



# The Rockhound Record

*Mineralogical Society of Arizona - 1935 - 2011*

*August - September 2011 - Volume 77, Issue 7*

## **NEW MEETING LOCATION - EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2011**

Church of the Beatitudes, 555 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix, AZ, 85021

**Please refer to the map on Page 3 of this newsletter for details.**

## **Upcoming Program**

**Thursday, September 8, 2011**

**COLLECTING ARIZONA**

**FOR 50 YEARS**

**PRESENTED BY LES PRESMYK**

Les, along with his wife Paula, are Phoenix natives and graduates of the University of Arizona. Les joined the MSA in 1965 and went on to turn his hobby into his profession as a mining engineer for Magma Copper and SRP. While he has collected minerals for almost 50 years, his specialty in Arizona has encompassed the last 30 years. He has served as Vice-President and President of the MSA, Board Chair of the Flag Mineral Foundation and as a Tucson Show Committee member for over 25 years. In conjunction with Tony Potucek, Dick Graeme and Ray Grant, with Gloria Staebler as editor, Les is involved with a book the collecting of minerals in Arizona, which will premiere in February 2012.

His talk will be about the history, mines, and minerals of Arizona and the people who have preserved the great specimen wealth of our state.

## **Come See Our New Meeting Place!**

We are excited to have a new meeting place when we resume our meetings in September 2011. Starting on **Thursday, September 8**, we will be meeting at the Church of the Beatitudes, 555 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, 85021 (southeast corner of 7th Avenue and Glendale Avenue).

**<http://www.beatitudeschurch.org/>**

I would like to personally thank the Church of the Beatitudes for enabling our club to meet there. It is a beautiful church campus with a large, well-lit parking lot and several nice meeting rooms. A map of the location is included on Page 3 of this newsletter. We hope to see you back at the meetings again in the Fall, after what was an upsetting chain of events in April for the Museum and all the clubs who met there.

### **NOTICE!**

**All future MSA meetings  
will be on the second  
Thursday of the month,  
September through June**



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**BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS**

Lynne Dyer  
Terry Dyer  
Bob Holm  
David Lay

## THE MSA'S REDESIGNED 75-YEAR PIN

The MSA 75th Anniversary Pin will be available for sale at the Sept. 8, 2011 meeting.

It was necessary to revise the artwork for the club's 75th Anniversary Pin to accommodate the vendor who is producing it. The club would like to thank Chris Whitney-Smith, one of our members, for his talents and all of his hard work in accomplishing the original design and this redesign. The MSA is fortunate to have his participation.

Great Job, Chris!



## 2011 Arizona State Fair News

The dates for the 2011 Arizona State Fair are Oct. 14th to Nov. 6th. Mineral and Jewelry entries have to be in by Sept. 14th. They can be sent online at [www.azstatefair.com/entries](http://www.azstatefair.com/entries). Arrival of entries is only 1 day, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

I will put a case in for MSA again, and if you would like to have some of your minerals in the display, please bring them to the Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> meeting along with a label for each. Please give to Betty Deming.

Church of the Beatitudes, 555 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix, AZ, 85021

Glendale Avenue



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi, everyone. Hope you have had a great summer exploring Arizona and wherever you choose to hang out during the hot summer weather. I know that Ed went fishing and caught a sunburn, but that is about all. We have a new meeting place thanks to the efforts of Lois. Lois does so much for the club that it would be hard to list all of it. The new place is the Church of the Beatitudes at 555 West Glendale Avenue. Hope that Lois corrects the address for me if it is wrong. Several of the board members and Frank Burns went to look at the different meeting areas at the church. We were lucky to get the best room in the house, you might say. It is their parlor to use a term. It is homey and has a kitchen off to one side close by. The parking lot is large and will hold all our cars and then some.

We will be meeting the **SECOND THURSDAY OF SEPTEMBER**, not Friday. The board decided that for those that have children and those that want to travel to a rock show on weekends **THURSDAYS WOULD BE BETTER** for everyone involved. One, those that have children already usually have something going on Fridays and can't make it to the rock club meetings. And those that want to travel out of town on Friday can do so without worrying about missing the meeting. I am going to start a Presidential Drawing, which will run besides the usual door prizes. Offered will be some nice pieces of rock that I have picked out for prizes. The money will go towards helping the club with any new purchases we need to make.

We should thank the Dyers for storing the books from the club's library in their garage for safe keeping so we can use the books in a silent auction at each meeting until they are gone. The format will be something like this. Ten books will be brought to each meeting and put into a silent auction. Opening bid will be determined by what the book is worth according to an Internet site, where we have found most of the books and their present prices. That price will determine the starting point for the auction. If no book receives a bid, then it will go back into the pile and brought back at a different meeting. Then we may decide to auction off the books at the Flagg show. If we still cannot sell them, then we shall consider giving them to a library or museum that would have them available to the public for their use. Again, thank you, Terry and Lynne. You both get a gold star for your help. My thanks, and I know the club members thanks, for stepping forward and taking on this task for the club. We all know that retirement for Terry only means he works harder for the club and members' welfare than before.

If anyone wants one of the display cases, please see Ed Nichols. He can give you the details on how to get one or more for yourself. These are great display cases, and at \$10 each you are getting something that would cost anywhere else \$75 to \$100 each. If we don't sell many to members, we will try to sell them at the Flagg Show.

It would be great if each member would bring in a new member or someone as a visitor. Remember to get some business card ads for our newsletter. Prices are listed in the letter itself. And try and get a quote from those who do have ads in the newsletter now.

Please remember when out hunting rock to try to get about 5 lbs of good looking stuff for our spinning wheel at the Flagg Show. It is never too early to start setting stuff aside for that purpose. And, please remember, when out looking for some minerals or samples, to be careful, carry enough water, watch your fuel gauge, and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Be careful of the animals and plants that are around you, too.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

# ARIZONA MINERAL COLLECTOR NUMBER 140



By Dr. Raymond Grant

Things are really slow as far as new minerals or localities in Arizona. If you have something new about Arizona minerals, send me an email – [raycyn@cox.net](mailto:raycyn@cox.net).

As I was trying to come up with a subject for this month, I happened to see a specimen of whelanite. Many Arizona collectors have specimens of whelanite, but it is not officially a mineral. It occurs as turquoise blue acicular sprays up to several centimeters long at the Christmas mine, Gila County. It has also been found in Utah, California and Chile. It has the formula  $\text{CuCa}_5\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{17}(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

Why isn't it officially a mineral? It was described by James R. Hindman and approved by the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) in 1977, but he never published the description, therefore it is not official.

If you Google Hindman, you will find that he is a leading expert on vermiculite and publishes the Vermiculite Technology Newsletter in Salt Lake City, Utah. I am going to check with the IMA to see if someone else can publish the information and if Hindman needs to give permission. I have no idea what the procedure is when someone gets a name approved, but does not publish it. You can go to [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org) and see photographs and information about whelanite.

After writing the above, I wrote to my friend Peter Williams, who is on the Nomenclature Committee, about whelanite. His response was they are working on cleaning up the mess, so perhaps it will be official in the future.

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued from Page 4)

## ARSENIC

**Appearance:** Rare pseudo-cubic crystals normally in microcrystalline masses, of the mammillated with concentric bands. Black with white inclusions.

**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES:** Semi-hard(3-3.5)heavy perfect cleavage, fragile. Opaque and dull. streak gray or tin-white infusible but volatilizes at a low temperature.(450 c) 842 F giving off white fumes with a strong smell of garlic.

**Environment:** Hydrothermal veins, associated with arsenides and sulfides of silver, nickel and cobalt, probably through reduction. Sometimes deposits have been found in masses of morphoses dolomitic rocks.

**Occurrence in the USA:** At Washington Camp grounds in Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

**Uses:** The mineral is of little use.

Home-grown  
Alum Crystals



Staci  
catzyl@gmail.com

## FRANK HOME INSPECTIONS



(602) 570-8147

COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTIONS  
BY CHIEF INSPECTOR

FRANK BURNS, R.R.E.I.

AZ Certification #38642  
frankhomeinspections@cox.net

### WIRE WRAP by JOANNE

Contact No.: 602-332-3685

Class every third Saturday

@ Qudoba Mexican Grill

Located at 7<sup>th</sup> St. & Glendale

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Some wire wrap tools & materials required

(Flat & round nose pliers, Cabochons,

Cutting nippers, Square &  
half round wires)

Sterling Silver wire is expensive;  
you might want to start with Red Brass.

*Please buy lunch in the restaurant.*

### ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWLETTER!

\$25/Year - MSA Members

\$35 - Non-Members

Contact: Lois Splendoria  
chimes30@q.com

## FOR SALE MSA DISPLAY CASES

**GREAT BUY!**

**PRICE:**

**\$10 EACH - MSA MEMBERS**

**\$15 EACH - NON-MEMBERS**

**CONTACT:**

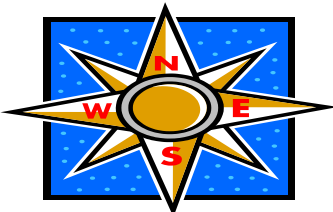
**Ed Nichols**

**(480) 636-1251**

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# COALITION FIELD TRIP

**SATURDAY**



**SEPT. 24, 2011**

**Hosted by:** Maricopa Lapidary Society  
**What for:** Mingus Mountain Red Jasper  
**When:** Saturday, September 24, 2011  
**Field Trip Leader:** Robin Evans

We will meet at the Mingus Mountain Recreation Area parking lot, which is on 89A between Prescott and Jerome between mile marker 336 and 337 at 9:00 a.m. Departure is at 9:15 a.m. Waivers and sign-in sheet will need to be signed prior to leaving. If the area has rain one week prior to or forecasted for the day of the event, it will be cancelled. There is scant cell phone service available in the area, as we found out last year. If you have questions prior to event, call me at 602-866-8758 (EVENINGS ONLY - DAY SLEEPER). Otherwise, my emergency phone will be on the day of the event, 602-703-5188.

Robin Evans  
Maricopa Lapidary Society

**4th Annual GILBERT MINERAL SHOW**  
Saturday, August 20, 2011 - 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Gilbert Historical Society Museum  
10 South Gilbert Road  
(SW Corner of Elliot & Gilbert Roads)  
Gilbert, AZ 85296

This is an opportunity for collectors to see our dealers' newest acquisitions before the Denver Gem & Mineral Show. This year we are featuring **5** quality mineral dealers!

**DANA & BRENDA SLAUGHTER**  
**DE NATURA - Les & Paula Presmyk**  
**EVAN A. JONES**  
**I C MINERALS**  
**MINERAL ZONE**

Please park in the Elementary School parking lot on Elliot Road, just west of the museum. The show is in the building closest to the school. Snacks and beverages will be served. Hope to see you all there!

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**Thursday, July 7, 2011**

By Lois Splendoria  
Secretary Pro-Tem

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President Roger Deming called the meeting to order at Oaxaca Restaurant at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Lynne and Terry Dyer, Ed Nichols, Bob Holm, and Betty Deming. Maria Nichols and Frank Burns attended as guests.

**75th Anniversary Pins** - Roger explained the situation surrounding the first pin order. American Badge, the company he had selected, had reported to him that the shipment was lost at sea. He apologized for not following up sooner, since his wife was very ill at the time. The price of the pin was discussed. The price to produce the pin is \$1.15/ea. Ed Nichols suggested taking that design and using it for a vest instead of a pin. Lynne suggested putting something in the next newsletter about the pins. The proposed sale price will be \$2.50 for members and \$3.00 for non-members. A vote was taken on whether the board members want to pay \$1.15/ea. to have the pin produced, with 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstaining. Frank Burns will proceed with the pin order.

**MSA Library Books** - Roger said he had priced out several of the books for \$111 each. He proposed having them evaluated ahead of time, so that we know what they are worth and bringing the books to the meeting in groups of 10 at a time. The list of publications will be published in the newsletter and starting with the October meeting, the books will be available for sale by auction or silent auction. This was passed by a show of hands with 5 in favor.

**Accounting Procedure at Flagg Show** - Roger reported that he had researched the procedure for counting funds with some of the other clubs, and he proposed that the money for the wheel be counted every day at 3 p.m. He also proposed grouping the coins by denomination to make consolidating the money easier and suggested an inventory sheet by denomination of coins and paper bills. Ed suggested putting a comment in the volunteer list that we need someone to help count the money. Otherwise, we will not have enough volunteers. Roger also suggested having an L-shaped table setup to accommodate the drawing, so that the item presented for drawing can be displayed separately from the front table.

**New Meeting Place** - Starting in September we will be meeting at the Church of the Beatitudes, 555 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, 85021. Lois said she would be in communication with the Facilities Coordinator at the church.

**Field Trips** - Roger said that we need to know that we will find something when we go on a field trip. He said he went on some trips with the Apache Junction club and that not much was found. Roger commended Ed for his work with the MSA field trips. He said our field trips should be well planned and suggested looking for good places to have field trips.

**Samples for Flagg Show** - Roger suggested that we have some more appealing samples to attract children. Lynne said that we should stay away from artificially colored minerals. We discussed labeling the minerals so people know what they are getting, and Lynne suggested making up label cards. Roger proposed having a workday before the Flagg Show and label the minerals ahead of time. He also suggested that everyone who donates for the show to label their donations.

**Club Mineral Display at Glendale Senior Center** - Lynne asked where our currently reside, which is at the Glendale Senior Center at 59th Avenue and Brown in Glendale. Terry suggested having a brochure about the club with the mineral display. Terry moved that we make a new flyer and a single flyer with the mineral display and that they be put in the newsletter, also; seconded by Roger and passed unanimously. Roger suggested approaching the Desert Botanical Garden (1201 N. Galvin Parkway Phoenix, AZ, 85008) to see if they would like to have a mineral display. He also suggested that we ask to put a placard about our club. Roger put forth the idea of asking the other clubs to help us put in a display, in order to make people aware of our hobby. Lynne suggested a Chamber of Commerce display.

**Educational Outreach** - Lynne Dyer and Mardy Zimmermann are working with ASU to put up a display for children. She asked the board if the club would be willing to donate a certain amount of the MSA cases to use for this display. We currently have 40 cases stored at Ed Nichols' mobile home. He wants to have his mobile home cleaned out by March of 2012. Roger moved that we donate 5 display cases for use in the ASU mineral display; seconded by Ed and passed unanimously. It was decided not to have a scholarship until we see what amount of money we have in the treasury. Ed mentioned the Earth Science Museum Committee and said that there might be another museum eventually.

*(Continued on Page 9)*

(Continued from Page 8 -  
Board Meeting Minutes - 7-7-2011)

**Closing Remarks** - Roger reminded everyone that we should conduct ourselves in a professional manner at the meetings, especially the general meetings, where we have visitors. He reminded everyone that it is not appropriate to speak out when one doesn't have the floor, unless called upon. He reminded us that negative behavior drives off potential members.

**Executive Session** - The Executive Committee commenced, and the guests were excused from this portion. Roger proposed getting more businesses to advertise in the newsletter and encouraged everyone to patronize those businesses.

He added that the State of Arizona Attorney General's Office is planning to investigate every non-profit in the state.

Since there was no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, June 8, 2011**  
By Lois Splendoria  
Secretary Pro-Tem

Roger Deming called the meeting to order at the Arizona American Italian Club, and we had the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no visitors. Roger asked for input from the members about what would be a good night to have our general meeting, since the Museum is now closed and we have an opportunity to explore another night besides Friday. Ray Grant offered information about where some of the other clubs are meeting. It was decided by general consensus to meet on the second Thursday of the month starting in September.

There will be a board meeting in July—more information forthcoming later. Mary Parsons and Frank Burns brought the cookies for tonight's meeting, and everyone thanked them. The location of the July Coalition Field Trip was discussed. Betty gave the treasurer's report. She said that her Yahoo e-mail address book had been hijacked and that she will have a new e-mail ID soon.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**75th Anniversary Pins** - Frank Burns asked about the 75th anniversary pin. He has been in touch with the pin company, and there was a problem with the design, since it has to have borders in

order to have the color separation. He recommended that the design be altered, and he and Chris Whitney-Smith talked after the meeting. Roger said the original pin order had not been paid for yet. It was suggested that Frank Burns re-order the pins.

**MSA Library Books** - Terry Dyer that the books are at his house and suggested that we wait until we find a permanent place to meet before bringing them to the meetings.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ◆ Ed Nichols said he had some extra newsletters with him, minus the last 2 pages because the color pictures on Page 7 did not print well on his printer. He said he just went up to Jacob Lake. A trip to this location would be an overnight trip. Various ideas and logistics for field trips were discussed.
- ◆ Lois announced that she had 2011 MSA Rosters tonight and distributed them to those present.
- ◆ Roger said the new meeting place will be published in the next newsletter for our September meeting. Lois mentioned the Church of the Beatitudes and suggested that the board members meet at the church some Saturday morning to look at the rooms.
- ◆ Ed Nichols discussed the article in the May 2011 AFMS Newsletter entitled "Field Trip Update." He said that Bob Hendrix called the BLM, and they said that was only for State Trust Lands. Discussion followed about various collecting scenarios.
- ◆ Ray Grant distributed a questionnaire that he had composed, and he offered to donate some mineral specimen door prizes as a reward for filling it out.
- ◆ Roger said he had received a donation offer recently, and more information will be forthcoming about it. Lois suggested that an announcement be posted on the club's website that we are a non-profit organization that accepts donations.
- ◆ Ed announced that the club's mineral display cases are for sale. The price is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

The raffle was conducted and the meeting was adjourned.



**LOIS SPLENDORIA**

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA  
2922 West Claremont  
Phoenix, AZ 85017-1629

**Address Correction Requested**

**EXCHANGE**

**EDITORS: Please  
send all newsletters  
to the return address  
listed above.**

First Class Mail

**Mineralogical Society of Arizona  
Founded 1935  
A Non Profit Organization  
[www.mineralogicalsocietyarizona.org](http://www.mineralogicalsocietyarizona.org)**

**Purpose:** To promote popular interest in the various Earth Sciences, and particularly the fields of Geology, Lapidary, Mineralogy, and related subjects. ID badges are available from the Treasurer.

**Meetings:** 7:00 p.m. *on the second Thursday of the month, September through June, at the Church of the Beatitudes, 555 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, AZ, 85021.*

**Dues:** Families & Couples - \$20.00, Single Adults - \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) - \$2.50. Please mail your dues to:

**Betty Deming  
2922 West Claremont  
Phoenix, AZ 85017-1629**

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**AFFILIATIONS**



[www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org)



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

**Dues are due for the 2012 year. Please see me at the meeting or send to my address. Dues are as follows:**

**Families & Couples: \$20.00  
Single Adults: \$12.00  
Juniors (under 18 yrs): \$2.50  
Life Members: (Club Member 25 yrs.):  
No Charge**

**Betty L. Deming  
2922 W. Claremont St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85017**