Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 98 Number 3 –March 2025

The 1,036th meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

A ZOOM Meeting

March 14 , 2025, at 7:30 P.M.

Program: **"The Balmat Zinc Mine, St. Lawrence, New York"**
Presented by Chris Stefano

In this Issue:

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

Note: This will be the April Program, see the website for the March program notes.

Program*:* "The Balmat Zinc Mine, St. Lawrence, New York" Presented by Chris Stefano

The Balmat zinc mines, located in St. Lawrence County, New York, have been producing large quantities of high-grade zinc ore for over a century. Mineral specimen discoveries have been made periodically throughout that history. The deposit has produced world-class examples of calcite, sphalerite, magnetite, and most recently, anhydrite. Collectors around the world have been able to acquire exceptional specimens from recent finds which are easily the best yet. Chris Stefano will briefly describe the geology and history of this important contemporary mineral locality before guiding the audience through a selection of photos of particularly outstanding specimens.

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 speakers@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.

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From the Editor: Linda Elsnau.

Welcome to March! Looks like an interesting program at the meeting on the 14th. We can also enjoy Ash Wednesday on March 5, the start of daylight Savings Time on March 9 and St Patricks Day on March 17.

We had 31 members choose NOT to renew their membership this February. I would love to hear from them as to why they did not renew. The new roster will be out sometime during the first two weeks of March. Watch for it in your inbox.

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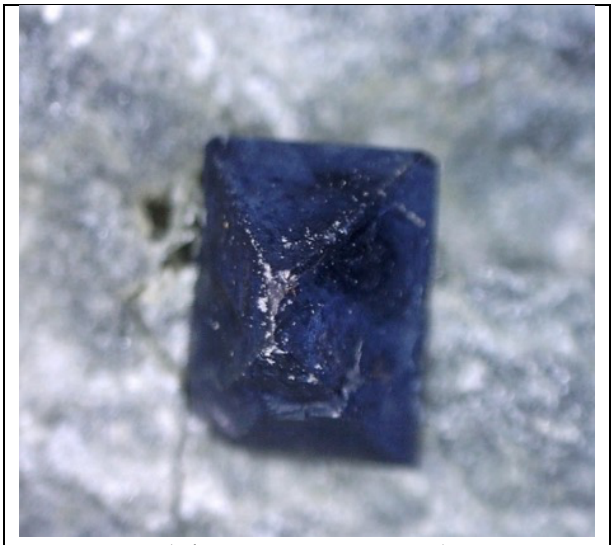
From Our President, Angie Guzman

My find – Benitoite

I had the privilege to attend the 58th Pacific Micro Mineral Conference in Fallbrook, CA January 31 and February 1, 2025. To my surprise, I found a jewel, this lovely benitoite specimen. (approximate length = 0.50 cm, width = 0.250 cm)



(Photo A. A. Guzman)

I had a great time at PMC, hope *you* can make it in 2026!

Pay-to-Dig.

San Benito County

According to https://rockchasing.com/gem-mining-in-california/ there are several places to go out and gem hunt. Among one of the top places to visit is San Benito County. The ***Benitoite Mining Company*** opened their pay-to-dig activity in 2015. The cost is $140/adult and $75/13 and younger. Reservations are required. They also have a gift shop where gems can be purchased. At the dig site, aside from benitoite, you may also find barite, garnet, quartz, sapphire and tourmaline. Benitoite Mining Company is in Coalinga, CA.

Another mine in San Benito County is the ***Aurora Mine*** at Idria Peak. Aside from hunting for gems, this mine also offers gold panning. As for those gems, the ones to be found are calcite, cinnabar and serpentine. The mine is in a remote area, so it is pack-in and pack-out. Check the internet for details.

San Diego County

Himalaya Tourmaline Mine is famous for its beautiful tourmaline! The mine opened in 1889 and is located is Mesa Grande on Gem Hill across the canyon from Mt. Palomar, San Diego County. Production in 1904 was an amazing 5.5 tons of tourmaline! Five percent of the tourmalines produced are gem grade. The mine is a five-mile labyrinth of "... steep passageways that were dug, drilled and blasted over the past 100 years." The mine produces many colors, including pink, green, blue, yellow, purple, and black tourmaline, as well as other gemstones including garnet, lepidolite, morganite, quartz, spessartine garnet and topaz. *The mine is currently closed for tours and pay-to-dig.* Himalaya Tourmaline Mine is located at Lake Henshaw Hwy 76, Santa Ysabel, CA. Check their website for updates.

Oceanview and ***Pala Chief Mines*** are at Magee Rd, Pala, in San Diego County, CA. These offer pay-to-dig for people interested in doing that. The difference between the two mines pay-to-dig is that the Oceanview brings tailings to a central area and each person grabs a bucket, fills it then sifts through the material. Check the Oceanview's website for information about reservations for the dig. https://www.oceanviewmine.com

On the other hand, the Pala Chief Mine allows you to walk to various property sites to choose your own tailings area to search. This material has not been sorted by removal of larger stones, boulders, etc. and could come from any part of the mine, meaning you have a better chance of finding a nice matrix specimen. Check the Pala Chief Mine blog for more information https://www.palachiefmine.com. Sorry, no kids under 12 allowed at Pala Chief Mine.

Minerals found at the Oceanview Mine and the Pala Chief Mine include amethyst, aquamarine, beryl, chalcedony, citrine, garnet, lepidolite, morganite, peridot, quartz, spodumene, topaz and tourmaline.

♦ ♦ ♦

March 2025 – SHOWS

(Apologies if these overlap with our editor's list)

According to the CFMS website https://cfmsinc.org/shows-2/ , shows for the month of March include:

March 1st & March 2nd: Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Show at the Ventura County Fairgrounds located at 10 W Harbor Blvd., Ventura. Times are Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 10am-4pm and admission is FREE.

March 7th – 9th: Victory Valley Gem and Mineral Club's Show and the Annual Stoddard Wells Tailgate at I-15 (exit #157, follow signs to Tailgate - daily from 9am – 5pm) Family field trip Saturday 9am – 1pm. Contact: Dave Duncan (831) 406-0214, president@vvgmc.org for further information. https://vvgmc.org/tailgate.html

March 21st – 23rd: Fresno Gem and Mineral Society's the 5th Annual Central Valley Gem and Mineral Show at the Clovis Rodeo Grounds located at 748 Rodeo Drive, Clovis. Times are Friday and Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday 10am – 4pm. Free parking and admission $5.00 for 13yrs and older. For more information, please contact: https://www.fgms.rocks/ or call (708) 821-7575. https://fgms.rocks/events/

March 22nd & 23rd: South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society's Gem & Mineral Show at Ken Miller Recreation Center located at 3341 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. The "Nature's Treasurers" will be held Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday 10am – 4pm. Free parking and free admission. https://southbaylapidaryandmineralsociety.com/2025/02/10/south-bay-lapidary-mineral-society-presents-natures-treasures/

Other notable dates in March include:

March 14th noted for the mathematical constant, Pi (3.14). Pi Day, first celebrated in 1988 and was founded by Larry Shaw, an employee of the Exploratorium, a science museum in San Francisco. Some folks celebrate on July 22nd, 22/7, Pi Approximation Day. Some ways to celebrate Pie or Pi include eating pie, throwing pie, discussing Pi, visiting bakery or pizza restaurant to see if they offer pie discounts or entering a competition to see how many digits you can recall following the decimal point. Check the internet to see if you can find a competition in your area… Happy Pi Day!

Oh, and don't forget our ***MSSC Membership Meeting at 7:30 p.m.*** via ZOOM conference. There will be shares from Tucson shows. You won't want to miss it!

March 17th, St. Patrick's Day commemoration of the patron saint of Ireland. In the United States, many of the celebrations have morphed into gatherings and parties with green beer and food. The prominent color of the day is green, and the symbol is the shamrock. However, many people wear green AND orange as a symbol of unity. St. Patrick lived in the 5th century, and it is reported he was Romano-British. He was captured by pirates at the age of 16, taken to Ireland where he eventually became a missionary. And since this is the Year of the Snake, legend has it, he is responsible for the banishment of snakes in Ireland. So, in the end, Happy St. Paddy's Day! FUN FACT: *Shamrock* is not a rock at all but a young clover.

March 20th, Vernal Equinox – the first day of Spring! Watch for birds migrating northward, daisies pushing upward and many new beginnings. In ancient times at Chichen Itza, Mexico, the Mayans built a pyramid. It was built in such a way that at the beginning of the vernal equinox, the Sun's light shines down the steps and appears as though a snake is slithering down from the top.

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JUST THINKIN'

Time Flys

Before you know it! Easter is creeping up next month! Yikes. Where does the time go? With the price of eggs today, you may want to forego the Easter Egg Hunt this year and just focus on those great (solid) chocolate bunnies instead (yum). Sounds like a plan. Hippity Hop!!!

Volunteer

The next event for MSSC will be the Installation Banquet. Though we do not yet have a date, there is time now to **contact Rudy** to see if you can ease the burden and lend a hand by helping to set-up, man the Registration table, help with the Silent Auction, help to tear down, or anything in between. ***Your help is always appreciated***. How about it? Are you game to volunteer this time?

Elections

Think about this now, it'll be here before you know.

Your Society

What do you want out of your mineral society (MSSC)? What are you willing to do to have it the way you want? Should we consider putting on a mineral show? Will you be there for MSSC by helping? Let me know – here's my email president@mineralsocal.org. I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. It's funny, I put this out periodically, but the response is always nil. Want to make an exception? E-mail me!

E N D

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MSSC Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes, Friday, February 14, 2025

Welcome

President Guzman called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. There were 22 members and guests present. She welcomed all and stated "this is the 1,035th membership meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC). It is our 57th ZOOM conference meeting. If there are any guests who would like to introduce yourselves, please feel free to do so now." No guests or new members were introduced.

So. Cal. Fires

Please keep our members and others affected by the recent local fires in your thoughts. If you can help with donations of any kind, please let me know (in the chat or via e-mail).

Business:

A. Membership meeting minutes to approve: January 10, 2025, as published in the February 2025 Bulletin: President Guzman asked "Do I have a motion to approve the minutes? " A motion was made by George

R. and seconded by Carolyn S. Angie asked for any additions, corrections or discussion. Hearing none she called for a voice vote to approve the motion. The motion to approve the stated minutes carried.

B. **Board Meeting** minutes to approve: January 12, 2025, as published in the February 2025 Bulletin: Angie asked, "Do I have a motion for the stated minutes?" The motion was made by Rudy L. and seconded by Carolyn S. She asked for any additions, corrections or discussion; corrections were noted and reviewed. She called for a voice vote to approve the amended minutes. The motion to approve the stated minutes carried.

Approved Mineral Species Update

According to the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) there are 6,118 approved mineral species as posted on the New IMA List of Minerals for January 2025. No new information currently. The entire list can be found on the IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) website, https://cnmnc.units.it/files/editor/IMA_Master_List_(2025-01).pdf

Program

President Guzman turned the meeting over to Speaker Chair, Carolyn S. who welcomed and introduced tonight's speaker Joan Carrie who presented Plutonic Orbicular Rocks of New Mexico.

Joan began by describing why she made this talk. Her husband knew she was interested in plutonic orbicular rocks, so he researched the areas in New Mexico where they are found. After a trip to the area, she was volunteered to give a talk at the 2022, NM Mineral Symposium about orbicular rocks. She showed a map orienting New Mexico and the two orbicular localities.

Next, she reviewed subduction problems: when oceanic crust meets continental crust sometimes a hot spot, or a continental crust piece (accreted terranes) is carried into the zone. They cannot be subducted and cause the subduction zone to break. Ancient pieces of subduction zone continue to travel and form the continent. New Mexico is comprised of three ancient subduction zones. The zone that formed NM butted up against the subduction zone that formed California.

Both the Sandia Mountains and the Zuni Mountains, along with their orbicular rocks, were formed during the Mazatzal/Picuris Orogeny at about 1.45 bya = 1,450,000,000 years ago.

Joan gave the classical definition of a plutonic orbicular rock: *A coarse-grained, igneous rock with an orbicular structure. It may be a granite, granodiorite, diorite, rhyolites, gabbro, etc. The orbicules (orbs) are concentrically layered, spheroidal structures, composed mostly of feldspars and mafic (iron-rich) minerals.* She showed a cross section from Mt. Magnet, Australia.

These are the California orbicular localities:

- Three localities in the Sierra Nevada Batholith
- Lower Castle Creek Pluton of Northern Sierra Nevada Batholith
- East Ord Mountain
- Lawson Peak
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park
- Giant Forest Pluton
- Lane Mountain
- Pine Valley
- Dehesa
- Green Acres Gabbro Complex

The orbicular localities in New Mexico are the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque, on the Rio Grande Rift and the Zuni Mountains west of Albuquerque.

First the Sandia Mts., a short 17-mile chain. The Sandia pluton was formed during the Mazatzal/Picuris Orogeny at about 1.45 bya. The Sandia Mts. were created within the last ten million years during the formation of the Rio Grande Rift and are still rising. There are two tiny orbicular rock sites: a north (mostly a 10' x 7'

boulder) and a south (3'x 5' lump). She showed the N site boulder, which has since been reduced to fist sized pieces.

Basic Anatomy of an Orb: The core is feldspar crystals, xenoliths, or crystalized magma. The shells are alternating biotite and feldspar. The matrix is the material that surrounds the orbs.

Joan described the complexities of a magma chamber based on a diagram by Luolavirta (2018). Pulses of magma enter the chamber and are broken up. Crystals form on cool chamber walls; xenoliths, crystallized magma, and new crystals fall into the chamber. Magma continues to pulse in, move around, and may leave the chamber. This cycle causes constant changes in liquid composition within the chamber. Leftover element ions and fluids become segregated because they cannot combine with any element nearby. These segregated areas are lighter and move toward the top of the magma chamber. These can form pegmatites.

Sudden increases in the amount of fluid changes the temperature, pressure, and composition instantaneously; by either fluid going in or "dry" melt going out. Orbs form and the matrix changes composition. One researcher has estimated that all the shells in an Argentinian orbicular rock could have been formed in as little as 35 days. The matrix cools and solidifies to form orbicular rock.

What do you see in hand samples?

- A variety of core types (feldspar crystals, cooled magma)
- Biotite in the shells and matrix
- Radial crystal growth
- Shells of similar size for all the orbs, some broken shells, and deformed orbs and shells

Other Sandia Site Orbicular Examples

- Sandia north site -Type 4 Proto-orbs with feldspar rings, very plain and uninteresting.
- Sandia south site-Type 1 polished section shows plagioclase and microcline, no biotite.
- Sandia south site hand sample has only a plagioclase ring.

Sandia orbicular rocks appear to conform to the classic definition of orbicular rocks, including the theory of formation. Various mineralogies and shells are possible within a specific orbicular rock site. At hand-sample size, the observations are consistent with the theory of formation as proposed.

Zuni Mountains Orbicular Rocks (not what Joan expected!)
Exposure of the Core of the Zuni Mountains

- Pluton Formation – during Mazatzal Orogeny at about 1.45 bya.
- Uplift – during the creation of the Ancestral Rocky Mountains (320 to 270 mya)
- Erosion and sedimentation- 250 to 150 mya
- Central Uplift – during uplift of the modern Rocky Mountains (80 to 40 mya)

Zuni Mountain Hand Sample-they do not look like the classic description of an orbicular rock.

- Rough surfaces; weathered dark green to almost-black orbs of hornblende amphibole.
- Irregular and broken orbs, and separated orbs
- Pinkish matrix composed of medium-size crystals of quartz and altered potassium feldspar.

Theory of Formation- After https://www.geologyin.com/2015/08/magma-characteristics-types-sources-and.html

- Repeated pulses of magma from mantle and/or intermediate magma chambers
- Pressure, temperature and movement increase in the magma chamber.
- Injection Breccia: Rocks fracture and liquid magma moves in.
- The country rock is fractured, melted, rounded, moved, and altered by the incoming magma.
- Rock closest to magma source, where temperature and pressure are highest, is most affected.
  Orbs Depend on Distance, Heat, and Pressure: more angular fractures; formed further from magma input, more orbicular; formed closer to magma input.

Hand Sample Features (boulder)

- Hornblende-tremolite mineralogy same in/throughout all orbs, no concentric shells.

- Orbs of various sizes, rounding, irregular and broken orbs.
- Broken material within the matrix, flow patterns in quartz/feldspar matrix.

Micro-Feature
This electron photomicrograph is of an orb specimen magnified 590x. It shows interlocking, curved plates of hornblende amphibole wrapped in a 3-D helical pattern to make up the orb. Very unlike amphibole in the matrix.

Mineralogy

The pluton is quartz monzonite, a feldspar-rich plutonic rock, and feldspars in the pluton chemically correlate with those in the orb matrix. Therefore, the pluton was the source for matrix surrounding the orbs. Lenses of ultramafic rock are found within the pluton; amphibole mineralogy from the orbs correlates with that of the ultramafic rocks. Therefore, the ultramafic rocks are the source of the orbs.

Zuni orbicular rocks are a form of intrusion breccia, formed from intrusion of magma into ultramafic country rocks. Close to the intruding magma, the temperature and pressure were extreme enough to severely alter the brecciated fragments into orbs. Even in hand samples, observations of the Zuni orbicular rocks show many inconsistencies with the classical definition of an orbicular rock. Chemistry and electron microscopy are also inconsistent with the classical definition.

Conclusions
Studying hand samples of orbicular rocks from both the Sandias and Zunis can provide a lot of interesting and informative information about their origin.
The Sandia orbicular rocks fit the classic definition of orbicular rocks. In particular, the orbs are

- concentrically layered, composed mostly of feldspars and iron-rich minerals, and formed by rapid nucleation in a magma.

The Zuni orbicular rocks do not fit the classic definition. In particular, the orbs are

- not concentrically layered with different minerals, mono-mineralogic, composed of amphibole, and not formed by rapid nucleation in a magma.

Suggestion
Either a new rock type needs to be created for the Zuni rock, something like *orbicular intrusion breccia*, or we accept that the "*exception proves the rule*," or perhaps the classic definition needs to be updated to something like:
Orbicular rocks are non-sedimentary rocks that contain spheroids of mineralogy and/or texture unlike the host rock in which they are found. The spheroids may be composed of concentric shells of different textures and/or mineralogy about a central core or may be essentially mono-mineralogic with no core.
A short Q & A session followed.
Angie thanked Joan Karrie for an interesting lecture.

President's Message

SEE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR'S E-MAIL 2/11/25 REGARDING YOUR:

Membership DUES are now due for the period 1/1/25-12/31/2025. The deadline has been extended to February 26, 2025. Please go to MSSC's website to submit your renewal with our 2-step process: (a) complete the renewal form and (b) pay via PayPal (dues plus $2 PayPal fee) OR send your check payment to Carolyn, MSSC's Treasurer. Here is MSSC's membership link on the website: MSSC's website: https://mineralsocal.org/membership/

Announcements and Reports

- Field Trips (Marek C.): Not present, Lavic trip was on January 12, 2025; a report will be delivered at our next membership meeting. Don't forget Pi Day, March 14, 2025.
- Installation Banquet and Silent Auction (Rudy L): The banquet has been postponed due to the Eaton Fires. Stay tuned. The venue is Pinocchio's in Pasadena.
- Pacific Micro-mineral Conference (PMC) (Rudy L): Conference was held January 31-February 1, 2025, at the Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum. Look for financial and membership reports at our

March 14, 2025, membership meeting. Rudy gave a brief recap of the conference. He showed photos of tables filled with minerals. They sold close to 2000 specimens! Most were new (to us) samples. He has a new donation (Tom Thorn) of 1000-1500 micros and 400-500 other minerals for next year. He has all of Bob Housley's micro minerals and cases. The picnic will be on August 23, 2025; there will be plenty of minerals for the raffle and sales table.

Last Words:

- Angie announced that long-time member Gene Reynolds passed away January 22. "A good collector, full of stories." He will be missed.
- Miko sent his condolences to everyone affected by the recent fires and said he hopes they find peace and patience.
- The next membership meeting will be held March 14, 2025 – we'd love to hear about your Tucson show(s) experiences.
- The next Board meeting will be 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 6, 2025, both meetings are via ZOOM conferencing. Guests are welcome.
- Angie said "Thank you all for attending tonight's meeting. Your attendance is much appreciated. See you next time."

Adjournment: President Guzman adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Ogg, MSSC Secretary

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List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
Meeting Dates:	ZOOM April 11, 2025	Christopher Stefano, PH.D.: "The Balmat Zinc Mine, St. Lawrence, New York".
	ZOOM May 9, 2025	Philip Persson: The Remarkable Collection of the mim Museum, Beirut, Lebanon
	ZOOM June 13, 2025	TBA
Board Meeting	**ZOOM** April 6, 2025	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
Field Trip	**TBA**	No trips scheduled at this time

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

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

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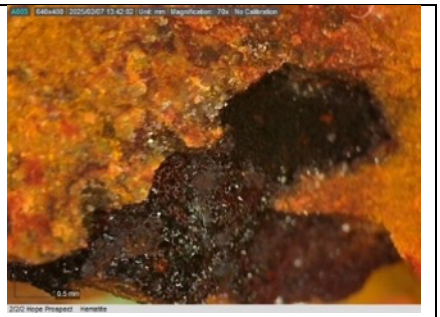
PMC Lead Mountain Field Trip: Bob Housley

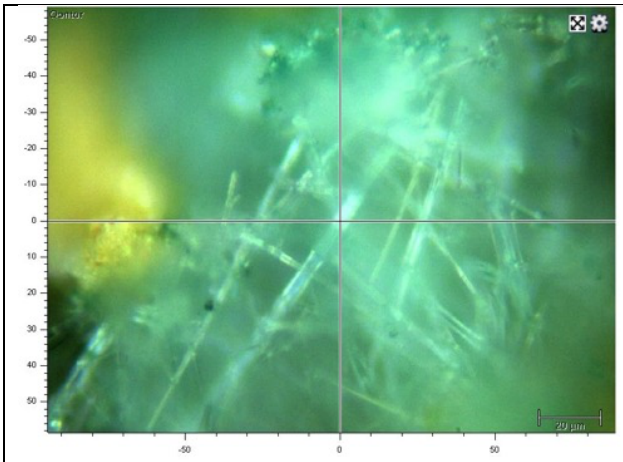
Our Field Trip this year to the Hope Prospect and Lead Mountain went very well. All 8 enthusiastic participants showed up on time at our meeting spot on old Highway 58 near Barstow. The day was sunny and clear and almost warm. On the short drive to Lead Mountain we first stopped at what I have learned is called the Hope Prospect. We used to call it the lower Cu deposit. We could immediately see that it has been heavily collected since John Hagstrom posted information about it on Mindat in late 2015. There are pits 3 or 4 feet deep where there used to be outcrops 2 or 3 feet tall. Still, I think everyone was able to find nice malachite, jarosite, and hematite samples. I found nice micro mount samples as pictured below just walking around and looking at what people had left in the dirt. (Photos by B. Housley except group shot by E. Erskin)


Malachite


Jarosiste


Hematite

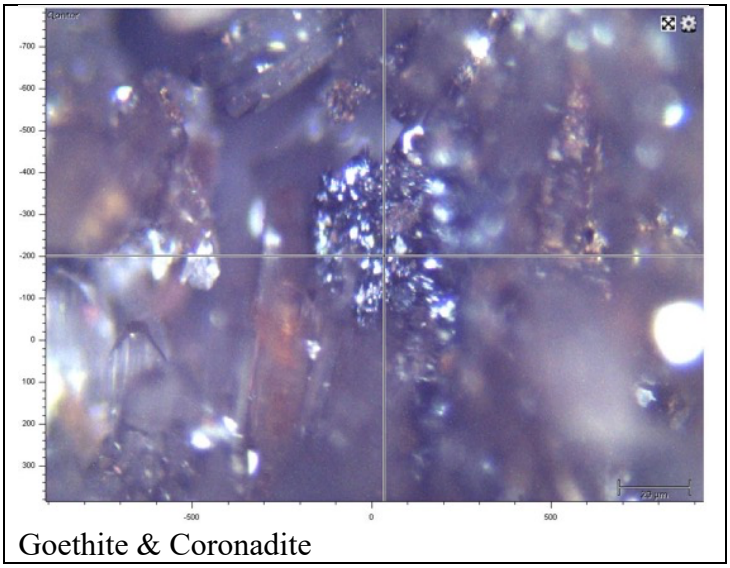
Several other species including baryte, hemimorphite, calcite, fluorapatite, and goudeyite have been found there. Goudeyite is fairly rare and occurs a long thin greenish needles associated with jarosite as shown below in a specimen from an earlier trip.


Goudeyite with yellow jarosite at 500x

After about an hour at the Hope Prospect we went on to the main Lead Mountain Mine. The group just before entering the mine is shown below in a photo taken by Evangeline Erskine.

All but one of us went underground and followed the current entrance adit about 100 feet until it intersected the extensive workings. As soon as we intersected the main mine workings the more energetic went off exploring. However pretty baryte crystals along with hemimorphite and calcite were everywhere so some of us did not go far. Cinnabar and mimetite are more scattered and less abundant, but probably everybody found some.

There are also several black minerals with the baryte. Dull black and brown is usually goethite. The most common shiny black one is coronadite shown below at 50x. Scale bar is incorrect.


Goethite & Coronadite

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The Mineralogical Society of Southern California
Proudly Presented the 58th Annual Pacific Micro Mineral Conference

January 31 and February 1, 2025, at The Fallbrook Mineral Museum

It was a jam-packed event, with great speakers: Bruce Kelley: Art in Minerals, Paul Adams: A Look Back at the Reward Mine, Inyo County, California and Herwig Pelckmans: The Phosphate Minerals of Folgosinho, Portugal.

We had guests come from Japan, Belgium, a group came down from San Francisco, and our regulars.

We had over 6000 micro mounts with 4000 on display. There were over 2000 new micro mounts put out that I picked up from Robert Housley.

Angie Guzman, Carolyn Seitz and Rudy Lopez were there early to set up the tables and put out the micro mounts. Al Wilkins, Joe Marty and Tim Rose set up the electrical outlets on the tables and the giveaway mineral tables. Everyone pitched in to make sure all was ready when the event started.

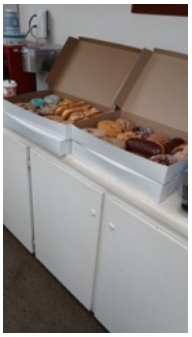
Article and all photos by Rudy Lopez

Images from the event

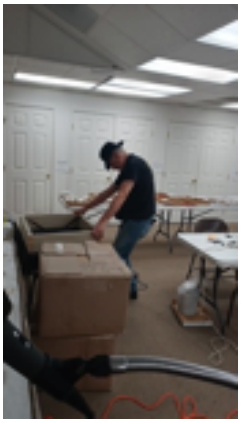
MICROMOUNT TABLES

The micromount tables held over 4000 mounts. You're looking at 30 feet of micromounts. The picture on the far right shows boxes under the tables that contained 2000 more micromounts to put out.

GIVEAWAY TABLES

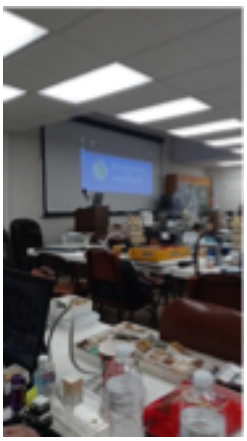



2 for a dollar minerals and donuts, what more can you ask for?



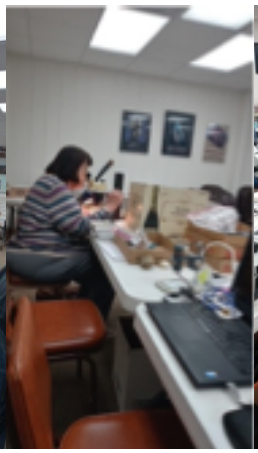
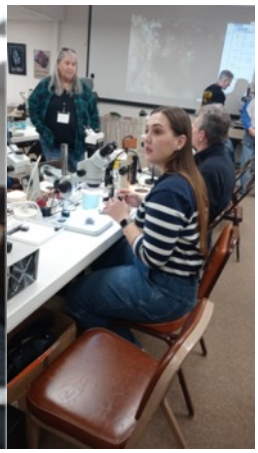


SETTING UP



SPEAKERS

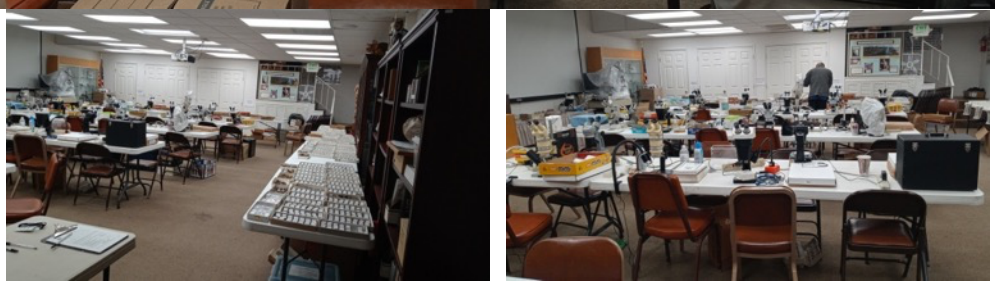


SCOPE TIME

NEW MEMBER


EXIT



EVENT PICTURES

Carolyn was very, very busy with the sales!

Everyone had a great time, meeting with old friends and making new friends. The micromount tables had 2000 new minerals and once the word got out boxes of minerals were selling fast. We sold over 2000 minerals during this event, new minerals and 2 minerals for a dollar, the tables were busy for the two days of the event.

I would like to thank Mike Evans, Andy Willis and Shari from Fallbrook for letting us use their hall for our event and Al Wilkins, Robert Housley, Tim Rose, Joe Marty, Angie Guzman, Carolyn Seitz for their help to make this event a great success.

We hope to see you at the 59th annual Pacific Micro Mineral Conference next year.

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OTHER (FREE) THINGS TO DO...by Ann Meister

The **Watson Lecture** is on Wednesday, **March 26** at 7:30 PM at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. The speaker is **Brian Jacobson**, Professor of Visual Culture, Caltech. He will discuss how technology made the movies and how movies shape what we know about technology. Enjoy pre-lecture activities starting at 6 PM. Find past lectures on Caltech Watson Lecture Series - YouTube , The January lecture on The Science of Post-Wildfire Debris Flows - Michael Lamb may be of particular interest to MSSC members.

The **Von Kármán Lecture** is on Thursday, **March ??** at 5:00 PM. Available live on YouTube at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory - YouTube. Date, speaker, and topic were not available at the time of publication. Check website for information and past lectures Lecture Series (nasa.gov). The 2024 lecture series is available on YouTube.

The **UCLA Meteorite Gallery** is open to the public weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm and on Sundays from 1 to 4 pm when it is staffed with volunteer docents. Admission is always free. The monthly lectures seem to have been discontinued but the gallery is well worth exploring. Visit the website and check on events, videos, and other neat things including resources for teachers, Go to https://meteorites.ucla.edu

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With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

Calendar of Events:

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

March 1-2, 2025 – Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem and Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93003
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Free admission but the Fairgrounds charges parking if using the Fairgrounds lot.
Website: http://www.vgms.org

March 7-9, 2024 – Stoddard Wells, CA
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
1-15 toward Barstow. EXIT #157, stay on Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles to tailgate
Hours: Daily 9 M – 5 PM
Family field trip on Saturday 9a-1p at a local collecting site.
Website: http://vvgmc.org

March 21-23, 2025 – Fresno, CA
Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
Clovis Rodeo Grounds,
748 Rodeo Drive, Clovis CA 93612
Hours: Fri and Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Website: https://www.fgms.rocks

March 22-23, 2025 – Torrance, CA
South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Website:
http://southbaylapidaryandmineralsociety.com

April 12-13, 2025 – Thousand Oaks, CA
Canejo Gem and Mineral Club
Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Website: http://www.CGAMC.org

April 26-27, 2025 – Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4:30 PM
Website: http://www.searchersrocks.org

2025 MSSC Officers:

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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 conducted via ZOOM conferencing until further notice**.** The annual Installation Banquet occurs in January, and the annual Picnic and Swap Meeting are in August. 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 sent 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.**

MSSC Bulletin Editor

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With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

Your MSSC Bulletin Is Here!