

Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 97 Number 2 –February, 2024

The 1,022nd meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

Note: Special Date

A ZOOM Meeting

February 16, 2024 at 7:30 P.M.

Program: “Brazil Through My Lens”

Presented by Jeff Scovil

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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: “Brazil Through My Lens” : Presented by: Jeff Scovil

In 2007 I flew to Sao Paolo, Brazil and spent several days photographing for top collector Julio Landmann. After I finished there, I flew to Belo Horizonte and met dealer/collector Luiz Menezes. We then drove to Governador Valadares in the heart of pegmatite country where we visited several pegmatite mines. We went underground in several of them and bought minerals from several of the miners and local dealers. It was a wonderful trip and a dream come true. I am happy to share the experience of Brazil from my lens.

Jeff Scovil has been a professional photographer of minerals and other earth science materials for 32 years and is the acknowledged, worldwide leader in the field. In 1996 he published Photographing Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Materials by Geoscience Press. He travels the world taking photos for collectors, dealers, museums and publishers and lectures widely on his travels as well as photography and mineralogy.

Jeff’s work has been published in numerous books on mineralogy as well as books on geology, chemistry and physics. He works with most of the mineral magazines in the United States as well as Europe. His photos have been featured on 13 of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show posters as well as posters for shows in Denver, Germany, France and Pakistan.

For over 30 years Jeff has run both the Mineral Photography Seminar and Mineral Photography competition at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. He won the 2007 Carnegie Mineralogical Award.

How to Join our ZOOM Meetings

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, Carolyn Seitz 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.

Here we are at February again. If you haven’t renewed your MSSC Membership yet, you have until February 15th to get it done to be included in the MSSC Roster and continue receiving the MSSC Bulletin.

We have another excellent program scheduled for this month so don’t miss the meeting. Remember, because of the Tucson Gem & Mineral show, our meeting has been moved to the 3rd Friday this month. We will go back to the 2nd Friday again in March.

Now, I’ll put in my occasional request for articles from our membership. Everyone enjoys getting to know the other MSSC Members better and one way to do that is to put a small article in the Bulletin. Tell us what you like best about the mineral hobby, how you got interested in minerals or send a picture of your favorite specimen and tell us why it’s your favorite. Have you been on any interesting field trips or visited an interesting mineral museum lately? Tell us about it. Contact me if you need and help with whatever you would like to submit.

From Our President, Angie Guzman (Photos by A. Guzman: Emerald, Garnet and Gold)

Southern California’s deserts, mountains and beaches are renowned for their beauty and yet are sometimes often taken for granted for they house gem and mineral treasures explored by collectors of all ages. If you’re willing to brave the sun, sand, wind and whatever Mother Nature has to offer, this is a fabulous region to hunt for and collect some very rare minerals and stones. Of course, you must know where to look.

Here's a brief look at where you can find some of these treasures.

BERYL can be found in pegmatites, in fact, it is one of the base constituents of pegmatites. It is not rare and can be found in igneous rocks. The pale rose-colored beryl called morganite was first discovered in Southern California. It was named for banker J P Morgan. Southern California does not have an expanse of different varieties but it is a source of gem-quality morganite. Morganite, it is also found in other localities namely Brazil, Madagascar, Elba (Italy), Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and most recently, Pakistan. Finding locations with a consistent coloration that are gem-quality *is* rare. Beryl is one of the larger families of gemstones containing such minerals as emerald (greens), aquamarine (blues) and heliodor (yellows) in addition to morganite.

In the Julian Mining District, 60 miles east of San Diego, a new beryl emerald deposit was discovered in 2020. The area is known for pegmatite mines and hydrothermal mineral deposits. An emerald specimen was sent to LA County Museum of Natural History, Gem and Mineral Hall for tests and then to GIA for additional testing. It was found that the tests identified beryl *and* quartz. These emeralds were found on the surface, they were embedded in biotite schist host rock. Interestingly, the emerald (beryl) is cross cut by a layer of citrine (quartz). The deposit is a geologic complexity and was still under investigative research to determine its history.

Emeralds get their color from trace amounts of chromium or sometimes vanadium.

The beryl crystal structure is hexagonal, on the Mohs scale it has a hardness of 7.5 and its composition is a beryllium aluminum silicate. Beryl, as with tourmaline (see below), can be found in the pegmatites in northeast San Diego County in Southern California.



TOURMALINE is a wonderful gemstone that has deep colors of rubellite (pink), indicolite (blue), color-zoned watermelon, deep black (schorl) and others. As mentioned above, the inland area of San Diego County hosts pegmatites that contain some of the *best tourmalines in the world*, along with some of the rarest varieties (rubellite and indicolite).

In most cases, tourmaline is deep black in color. Schorl, as it is called, is by far the most common type, making up 90-95% of tourmaline found in nature. Tourmaline also exists in amazing colors that range from earth tones to deep saturation that compete with the best of emeralds and rubies.

Large-grained stones, pegmatites, have crystals ranging in size from a few centimeters to over a foot in length. These are common hosts for tourmaline. Careful separation of the large grains reveals the tourmaline crystals. The range of colors for the northeast San Diego County tourmalines cross the spectrum with pink rubellite being very common.

Tourmaline is a complicated silicate; on Mohs the hardness is 7-7 ½ and the crystal is trigonal. There are 7 distinct species that make up the tourmaline group: elbaite (multi-hued), schorl (black), Fluor-Buergerite *and* dravite (brown), rubellite (pink), chromian-dravite (green) and uvite (black, brown, yellowy-green). The watermelon tourmaline crystals are often pink on one end and green at the other end, and may be of considerable size. Tourmaline may be found with beryl, quartz, zircon and feldspar, among others.

In the US, other minerals like raspberry pink-red and minty green tourmaline can be found in Maine. San Diego County of California is home to most of the tourmaline species. They are so coveted that between 1861 and 1908, the Empress Dowager Cixi of China purchased huge quantities of her beloved pink tourmaline that she had carvings made from. She bought tourmaline from the Himalaya Mine (in north San Diego County). The Himalaya Mine continues to be operational today!

In other parts of the world, Africa has many nations rich in gems and minerals and tourmaline with chrome can be found in Tanzania and with copper in Nigeria. Other varieties are from Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Malawi and Namibia. In Asia, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Afghanistan tourmaline is also mined. One of the largest producers of gem and specimen tourmaline is Brazil.

GARNET is a fascinating gem found in Southern California. It actually describes a large group of different minerals with different colors – most commonly the iron-aluminum almandine garnets (red). SoCal also has gem-grade manganese-aluminum spessartine (orange-yellow, violet-red, blue-green to purple) and the calcium-aluminum grossular (green) garnets. There are other varieties, of course.



Garnet is found in metamorphic marble. Much of it ends up being broken and used as abrasives. The mineral breaks in a way that always leaves it sharp, which is ideal as an abrasive. However, gem-grade spessartine garnets are used for jewelry. These are a deep orange color and have good clarity. A lot of garnets pulled from areas in the region are of different types and grades.

GOLD (Au) has a huge and rich history in all of California: The Gold Rush of the Sierra Nevada region, as an example. SoCal is nothing to sneeze at. Many people come to “our neck of the woods” to try their hand at finding gold in dry banks or wet rivers.

Gold does not oxidize, it is dense, soft and malleable, ductile and opaque. Gold’s pretty cubic crystals are distinctive but rare to find. Gold is usually found as flakes, nuggets or dendritic masses. Gold has a metallic luster, it’s a Native Element, has a Mohs of 2-1/2 to 3 (a real softie), with no cleavage, BUT it has a specific gravity (SG) of a whopping 19.3! (Tungsten SG 19.25 and lead SG of 11.34.)



Gold normally forms in hydrothermal vents often associated with quartz and sulfides, in placer deposits (sands) and in sandstone and conglomerates. Also, alluvial gold can be found in stream beds as grains and/or nuggets. Panning is a tried-and-true method for finding it in these forms. Miners and panners are always on the lookout for pyrite and chalcopyrite, “fool’s gold” - a poor imitation for the real deal!

Gold has been around for a very long time; records show gold being used as early as 4600 B.C. in Bulgaria. Down through the ages, gold has been an influence in cultures, religion, medicine, monetary use, electronics and even culinary. It has been found in most countries of the world, as of 2020, China, Russia and Australia are the largest producers, respectively.

In Southern California, *the* go-to place *was* the San Gabriel River and associated waterways for finding gold either by sluice, pan or dredge. However, most of that access has been terminated due to the designation of the San Gabriel Mountains as a National Monument, from which any extraction is prohibited by law. People still go out to the SoCal deserts to look for gold, known for large deposits of placer gold, for gold bearing quartz veins. Another place to pan for gold is Julian east of San Diego.

GEODES are hollow rock formations that contain crystals. The deserts of SoCal offer some of the best places to find geodes. Usually, the crystals are quartz – clear quartz being the most common. Occasionally, thunder eggs or thundereggs, can also be found when searching for geodes. Thunder eggs are solid, not hollow, chalcedony. They may be a bit harder to find since they are harder to distinguish because they don’t “ring” hollow.

Geodes come in several varieties of quartz: clear quartz, smoky and amethyst quartz. There are also geodes with banding of agate, chalcedony or jasper or they contain calcite, dolomite or celestite crystals. Look for areas where past volcanic activity has occurred and where the ash is easy to dig. A good example is at Hauser Geode Beds located out in the Mojave Desert near Wiley’s Well Road (close to Blythe, CA).

Other locations where geodes are abundant are in the Midwest of the US, Brazil, Uruguay, Namibia, Mexico and England.

The thing about geodes is you never know what you’re going to get so when you crack it open it’s always a surprise gift from Nature!

Other minerals SoCal has to offer are **Fire Agate, Gypsum, Jasper, Topaz, Chalcedony, Barite, Citrine and much, much more.** Are you ready to get started? Grab your gear, let's go...

END

MINUTES of the January 12, 2024 ZOOM Meeting

Welcome President Guzman welcomed 30 attendees to our first membership meeting of 2024; she called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. She said “we accept suggestions and comments on ways to help grow our membership, how we can better serve you and what we all can do to secure our legacy as the oldest mineral society west of the Mississippi. To our members and guests, this is the 1,021st Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California and it is our 44th ZOOM meeting”.

List of Minerals: As of January 2024, according to the GIA Library’s Senior Librarian, A. Pritchett, there are 6006 valid mineral species.

President’s Message - Board Meeting of 1/7/24 recap

1. President Guzman appointed Carolyn S. as Speakers Bureau Chairperson, in charge of speakers effective 2/1/24.
2. MSSC’s 2024 Picnic and Silent Auction are tentatively scheduled for August 24, 2024, at Caltech Technology Park.
3. The board discussed building the MSSC membership – especially among young mineral collectors.
4. A motion was approved to donate \$500 annually to Mindat.
5. The PMC is in Fallbrook on 1/26-1/28/24, including a Sunday field trip.
6. The president polled the membership on changing the February membership meeting: from the third Friday to the second Friday of the month, to start in February 2025. The poll result was in favor of the change.

Business:

Minutes to approve: Angie asked for a motion to approve the December 8, 2023, membership meeting minutes as published in the January 2024 Bulletin. The motion to approve the minutes was made by George R. and seconded by Tony K. She asked for any additions, corrections, or discussion. Hearing none she called for the vote to approve the motion. The motion to approve the December 8, 2023, membership minutes carried.

Announcements and Reports

1. Field Trip (Marek C.) The Crystal Peak/Haystack trip in early December was attended by 10 people. They collected milky quartz, copper, amazonite, and aquamarine. The next trip will be January 20 to the Big Bertha Mine near Quartzite Arizona to look for specular bladed hematite and zunyite. For the PMC field trip Marek will poll the attendees; the trip always starts from Barstow.
2. Installation Banquet (Rudy L.) Rudy said any place we go to will want a commitment of at least 35 attendees. Rudy is still looking for a venue. Nothing is set yet.
3. Membership Dues- Angie reminded all present that the 2024 dues are now due. Send a check to Carolyn or pay online through PayPal.

Program: President Guzman turned the meeting over to Program Chair Rudy L., who introduced tonight’s speaker, Denise Nelson; presenting “An Appraiser’s Story, from the Alps to Pasadena...and what happened in between.” Denise was the first speaker Rudy booked for the club 14 years ago, and she is his last speaker. Nice bookends.

Denise began by talking about her childhood in Austria. When she was a little girl, she wanted to see the world; she was looking for rocks and gems everywhere. Decades later she traveled to many countries looking for gemstones.

She and her husband Dennis traveled to Namibia with Dr. Tony Kampf. They went to the *forbidden zone* an area in coastal Namibia where diamonds are dredged from the ocean floor. Namibia was a German colony and German engineers built the railroads. In 1907, a railroad engineer found a diamond and set off a diamond

mining rush. They also traveled to the Kimberly region of South Africa and toured the Premiere Mine, over 700m deep! The diamonds in Namibia are from Oranje River whose mouth flows into the ocean in Namibia. The alluvial diamonds are carried by the river to the ocean floor. No rough diamonds can be taken out of the African countries. They are sent to be cut and polished and then routed through London.

Next stop, the Jequitinhonha River in Brazil, another source of alluvial diamonds. They probably formed before South America and Africa were split by the mid-Atlantic ridge. The people showed her diamonds and gold that were “locally sourced,” as it turns out, some of the diamonds were actually from Africa. She was actually looking for, and bought, natural citrines which she used in a necklace, along with faceted pearls. It was for a Brazilian who worked at the Washington D.C. Embassy. She also showed a large (25 carat +) indicolite tourmaline on a necklace she designed.

One of the highlights of her career was when two older ladies came to her with a pearl and emerald necklace. They wanted it turned into two necklaces as gifts for their two nieces. She had to divide the assorted sizes of emerald beads and pearls into two equal parts monetarily. And then fashion a necklace out of each half. The old ladies, now in their 90s, still contact her to thank her for the work. The nieces are wearing their gifts.

Her most recent sold item was a large yellow 13 carat sapphire. It went to a young woman who Denise’s daughters once babysat. Due to this woman’s early exposure to gems, she wanted something unusual for her engagement ring.

Her next topic was the artists she met throughout her career. She showed a cameo carver from Italy, who you can see at Tucson. Artist Helen Serras-Herman who resides in Arizona. Her jewelry and carvings are made of local materials. The next group of artists were the “Jade People” who focus on carving jade. She suggested finding Facebook groups with people who are interested in the same gemstones and/or minerals as you.

She touched on the topic of designers and brand names. She said designing is a lot of fun, but you don’t make a lot of money. Brand names have a perceived quality and status. There is implied durability and value which is not always true. “Not every company is a Cartier.”

She did get to go to Japan to Ise Bay which is the site of the famous Mikimoto Pearl farm. Mr. Mikimoto, now deceased, perfected pearl culturing. They got to go out on the bay with a pearl farmer and observe the process. It is extremely time consuming and water temperature dependent. The pearls that were highly valued by the farmer were very golden, they were natural and unmodified. He also had bags of more whitish pearls, which are bleached and dyed slightly pink and sold on the American market.

When you are an appraiser, you always check the back of items first to look for trademarks or brand markings like the Mikimoto “M” emblem that is stamped on the jewelry clasps. The next example was a gold Italian made chain bracelet. She was uncertain of how to appraise it and got help from a friend who specialized in this type of jewelry. He set the value a lot higher than she would have because he knew it came from a region in Italy that specialized in this type of graduated, gold chain.

She then showed a piece by the designer Renee Newman who is an expert in diamonds, gems, and gold, the ring pictured was somewhat diminished by all the fuzz in the photo background. A reminder to be careful of your background when photographing jewelry or minerals.

The next two pieces were by Robert Wander (died in 2019) who used gemstones that have not been cut only shaped. One was a large orange imperial topaz set with colored diamonds.

Denise loves finding out about the history of jewelry pieces. One example was a Van Cleef and Arpels Lion pin combined with some gold and rubies from a man’s bracelet. The client was a Leo, so she set the lion into a gold pendant surrounded by emeralds and pearls. The lion pin was not changed in any way and can be removed if necessary.

In talking about minerals, she reminded us to put a note on specimens. Provenance is very important and helps an appraiser do their job.

Denise talked about organics: ivory, amber, tortoise shell, pearls, horn, fossils, etc. and the work she has done in Washington DC with Bobby Mann to help prevent antique ivory pieces from being destroyed. She said while traveling, check out the area you are visiting to find out what minerals and gemstones are common; visit museums.

She spoke about the un-appraisable Hope Diamond. It's kind of underwhelming in person because it is grayish blue. If they had included a UV light, people would see it turn red. It has been recut more than once over the years.

Finally, we ended up back in Austria where she showed a carved bouquet covered in gemstones. She saw this object in a museum as a child and that's what started her life's journey as an appraiser. What an amazing career!

A short Q&A followed.

Last Words:

- (a) The next Membership meeting Friday, February 16, 2024, will include an interesting presentation by renown gem and mineral photographer Jeff Scovil.
- (b) The Next board meeting will be Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 1pm via ZOOM.
- (c) A last reminder that **membership dues are due**.

Adjournment: The president adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Ogg, MSSC Secretary

MINUTES of the January 7, 2024 ZOOM Board Meeting

A. Message from the Chair

The meeting was called to order by President Angela Guzman at 1:05 pm. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and Epiphany.

Roll call- Officers and board members present: Angela Guzman, Carolyn Seitz, George Rossman, Marek Chorazewicz, Rudy Lopez, Bob Housely, Pat Caplette, Simona Cianciulli, David Lesperance, Leslie Ogg, Pat Stevens.

B. Business

- 1) Approval of the October 1, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes as published in the November 2023 Bulletin. Motion to approve made by: George R. and seconded by Marek C. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes were approved.
- 2) Discussion: Installation Banquet and Silent Auction: venue, cost, attendance, date(s), who will come? *(Covered later in Committee Reports f.)*

C. Reports

- 1) Treasurer's Report (Carolyn Seitz)
 - i) Financial status: The treasurer reported that we ended the year with more money in the bank than we started with. Due to a very successful Micromineral conference last January and the picnic in August.
 - ii) Tax Forms and CFMS dues payments will be handled next month.
The check for our Officers insurance has not been cashed yet, Carolyn will call and follow up with Pat McDaniel, the insurance agent.
- 2) George R. asked what are we, as a nonprofit, doing with our money? David L. suggested that we donate to the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center, they need more cases to display more minerals. Simona C. suggested we adopt a local elementary or middle school to provide materials for classrooms. Angie made a motion that we donate \$500 to Mindat, and that this will be an annual donation if the club has the funding. The motion was seconded by David and passed unanimously.
- 3) Angie asked Simona and Rudy to find out the status of minerals needed by local schools and possibly adopting a school: elementary and middle.

- 4) Secretary's Report (Leslie Ogg)
Leslie had nothing to report.
- 5) CFMS Director Report (Angie Guzman)
Report sent prior to this meeting: November 2023, Visalia.
Next CFMS/AFMS combined meeting/show May 2024 in Ventura, CA

D. Directors Remarks

- 1) Pat Caplette (2024-2025)- nothing to report.
- 2) Ahni Dodge (2024-2025)- not present
- 3) Simona Cianciulli (2023-2024) Simona said she will keep posting club events on Facebook and Instagram.
- 4) David Lesperance (2023-2024) -Said it was freezing in Quartzite today, but it looked like the weather will be nice for the field trip.
- 5) Patrick Stevens (2023-2024)- Pat talked about attending the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society Potluck and seeing lots of 15–20-year-olds. They have an active program for young members. Rudy remarked that the Fallbrook society has the same. We don't have a place for people to learn skills.

E. Committee Reports/Comments/Issues

- 1) Bulletin Editor (Linda Elsnau): Angie said that she has encouraged Linda to enter the club Bulletin into the CFMS competition. So far, Linda has declined.
- 2) Field Trip (Marek Chorazewicz): Marek reported that there were 10 people on the last trip, to Haystack and Crystal Peak in early December. They collected some quartz, amazonite, and beryl. It was cold but nice and sunny. The next trip will be on January 20th to the Big Bertha Mine near Quartzite, Arizona.
- 3) Membership (Carolyn Seitz):
 - a) Update on Renewals- Carolyn said she just sent out an email to the Board members who have yet to renew. About 20% of last year's members have not renewed. She will send a reminder email. The final cut off for being listed in the roster is February 15, 2024.
 - b) Carolyn is currently acting membership chair until the end of February. We will need a volunteer to be the next membership chair beginning March 1, 2024.
- 4) PMC (Al Wilkins, Bob Housley)
 - a) Bob said he has no updates. Al Wilkins has all of the reservations and has not communicated any information. He will try to contact Al and provide an update at the membership meeting next Friday, January 12.
 - b) David Lesperance: Donations update (from last year with Bert); David said he has gone through cataloging and photographing about three quarters of the material.
 - c) Rudy Lopez: Has 24 boxes (2012 pieces) of micros from 2020. He said we need to add some new minerals to freshen up and increase sales. Per his inventory of what was sold last year, sales have dropped. Bob stated that there was so much good, free stuff at the last PMC that the micros were hardly looked at. He said he has more micros to add to the sales table.
- 5) MOTION by Angie Guzman, Board Chair: To create new committee known as Speaker's Bureau Committee and to approve Carolyn Seitz as its Chair. The action to be effective February 1, 2024. Angie withdrew her motion and appointed Carolyn the chair of the newly formed Speakers Bureau Committee. She also thanked and commended Rudy for his 14 years of service as the program chair! Rudy will still be the Programs and Education Chair and backup Zoom host.
- 6) Programs (Rudy Lopez)- Rudy started by suggesting that we schedule our next picnic for August 17, or 24.
- 7) Banquet-nothing set yet, we must guarantee 35 attendees to set up a reservation anywhere. Rudy will check Pinocchio's again and see if they are more flexible at this less busy time of the year. Angie suggested renting a hall and catering food. MoRocks used to use a church hall in Monrovia. Pat Stevens asked if having it catered at a private home was an option and offered his house. Rudy's last speaker will be Denise Nelson. She was also his first speaker 14 years ago. Congratulations Rudy on your success in acquiring speakers over the last 14 years.

- 8) Webmaster (Leslie Ogg)- Leslie reported that web traffic to the site is down a bit from the previous quarter. She went through and fixed some broken links on the site and made some updates to increase website speed.
- 9) Past President (Dr George Rossman, Ph.D.)- George said that this year at Caltech there is only one geology major and three geochemistry majors. There is a decline worldwide in interest in geology and all the students are interested in environmental science. He is worried, as we should all be, about the long-term viability of mineral societies.

F Other Rudy Lopez

Rudy has a donation of 250 lbs. of rock to tumble for community event give aways (i.e., Nature Fest, O.C. Park event, etc.). He has the capacity and materials to polish these rocks but needs the final fine grit aluminum oxide powder. David L. made a motion for the club to purchase the grit for \$170, the motion was seconded by Bob H. The motion was approved.

G. Next Board Meeting: Sunday April 14, 2024, at 1:00pm

H. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Ogg, MSSC Secretary

**If you haven't already paid your MSSC Membership Dues, Remember,
DUES ARE DUE!**

Renewal Deadline is February 15, 2024 to be included in the MSSC Roster. And if you have not renewed, you will no longer receive your MSSC Bulletin

It's Time to Renew your MSSC Membership!

Don't miss the monthly bulletins, Zoom Meetings, or upcoming Field trips.
Send your dues to:

MSSC

13781 Alderwood Lane #22J
Seal Beach, CA 90740-3993
Or ----Use PayPal

\$30.00 INDIVIDUAL
\$40.00 Family
\$35.00 additional for USPS Delivered Bulletin

Any Questions, please contact Carolyn at treasurer@mineralsocal.org

List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
Meeting Dates:	ZOOM March 8, 2024	Jim & Gail Spann; TBA
	ZOOM April 12, 2024	Erin Delventhal & Phil Simmons; Quartz in New Mexico
	ZOOM May 10, 2024	Christopher Stefano - Editor, The Mineralogical Record: TBA
	ZOOM June 14, 2024	Les Presmyk – TBA likely on Mexico minerals
Board Meeting	ZOOM March 24, 2024	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
Field Trip	TBA	

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.

OTHER FREE THINGS TO DO...by Ann Meister

The **Watson Lecture** is on Wednesday, **February 7** at 7:30 PM at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. The speaker is Shri Kulkarni, ZTF's principal investigator and the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science, Caltech. The title is "**Illuminating the Dynamic Night Sky: Discoveries from the Zwicky Transient Facility.**" Every second, a supernova is exploding somewhere in the universe. Astronomers cannot see all of them, but the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF), a robotic camera based at Caltech's Palomar Observatory, enables scientists to capture thousands of such explosions every year, shedding new light on the volatile cosmos. In this talk, Shri Kulkarni, will discuss the history and development of ZTF, a public-private partnership aimed at the systematic exploration of the optical night sky. Using an extremely wide-field-of-view camera, ZTF scans the entire Northern sky every two days, discovering objects that erupt or vary in brightness such as supernovae, stars being swallowed by black holes, planets being engulfed by their parent stars, comets, and asteroids. Kulkarni will share some of the phenomena this cutting-edge instrument has revealed in its first years of operation and discuss how machine learning is powering an unprecedented new era of discovery at Palomar. *Find more past Watson Lectures on [Caltech's YouTube channel](#).*

The **UCLA Meteorite Gallery** is open. Check the website for hours. The monthly lecture will be presented via Zoom on Sunday, **February 18** at 2:30 PM. The speaker and the title are not yet available. To join via Zoom, click [here](#). If clicking the link does not work, please open your zoom app and enter the meeting ID: 983 0252 9304. Then click "join meeting in progress" (there is no password). If you need further instructions on how to join our meeting via Zoom, click [here](#) or contact Kevin McKeegan at mckeegan@epss.ucla.edu. This meeting is only accessible through the desktop and mobile client. Visit the website and check on events and videos and other neat things about meteorites, go to <https://meteorites.ucla.edu>

The **Von Kármán Lecture** is on Thursday, **February ??** at 7:00 PM. Available live on YouTube at [NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory - YouTube](#). Date, speaker, and topic were not available at time of publication. Check website for information and past lectures [Lecture Series \(nasa.gov\)](#).

Calendar of Events:

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

2024

March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura Co. Fairgrounds,
10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM-4PM
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 8-10, 2024 – Victorville, CA (Stoddard Wells area)

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
48th Annual Stoddard Wells Tailgate. Take I-15 toward Barstow EXIT #157 stay on Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles to Tailgate. GPS 34.671852347,-117-117133037
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM daily
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

March 17, 2024 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 West Alvarado St., Ste B, Fallbrook, CA 92028
Hours: 12 Noon – 3 PM
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

March 16-17, 2024 – Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore, CA 93245
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 6 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM

March 22-24, 2024 – Clovis, CA

Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
748 Rodeo Dr., Clovis, CA 93612
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Website: <https://fgms.rocks/>

April 6-7, 2024 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Website: <https://vistarocks.org/>

April 20-21, 2024 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park, 190 N. Reino Road,
Thousand Oaks, CA
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM

Pageant of a Thousand Gems. FREE Admission and

FREE Parking

Website: <https://cgamc.org/home>

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

MSSC Advertisement Policy:		
Mineral-related ads are allowable in the MSSC bulletin. Below is the price per month		
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Mineral Vocabulary

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

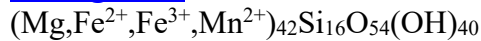


irocks.com photo

Fibrous

When the y are in slender fibrous aggregates such as in this:

Balangeroite :



Locality: [Poggio San Vittore asbestos mine, Balangero - Corio area, Lanzo Massif, Lanzo Valley, Sesia-Lanzo zone, Torino Province, Piedmont, Italy](#)

7.7 x 1.7 x 1.0 cm.



Globular

Radiating individual crystals form spherical or hemispherical groups as in the Adamite shown here:

[Adamite](#) :

$Zn_2(AsO_4)(OH)$

Locality: [Ojuela Mine, Mapimí, Mun. de Mapimí, Durango, Mexico](#)

3.4 x 2.2 x 1.7 cm.

irocks.com photo

2024 MSSC Officers:

OFFICERS		
President	Angie Guzman	president@mineralsocal.org
Vice President	Vacant: to be filled at Jan Board Meeting	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	David Lesperance	
2023--2024	Pat Stevens	
2024-2025	Pat Caplette	
2024-2025	Ahni Dodge	
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Historian	Ann Meister	
Hospitality	Laura Davis	
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Speaker Bureau	Carolyn Seitz	treasurer@mineralsocal.org
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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

Website: www.mineralsocal.org **The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.**

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

To:



**With Knowledge Comes
Appreciation**

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Here!**