



# Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 98 Number 8 August, 2025

*The 1,041<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California*

***With Knowledge Comes Appreciation***

## A ZOOM Meeting August 8, 2025, at 7:30 P.M.

***Program: “ Sakura Ishi (Cherry blossom stones) from Kyoto, Japan: Mica pseudomorphs of complex cordierite - indialite intergrowths”***

Presented by Dr. John Rakovan

### In this Issue:

<b><i>TITLE</i></b>	<b><i>Page</i></b>
<b>Program: “ Sakura Ishi (Cherry blossom stones) from Kyoto, Japan: Mica pseudomorphs of complex cordierite - indialite intergrowths”</b> Presented by Dr. John Rakovan	<b>2</b>
<b>From the Editor:</b> Linda Elsnau	<b>2</b>
<b>From Our President:</b> Angela Guzman	<b>2</b>
<b>Minutes of the July 11, 2025, ZOOM Meeting</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>List of Upcoming MSSC Events</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Fire Victims Fund</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MSSC Picnic</b> Rudy Lopez	<b>9</b>
<b>MSSC ZOOM Board Meeting July 20, 2025</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Why I Joined MSSC</b> Renee Kraus	<b>11</b>
<b>Other Free Things to Do.</b> Ann Meister	<b>12</b>
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2025 Officers</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>About MSSC</b>	<b>13</b>

**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

**Program: “ *Sakura Ishi* (Cherry blossom stones) from Kyoto, Japan: Mica pseudomorphs of complex cordierite - indialite intergrowths” Presented by Dr. John Rakovan**

Cherry blossoms have been revered for more than a millennium in Japan and have become one of its most recognized icons. In the city of Kameoka, Kyoto Prefecture, one can find mica pseudomorphs after complex cordierite-indialite intergrowths. These remarkable pseudomorphs resemble cherry blossoms and are known locally as *sakura ishi*, which means cherry blossom stone in Japanese. As with the real cherry blossoms, sakura ishi are also revered by mineralogists and mineral collectors in Japan.

The cordierite-indialite precursors to these pseudomorphs are only found in this unusual intergrowth in central Japan, mostly in Kyoto Prefecture.

To understand how sakura ishi form it is necessary to look at the unaltered cordierite-indialite precursors. These can be found elsewhere in Kyoto, including Daimanji, one of the most famous mountains in that city.

The formation history of these unusual crystals includes segregated epitaxial growth of cordierite on indialite, metastable crystal growth, transformation of indialite to cordierite and finally pseudo-morphic replacement by mica. This talk will cover the interesting mineralogical phenomena involved in the formation of intriguing mineral specimens.

Dr. John Rakovan is the state mineralogist and senior museum curator of the New Mexico Mineral Museum at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. He has been an executive editor of and regular contributor to Rocks & Minerals magazine since 2001 and was a professor of mineralogy at Miami University for 25 years. John has broad research interests including crystal growth, structural and morphologic crystallography, and mineral deposit formation.

**How to Join our ZOOM Meetings**

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

For non MSSC Members who want to attend this meeting. You must respond to our Programs chair, Carolyn Seitz [speakers@mineralsocal.org](mailto: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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**From the Editor:** Linda Elsnau.

First of all, I want to thank Renee Kraus for her article included in this Bulletin. I can always use interesting articles from our membership.(hint, hint)

July is officially over, and our annual picnic is coming up fast. Be sure to sign up and enjoy the afternoon. As usual, Carolyn has lined up another interesting program for our entertainment and education. Don't miss it.

\*\*\*\*\*

**From Our President : Angie Guzman**

**MSSC's 2025 Summer Event:**

**Pot-Luck PICNIC**

**Saturday, AUGUST 23<sup>rd</sup>** at Tournament Park Pasadena  
(CalTech campus) **Noon - 4 p.m.**

**LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING!**  
**SIGN UP & DETAILS at [www.mineralsocal.org](http://www.mineralsocal.org)**



Silent Auction, raffles, personal mineral stories, GREAT FOOD, fabulous company, awesome minerals and much, much more!

## THIS IS OUR FINAL IN-PERSON SOCIAL EVENT FOR 2025

Come out to play and have fun.  
Share your mineral mishaps, treasures and triumphs!  
Support your society.

We will be accepting donations for  
MSSC's Fire Victim Fund  
(Check, Gift Cards, Cash)



### Brief Recap of 7/20/25 MSSC Board Meeting

MSSC's quarterly Board Meeting was held on July 20, 2025, via ZOOM conferencing. The following is a *brief recap* of that meeting:

1. Discussion then Motion regarding a presenter posting his/her presentation on MSSC's website. Ramifications include possible personal privacy violations, copyright infringements and other possible events for which MSSC would be held liable. The **Motion** basically states: *We, MSSC, do not allow any speaker's presentation to be posted to our website.* The Motion passed unanimously;
2. MSSC's upcoming elections and eventuality if the 2 key positions aren't filled: **If no one steps up to run for President and Treasurer seats, MSSC will END, cease to exist, by the close of 2025.** At that time, MSSC is compelled to **dissolve its 501(C)3** non-profit organization, and members and assets will possibly be transferred to and absorbed by the society or club that we may be merged into. [President's Note: ***THIS ELECTION IS DECISIVE FOR MSSC's FUTURE!***]. Discussion with strong suggestion for President to strongly emphasize this possible outcome if no one volunteers for the positions. Guzman said she would do that at the next membership meeting;
3. MSSC's Fire Victim Fund is active through September 30, 2025.

Other items were discussed by Officers and Board members and included but were not limited to financial reports, web status, Culver City Gem & Mineral, Membership, Bulletin articles, Picnic, donations (picnic raffles) outside events, Pacific Micromineral Conference and Field Trips.

Regarding MSSC's Annual **Picnic and Silent Auction**, now is the time to register. The Picnic is less than a month away! Rudy needs donations for the Raffles AND he needs volunteers to help set up and tear down. Won't you help?

Next Board Meeting September 28, 2025. END



## MSSC's FIRE VICTIMS FUND

Now accepting tax-deductible donations by **check, money order or gift card**. This fund will remain open through September 30, 2025. Kindly visit [www.mineralsocal.org](http://www.mineralsocal.org) for full details. *Your help is needed by these fellow members.* THANK YOU



**"All that glitters is not gold; often have you heard that told."**  
(The character of Prince of Morocco in Merchant of Venice by Wm Shakespeare)<sup>1</sup>

**Ultra Violet**  
**Flashlights**

An **Ultra Violet (UV)** flashlight is a great tool to have in your mineral collecting tool kit. It's right up there with a rock hammer, loupe, and a roll of toilet paper or paper towels. UV flashlights come in shortwave (254nm), midwave (307nm) and longwave (365nm and 395nm). Portable hand-held units are ideal in the field.

Some minerals, such as calcite, fluorite and hyalite (transparent opal), have unique fluorescence properties. When you use UV on these minerals' surfaces, they "glow" like they're alive! Under UV, they fluoresce, showing off their colors and patterns you'd never notice in regular light. It's a very cool thing!<sup>2</sup>

So, what is ultra violet light? What is shortwave, midwave, longwave or the next iteration waves (if there is such a thing)? What are we looking at?

The following is a brief description of ultra violet light, UV. Firstly, UV is actually electromagnetic radiation in wave lengths of 10 to 400 nanometers. Next question would be, what is a nanometer? A nanometer is one billionth of a meter. It is notated as 1/1000000000 or  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ m. Now that's really small!

These wavelengths are shorter than visible light but longer than X-rays. UV radiation constitutes about 10% of the electromagnetic radiation from our Sun. It's also produced by electric arc (welding), Cherenkov radiation and specialized lights such as tanning beds, mercury-vapor lights and black lights.

Generally speaking, UV radiation's spectrum is at one end beneficial and at the other end detrimental to humans. For instance, tanning beds use UV to "tan" a person's body, direct sun exposure can do the same. However, the down side of too much UV could result in skin cancer. On the other hand, UV (specifically UVB) is responsible for Vitamin D for most land vertebrates including humans and, as you know, Vitamin D is beneficial to humans. Note, UV rays are not normally visible to humans.

There are several UV categories: UV – A, B, C; Near, Middle, Far UV; Hydrogen Lyman-alpha, Extreme UV; Far UVC and Vacuum ultraviolet. For our purposes, we will look at the first group: UV – A, B, C.

These are the ranges for the first group:

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Wavelength</u>	<u>Notes</u>
UV – A	315-400nm	Long wave blacklight, not absorbed by the ozone layer; Soft UV.
UV – B	280-315nm	Medium-wave UV, mostly absorbed by the ozone layer; intermediate UV; <i>Dorno</i> radiation (Prussian-born scientist who studied mountain climate's effects on health and measured ultraviolet radiation).
UV – C	100-280nm	Short wave UV, germicidal UV, ionizing radiation at shorter wavelengths, completely absorbed by the ozone layer and atmosphere; hard UV.

Please note: the photon energy level increases from UV-A to UV-B and from UV-B to UV-C<sup>3</sup>

Which UV wave light is best for which mineral? Good question. Here's what I want to share with you about that:

Longwave UV (365nm): fluorite, opal, calcite and yooperlites (sodalite-rich syenite). Downside is the longwave won't work for minerals that require shortwave UV;

Mid-wave UV (307nm): This is a middle ground UV, and some minerals fluoresce better under mid-wave. The downside is that this particular UV is less common, and many people skip over them.

Shortwave UV (254nm): certain calcites, scheelite and willemite. The short wave can reveal minerals that long wave can't capture. The downside is that these can be expensive and they're not beginner friendly. However, if you're a hardcore mineral collector, you probably already have one of these shortwave UV lights.<sup>2</sup>

Why do minerals fluoresce? Well, certain minerals absorb UV light and re-emit it as visible light; *activators* (i.e., trace elements) *initiate* the glow while *impurities* (copper and iron) *inhibit* fluorescence.

There are other minerals that fluoresce. In fact, Rock & Gem published its “Top 28 Fluorescent Minerals List”. Here are *some* from that listing: Apatite, Aragonite, Barite, Borax, Celestite, Chalcedony, Corundum, Feldspar, Fluorapatite, Fluorite, Powellite, Selenite, Sphalerite and Ulexite<sup>4</sup>.

#### Usage Tips:

**Go out** at night – fluorescent minerals are easier to spot in the dark.

**Scan** slowly – take your time moving the light over rocks at different angels.

**Take** photos – UV-lit rocks look amazing in photos.

**Bring** extra batteries – UV flashlight can drain batteries fast.

#### Safety Tips for UV lights:

**Always** wear UV-blocking eyewear to protect your eyes from harmful UV rays.

**Don’t** shine the light on people or animals – UV rays can cause serious damage to eyesight and skin.

**Limit** exposure – use the light only as need and avoid looking directly at the beam.

The output from these lamps is harmful to the eyesight of all living creatures. Please take precautions when using them<sup>2</sup>.

There are a lot of UV flashlights out there these days and just about as many retail outlets from which to purchase one. Here are some things to consider when making your selection and ultimate purchase of a UV flashlight:

1. UV wavelength. 365nm is for mineral detection – best for exciting minerals that contain fluorescent properties. 365nm enhances visibility and detection maximizing ability to identify and appreciate the diverse array of minerals found in various geological settings.
2. Durability and Build Quality. These are crucial factors to consider when selecting your UV flashlight. You want to be sure your flashlight is rugged and sturdy and that it will last the rough handling that happens when you’re in the field collecting. A durable flashlight will maintain effectiveness at emitting UV light without flickering or malfunctions.
3. Battery Life and Power Source. A longer battery life ensures extended usage without interruptions. You want to be sure your flashlight has a dependable power source – take spare batteries.
4. Portability and Size. These are essential factors to consider when you choose your UV flashlight. Compact and lightweight allow for easy transport and handling.
5. Cost and Value. Important factors in choosing your UV flashlight(s). You want a flashlight that has a good balance between cost and value.
6. Maintenance. Periodically check batteries for corrosion or leaks. Replace old or damaged batteries. Clean lenses and reflectors with soft lint-free cloth. Check and/or replace seals and O-rings to ensure flashlight remains waterproof<sup>5</sup>.

The only thing left is to buy your UV flashlight and get out there to find your glowing treasures!

#### References:

1 expressionvault.com; 2 NWRockhounding.com; 3 Wikipedia; 4 Rock &Gem; 5 TopTenReviewed.com.



See you next time...

E N D

\*\*\*\*\*

*With Knowledge Comes Appreciation*



## **MSSC Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes, Friday, July 11, 2025**

### **Welcome**

President Angela Guzman welcomed 16 members and guests to the Mineralogical Society of Southern California's 1,040<sup>th</sup> membership meeting (MSSC's 62<sup>nd</sup> Zoom conferencing meeting). She called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. She asked for any new guests to please introduce themselves. We had Karen V. from the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society in Redwood City.

### **Business**

Membership meeting minutes of June 13, 2025, as published in the July 2025 bulletin: Angie asked for a motion to approve the stated minutes. A motion was made by Carolyn S. and seconded by Bert V. She asked for any additions, corrections or discussion, hearing none she called for a vote to approve the motion. The motion to approve the stated minutes carried on a voice vote.

### **Approved Mineral Species Update**

According to the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) there are 6,161 approved mineral species published on the New IMA List of Minerals as of July 2025. (IMA/CNMNC list is currently published every other month.)

Four for One: Packratite- chemical formula:  $\text{Ca}_{11}(\text{As}^{3+}\text{V}^{5+}_{10}\text{V}^{4+}_2\text{As}^{5+}_6\text{O}_{51})_2 \cdot 83\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . This mineral is a very dark greenish blue, shows a grayish blue streak, has a hardness of two on the Mohs scale, it has vitreous luster, is brittle and has imperfect/fair cleavage. It is named for the Packrat Mine in Mesa County, Colorado.

Here is the Four for One part: There are four minerals that contain this  $(\text{As}^{3+}\text{V}^{4+}_{5+}_{12}\text{As}^{5+}_6\text{O}_{51})$  heteropolyanion: Vanarsite, Morrisonite, Gatewayite and Packratite. This heteropolyanion is a *novel polyoxometalate* cluster.

Authors for these four minerals are Anthony Kampf, Barbara Nash, Joe Marty and John Hughes. These minerals were approved in 2014 and first published in 2016.

### **Program**

President Guzman turned the meeting over to the Speaker's Chair, Carolyn, who introduced the speaker, Evan Jones. Evan presented his talk "Bob Jones, a Life to Celebrate 1926-2024."

Author, educator and collector Bob Jones is a legend among mineral collectors and rockhounds. Bob's mineral stories and exploits are well documented in his Rock & Gem articles and numerous lectures. In this presentation, Bob's son Evan documents aspects of his father's family life from the very beginning. In the words of famed radio host Paul Harvey, this is "the rest of the story."

Carolyn introduced longtime mineral collector and dealer Evan Jones, son of well-known author Bob Jones, who started collecting minerals at age 9 and with his father visited museums, attended mineral shows, went on collecting trips and visited mineral dealers. A graduate of the geology program at ASU in Tempe, Arizona, Evan has been a full-time mineral dealer since 1986 and is currently co-owner of the fine mineral dealership [Unique Minerals, Inc.](#) Evan has attended every Tucson Gem & Mineral Show since 1981 and won several awards including Walt Lidstrom, Miguel Romero and Dick Bideaux trophies. He has written articles for Mineralogical Record, Rocks & Minerals, LAPIS, Mineralien-Welt magazines and given talks around the country about Arizona and Mexican minerals, mines and history and recently was awarded the Best Article of 2021 in Mineralogical Record magazine by Friends of Mineralogy for his article on the Milpillas Mine in Mexico. His collection of Arizona minerals is considered one of the finest in the world.

Evan introduced his talk by mentioning that his father had a great affection for the MSSC and California collectors. Bob Jones won the California Federation's Golden Bear Award, which he was very proud of; he was also a life member of the MSSC. He will be talking about the life of Bob Jones before he became famous for mineralogy. This memorial program was presented at the Tucson Show last year.

Bob's father was born in Caernarfon Wales in 1892 and was a teenage coalminer and a good soccer player. He immigrated to the US in 1910; he was recruited by a Pennsylvania coal mining company to play on their soccer team! He married Bessie Fildes in 1919; she was from Lancashire England. Bob was born September 1, 1926, the same year Rocks and Minerals Magazine published its first issue. He grew up in Bridgeport Connecticut.

In 1935 the family moved to rural Stratford, CT. This was during the Great Depression, Bob's father worked as a soccer referee and bought the land. They built a garage first and lived in it while they built the house.

Due to the proximity of Stratford to New Haven, Bob went on a school field trip to the Peabody Museum; this visit started his lifelong fascination with minerals, especially fluorescent minerals. Bob's first job, at 15, was at General Electric as a mail clerk, he also worked part time as a mechanic's helper and bought a 1934 Chevrolet. He enlisted in the Army Air Force shortly after turning 18. He wanted to be a pilot, but was sent to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi for airplane engine, mechanical and electrical training. In the Summer of 1945, he was sent to the Boeing factory in Renton, Washington for specialized B-29 technical training. He stayed in the Air Force and was assigned to a special squadron, the 509th Composite Group which had dropped the Atomic Bombs over Japan to end the war. In July of 1946 he went to Kwajalein Island as part of Operation Crossroads. They were studying the effects of atom bombs, testing on Bikini Atoll. His letters home to the folks became a lifelong habit and honed his writing and storytelling skills.

He went back home in 1946 and back to his job at the gas station. He got a BSA motorcycle and joined the Milford Riders Motorcycle Club. One member was also a member of the New Haven Mineral Club. He showed Bob his fluorescent minerals and rekindled Bob's interest. Bob also joined the New Haven Mineral Club. They collected minerals all over New England.

In the early 1950's he dated Alicia Abbott from nearby Milford. Wisely, he went to college and got a steady job as a Stratford Fireman and began to "settle down." Alicia had attended the University of Arizona 1946-1949 and held a private pilot's license flying out of Marana Field. As a Sorority prank, she helped the Flying Club disassemble a Ryan p-22 and reassemble it inside the University Field House (all in one night!). She and Bob married February 14, 1953. Evan's older brother Bill was born in 1954.

By June of 1956 Bob was a full-time teacher with a master's degree. His master's Thesis "Luminescent Minerals of Connecticut" began 68 years of mineral writing. Soon a daughter, Suzanne, was born.

In 1959 Pete Zodac, owner of Rocks & Minerals Magazine invited Bob to write a column called Collecting Florescent Minerals and a writing career was born. The family moved to Scottsdale Arizona in 1959. Bob got a job teaching at Tonale a High School. There are more rocks to collect in Arizona, his field collecting and mineral collection expanded. Evan was born in 1961.

Bob Was President of the Mineral Society of Arizona; the family went on rock collecting trips in a Willy's Jeep. Bob taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade science and sold minerals to supplement his income. Rocks and Minerals did not pay him for his writing.

At the Pasadena show in 1971 he met the publisher of Rock and Gem magazine which paid him to write articles. His first article was in the September 1971 issue and the last was in August 2024. In the 1980s when Bob was writing and traveling, he turned the management of his collection over to Evan. Older brother Bill got involved in goldmining. With the kids grown, Bob and Alicia bought a restored 1949 MG sports car.

The family continued to expand with Bill's marriage and a grandchild from Suzanne. Alicia died in 1993; they were together 40 years.

Bob's mineral adventures continued. He retired from teaching and traveled, wrote, and lectured. He met Carol Sues, a silversmith. They dated and traveled the world together, and married in 2001, he proposed at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. A Mineral collector from Colorado, Pat Haynes discovered a new Vanadium mineral and named it Bobjonesite.

In 2016, Bryan Lees hosted a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Bob at the Denver show. In 2023 he did an interview with Brian Swoboda. 2024 was his last TGMS, his 64<sup>th</sup> consecutive show! He visited with an up-and-coming mineral collector, 15-year-old Hanna Brodhagen who was an avid reader of his Rocks and Gems articles. He passed away in May 2024. Here is the last paragraph of his last column for Rock and Gem.

*"I'm eternally grateful to my friends in the mineral hobby and science who have played such a significant role in my life and from whom I learned so much. I've often felt that in the field of minerology everyone has a responsibility to leave a positive influence and legacy whether it is intended or not. I never set out to win*

*awards but hope I've inspired Rock & Gem readers, mineral collectors, lapidaries, and rockhounds over the years. It's been very gratifying to give back to the hobby which has given me so much in return."*

In his memory the family started the Bob Jones Fund for Youth Education and Outreach at the Alfie Norman Gem and Mineral Museum. It has been created to provide school age children with the same opportunity to be inspired by experiencing museum exhibits, hands-on activities, and tours, tailored to their school curriculum and age-appropriate development.

If you would like to donate:

Please make checks payable to: The University of Arizona Foundation

On the check memo line or as included note: for the Bob Jones Memorial Fund 20-10-3503

Mail to: The University of Arizona Foundation

P.O. Box 210109

Tucson, AZ 85721-0109

Attn: Lisa Winton



Or, for online donations use the QR code

For more information about how to support the Bob Jones Memorial Funds:

Contact Lisa Winton, Sr. Director of Development Research, Innovation & Impact

email: [lisa.winton@uafoundation.org](mailto:lisa.winton@uafoundation.org) or by phone 520-621-9078

Angie thanked Evan and all who attended.

### **President's Messages**

- MSSC's Fire Fund, for the benefit of those who lost their homes in the Eaton Fire in January 2025, is actively accepting your donations: checks, money orders, and/or gift cards. If you haven't already, please help these members and affiliates of MSSC.
- MSSC elections are a few months away. Will you serve? We now only need 2 positions: President and Treasurer. Contact me directly if you want to volunteer to keep MSSC active.

### **Announcements and Reports**

- August Picnic (Rudy L.) Saturday, August 23 at Caltech Tournament Park. We need people to bring silent auction and raffle items. It's one of the few times we see each other in person and it's an MSSC fundraiser. The food is always good and plentiful.

### **Last Words**

The next MSSC Board meeting will be on Sunday, July 20, 2025, at 1:00 pm via Zoom conference. Guests and visitors are welcome to attend. Please let Carolyn know at [treasurer@mineralsocal.org](mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org).

The next Membership meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Friday, August 8, 2025, via Zoom. If there is someone you know who would like to attend, please notify Carolyn at [treasurer@mineralsocal.org](mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org)

Don't forget our annual summer event, [MSSC's Picnic and Silent Auction](#) on Saturday, August 23, 2025. We're still looking for volunteers to help set up (8am) and tear down after the event. Contact Rudy to let him know you can help!

She thanked all for attending tonight's meeting and added "Your membership and attendance are greatly appreciated. See you next time!"

### **Adjournment**

President Guzman adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Ogg, MSSC Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*



## List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
<b>Meeting Dates: Meeting Dates:</b>	Zoom September 12, 2025	Scott Braley - Micromount Minerals from around New Mexico
	Zoom October 10, 2025	Bryan Svoboda - title to be determined
	Zoom November 14, 2025	Les Presmyk - title to be determined
	Zoom December 14, 2025	Charles Rogers - Crater Rock Museum, Oregon/Roxy Ann Gem & Mineral Society, Inc
<b>Board Meeting</b>	ZOOM September 28th, 2025	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
<b>Board Meeting</b>	ZOOM December 7th, 2025	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
<b>MSSC Picnic</b>	Saturday, August 23, 2025	Great food & Silent Auction
<b>Field Trip</b>	<i>In The Works</i>	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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC)  
Board of Directors Approved Apr 6, 2025

### **FIRE VICTIMS FUND**

For the benefit of MSSC members and associates who lost their homes during the January 2025 firestorms that ravaged Southern California.

- 100% of your tax-deductible donations will be shared equally with the fire victims:

**Laura Davis**

**Alexandria Dorozhkinsa**

**Keith Harshbarger**

**Ann Meister**

**Alyssa Morgan**

- Send checks, Money Orders or Gift Cards to:

**MSSC**

**13781 Alderwood Ln, #22-J**

**Seal Beach, CA 90740**

Make checks or Money Orders **payable to: MSSC.**

***In the Memo section please write "Fire Victims Fund."***

- The deadline to donate is September 30, 2025.

**DONATE NOW** while it's on your mind!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MSSC Picnic 2025**

**Saturday, August 23, 2025**

**12:00-4:00 pm**

**Location:** Tournament Park on the campus of CALTECH.

**1200 E. California Blvd.**

**Pasadena, CA 91125**

Our Annual picnic is just around the corner. Time to think of what to bring!

**The food signup sheet is on the MSSC web site.**

Silent Auction and raffle items are needed. I just picked up a donation from Kathy Carter. The Carter donation will be use for the picnic and our Kids Program. We will need a lot more to make the picnic a great success.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MSSC Board Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2025**

### **From the Chair**

President Guzman called the meeting to Order at 1:00 pm. She said “welcome to the MSSC board meeting. Thank you all for coming.”

Members present were Angie G., George R., Pat S., Renee K., Pat C., Leslie O., Carolyn S. Rudy L., and Marek C.

### **Business:**

1. Approval of the last Board meeting minutes of April 6, 2025, as published in May 2025 Bulletin.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Pat S. and seconded by Carolyn S. The minutes were approved on a voice vote.

### **Topics**

1. a) Hold harmless consent form wording (see at end of minutes) regarding Bryan Swoboda's presentation on 10/10. Angie presented a draft of a hold harmless declaration to be used when Bryan Swoboda presents his talk. He has asked to have the video of the talk posted to the MSSC website for educational use. We would need some type of consent from members because of the taping. She said she needed the form reviewed by a lawyer. Upon checking, Angie found that neither CFMS nor AFMS seem to have legal advisors.  
b) How to implement the consent before his Zoom presentation; there was a lively discussion by those present. Angie said she was going to seek legal counsel on her own. George R. stated that the speaker is responsible for their photos, and for not violating copyright law. Rudy L. asked if all images belong to Bryan. Rudy suggested Bryan tape the presentation and present the recording to the club. Any comments or questions by club members would not be in the recording. Renee said members don't want to be filmed, and we should pass on this talk. Pat C. said that no hold harmless agreement was airtight, and the club could still be sued. Carolyn could ask Bryan about taping the presentation. A motion was made by Pat S. to not allow any speakers presentation to be posted to our website; it was seconded by Renee K. The motion passed on a voice vote. Carolyn will check with Bryan and see if he still wants to present.
  2. MSSC's Elections November 2025: Nominations 10/10 and 11/14 with elections 11/14/25; we still need a President and Treasurer. Bert V. has volunteered to be director.
  3. MSSC's Fire Victims Fund; so far have collected a little over \$1000. Collection runs until September 30, 2025.
- Financials (Carolyn) The report was e-mailed to all board members. There were no corrections, questions, or comments. Angie made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, George R. seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.
  - Web status/stats (Leslie) Leslie said that she moved the information on National Monuments to a side menu on the website. The link for the picnic RSVP and sign-up for food are live. So far no one has signed up.  
Our Instagram account has gained 79 followers and lost 16 in the last 90 days; for a total of 487 followers.
  - Culver City Gem & Mineral (Leslie) Leslie mentioned she attended the Culver City Gem and Mineral Club show and found it to be well attended, with lots of vendors. The club seems to have a diverse membership both age wise and ethnically. It was great to see. Angie remarked that she attended a meeting of PLS they had a silent auction, an ice cream social, and a blind auction at every table.
  - Membership (Linda) No report. We currently have 85 members.
  - Bulletin (Linda) Angie reminded all that Linda would love to have submissions for the bulletin.

- Picnic/donations/volunteers (Rudy) Rudy said we need material for the raffle and silent auction at the picnic. Rudy has provided the raffle donations in the past and he is out of stuff.
- O.C. Park Event (Rudy) The event has been cancelled for now. Park is worried that attendees could be targeted by immigration and customs.
- Field Trips (Marek) For August or September a trip to Minerals Unlimited in Ridgecrest. In October: A trip for scheelite and a possible trip to Red Cloud and Geronimo mines.
- PMC (Al) Not present, no report. Possibly dependent on MSSC elections.
- Angie has been looking into dissolution of non-profits (if we don't get a President and Treasurer).

Board Members none had any comments or reports.

### **Future Meetings**

The next MSSC board meeting will be on September 28, 2025, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

The last board meeting of 2025 will be December 7, 2025, at 1:00 pm. via Zoom.

The last Membership meeting of 2025 will be December 12 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

### **Adjourn**

The board meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

### **Topics**

Hold Harmless Consent - For example as needed for October 10, 2025, presentation by Bryan Swoboda (Blue Cap Productions).

By signing-in and/or logging-on to this meeting/presentation via video conferencing medium, ZOOM, you hereby consent to your physical likeness being photographed and/or filmed and your voice being recorded by said medium or by any other method used to record your likeness and/or voice, in use now or other recording media developed in the future. Further, you consent and agree that your legal name or sign-in or log-on name, herein referred to as "name," will be displayed on a screen and could be seen by others during the meeting/presentation. Within such overall consents, you freely agree to hold harmless the Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC) of any and all liability in the event your likeness, your voice and/or your name is duplicated by any entity independent of MSSC.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Why I joined MSSC by Renee Kraus**

A decade ago, I started making jewelry with crystals. I knew what some of the major gemstones were but one day someone on Instagram told me to check out a Mineral Society in my area, so I did. I did my research and came across MSSC. Although Pasadena was a far drive during rush hour traffic on a Friday evening coming from Santa Monica, it was worth it to see everyone and to hear the speakers in person. It was worth it to be able to bring in specimens and ask what they were. It was worth the drive and time and effort getting to know everyone. I am happy and grateful for that time. I miss the in-person connection of those meetings. I am truly grateful to be able to say I was part of the board meetings held at the Carters' house on the weekends. Zoom is great too because we get to be a part of MSSC from the comfort of our own home. What a special thing that is really if you think about it, we don't have to go anywhere, drive anywhere, don't have to deal with parking! We can connect from anywhere anytime. My first ever meeting with MSSC was listening to a couple who had climbed Mt Hood .... I remember thinking how cool it was.... I became obsessed and wanted to do this myself although I had never done anything like it before. My obsession soon turned to Death Valley (the lowest point in the US), then soon my attention focused on MT Whitney (the tallest point in the US). Then in 2017, I summited Mt Whitney with my husband (who only agreed to go with me because he didn't think I would get the permit to climb). I don't know if that would have happened if my path hadn't led me to MSSC. Maybe, maybe not.

I came to MSSC for the minerals but have stayed because of the members. I am grateful to everyone who has kept this club running. It is truly a group effort, if you are reading this, I want to say thank you for being a part of the matrix of what makes this club special. Like every crystal, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is one of a kind.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

The **Von Kármán Lecture** is on Thursday, **August ??** 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 \(nasa.gov\)](#). Previous lectures are 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>

\*\*\*\*\*

## Calendar of Events:

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

### **August 1-3, 2025 – Nipomo, CA**

Orcutt Mineral Society

Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave.,

Nipomo, CA 93444

Hours: Fri & Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM

Website: [www.oms-inc.org](http://www.oms-inc.org)

### **September 20-21, 2025 – Monterey, CA**

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road,

Monterey, CA 93940

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

### **August 16-17, 2025 – Tehachapi, CA**

Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Tehachapi Senior Center,

500 East “F” St., Tehachapi, CA 93561

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM both days

Website: <http://tvgms.org>

### **September 27-September 28, 2025**

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club

San Luis Obispo Veteran’s Memorial Building,

802 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo

10 AM to 5 PM both days

Website: [Gems by the Sea – SLO Gem & Mineral Club](#)

### **September 20-21, 2025 – Pasadena, CA**

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia

Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM

Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org/pls-2025-show/>

MSSC Advertisement Policy:		
Mineral-related ads are allowable in the MSSC bulletin. Below is the price per month		
	Business Card	\$5.00
	One-third page	\$10.00
	One-half 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 <a href="mailto:bulletin@mineralsocal.org">bulletin@mineralsocal.org</a> and the payment should be sent to the</p> <p><b>MSSC Treasurer 13781 Alderwood Lane, #22-J, Seal Beach, CA 90740</b></p>		

## 2025 MSSC Officers:

OFFICERS		
President	Angie Guzman	<a href="mailto:president@mineralsocal.org">president@mineralsocal.org</a>
Vice President	Renee Kraus	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@mineralsocal.org">vicepresident@mineralsocal.org</a>
Secretary	Leslie Ogg	<a href="mailto:secretary@mineralsocal.org">secretary@mineralsocal.org</a>
Treasurer	Carolyn Seitz	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org">treasurer@mineralsocal.org</a>
CFMS Director	Angie Guzman	
Past President	George Rossman	
DIRECTORS		
2025--2026	Rudy Lopez	
2025--2026	David Lesperance	
2025--2026	Pat Stevens	
2024-2025	Pat Caplette	
2024-2025	Ahni Dodge	
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Bulletin Editor	Linda Elsnau	<a href="mailto:bulletin@mineralsocal.org">bulletin@mineralsocal.org</a>
Field Trip	Marek Chorazewicz	
Historian	Ann Meister	
Hospitality	Laura Davis	
Membership	Linda Elsnau	<a href="mailto:membership@mineralsocal.org">membership@mineralsocal.org</a>
Micro Mount Conf. Chair	Al Wilkins	
Program and Education	Rudy Lopez	<a href="mailto:programs@mineralsocal.org">programs@mineralsocal.org</a>
Speaker Bureau	Carolyn Seitz	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org">treasurer@mineralsocal.org</a>
Webmaster	Leslie Ogg	<a href="mailto:webmaster@mineralsocal.org">webmaster@mineralsocal.org</a>

### 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](mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org)

**Website:** [www.mineralsocal.org](http://www.mineralsocal.org) **The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.**

Permission to reproduce and distribute original material published herein, in whole or in part, for non-commercial purposes, is hereby granted provided the sense or meaning of the material is not changed, the editor is notified, and the author's notice of copyright is retained. **All other articles used in our bulletins are with the specific permission of the author. Permission to use these documents must be obtained from the author for each use.**

**DISCLAIMER: The Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is not responsible, cannot be held responsible or liable for any person's injuries, damages, or loss of property at or traveling to or from any general meeting, board meeting, open house, field trip, annual show or any other MSSC event.**

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

*To:*



**With Knowledge Comes Appreciation**

***Your MSSC  
Bulletin Is  
Here!***