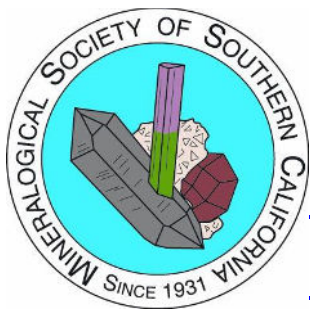




BULLETIN of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 99 Number 7 July, 2026

The 1,052nd meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

A ZOOM Meeting
July 10, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.

Program: "A Brief History Of The Mines Museum of Earth Science, Golden CO"
Presented by Renata Lafler, Executive Director

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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: A Brief History Of The Mines Museum of Earth Science, Golden CO Presented by Renata Lafler, Executive Director

Join Executive Director, Renata Lafler, for a brief history of the Mines Museum of Earth Science, a world-class mineral museum in Golden, CO. She will also showcase one of the most special lapidary objects in the museum's collection, the Miss Colorado Crown! Explore the gemological properties, history, and connections that make this piece unique. Renata will be available for a Q&A session afterwards.

Renata Lafler is a gemologist, mineral enthusiast, and mom of five who has served as the Executive Director of Mines Museum of Earth Science at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO since 2018. Prior to her time at the museum, Renata was the Director of Gemstone Advancement and Education at Jewelry Television (JTV) in Knoxville, TN. As a Fellow of the Gemological Association of Great Britain (FGA), she acted as the Executive Producer of *the Sisk Gemology Reference*, a three-volume book series about gems. Renata achieved her Master's degree in Geosciences in 2009 at the University of Arizona, analyzing the Raman spectra of gemstones, and her B.S. in geology from St. Norbert College in DePere, WI. She has been cultivating an appreciation of Earth's wonders for more than 12 years and creatively combats chaos daily with effective planning and a sense of humor.

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! 2026 is officially half gone. Why is it, the older I get, the faster time flies? Happy Birthday to the U.S.A.!

We have another interesting program scheduled for our July meeting and our annual picnic in August to look forward to so our summer is getting off with a bang. It's never too late to start looking for auction items for the picnic.

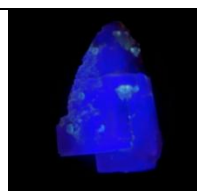
From Our President Leslie Ogg

Fluorite is the mineral this month. It's a common mineral that is found worldwide in different forms. Chemically fluorite is a halide mineral, formula CaF_2 sometimes fluoride is replaced by strontium, yttrium, cesium, or cerium. What I did not know is that it's actually a colorless transparent mineral, all the beautiful colors of fluorite come from impurities.

Fluorite was originally called fluorspar and was first described in the 1500s. Fluorescence was named after fluorite as is the element fluorine. Fluoric acid HF is made from fluorite.

Fluorite crystals are cubic, sometimes octahedral, botryoidal or nodular. It has a hardness of 4 and is easily scratched with a knife.

I have collected at one of the most common areas in Southern California, the Felix mine in Azusa. I know the main trail has been closed off by housing, but I've heard you can still get there by another route.

				
Fluorite Felix Mine, Azusa, CA /	Purple fluorite, location unknown	Fluorite, Zieda, Morocco	Fluorite, El Hammam, Morocco	Fluorite & Dolomite, Elmwood Mine, TN
				
Fluorite, Rogerley Mine, Durham, England	Fluorite, Nancy Hanks Mine, Unaweep Canyon, Mesa Cty, CO	Fluorite, Rogerley Mine, Durham, England	Fluorite, Mine de Valzergue, Aveyron, France	Same showing fluorescence (UV light)

All photos © Leslie Ogg

If you have some young people in your life (or you are looking for some light reading), I encourage you to check out **Mini Miners Monthly from Diamond Dan**. Each pdf issue is dedicated to a topic; this month it's copper minerals. There is information, coloring pages, puzzles, an experiment, and a copper collection checklist: do you have all of them?

Marcia G. sends it to me, if you want to check it out, let me know, I'll send you a copy.

Don't forget to save the date for our picnic and silent auction, August 29th at Caltech Tournament Park.

Lastly **Happy 250th** Birthday **America!**

MSSC Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes, Friday, June 12, 2026

Minutes of the June 12, 2026, meeting, called to order at 7:30 p.m.

21 members and two guests were in attendance. Barbara joined from the New York Mineralogical Club, and Bob, a resident of Altadena, CA joined also.

President Leslie O. announced that this was the 1,051st meeting.

Minutes of the May 2026 meeting: David L. made the motion to approve the minutes and Angie G. second the motion.

President Leslie O. announced that there were 6,224 minerals and 3,309 rock names on Mindat. One new mineral is Chingasite and it was found on the Moon at the Ocean of Storms. It's a phosphate mineral.

The guest speaker Evan Jones was introduced. Topic was Additions to The Jones Arizona Collection, A Few Personal Favorites and Some Recent Acquisitions. Evan shared many pictures of Arizona minerals that he has collected through the ages. Somewhere from mines and dump digs. The collection has about 1,400 specimens.

Evan's presentation of Arizona minerals highlighted various specimens including multi-stage paragenesis blades, cuprite crystals, wulfenite from the Defiance Mine, and calcedonite from Tiger, Arizona. He discussed the significance of several pieces, including a rare chalcotrichite specimen from the Grand Reef Mine that appeared in his father's 1970s Mineralogical Record article, and a 3-centimeter cuprite crystal from a 1986 Graham family pocket in Bisbee. Evan also shared stories about acquiring minerals from prominent collectors and dealers, including a wire silver specimen from the Silver King Mine and a gold piece from San Domingo Wash that was enhanced through etching.

The picnic for August 29th was discussed, and more information will be upcoming.

There will be a board meeting on August 2nd, 1 p.m.

Marek C. said there was no field trip report.

Next regular meeting will be July 10th at 7:30

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Marcia G, MSSC Secretary

MSSC Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes, Friday, April 10, 2026

(Editor's Note: These minutes are based on the ZOOM summary, so they do not follow our normal format for our minutes)

The Mineralogical Society of Southern California held its 1049th meeting, with Leslie presiding as chair. The meeting began with the approval of minutes from the March 13th meeting, which were corrected to reflect the correct date. Leslie announced the next board meeting on May 3rd at 1 PM and invited members to attend or join the board. The main presentation was introduced by Carolyn, featuring Paolo Sanchez, a PhD student in geochemistry at Caltech, who was scheduled to discuss "Minas Gerais and the Wonders of Pegmatites" in Brazil.

Brazilian Gem Mine Research Presentation

Paolo presented on his field work conducted in Brazilian gem mines of Minas Gerais, focusing on LCT pegmatites. He explained the formation process of pegmatites through fractional crystallization and described how these rocks can contain valuable incompatible elements like lithium, cesium, and tantalum. Paolo outlined his research questions about how different pegmatites compare worldwide and how sedimentary rock melting contributes to their formation, particularly in the large-scale Brazilian deposits. He provided context on the geological history of eastern Brazil and discussed the historical and current mining activities in the region, noting that while gem mining has decreased in recent decades, independent miners called garimpeiros still operate in the area.

Brazilian Pegmatites Fieldwork Presentation

Paolo presented a detailed account of his fieldwork in eastern Brazil, comparing the region's pegmatites to those in Southern California. He described visiting several mines in the Linopolis area, including the Telerio Clain mine where they found Brazilianite, a rare lithium-aluminum phosphate mineral. The team also visited the Luis mine, a feldspar mine, and the Quinca mine, which produces tourmaline. Paolo highlighted the differences between Brazilian and California pegmatites, noting that Brazilian ones are older, larger, and host a wider variety of minerals including industrial commodities like lithium.

Lithium Mining in Minas Gerais

Paolo described the geological features of pegmatites in the Minas Gerais region, including the presence of granite, schist, and mineral veins containing tourmalines and garnets. He detailed the transformation of the Arisuay and Salinas area into a major lithium mining district, with corporations investing in hard rock lithium mining, particularly at the CBL mine. Paolo explained the process of extracting lithium from spodumene crystals and highlighted the significant scale of operations at the CBL mine, including the large spodumene crystals and the use of mine waste for road construction.

Brazil Tourmaline Fieldwork Presentation

Paolo presented on his fieldwork in Brazil, focusing on tourmaline sprays and pegmatites in the Arasway area. He described finding extensive stockpiles of black tourmaline, kunzite, and aquamarine at an old digging site that supplies materials to gem shops worldwide. Paolo explained that he is currently analyzing samples using XRF spectroscopy and isotope analysis to model lithium enrichment in pegmatites, comparing them with

similar formations in Southern California. The discussion included questions about pegmatite formation and wall rock reactions, which Paolo addressed by explaining that pegmatite melts can migrate up to kilometers away from their source pluton.

Paolo also talked about tourmaline growth patterns in pegmatites, which generated discussion about crystallization processes.

Leslie announced that volunteers are needed for the Earth Day activity at the LA Natural History Museum on April 19th and mentioned an opportunity for club members to speak at Orange County Parks about local geology.

The board discussed rescheduling the August picnic due to high temperatures experienced the previous year and noted that membership stands at 61 members with recent renewals. The conversation ended with updates about upcoming events, including the West Coast Gem and Minerals show and Paolo's upcoming presentation about industrial diamonds at PLS on the 21st.

Submitted by Marcia Goetz, MSSC Secretary

MSSC Board Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2026

From the Chair

President Leslie O. called the meeting to Order at 1:00 pm.

Members present were Angie G., Pat S., Pat C., Leslie O., Carolyn S., David L., Bert V., Bob H.?

Business

Approval of the January 18, 2026, board meeting minutes published in the February 2026 Bulletin. Note: These minutes were approved by the general membership during the February 13, 2026, membership meeting. They were approved by the board.

Officers

President (Leslie O)

Old Business

- A. Earth Day Event- The group discussed the successful Earth Day event at the Natural History Museum, where David L., Angie G., and Bert V., and Pat S. participated in educating the public about minerals. They agreed to donate leftover rocks to the next auction and expressed interest in being invited back for future events. Angie mentioned writing an article for the bulletin about the event, which Leslie planned to share on the website and Facebook page.
- B. New co-secretary- The board discussed the need for a new co-secretary due to Ani Dodge's resignation and Marcia's limited availability. They agreed that finding a secretary is required by state law and not optional.
- C. Recognition of "above and beyond" service to MSSC- The group decided against implementing a formal recognition program for members service, though they acknowledged Rudy's significant contributions and agreed a written acknowledgment in the bulletin would be appropriate. The discussion concluded with a conversation about potentially offering free student memberships, though concerns were raised about insurance costs and the need to pay CFMS dues.
- D. Additional board member- discussed, but no member was nominated.

New Business

- A. Review Bylaws- Angie mentioned having previously handled this task and noted that the current bylaws are from 2019. Pat S. volunteered to review the bylaws.
- B. MSSC scholarships
 - a. The group agreed to donate \$1,000 to Mindat, as suggested by Carolyn, after discussing the club's current financial position.

- b. The group discussed creating a George Rossman Memorial Scholarship, agreeing to establish it with an annual award of \$1,000 for students studying mineralogy or earth sciences at the baccalaureate, master's, or PhD level. They decided to make the scholarship more general than just mineralogy to encourage broader participation, while still maintaining a focus on mineralogy given George's contributions to the field. The group also agreed that future recipients should be selected through a formal application process rather than being pre-determined, and that the scholarship funds should go directly to the student rather than to the institution to avoid administrative complications. The group discussed and approved awarding funding to Paolo Sanchez with members confirming he needs the money for research
- C. Club Insurance- The main discussion focused on club insurance coverage, where Leslie shared insights from a CFMS online seminar about their current policy. The insurance covers \$1 million in liability per occurrence for up to 1,000 people at events, plus coverage for equipment damage with a \$1,000 deductible. The group identified questions about coverage for honorary members and clarified that while lifetime members are covered, honorary members may need to pay their own insurance, though this needs confirmation.
- D. Picnic- The group discussed scheduling the event for late August, with Angie suggesting either August 29th or September 12th, with preference for the end of August. They discussed logistics including the need for shade and canopies, with Leslie offering her large pop-up tent.

Vice President (Renee K)- no report

Treasurer (Pat S)- Pat needs appropriate financial software (QuickBooks) to manage the clubs finances.

Secretary (Marcia G)- Mention the upcoming CFMS meetings, with saying that the September meeting will be in Reno and the November meeting will be in Visalia.

Directors

David L	(2025-2026)
Carolyn S	(2025-2026)
Pat C	(2026-2027)
Bert V	(2026-2027)

Committee Reports/Comments/Issues

- A. Bulletin Editor (Linda E)- From Linda: We are currently sending 4 snail mail bulletins I think it is time to rewrite the "about MSSC" section of the bulletin as it no longer really describes the way we are currently operating. Should I do this or is this something the Board should be doing? The group discussed updating the About MSSC section in the bulletin to reflect current operations, with plans to review it at the next meeting
- B. Field Trips (Marek C) Excused, it's his birthday! He was watching the May 8 and May 15 weekend forecast, but temperature is increasing every day. Around 88F now, so it looks like a heatwave might be coming preventing any further trips this season, will keep watching.
- C. Membership (Linda E) We currently have 71 total memberships of which 16 are family memberships. There are 3 honorary and 7 lifetime memberships. She is waiting for one more renewal so she can finalize the roster and get it sent out.
- D. PMC (Al W, Bob H)-no report
- E. Speakers (Carolyn S)- June is Evan Jones talking about his family's mineral collection.
- F. Webmaster (Leslie O): Leslie presented web traffic data showing increased activity around museum events, with field trip information being the most popular content.
- G. CFMS Director (Angie G.) CFMS plans for a Southern California version of Camp Paradise.
- H. Historian (Ann M)- no report
- I. Past President (Angie G) -MSSC Historic Records, Angie shared that she received materials from former president Mike Evans dating back to 1931. Leslie suggested scanning the documents and uploading them to the website, mentioning that Mareck had been uploading historical materials under

different categories to the field trip page. Pat mentioned having a box of historical photographs, including images of Anne M. parents from the 1970s, which he planned to share with Anne.

7. **Next Board Meeting:** Sunday August 2, 2026, at 1:00 pm

8. **Adjournment** at 3:00 p.m.

List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
Meeting Dates::	ZOOM August 14, 2026	TBA
	ZOOM September 11, 2026	TBA
	ZOOM October 9, 2026	TBA
Board Meeting	Sunday, August 2, 2026	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
Annual Picnic	Saturday, August 29, 2026	Noon to 4:00P.M.
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.

Save the Date!



Please join us for our annual potluck picnic and silent auction.

Date: Saturday-August 29, 2026

Time: 12:00 noon-4:00 pm

Location: Tournament Park on the campus of CALTECH.

1200 E. California Blvd.

Pasadena, CA 91125

Coming June: The RSVP sign up form and Potluck Food Sign up list will be released soon. Also, a Map, directions to Tournament Park, and parking directions will be included.

We need Silent Auction and Raffle items.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact president@mineralsocal.org or info@mineralsocal.org

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

The **Watson Lecture Series at Caltech is on hiatus until the Fall semester.** Stay tuned until October! Hopefully, the maintenance of Beckman Auditorium will be completed. Find past Watson Lectures on [Caltech's YouTube channel](#).

The **Von Kármán Lecture** is on Thursday, **July ??** 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>

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/>

2026 Shows

July 31, August 1-2, 2026 - Nipomo, CA

Nipomo High School, 525 North Thompson Avenue,
Nipomo, CA 93444

Orcutt Mineral Society

Hours: Fri & Sat, 10 am to 5 pm; Sun, 10 am to 4 pm

Orcutt Mineral Society's 58th Rock & Gem Show

60 outside and 12 inside dealers; kids booth and food trucks

Aug 15-16, 2026 - Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East F Street,

Tehachapi, CA 93561

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Hours: Sat 9am - 5pm; Sun 9am - 4pm

Tehachapi Valley Gem , Mineral and Jewelry Show.

Family activities, Awesome vendors, raffles & much more.

Website: tvgms.net

Aug 22-23, 2026 – Escondido, CA

California Center for the Arts, The Museum, 340 N.

Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Admission \$5, under 12 Free. Free parking.

Website: palomargem.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			

2026 MSSC Officers:

OFFICERS		
President	Leslie Ogg	president@mineralsocal.org
Vice President	Renee Kraus	vicepresident@mineralsocal.org
Co-Secretaries	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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To:



With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

**Your MSSC
Bulletin Is
Here!**



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