

Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 96 Number 8 –August, 2023

The 1,016th meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

A ZOOM Meeting

August 11, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

Program: : " Digging for Blue Barite at Stoneham, Colorado "

Presented by Mike Sanders

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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: " Digging for Blue Barite at Stoneham, Colorado "

Presented by **Mike Sanders**

This talk will describe multiple mineral specimen recovery projects by myself and others between in 2001 and 2010 at the well-known and famous blue barite locality near Stoneham, in the high plains of northeast Colorado. Barite specimens were recovered from property leased from the State of Colorado employing both hand-digging and heavy equipment methods.

I presented the first version of this talk at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium in Socorro, New Mexico in November 2003, and described specimen mining activities conducted at the site in the summer of 2001. 2001 and especially the 2008 projects were very productive, and 2010-well, not so much! So it goes with mineral specimen mining operations!



I've spent most of my life in New Mexico, and with so much empty country, dramatic scenery and bare rocks to see, becoming interested in rocks and geology in general as a kid was a natural. I began mineral collecting as a geology student at the University of New Mexico about 1971, where I met Tony Potucek who introduced me to the mineral world. Tony and I made multiple field collecting trips in New Mexico and Arizona during that time and I was hooked for life!

As a geologist my professional career included jobs in the exploration and mining industries for about 12 years and then environmental assessment and cleanup work for the remaining 25 years, ending in 2013.

My primary focus has been field collecting at numerous localities in New Mexico. In 1994 I had the good fortune to join Ray Demark and Brian Huntsman as a claim owner at the famous Blanchard mine, and needless to say I have many fine specimens (primarily fluorite and also linarite) from that location. The mineral hunt has taken me to many marvelous remote places (some also in adjoining states, including northeastern Colorado) that I never would have gone to otherwise. I also have developed a fine circle of long-time mineral friends centered around the common passion of mineral mining and collecting.

How to Join our ZOOM Meetings by Rudy Lopez

MSSC members are automatically included in the invite list each month.

For non MSSC Members who want to join this meeting. You must respond to our Programs chair, Rudy Lopez at programs@mineralsocal.org no later than the Thursday prior to the next scheduled meeting. Please include "current month ZOOM Meeting" in the subject line of your response. This response date will allow time for us to send you the information needed to participate in the ZOOM meeting and also will allow time to get everything organized.

From the Editor: Linda Elsnau.

Happy August everyone! It's MSSC Picnic time. It's fast approaching the final crunch time on the Mojave Trails National Monument rulings. We also have another informative program to look forward to at the August 11th ZOOM meeting.

From Our President, Angie Guzman

FLASHBACK: 2013 MSSC's 900th Meeting & Picnic



2013 MSSC Picnic and 900th Membership Meeting - Ann Meister, then MSSC President, at Dr. Carter's home. Photo by Angie Guzman



2013 MSSC Picnic
900th Membership Mtg
Photo by Angie Guzman



2013 MSSC Picnic
Dr. Housley, Ann Meister, Fred Elsnau and Dr. Rossman Photo by Angie Guzman



2013 MSSC Picnic
Marek Chorazewicz, Ann Meister, Linda and Fred Elsnau and (partial) Rock Carrier
Photo by Angie Guzman

MSSC's POT LUCK PICNIC AUGUST 26, 2023

Hello Everyone. August has traditionally been the month for the MSSC Picnic. It's our summer pot luck social, silent auction and maybe a little bit of swapping treasurers. This year, you won't be disappointed. Kudos to the Ad Hoc Picnic Committee who has done a wonderful job of planning and preparing for the August 26th picnic! On tap is great food, stories to be told, goodie bags for kids, raffles, and much more. If you haven't signed up yet, do it now! **Don't wait for the last minute!** Check the Bulletin for the latest information, then go to the website for details on how to sign-in. *Guests will need to sign in, too.* (We want to get an as accurate as possible count as part of our planning.) Here's MSSC's web address: www.mineralsocal.org If you're having trouble or can't log on, give a call to any Officer or Board Member for assistance. See you on **Saturday, August 26, 2023 at Tournament Park** for a great time!



CORRECTIONS to my July 2023 Bulletin article regarding Campbell Bridges, the discoverer of tsavorite, and about the Lion of Merelani gem. After correspondences between myself and Bruce Bridges, Campbell's son, I submit these corrections and apologize to Bruce Bridges, his family and his business, Bridges Tsavorite for the misinterpretations from my original sources: The skilled gem cutter's name is correctly spelled, Viktor **Tuzlukov** (not Tzhlukov);

My article stated that Campbell's son, Bruce, met Jeff Post, Curator of National Museum of Natural History (Gems and Minerals) when he, Bruce, was a child in 1967. However, these should actually have read that Campbell Bridges first dealt with the Smithsonian in 1967. Bruce did not meet Jeff in 1967 because Bruce was not born until mid-1980's and he did not meet Jeff Post until some years. Additionally, Jeff Post was not yet with the museum in 1967; Bruce Bridges actually acquired the Lion tsavorite in 2017; he showed it to Gabriela Farfan and the rest of the Smithsonian team in 2020 in Tucson and photo credit should show "Photo by Jeff Scovil. Courtesy of Bridges Tsavorite".

Thank you, Bruce, for being so gracious. Apologies for any inconveniences this may have caused.



Another green treasure... PERIDOT (Mg, Fe)₂SiO₄

Many gems seem to come in various colors, but when I think of peridot, my brain goes to green. However, the color range for peridot is actually brown-green to yellow-green to pure green. The variations are dependent on the amount of iron within the gem. The lighter colored peridot is due to a lower iron content. Peridot is the gem variety of the mineral olivine. Translucent olivine is peridot, the gem.

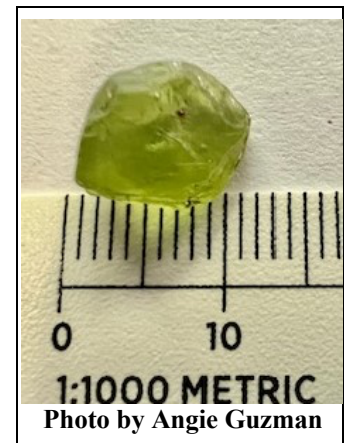
Peridot had been known, until the eighteenth century, as *topazion* or *topaz* because it was likely found on the island of Topazios [today known as the Isle of St. John in Egypt] in the Red Sea. In the eighteenth century, the mineral we know today as topaz, was given the name and the olivine gem became peridot. Yellowish peridot has been referred to as chrysolite, Greek for "yellow stone". And chrysolite has been used in reference to the greenish-yellow gem, chrysoberyl, BeAl₂O₄.

Peridot is found in ultramafic and mafic rock and occurs in silica-deficient rocks such as (volcanic) basalt and pallasitic meteorites (as glassy crystals). It, strangely, is *not* formed in the Earth's crust but in molten rock of the upper mantle. Peridot is highly susceptible to weathering (due to movement from deep within the mantle to the surface) and so, is not usually found on the Earth's surface.

It has an orthorhombic crystal lattice structure. The lattice structures are stretched to a rectangular prism, intersecting at 90°. Peridot has a hardness of 6.5-7 (hardness increases with magnesium content); luster is vitreous to oily, it's transparent to translucent and the streak is colorless. This gem has a conchoidal fracture.

Today, the principal source of peridot is the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona. It is also mined in another location in Arizona and in Arkansas, Hawaii, Nevada and in New Mexico. Internationally, it is mined in several localities that include Brazil, Kenya, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa and Tanzania, among others.

As for meteorites, peridot crystals have been collected from the Indonesian Jeppara meteorite and others, including the one in Fukang, China.



Culturally, peridot is prized in jewelry and as such it is commonly gifted as birthday presents. Peridot is a birthstone for the month of August along with sardonyx (banded onyx with reddish layers of sard) and spinel (rich red stone that has masqueraded as ruby). Metaphysically, it is also said to bring healing and vitality and increases patience, confidence and assertiveness...but that's another story.

[Sources: Wikipedia, Almanac, Mineralminers.com]



Mojave Trails National Monument

I hope you caught the July 2023 [LA Times article by Sahagun regarding the MTNM](#). This was Sahagun's second article about the monument, his first in 2016 after the Obama designation at prompting by Senator Diane Feinstein. As noted in Sahagun's recent (2023) article, Sen. Feinstein's intentions were not to block mineral and rock collecting. However, the result of that omission was our focus of several recent (since 2016) actions with the BLM in hopes of having mineral and rock collecting – and the educational arm of those sciences – included in the final plan. MSSC actually joined the activism later than most but we did our darndest to be heard. Thank you for that.

We have one more opportunity, in 2024 before the plan is etched in granite. We will give you updates and notices as they become available.

END

MINUTES of the July 14, 2023 ZOOM Meeting

Welcome President Angela Guzman called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. She stated that this was the 1,015th Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California and our 38th via ZOOM.

Guests Angie asked the guests to introduce themselves and tell us what brought you to the meeting tonight. Larry from PGGS and SGGS, and Nathaniel, a new member, joined for the first time. There were 38 plus people at the meeting, the most in a long time.

List of Minerals President Guzman noted that as of May 2023, the RRUFF Project lists 5,956 approved minerals by the IMA, International Mineralogical Association. Today, Mindat.org shows 5943 approved mineral species. She could not find the latest IMA-CNMNC Master List of Minerals. She explained a little about the RRUFF project. IMA and RRUFF Project are in collaboration. According to the RRUFF Project brochure, "The RRUFF™ Project is creating a complete set of high-quality spectral data from well characterized minerals and is developing the technology to share this information with the world." RRUFF uses Raman spectroscopy, X-Ray diffraction and chemistry data for the minerals. According to their website, the University of Arizona and Caltech are associated with this project. RRUFF may stand for Raman Research Used For Fun. Dr. Rossman added that the RRUFF website is funded by mineral collector, Michael Scott who named the project after a sound made by his cat.

President's Message from Angela Guzman

- 1) Thanks again for your support with the Mojave Trails National Monument Plan. The Plan is preliminarily being crafted by the Bureau of Land Management. Upon completion of the draft, there will be a final opportunity for our voices to be heard; sometime around the fall of 2024. After that the Plan will be finalized and *once finalized, we will not be able to revisit this issue for 25 years*, according to California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS.) As information becomes available, updates will be posted in the Bulletin and on the website.

- 2) In conjunction with that, keep an eye out over this weekend for an interesting [article in the Los Angeles Times](#), thanks to Gregor Losson. By the way, Gregor was one of the first to work on this project and along the way, he worked tirelessly with other MSSC members, Friends of Mineralogy and many other societies and clubs in California and beyond!
- 3) I recently attended the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies convention and show in Lodi. Most of the convention business was routine with these highlights:
 - a. The CFMS monthly newsletter will be available on MSSC's website beginning September 2023.
 - b. CFMS is collecting cancelled stamps for Easter Seals. If you would like to start collecting and bring them to the picnic on August 26th, I will gather them and send them to CFMS.
 - c. Delvers club has an exhibit in the Cerritos Library lobby.
 - d. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) scholarships were awarded based on a submission by Marcia Goetz, who recommended Caltech's Dr. Rossman to name two students as recipients. Note: Dr. Rossman will address this later in the meeting.
 - e. For the gem and mineral show, there were 40-60 vendors and demonstrators in 3 different rooms/areas. It seemed to be successful as it was well attended. MSSC was able to man the membership table and had brochures and membership forms available.
- 4) The election of officers and directors is coming up quickly. Nominations will be called for at the October and November Membership meetings. Elections will be held at the November Meeting. It's time! We would love to welcome you to the Board.

Business

Minutes to approve: June 9, 2023, membership meeting minutes as published in the July 2023 Bulletin. President Guzman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by David L. and 2nd by George R. There were no corrections or additions and no discussion. Hearing none, the president called for a vote. The vote result was the minutes were approved..

Announcements

- 1) Field Trips: (Marek) Maybe a summer trip to Nevada Books and Minerals. No field trips, it's too hot!
- 2) Picnic: (Cheryl) Our summer picnic is coming up August 26th and will be held at Tournament Park at Caltech. Please visit our website to sign up: www.mineralsocal.org. Comments are welcome from the Ad Hoc Picnic committee. Cheryl asked all to check their email and RSVP by August 12th. David said he is very excited to meet other members in person. Rudy is having hats made by a friend, they will be sold at the picnic. There are also XL T-shirts. There will be four tables of minerals for the silent auction. There will also be raffles, games and grab bags for the kids.

Other

- 1) Angie stated that she made an error in her article on Tavorite and the Bridges family. A corrected version will appear in next month's newsletter.
- 2) Rudy talked about the upcoming OC parks event. He needs volunteers to help.
- 3) Angie said that The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies awarded their scholarships at the CFMS Banquet held in Lodi. Dr. Rossman will tell us about the recipients and their work. He will then introduce tonight's speaker.

Special Announcement and Program Announcement and introduction by Dr. George Rossman of our speaker Paolo Sanchez.

Dr. Rossman said there were two AFMS awards given out to students of mineralogy. Both are students of George at Caltech, the first is Elizabeth Hiney who is studying amphiboles and the different conditions that cause different types of amphiboles to form. The second award went to tonight's speaker Paolo Sanchez a Caltech geochemistry student who is researching the origin of lithium in California pegmatites and the origin of the blue color in our state gem benitoite. He is working on synthesizing benitoite in the lab. Tonight, he will be speaking about the search for blue lazurite in Cascade Canyon near Los Angeles California.

Paolo begins by telling the group that his most recent “run” contains tiny triangles that have the stoichiometry of benitoite. He started by giving an outline of the presentation and then went on to talk about lazurite. It is a deep blue opaque mineral. Part of the feldspathoid group of minerals (a feldspar with less silica).

The next question is why blue? And why is that important? He then reviewed some other blue minerals azurite, aurichalcite, and chalcantite which all contain copper that makes them blue. Lazurite has no copper in its chemical formula. In studying the spectra of lazurite it appears the color is caused by the sulfur present.

Next, why is blue important? Lazurite is in Lapis Lazuli a semi-precious metamorphic stone that has been used for over 6,500 years. Other minerals in lapis include hauyne, diopside, calcite, and sulfides. It is prized as an ornamental stone and is used in dyes and pigments. He showed several works of art containing lapis: including King Tut’s burial mask. Lapis pigment made the color ultramarine used famously by artists such as: Van Gogh, Vermeer, and Titian. Next, he traced the trade routes of lapis from its origin in Afghanistan to countries all over Eurasia, Africa, and Asia. The Sar-e-Sang mine is the producer of ancient Lapis, it has operated throughout history and is still a major lapis producing mine today. Other producers of lapis are Russia, Tajikistan and India in Eurasia, Chile in South America, and Canada and Colorado in North America.

He then talked about how lapis forms from skarn formations. A skarn is a metamorphic rock formed when hot fluids interact between magma and carbonate rocks. This process is called metasomatism. Lazurite forms in high magnesium skarns that are rich in sulfur. They form at about two km below Earth’s surface.

Now on to Cascade Canyon, a geological oddity. He showed a map of the geologic units that form the canyon. Areas of carbonate rocks are intruded upon by granites thus forming lazurite (lapis) skarn deposits. The lapis occurs in the San Antonio metasediments.

The canyon is also known for the presence of corundum (rubies). They can be over 3cm in size and fluoresce bright red under ultraviolet light. They are not gem quality.

Back to the canyon. It is about one mile long and the climb to get to lapis in situ is very steep, approximately 2500ft. climb! Paolo and friends made their first attempt to find lapis in the canyon in 2016 and on a later trip in 2020. He found a tiny blue pebble along the trail and some corundum.

He made more trips to the canyon in 2022-23. They walked up from the mouth of the canyon during the time we had heavy rains. A lot of lapis was being moved and washed down to the lower canyon.

During another trip to the lower canyon, the car they were in broke down and they had to call a tow truck. They decided to run down to the mouth of the canyon while awaiting the tow truck. They found a nice large chunk of lapis that was dubbed the “Transmission Piece”.

After searching the lower canyon, Paolo decided he needed to go to the source of the lapis, the [Big Horn Mine](#). He read a paper on the mine written by MSSC member Bob Housley. The first reports of lapis in the area (San Antonio Canyon) were described in 1867. The mine operated from 1938-1960 and was called the Cascade Canyon Gem Company. Today the mine is not claimed and is barely visible as a small excavation on the side of a steep mini canyon. Most material is found after being washed down by rain.

The hike up was filled with obstacles: giant boulders, steep hills, brush, and poison oak to name a few. At the actual mine a tree was leaning precariously over the opening. They searched below the mine and found lots of lapis in sizes from boulders to hand sized. The lapis is not dark blue like the pieces from Afghanistan, it is more like a blue stain on the rock. Paolo cut and polished some of the pieces for jewelry. He saw some pieces cut by a member of the Culver city club that were deep blue. The man had cut the rocks parallel along a blue vein in the rock.

Paolo is presently studying the chemical composition of the lapis.

All this collecting and research has generated more questions to be answered:

1. How does the Cascade canyon lapis compare with the other deposits around the world such as those in Afghanistan and Chile?
2. Are there any geological/geochemical relations with the nearby ruby deposits?

3. When did the formation of the skarn occur?
4. Is there any relationship with the non-magnesian skarns in southern California?

Future approaches to answer these questions include:

1. Whole rock and trace analysis of lapis.
2. Comparison with the ruby rich rock.
3. Finding minerals such as apatite to help date the rocks accurately.
4. Field work to understand the geologic relationships of the deposits to the surrounding area.

A lively Q & A followed the presentation.

Last Words

- 1) The next membership meeting will be Friday, August 11, 2023. Guests and members are asked to contact Rudy Lopez to be put on the ZOOM invite list.
- 2) The picnic will be at Tournament Park on the Caltech campus on Saturday, August 26, 2023.

Adjournment The president adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.

Submitted by Leslie Ogg, MSSC Secretary

List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
Meeting Dates:	ZOOM September 8, 2023	Nathalie Brandes: "New Mexico Rocks, A Guide to Geologic Sites in the Land of Enchantment".
	ZOOM October 13, 2023	Virgil Lueth TBA
	ZOOM November 10, 2023	Scott Braley: "Herkimer Diamonds and Collecting Radioactive Minerals"
	ZOOM December 8, 2023	Evan Jones: Wulfenite
MSSC Picnic	August 26, 2023	12-4:00 PM in the Tournament Park in the Caltech campus
Board Meeting	ZOOM October 1, 2023	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
Field Trip	Sunday, August 6, 2023	Special group trip to Nevada Mineral And Book Shop, Tustin CA

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

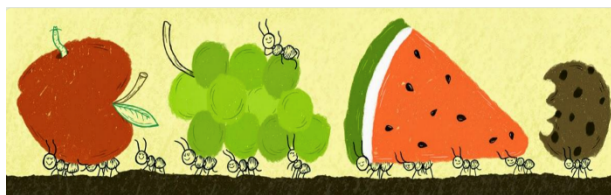
The Ride Share Listing is being temporarily discontinued until such time as MSSC starts holding in-person meetings again.

Don't miss out RSVP by Aug 12, 2023 for MSSC Picnic 2023

Date: Saturday- August 26, 2023

Time: 12:00 noon-4:00 pm

Location: Tournament Park on the campus of CALTECH.
1200 E. California Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91125



Now it is time to sign up for the MSSC Picnic, even if you indicated previously before in an email you would attend. You must complete the RSVP and then select and sign up for the food item you will bring. Use this link to RSVP/potluck sign-ups: <https://mineralsocal.org/sheet/mssc-picnic-2023/> . If you are a guest, you do not have to sign up to bring food (you can if you want).

Directions: Park & Parking To reach Tournament Park (see ←) you can insert the name “Children’s Center at Caltech” in Google Map, and you will be directed to the parking lot 6 (see picture). There is also a small parking lot inside Tournament Park off S Wilson Ave.

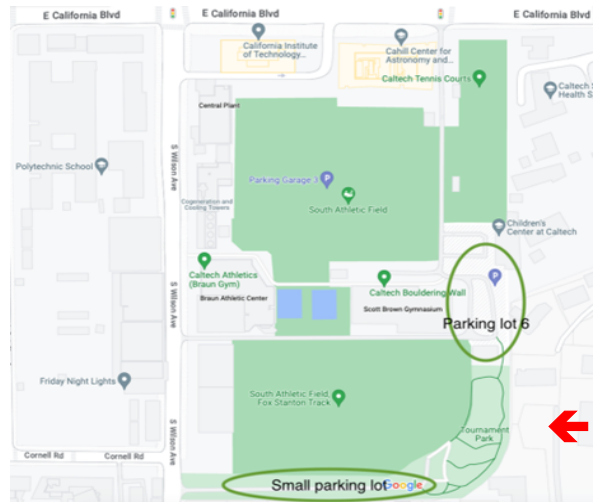
Questions: contact any of the MSSC Picnic Committee:

David Lesperance:

dlesperance@signalgeoscience.com,

Simona Cianciulli- simonacian@gmail.com

Cheryl & Rudy Lopez: rlopez002@verizon.net



MSSC Hats!

These past few years have been difficult for many societies and clubs and ours being no exception. Without in-person meetings, our Installation Banquets with Silent Auction and our annual Pot Luck Picnics with Silent Auction, we have missed opportunities to be with each other in person, tell our stories, pass around our Show and Tell treasures, and reap financial benefit through those popular Silent Auctions sales.

The pandemic is over and we are moving forward with our first official in-person event. Our Pot Luck Picnic will take place in a few weeks, on August 26, 2023. Rudy Lopez has been working to get MSSC hats on time for our Picnic.

Job done! We have 3 dozen hats in hand. The finished product is \$9.05 per hat, significantly lower than any other vendor. MSSC's fundraising sale price will be \$25.00 per hat. Shipping is not included. The cost to ship a hat works out to \$7.00, including shipping box and postage.



With Knowledge Comes Appreciation !

Upcoming Fieldtrip: Special group trip to Nevada Mineral And Book Shop, Tustin CA

Hi, fieldtrip friends!

Can you feel the heat seeping through everything? Do you want to get close to more rocks and minerals and do not possess a fully functional stillsuit (book reference!) allowing you to hunt rocks on the dunes at 120°F? Then this fieldtrip is for you! Minerals, rocks, rare maps, and books await in a cool place!

Let's gather in Orange County on Sunday, August 6 at 10:00 AM for a summer indoor fieldtrip to Walt Lombardo's mineral and book store. The address is 342 S. Tustin St., Orange, 46 miles from Pasadena. It's located in a small shopping mall, just N of CA-22 and just W of CA-55. The Google Maps link is here: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/342+S+Tustin+St,+Orange,+CA+92866>

The store is closed to the public on Sundays, but Walt will open it up just for us. We will hear his exciting mining stories and browse his extensive inventory, including specimens collected while working for a borax mining company in Death Valley. No new material will ever come out of that place. Here is more info about Walt: <https://www.minbooks.net/about>

The weather forecast shows 111°F for Baker but chilly 85°F for Orange, no rain, possibly marine layer. No 4x4 cars will be necessary unless there is a pile-up or post-apocalyptic debris on I-5, a.k.a. Damnation Valley. Be prepared for cold weather, mud, wet bushes, and steep slopes. Just kidding!!!

Hope to see you all there!
Marek Chorazewicz

MSSC Board Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2023

- A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the chair, President Guzman at 1:06 p.m.
- B. Roll Call: Secretary Leslie Ogg called the roll. The following Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs were present: Angie Guzman, Cheryl Lopez, Carolyn Seitz, Leslie Ogg, George Rossman, Pat Caplette, David Lesperance, Patrick Stevens, Rudy Lopez, Marek Chorazewicz, Bob Housley. There was a quorum of voting members.
- C. Welcome Guest(s); self-introduction(s): no guests present.
- D. Business –
 - 1. Angie Guzman called for approval of the May 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve was made by David Lesperance and seconded by Leslie Ogg. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes were approved.
 - 2. MTNM – Angie thanked everyone for their support. She had no updates on the scoping process. We will be able to comment on the plan again in 2024.
 - 3. Special Report by Picnic Ad Hoc Committee – Discussion and possible Action Item(s). Ad Hoc Committee members: Rudy Lopez, Cheryl Lopez, Simona Cianciulli and David Lesperance. Cheryl reported that there were only 12 responses so far, she will send another email reminder and will also remind people at the July 14 and August 11 meetings. Deadline for picnic RSVP is August 12. Angie mentioned that there was no place on the form for side dishes, Leslie will update the form. Rudy said we have a few T-shirts to sell. There was discussion about hats that Rudy’s friend will embroider. They will be blue hats with the MSSC logo, and initials on the front. David suggested that the picnic information and links to the forms be more prominent on the website, Leslie will fix.
 - 4. Status on records and storage of MSSC papers. Nothing has been done yet. Marek will bring some records to the picnic for David to go through.
- E. New Business – Angie Guzman
 - 1. Discussion: Policy for mineral collection donations to MSSC. How, who, reporting, committee. A recent request to sell or donate minerals to the society generated a lively discussion. It was decided that Leslie will still forward requests to the info@minersocal.org address to the board. Rudy will continue to manage the donations and will be assisted by David L. and Bert V., with other members recruited as necessary. There is still a link on the website for donations, it will be updated to be more specific.
 - 2. Announcement and possible discussion: Programs Chair position – After 14 years, Rudy Lopez will resign at the end of the year, 2023. Carolyn Seitz volunteered to take over as programs chair. Rudy will still conduct educational outreach events.
 - 3. Offer Kristalle free ad for remainder of year as invitation for other dealers to buy ads. No real discussion on this item. *Sec. Note: Kristalle does not currently have an ad in the bulletin.*
 - 4. Elections are right around the corner – please consider continuing in your position or recruiting someone for the Board. Nominations will take place at the October and November meetings, with voting to occur at the November membership meeting.
- F. Officer Reports
 - 1. Cheryl Lopez - Vice President Lopez asked for volunteers to be Zoom hosts. Carolyn and Pat S. volunteered, other possibilities are George R. and Simona C.
 - 2. Carolyn Seitz - Treasurer [Financial Report(s)] Current financial report was sent to all board members. The club balance is up this year by a few thousand dollars. Angie said she would be submitting her expenses for travel to the CFMS show to Carolyn for reimbursement.

3. Leslie Ogg – Secretary asked if the minutes were too long. All present agreed that more detailed is better.
4. Angie Guzman – CFMS Convention and Show Report (Lodi) Angie gave a summary of the highlights.
 - a. All members should get a link to the CFMS newsletter. Maybe add a link to the website or email the link.
 - b. There was discussion on the Mojave Trails National Monument scoping process. People at the meeting did not have the email or USPS information for submitting comments! Angie provided same.
 - c. An AFMS Scholarship was awarded to George Rossman. He has used it to grant two scholarships to his students at Caltech. One goes to Paolo Sanchez who is trying to synthesize benitoite to determine where it gets its blue color, the second goes to Elizabeth Hiney who is working on amphibole synthesis to understand the formation conditions of different types of amphiboles. Rudy suggested that George acknowledge Paolo for the scholarship at the July membership meeting, as Paolo is the guest speaker.
 - d. Angie also nominated George for a CFMS scholarship. Unfortunately, the paperwork was lost by the committee. Angie will resubmit, but no award will be made until June 2024.
 - e. There was a reminder at the meeting to file tax numbers to maintain non-profit status. Carolyn stated that the MSSC paperwork has already been filed.
 - f. They (AFMS) are collecting cancelled stamps for Easter Seals; you can send stamps to Angie who will forward to CFMS.
 - g. Angie said that the table she manned for recruitment of new members was in a poor location, few potential members, if any, found her. She did leave brochures providing information about the club.

G. Director Reports/Comments

1. Pat Caplette-no comment
2. Ahni Dodge-not present
3. Simona Cianciulli- not present
4. David Lesperance-said he will write a summary of the recent mineral donation to the society for the bulletin.
5. Patrick Stevens-asked if there was any plan for a banquet. Rudy said the picnic is kind of a dry run for the banquet. Pat also asked if there would be mineral sales at the picnic, Rudy said there would be sales.

H. Committee Reports/Comments

1. Linda Elsnau - Bulletin Editor needs more stamps for mailed bulletins (~\$87 for next year)
2. Marek Chorazewicz – Field Trips-Marek visited Nevada Books and Minerals, scouting for a potential field trip. He left with a few old books.
3. Cheryl Lopez – Membership-we currently have 106 members, one new family joined.
4. PMC –Bob Housley said nothing will happen regarding the next conference until November.
5. Programs & Education – Rudy Lopez said the OC parks event will be on October 14, 2023. We will have minerals to hand out to all kids. He also needs flyers.
6. Webmaster – Leslie Ogg had no report for this month due to problems with Google Analytics. Simona was not present to report on Instagram or Facebook.

I. Other: Updates, late reports, corrections: Angie said there was a typo and wrong information in her Tsavorite report in the July Bulletin. She will be publishing corrections in the August Bulletin.

J. Next Board Meeting: October 1, 2023, at 1:00 pm

K. Adjournment by the Chair: the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Submitted by Leslie Ogg, MSSC Secretary

Call to Action from Angie Guzman

I received a **Call-to-Action** message from John Martin, (johnmartin@amlands.org) by way of MSSC member Marcia Goetz. The notice is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and it asks for Public Comment by

August 11, 2023 regarding: "Advanced Greenhouse Gas Measurement and Monitoring for the Agriculture and Forest Sector". Please post the notice (below) in the August 2023 Bulletin and on MSSC's website along with the following comment from CFMS's Public Lands Chair John Martin:

"Greetings Recreational Rockhounds and Friends,

This action could have an adverse effect on Recreational Rockhounding across the country. It could eliminate your Campfires while collecting. It could outlaw the use of fossil fuel Generators. It could even make fossil fuel cars, trucks and RVs not permitted to travel to or be used in or at collecting sites. Read the announcement and make up your own mind and respond accordingly if you care."

John Martin is, and has been, the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) Public Lands Chair. He is also associated with American Lands Access Association (ALAA) and it's webmaster.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Special Editor's insert:

I received the following from the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society today. This seem important enough to share with all of our membership. Linda

Rockhounding: Front page LA Times, above the fold

Louis Sahagun's feature story on the potential demise of rockhounding in Mojave Trails National Monument appears in the eNewspaper and print editions of today's Los Angeles Times (7/29/23). Sahagun's story points out that should BLM decide to re-define casual collecting as mining in Mojave Trails, it will provide the predicate for equating casual collecting to mining on federally managed lands throughout the U.S. It very well may result in rewriting existing rules on casual collecting and effacing a tradition the federal government itself nurtured and helped develop nearly 100 years ago.

Casual collecting, or rockhounding, is a recreational activity in the United States that dates back to the early 20th century. In the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the U.S. Bureau of Mines actively encouraged the hobby. The campaign proved wildly successful. Gem mineral societies like SDMG proliferated all over the country.

In Southern California, it spawned generations of mineral enthusiasts who ventured into the dramatic desert landscape to explore its unique geology and thrill at discovering first hand its beautiful and varied minerals. Early life experiences that included going on field trips turned many young people into avid hobbyists. For others, it provided the catalyst that set them on career paths in the earth sciences including geology and mineralogy and also conservation.

The long tradition of casual collecting on BLM-managed lands may come to an end soon.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun work on drafting a monument management plan for Mojave Trails that will define permissible activities going forward. It appears that BLM is contemplating re-defining casual collecting as mining, despite previously having defined it as a low-impact recreational activity. Accommodation of casual collecting and rules for it are enshrined under authority of several federal laws (1976-2022, grouped under Title 43 CFR sec. 8365.1-5; 49.1; 49.810). The largest land use

Los Angeles Times

8:46 AM DESKTOP/DAVID HUGHES 11/2023 SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023 latimes.com

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK My search of hell on Earth for a story haunts me

BY HEAVY SMITH As I led to Miami, I thought I knew hell. In the morning before school, the windows of my garage house would be fogged with humidity. If the temperature of South Florida were 100 degrees, it may be 110.



GREGOR LOSSON, an advocate for rock and mineral collectors, searches for specimens in the Chely Mountains in Mojave Trails National Monument, where the removal of rocks may soon be prohibited.

Rockhounds fight for access to their jewel in the desert

BLM considering a move to declare rock collecting a form of mining

By Louis Sahagun

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Bureau of Land Management is considering a move to declare rock collecting a form of mining in the Mojave Trails National Monument, where the removal of rocks may soon be prohibited.



LOSSON and Linda Cotto of the nonprofit conservation group, CAWild examine a rock. "This place is as good as a gem," he said.

Summer brings a rise in COVID cases

It's too early to tell whether this is a significant health concern, experts say.

Summer has brought an uptick in COVID-19 cases, but experts say it is still too early to tell whether the uptick represents a significant health concern.

The U.S. recorded a 10% increase in new COVID-19 hospital admissions for the week that ended July 23, compared with the previous week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hospitalizations are rising fastest in the South, Great Plains and Rocky Mountain states, CDC says.

plan amendment in California state history known as the **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan** (DRECP/2016) gave rockhounds continued access to all the collecting areas they asked for in Southern California's deserts including in Mojave Trails.

High public interest like that shown for **DRECP** may influence BLM's decision on Mojave Trails. At 1.6 million acres, it is the third largest land-based national monument in the lower 48 states. It is also Southern California's crown jewel of hobby collecting areas. If you care about the adverse precedent BLM could set in California and extend as a standard applicable to public lands nationwide, click and share the Time's article (<https://bit.ly/mtnmlat0729>) and drop a note to the LA Times editor at: <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/submit-letter-to-the-editor>.

The message is simple; we're not asking BLM to create new rules.

Hobbyists are asking BLM to write into the monument management plan its multiple-use mandate based on its own rules for casual collecting under authority of existing laws and DRECP.

OTHER FREE THINGS TO DO...by Ann Meister

The **Watson Lecture Series at Caltech is on hiatus until the Fall semester**. Stay tuned until October! Find past Watson Lectures on [Caltech's YouTube channel](#).

The **Von Kármán Lecture** information for August is not available yet. See [Lecture Series \(nasa.gov\)](#) for program information. You can view past presentations of the livestream on YouTube at [NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory - YouTube](#).

The **UCLA Meteorite Gallery** is open. Check the website for hours. "The lecture originally scheduled for July will be postponed and given that the Meteoritical Society will be meeting at UCLA in August, we have decided to hold off on the public lecture series until September. We will resume with the zoom lectures on the 3rd Sunday of September."

Calendar of Events:

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

August 4, 5 & 6, 2023 – Nipomo, CA
Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave.,
Nipomo, CA 93444
Hours: Aug 4 & 5: 10 AM/5 PM, Aug 6: 10 AM/4 PM
Free Admission and Free Parking
Website: <http://www.omsinc.org>

September 16-17, 2023 – San Luis Obispo, CA
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
San Luis Obispo Veteran's Memorial Building, 801
Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.
Admission: \$5, Children 12 and under Free. Free
parking.
Website: <http://slogem.org>

August 19-20, 2023 – Tehachapi, CA
Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
500 East "F" Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM. Free admission.
Website: <https://www.tvgms.rocks>

October 7-8, 2023 – Signal Hill, CA
Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society
Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill,
CA 90755
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM = 4 PM
Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

August 26-27, 2023 – Arcadia, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia
CA 91007
Hours: Saturday 10 AM/5 PM, Sunday 10 AM/4 PM
Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

October 8, 2023 – Fallbrook, CA
 Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
 123 W. Alvarado St. (show on street a& in parking lot), Fallbrook CA 92028
 Hours: 9 AM – 4 PM
 Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

October 28-29, 2023 – San Diego, CA
 San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
 Liberty Station Conference Center/Point Loma Nazerene University,
 2660 Lanir, San Diego, CA 92106
 Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
 Website: <http://SDMG.org>

October 21, 2023 – West Hills, CA
 Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
 First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307
 Twenty Fourth Annual Gem Show
 Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM
 Website: www.rockchippers.org

October 28-29, 2023 – Orange, CA
 American Opal Society
 Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868
 Hours: Sat 10 AM – 6 PM, Sun 10 AM- 5 PM
 Website: <http://opalsociety.org>

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	
<p>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 13781 Alderwood Lane, #22-J, Seal Beach, CA 90740</p>			

Mineralogical Vocabulary

When a mineral specimen consists of isolated, distinct crystals, it can be described as:

Descriptions are as defined in Manual of Mineralogy, 15th edition, by: Dana & Hurlbut; published in 1941.



irocks.com photo

Acicular

Slender needlelike crystals

Millerite : NiS

Locality: [Monteacuto Ragazza, Grizzana Morandi, Bologna Province, Emilia-Romagna, Italy](#)

4.8 x 1.5 x 1.1 cm



irocks.com photo

Capillary, Filiform

Hairlike or threadlike crystals

Millerite : NiS

Locality: [Monteacuto Ragazza, Grizzana Morandi, Bologna Province, Emilia-Romagna, Italy](#)

3.4 x 2.8 x 2.4 cm

2023 MSSC Officers:

OFFICERS		
President	Angie Guzman	president@mineralsocal.org
Vice President	Cheryl Lopez	vicepresident@mineralsocal.org
Secretary	Leslie Ogg	secretary@mineralsocal.org
Treasurer	Carolyn Seitz	treasurer@mineralsocal.org
CFMS Director	Angie Guzman	
Past President	George Rossman	
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2023--2024	Simona Cianciulli	
2023--2024	David Lesperance	
2023--2024	Pat Stevens	
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Field Trip	Marek Chorazewicz	
Historian	Ann Meister	
Hospitality	Laura Davis	
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Micro Mount Conf. Chairman	Al Wilkins	
Program and Education	Rudy Lopez	programs@mineralsocal.org
Webmaster	Leslie Ogg	webmaster@mineralsocal.org

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. We are a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports those endeavors through public outreach, field study and related programs. 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. However, due to current health considerations, MSSC meetings are held via ZOOM conferencing until further notice. 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 Fallbrook Mineral Museum during the last weekend of January.

Annual Membership dues for the MSSC are \$30.00 for an individual membership, \$40.00 for a family membership. Bulletins are delivered by email, there is an additional annual fee if you prefer paper bulletins mailed to your address. The Society's contact information:

Mineralogical Society of Southern California

13781 Alderwood Lane, #22-J, Seal Beach, CA 90740

E-mail: treasurer@mineralsocal.org

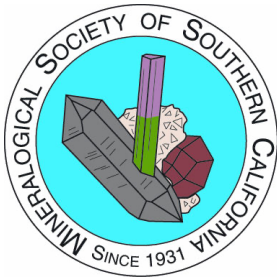
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To:



**With Knowledge Comes
Appreciation**



circular

**Your MSSC
Bulletin Is
Here!**