information in this section of the bulletin. After that, any final arrangements made are up to you. The Editor

Looking for	Who	Where	Contact at
A ride	Richard Stambert	North Orange County, near Cal State Fullerton	714-524-3577

How I Got Interested In Minerals. By Rock Currier

In 1963 I dropped out of my senior year at UCLA as a chemistry major, to do what I did not know. My father, a doctor, had paid for as much education as I could stand though he didn't say much about it, he must have been disappointed that I had not gone on to be a doctor like he and my grandfather. Although no one ever said I needed to go out and get a job, I found myself going through the want ads in the Los Angeles times and soon found myself driving my 51 straight 6, stick shift Chevy up from Los Angeles up and over the Cajon pass into the Mojave Desert to the little mining town of Boron, California for a job interview. I got a job in the control laboratory at the borate refinery perched on the edge of the big open pit borate mine, doing routine chemical analysis of various borates that the refinery produced.

My boss was a man named Vince Morgan and in his office were book shelves and instead of books, the shelves were filled with fine examples of crystal specimens of the various borate minerals produced by the mine. I ask him how he made them and he said that he didn't make them, but that they were found naturally in the mine and were a product of natural inorganic crystallization, that been encountered during the mining in the open pit. He said I could collect some from the big mine dumps from the mine that were adjacent to the open pit. The dumps consisted mostly of boulders of colemanite and ulexite from the mine. The ore they ran through the refinery was borax, and the colemanite and ulexite were of no immediate interest to the company, because they were more costly to refine than borax. The other borate mines in California, and Nevada has been closed because they produced either colemanite or ulexite and were not commercially viable against the crystalline borax that was the main ore at Boron, which needed only to be dissolved in hot water and recrystallized.

I was soon out on the dumps at Boron hammering away on boulders of colemanite/ulexite with a claw hammer and an old screw driver as a chisel and finding fabulous treasures. That was long before they had the perimeter fenced and guards on patrol. I would bring my priceless gems back to the lab to show my boss who would then show me some of the seriously fine ones in his collection. I would look at his and then back at mine and then throw mine away and go back to the dumps and search for better ones. I soon bought a sledge hammer and in my zeal to find specimens remember wondering why the handle kept getting slippery. I found out that the little colemanite crystals were so razor sharp that they had cut my hands without me even feeling it and it was my blood that was making the handle of the sledge slippery and that the specks of realgar on some of my colemanite specimens was not realgar but drops of my blood.

Soon I discovered that the guys who operated the heavy equipment in the open pit were the guys who had the really good specimens which they would sell for what seemed reasonable prices and that the drilling and blasting forman, Howard Pomptier had the really good stuff. Pretty soon I was showing up in the lab with good specimens. I knew they were good because my boss who was a real expert on borates said stuff like "Where in the world did you get that specimen." And he could show me none better.

That got me started. I was called the boron moron. I soon joined the Mineralogical Society of Southern California where I met a bunch of young guys, really a small subset of the society and we formed a somewhat disreputable rat pack that ran around out in the desert and other western states to explore old abandoned underground mines and collect what ever we could. After a few years I became president of the society and we moved the annual show into the Pasadena center. Shortly after that I moved back to NY for 4 years to work for a chemical company and spent my spare time chasing around to eastern US mineral museums, private mineral collections and specimen localities. I took a lot of pictures. That was my “college education” in minerals. In 1972 the job came to an end and I was soon off to India for Indian zeolites. That marked the beginning as my life as a mineral dealer and since then I can’t believe that already 40 years have passed. After India came Peru, and many other countries and tons of specimens. It’s been a good ride.

CFMS Board Meeting 11/10/2012: by Jo Anna Ritchey, Federation Director

The CFMS Board Meeting started meeting the quorum with representatives from 61 clubs, 5 officers and 26 committee members.

The new officers for the 2013 CFMS will be

President	Bud Mcillan
1st. VP	Jennifer Hayley
2nd VP	Tom Burchard
Treasure	Margaret Kolacyzk
Secretary	Robert Sankovich

The 2013 Show will be from 5/31 to 6/2/2012. It is being hosted by three clubs: Oxnard Gem and Mineral, Conejo Gem and Mineral and Ventura Gem and Mineral with the theme of **California Rocks**. They are planning to have 50 dealers and 70 cases. They have scheduled a field trip for the Tuesday, 5/28/2012 to Kanan Dune Road.

The 2012 Show in Riverside had 36 Competitive Cases and 17 Trophies. The Show Club had a wonderful time putting on the show. This is remarkable considering the initial problems

- they took over hosting the CFMS Show after another club withdrew--so they had less than the normal amount of time.
- they started with the Convention Center was still being remodeled so they had to be moved to another space,

January Featured Mineral

Spessartine Garnet on, Albite

Locality: Little Three Mine (Little 3 mine), Ramona, Ramona District, San Diego Co., California, USA

4.7 x 3.2 x 2.8 cm. An attractive specimen of gemmy orange spessartine resting within skeletal albite from the famed Little Three Mine..

irocks.com photo



Don't Forget the 48th Pacific Micro-mount Conference is coming up:

When: Friday, February 1st, Starting at 3:00 pm
Saturday, February 2nd, doors open at 8:00 am
with a field trip to be announced at the conference scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 3rd.

Where: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA

Registration Fee is \$15.00 per person before Conference, using the registration form below, or \$20.00 at door. Even if you don't have a microscope, the presentations are wonderful, the friendly and helpful attendees are from all over the western US and the conference is well worth attending. We would love to see more members attending

Dues are Due:

If you haven't already paid your dues, the membership form is included for your convenience. Please remove it from the bulletin, complete and send it, with your check to the Treasurer today. You may also bring it with you to the January Banquet

West Coast GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport
2726 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705
(Take 55 Fwy exit 8 for Dyer Rd. to S. Grand Ave.)

MAY 17-19, 2013

75 Top Quality Dealers!

Minerals • Fossils • Gemstones • Jewelry
Beads • Decorator Pieces • Meteorites
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Tourmaline
Jeff Scovil Photo©

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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 bulletin@mineralsocal.org and the payment should be sent to the MSSC Treasurer t 1855 Idlewood Road, Glendale, CA 91202	

Calendar of Events:

Quartzsite, AZ: **Interstate 10 and AZ Highway 95 intersection**

The Main Event Open Nov 1st 2012 - March 2013 Show Date: Jan. 7th 2013 - Jan. 27th 2013

TYSON WELLS ROCK & GEM SHOW JAN. 4th 2013 - JAN. 13th 2013

There are very few motels in Quartzite, AZ, so most visitors bring their RVs, motor homes, trailers, or camping equipment and stay on open BLM land or in one of the many organized camping areas in and around Quartzite.

San Bernardino, CA: **MSSC's Pacific Micro-mount Conference Feb. 1, 2 & 3, 2013**

See the reminder earlier in this bulletin.

Tucson, AZ: **59th Annual Tucson Gem & Mineral Show Feb. 14 – 17, 2013**

Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ

2013 MSSC Officers:

OFFICERS		
President	Ann Meister	<i>president@mineralsocal.org</i>
Vice President	George Rossman	<i>programs@mineralsocal.org</i>
Secretary	Angie Guzman	<i>secretary@mineralsocal.org</i>
Treasurer*	Jim Kusely *	<i>treasurer@mineralsocal.org</i>
CFMS Director	Jo Anna Ritchey	
Past Pres.	Geoffrey Caplette	
DIRECTORS		
2013-	Geoffrey Caplette	
2013-	Leslie Ogg	
2013-	Pat Caplette	
2013-	Bruce Carter	
2013	Pat Stevens	
2013	Bob Housley	
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Publicity	Linda Elsnau	<i>bulletin@mineralsocal.org</i>
Membership	Jim Kusely	<i>treasurer@mineralsocal.org</i>
Program and Education	Bruce Carter	
Webmaster	Leslie Ogg	<i>webmaster@mineralsocal.org</i>
Bulletin Editor	Linda Elsnau	<i>bulletin@mineralsocal.org</i>
Micro Mount Conference Chairman	Bob Housley	
* Treasurer	Jim Kusely –proviso due to surgery, mid 2013, Ahni Dodge and Laura Davis to assist while Jim convalesces	

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. The Society's contact information:

Mineralogical Society of Southern California

1855 Idlewood Rd.,

Glendale, CA 91202-1053

E-mail: treasurer@mineralsocal.org

Web: <http://www.mineralsocal.org> **The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.**

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irocks.com photo

Spessartine, Schorl, Albite

Locality: Little Three Mine (Little 3 mine), Ramona, Ramona District, San Diego Co., California, USA

4.3 x 2.7 x 2 cm



2013 MSSC Membership Dues

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Include
in
Roster?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

Apt

City

State

Zip

☐ Yes

☐ No

Phone: _____

Home

Cell

☐ Yes

☐ No

Email: _____

Note: BULLETINS ARE NOW SENT BY EMAIL

Optional Paper
Version?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Additional name(s) and relationship(s) if this is a family membership:

Our annual paper Roster will include only the information checked above, and only for the personal use of our members.

Membership Dues for One Year:

_____ \$20 Individual

_____ \$30 Family

_____ \$5 Student (under 21)

Donations

_____ \$100 Platinum

Other

\$ _____

Make checks payable to MSSC and mail with this form to:

MSSC
1855 Idlewood Rd.
Glendale, CA 91202-1053

Questions?

Contact Jim Kusely (MSSC Treasurer) at treasurer@mineralsocal.org

Advance Registration Form

PACIFIC MICROMOUNT CONFERENCE

February 1-2, 2013 (Field Trip on Sunday, Feb. 3)

Registration \$15.00 per person by mail, \$20.00 at the door

No. of people _____ Amount \$ _____

Names: _____

Friday Night Potluck Dinner: Bring your appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert for an old-fashioned

Potluck dinner. Your contribution will assure the success of the Potluck!
(We will have the use of the kitchen facilities.)

Saturday Lunch (No cost to participants):

Subway sandwiches will be ordered based on your advance selection

Turkey (___) Beef (___) Ham (___) Veggie (___)

Saturday Night Buffet Dinner

\$5.00 per person - number of people attending: _____ Amount \$ _____

Field Trip on Sunday:

Are you interested in attending the field trip? Yes _____ No _____

Number of participants _____

Parking –

Do you plan to park your self-contained RV, trailer or van overnight at the Museum? Yes _____ No _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Send Payment to:

PMC Committee Chair
Robert Housley
210 S Catalina Ave. #3
Pasadena CA 91106

Make check payable to MSSC

I plan on presenting a short contributed talk (___)

The topic will be: _____ Approximate length of time _____