



BULLETIN of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 99 Number 3 March , 2026

The 1,048th meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

A ZOOM Meeting
March 13, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.

Program: “Fluorescent Minerals of Poudrette Quarry, Mt. St. Hilaire, Quebec, Canada” Presented by: Glenn Waychunas

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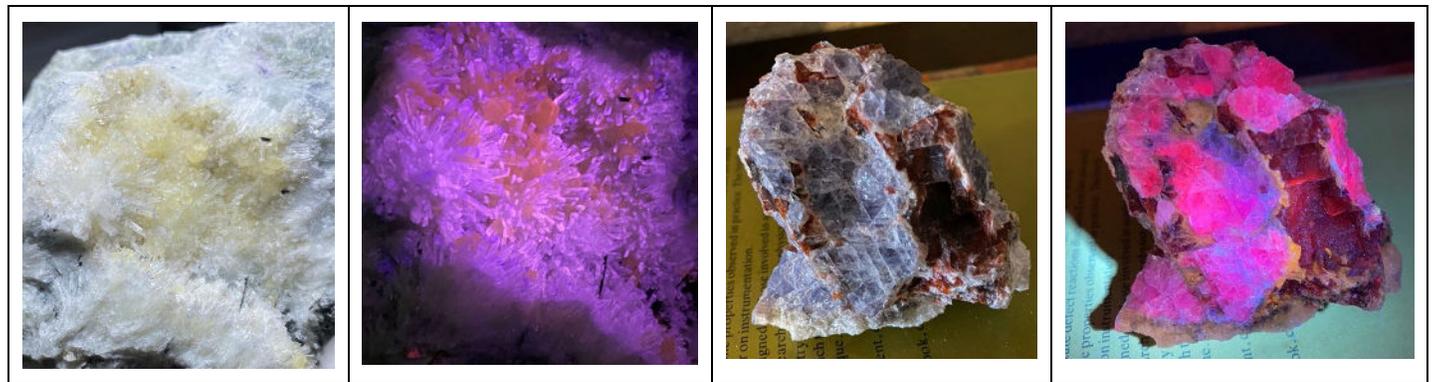
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Remember: If you change your email or street address, you must let the MSSC Editor and Membership Chair know, or we cannot guarantee receipt of future Bulletins

**Program: “ Fluorescent Minerals of Poudrette Quarry, Mt. St. Hilaire, Quebec, Canada
Presented by: Glenn Waychunas**

With 445 known species, Mont Saint-Hilaire (MSH) has become renowned for the diversity of its minerals and the superb quality of many of its species. Mineral specimens from here are to be found in most major collections world-wide, both public and private. Currently, of the 445 known species, 73 were originally described from this locality. Of those 73, 35 have not been found elsewhere. There are also at least 85 distinct species at Mont Saint-Hilaire that are fluorescent, with many of these brilliantly so. In this talk I will show photos of many diverse specimens, as well as microscope photos, of interesting MSH minerals and assemblages. MSH is a unique high alkali deposit with relatively significant concentrations of REE. It thus has a trove of elements that can function as activators of luminescence. Much work still needs to be done to understand how these function, and indeed, quite a few MSH species are still new and yet to be named.

Glenn Waychunas is a visiting scientist at Caltech (Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences) and a scientific associate at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). He received his Ph.D. in 1979 from UCLA. He is the author or coauthor of more than 200 scientific papers and was formerly Professor at Stanford University and Senior Scientist at LBNL. His research work has focused on sorption of ions on mineral interfaces, along with near surface aqueous solution and solid structure. He has also made contributions to nanoscience, geochemistry, non-linear spectroscopy, x-ray spectroscopy and luminescence spectroscopy. Most recently, with the late George Rossman, he has been characterizing activators in minerals with poorly understood luminescence. He is an avid mineral collector with more than 5000 samples in his collection; many collected on trips around the world.



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. 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.

Wow, the passing of George Rossman last month leaves a big hole in our membership. He was a longtime MSSC member and past president. I for one will miss his excellent programs!

March brings the beginning of daylight savings (March 8th), St Patricks Day (the 17th) and Palm Sunday (March 29th) not to mention another excellent MSSC meeting on Friday, March 13th. Don't miss it.

It's that time of year...Dues are Due

If you haven't already paid your MSSC Membership Dues, Remember,

DUES ARE DUE!

As of Today, March 1, 2026, Fully 45% of our membership has not yet renewed. You need to do so NOW.

Renewal Deadline is MARCH 15, 2026, 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 Treasurer
2231 Golden Circle
Newport Beach, CA 92660
Or ----[Use PayPal](#)

\$30.00 INDIVIDUAL

\$40.00 Family

\$35.00 additional for USPS Delivered Bulletin

If your information has changed since last year (email, address, phone) please complete a new [Membership form](#) (on page 10 of the February Bulletin) with new information.

Any Questions, please contact Pat Stevens at treasurer@mineralsocal.org or

Linda Elsnau at membership@mineralsocal.org

From Our President Leslie Ogg

My collected mineral this month starts with the letter C. It is calcite, specifically Icelandic spar aka optical calcite. Transparent and rhombic shaped, they split light into two beams causing a double image. I am pretty sure the old mine I collected from was in the Darwin mining district; it was so long ago I don't remember a lot of details!

In researching spar, I found a fascinating article from [Rock and Gem Magazine](#) ([linked](#)).

Spar was mentioned in text written by Icelandic monks in 1250. It was used by the Viking mariners to determine the position of the Sun on cloudy or foggy days. If you held the sólarsteinn (sun stone) up to your eye you would see sunlight split into two beams. If you scan the horizon, the sun is at the point where the two beams are the same intensity. [Check out this video.](#)

Optical spar was also used to make a Nicol prism and 'magic lanterns' which were the precursors of photometers, spectrophotometers, and polarizing microscopes. During WWII, this calcite was used to make optical ring sights.

This form of calcite was mined in California, New Mexico, Montana, and Sonora, Mexico. It was considered a strategic wartime material.

Other interesting forms of calcite include blue calcite from Crestmore Quarry and cobaltian calcite from Morocco.



Icelandic Spar Aldo Cavini Benedetti's photo, licensed as CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.	Blue Calcite, Leslie Ogg photo	Cobaltian Calcite, Leslie Ogg photo
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Other items of note this month:

- Please [renew your membership here](#)
- The CFMS Executive Board is exploring the possibility of creating a **Southern California Lapidary Camp** to complement our long-running Camp Paradise program. This potential camp would offer an alternative format, including bundled lodging and meals, and would be held during university off-session periods.

No decisions have been made at this time. This survey is intended solely to gather feedback from CFMS clubs so the Board can determine whether sufficient interest exists to pursue this option.

If you are interested, please complete this [survey \(link\)](#)

MSSC Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes, Friday, February 13, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President, Leslie Ogg. Leslie announced that this was the 1,047th Zoom membership meeting. There were 23 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Memories of George Rossman and some of his accomplishments were shared and Carolyn S. announced there will be a private memorial for CalTech friends and colleagues and then a second one for the public, times and locations to be announced.

Minutes:

Minutes of the January 9, 2026, membership meeting – Carolyn S. motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by David L. Motion carried.

Minutes of January 18, 2026, Board Meeting - David L. motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Carolyn Seitz. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Installation and Dinner Meeting on January 10, 2026 – Carolyn S. made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Michael C. Motion carried.

The number of approved minerals species listed on the International Mineralogical Association is 6,189 but on Mindat the number is 6,201. Tony K. said the Mindat website is probably the most current.

The guest speaker is Scott Braley from Sante Fe, New Mexico with a program on ‘Micromounts at the Nacimiento Mine.’ He also shared information from the Eureka Mine close to the Nacimiento Mine.

A reminder that membership dues are due was announced.

Marek C. announced the Field Trip will be on March 7, 2026, to the Natural History Museum to see a special exhibition “Unearthed: Raw Beauty”. Contact him if you want to attend.

Marek C. announced there will be a field trip soon to the BLM areas that are going to be closing.

Angie G. said the Pacific Micro Mineral Conference in Fallbrook, CA was well attended with great speakers, and lots of micros to look at.

Leslie O. announced we need volunteers to sit at a table for a few hours and speak with the visitors about minerals at Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County for a science event on Earth Day, April 19, 9:30-5:00.

Gregor L. spoke about the upcoming closures of 2,200 miles of dirt road closures, shared a map, and reminded members that there will be a meeting on February 18, 2026, in person or via Zoom at the Friends of Jawbone website. The meeting will discuss the route closures.

Next Board Meeting will be May 3, 2026.
 Next Membership Meeting is March 13, 2026.
 Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm
 Minutes submitted by MSSC secretary Marcia G.

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation!

List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
Meeting Dates::	ZOOM April 10, 2026	Paolo Sanchez; Pegmatites of Minas Gerais, Brazil
	ZOOM May 8, 2026	TBA
	ZOOM June 11, 2026	TBA
Board Meeting	Sunday, May 3, 2026	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
Field Trip		No News 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 is being temporarily discontinued until such time as MSSC starts holding in-person meetings again.



Photo:
Angie
Guzman

59th Annual PACIFIC MICROMINERAL CONFERENCE

January 30, 31, February 1, 2026
 Fallbrook, California

Report by Angie Guzman

This year's Pacific Micromineral Conference officially kicked off at 3pm on Friday, January 30th. Attendance was good, there were plenty of items on the give-away tables and the \$1.00 tables were filled and re-stocked as needed. Opening remarks and welcome was delivered by Mike Evans, former MSSC member, president and currently Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Representative. There was plenty of scope time and the camaraderie could not have been better. Presentations and presenters were captivating.

Friday evening's speaker was Barbara Matz. Barb earned her B.S. and M.S. in geology; she was a member of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society during that time. Currently, she is a member of the Bay Area Mineralogists, the Northern California Mineralogical Association and several other societies and groups.

Her presentation, interesting and refreshing, took us to the UK for her trip there offered by Mindat a few years ago. The small group visited several mines in the southern portion of the country, starting with the mines of Cornwall area then travelling northward and beyond. Barb's photos complemented her verbal descriptions of minerals and of the countryside.

For Saturday morning's session, we were treated to a presentation by speaker Paul Adams. Per the Mindat.com biography, Mr. Adams has a B.S. in geology from the State University of New York at Albany (1976) and an M.S. in geology from the University of Southern California (1979). He has been employed as a spectroscopist and microscopist in the aerospace industry for 36 years and has been field collecting minerals for over 40 years. He authored or coauthored the description of more than a dozen new minerals and the structure of several more.

Paul's presentation was based on a previous one he'd created several years ago. This version, however, had up-to-date photos shown side by side with the originals. The contrast was amazing. *Micromineralogy of La Paz Co., AZ*. In his opening slide, Paul showed several mines he explored. Going from location to location, showing the changes from 20 or so years ago was eye opening. This was an example of how the land is reluctant to give up territory, claims it back and renews itself. The mines were amazing and the information was good for miners and collectors to keep in mind.

Later in the afternoon, Mike Cox commanded our attention with his presentation on mercury, *Mercury Mineral Adventures; An Update*.

Mike hails from Northern California. He's a member of the Santa Cruz Gem & Mineral Society. Mike is a retired environmental and business management professional. His spare time pursuits are in geological and mineralogical interests. He has a background in mercury industrial remediation, resource investigations and environmental and social risks on the global level. Mike is a founding member of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association.

Mike's talk included the McDermitt Caldera Complex which is located along the Oregon/Nevada border. He told us that mailing mercury material through the postal service is outlawed by USPS. All in all, great presentation with great photos, delivery and content.



Photo: Angie Guzman



photo Angie Guzman



Photo: Angie Guzman



Photo: Angie Guzman

Many thanks to everyone who helped set up and tear down. Much appreciated!

Help us celebrate PMC's 60th Anniversary. Check the Bulletin for information and updates.

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

The **Watson Lecture** is on Wednesday, **March 25** at 7:30 PM at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. The speaker is **Katie Bouman**. The title is not available. Learn about how physics and AI are working together to illuminate the hidden universe with Katie Bouman, associate professor of computing and mathematical sciences, electrical engineering, and astronomy; Rosenberg Scholar; Heritage Medical Research Institute Investigator. To REGISTER and for more information: [AudienceView Professional](#) Enjoy pre-lecture activities and music including food, drinks, and books available for purchase starting at 6 PM. Find past lectures on [Caltech Watson Lecture Series - YouTube](#)

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 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/>

2026 Shows

March 7-8, 2026 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.,
Ventura, CA 93001
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

Hours: 12 Noon – 3 PM

Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

March 20-22, 2026 – Clovis, CA

Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
Clovis Rodeo, 748 Rodeo Dr., Clovis, CA
Hours: Fri and Sat 10 AM-5 PM, Sun 10 AM-4 PM
Admission: 13 years and up, \$5.00 good for 3 days
Free Parking!
Website: <https://www.fgms.rocks>

March 13-15, 2026 – Apple Valley, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
7 Miles down Stoddard Wells Rd.,
Apple Valley, CA
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM daily
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Location: Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W Ave
H, Lancaster, CA 93534
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Parking will cost \$10. Show will be in the Van Dam
building.
Website: <http://AVGem.weebly.com>

March 14, 2026- Lake Elsinore, CA

Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM
Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/530281757337262/>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem and Mineral Club
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore, CA 93245
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 6 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/AndLemoore/>

March 15, 2026 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA 92028

April 18-19, 2026 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Conejo Gem and Mineral Club
Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino Road,

Thousand Oaks 91320

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

FREE ENTRY; FREE PARKING

Website: www.CGAMC.org

April 25-26, 2026 – Anaheim

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

Free entry, free parking.. Please, no pets. Service

animals only.

Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

May 1-2, 2026 – Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem &* Mineral Society

Located on Yucaipa Blvd., in Yucaipa, CA 92399

Hours: Fri 12 Noon – 9 PM, Sun 6 PM – 10 PM

Website: <http://www.yvgms.org/>

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	
In addition, any advertiser who purchases 12 months of space in advance will receive a discount of 12 months for the price of 10 months. The copy for the ads should be mailed to the editor at bulletin@mineralsocal.org and the payment should be sent to the MSSC Treasurer 2231 Golden Circle, Newport Beach, CA 92660			

**West Coast
Gem & Mineral Show**

**Holiday Inn
Orange County Airport
2726 South Grand Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

**May 1 – 3, 2026
Fri & Sat 10am to 6pm
Sun 10am to 5pm**



Wulfenite: from Red Cloud Mine, La Paz Co., Arizona, USA.
Courtesy of: Evan A Jones. Photo by: Tom Spann



March 8, 2026

2026 MSSC Officers:

OFFICERS		
President	Leslie Ogg	president@mineralsocal.org
Vice President	Renee Kraus	vicepresident@mineralsocal.org
Co-Secretaries	Ahni Dodge / Marcia Goetz	secretary@mineralsocal.org
Treasurer	Pat Stevens	treasurer@mineralsocal.org
CFMS Director	Angie Guzman	
Past President	Angie Guzman	
DIRECTORS		
2025--2026	Carolyn Seitz	
2025--2026	David Lesperance	
2025--2026	vacant	
2026-2027	Pat Caplette	
2026-2027	Bert Vogler	
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Bulletin Editor	Linda Elsnau	bulletin@mineralsocal.org
Field Trip	Marek Chorazewicz	
Historian	Ann Meister	
Membership	Linda Elsnau	membership@mineralsocal.org
Micro Mineral Conf. Chair	Al Wilkins	
Program and Education	vacant	
Speaker Bureau	Carolyn Seitz	Speakers@mineralsocal.org
Webmaster	Leslie Ogg	webmaster@mineralsocal.org

About the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Organized in 1931, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is the oldest mineralogical society in the western United States. The MSSC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study of mineral specimens. We are a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports those endeavors through public outreach, field study and related programs. The Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is the official publication of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc.

The MSSC meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., 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.**

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MSSC Bulletin
3630 Encinal Ave.
Glendale, CA 91214

To:



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Here!**