



San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.
A Non-Profit Educational and Scientific Organization

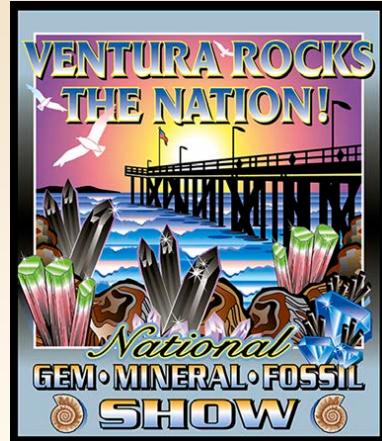
THE PEGMATITE

JUNE 2017



HOW THE WEST WAS FUN!

June 2nd thru July 4th, 2017
Del Mar Fairgrounds
see details pg. 4



77th Annual CFMS-AFMS
Convention & Show
hosted by
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
June 9 – 11, 2017
Ventura County Fairgrounds

Official bulletin of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Lands Access Association

Sister Club: Kingston Lapidary, Hull, England

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Submission

Deadline: 20th of the month prior to the publication issue.

Membership: Anyone with an interest in minerals, fossils, lapidary, gems, or hand-crafted jewelry may join the Society. Contact: membership@sdmg.org

Liability: The San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc., is not and cannot be held responsible and liable for personal injuries, for damage or loss of property at any meetings, field trips, classes, shows, or any event sponsored or recommended herein.

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The mission of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc., is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and earth sciences; to encourage the study of these subjects; to conduct classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts; to conduct field trips for the collection and study of specimens; to encourage interest in mineralogy and lapidary arts among young people; and to procure and maintain a collection related to the earth sciences and lapidary arts.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 2017

by Shirley Leeson

sdmgpresident@sdmg.org

IT'S BEEN AN EVENTFUL YEAR, but it's coming to a close. **SDMG** begins its fiscal year in July and ends in June. So we will end on a fun note. After our usual 'end of year' reports, our General Meeting will have a ROCK BINGO party.

You can purchase bingo cards for \$5. each and instead of the regular door prizes and tickets, **Anne Schafer**, our door prize procurer, will pick out some special ones and they will be the winners for our games. Please come down and help us celebrate the year's end.

Gem Diego, our annual gem and mineral show at Al Bahr Shrine Center, Kearny Mesa, was successful under the leadership of **Bob Hancock** and his crew. Dealers and demonstrators were exceptional as were the exhibits. Thanks all – it looked marvelous.

December Nights in the Park (aka **Christmas on the Prado**) was "Open House" at the **SDMG** building. **Jim Parrish** was coordinator, and he had lots of helpers. There were demonstrations and sock fillers for the public to purchase. There were plenty of helpers to tour the public through our building.

Our **Christmas Pot Luck** in Balboa Park brought out many of our best cooks with wonderful dishes. **Rocio Bergum** was Chairman and her 'santa helpers' took care of everything.

In going back over the last year, we had some really exciting times. **Donna Beers** and her crew gave us a stunning **Anniversary Banquet** at the Soledad Club high above beautiful Mission Valley and Mission Bay. This year, **Misaki Sano** was the recipient of the **William Tirk Scholarship** (Jewelry/Metalsmithing) and **Scott Knapp** was the recipient of the **Carmelita and Bern Swarts Scholarship** (Geology). Congratulations to **Misaki** and **Scott**. Our speaker was **Wayne Leicht**, and his lovely wife **Dona** and some special friends were honored guests. Gold was the subject of the talk, and **Wayne** showed spectacular pictures of some of the finest crystallized gold specimens ever discovered. Thanks folks, for making our banquet special, and a special thank you to the **Leichts** for the generous donation they made to our Scholarship Fund.

Our **Annual Spring Barbecue** in Balboa Park turned out to be fun for everyone. Thanks to **Doug Peeler** and his crew. It's a surprise to see so many old friends come out and do the various jobs that need to be done, thank you all. The **Silent Auction** turned out some great material, and everyone one went home stuffed from the great food courtesy of **The Barbecue Pit**, our annual caterer. The annual door prizes were awesome as usual, and **Simon King** and **Gladys Walker** did their usual fabulous job.

Our School director **Wayne Moorhead** was successful with full classes most of the year. There will be a small number of classes during the summer. Please consult your instructor to find out if she or he is holding summer sessions.

Thanks for having me as your recycled President this past year – guess it wasn't too bad, so I'll be back to guide the Board of Directors in September.

When you see a member of the Board, please tell them thank you, if not for them and their leadership, **SDMG** would be gone, like so many former societies throughout the US.

Have a happy summer, hope you can get out and collect some rocks – you never know if or when our collecting sites will close.

SDMG
General Meeting
Monday, June 26, 2017
 Shirley Leeson, Chair
 7pm SDMG bldg
 Public Welcome!

THE GENERAL/BUSINESS MEETING in June rounds out our business year. We will have several end-of-year business reports, then we'll move on to the fun agenda.

So, as an entertaining way to end the year, we will have "ROCK BINGO" for your pleasure. Bingo cards will be \$5. each and the winning prizes will be selected from our usual outstanding door prizes (no tickets this month).

Come join us, bring something special for our refreshment table. Remember, this is the last meeting till September. We will provide coffee, tea and punch. Thanks to **Andy Anderson** for overseeing the refreshment table this year, you did a great job.

See you there.



**JUNIOR DIVISION &
 MINERAL DIVISION NEWS**

*Garry Cannon, Chairperson
 Jim Parrish, Treasurer and Door Prizes*

ON MAY 12TH the **Mineral Division** played host to the annual **Junior's Division** Door Prize Raffle. The proceeds are used to fund our youngest club members with materials, supplies, and field trips.

We had many donated items for the drawing, special thanks to club members **Gerry Alvarado** and **Angie Cannon** for their generosity.

Seventeen members and guests attended and due to their generosity the **Juniors Division** is \$240 richer!

Lastly, to **Lois Lukasky**, thank you very much for your decades of service to the **Juniors**.



At SDMG's Annual Banquet held in March, Lois Lukasky accepts a plaque from President Shirley Leeson for her decades of service to SDMG. Photo: Jim Parrish.



Important Exhibitor Information & Dates

Location: **Del Mar Fairgrounds**

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA 92014

West of the 5 Fwy., exit Vía de la Valle

The Gems, Minerals & Jewelry Dept is located in the south side of the Mission Tower

First day of Fair: Friday, June 2. Hours: 4:00 to 11:00pm.

Exhibitor Appreciation Night: Wednesday, June 7. Hours: 7:00 to 9:00pm.

Closed Days: Mondays (except 7/3) and first three Tuesdays
(June 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 and 26)

Last day of Fair: Tuesday, July 4

Exhibit pickup: Thursday, July 6, 9 am to 8 pm

Website: sdfair.com

“**H**OW THE WEST WAS FUN” is this year’s Fair theme, and you are welcome to dress up in western attire or Steampunk costumes, or a combination of both, and mosey around the Fairgrounds. While you are out strolling, please do come to visit the Gems, Jewelry & Minerals Department to see some first-rate collections of gems, minerals and fossils, as well as unique jewelry designs.

The **Mineral of the Year** for 2017 is **Lead**. They couldn’t decide on a single **Fossil of the Year**, so this year there’s two – **Trilobites** and **Marine Fossils**. There are two jewelry categories based on the Fair theme: **How the West was Fun** –and– **Handmade Bola Tie** –and– **Steampunk** is carried over from last year.

Exhibits this year include: a plethora of pyrites; scads of spheres; geodes galore; numerous and sundry agates and petrified wood. There are many educational exhibits, including one on polymer clay – faux labradorite, another on how to carve a rock, and yet another on chasing & repoussé. Several educational exhibits are theme-specific, including a display on lost wax casting, mining in the Old West, Gems of the West, and agates & jaspers from historical collecting areas in California’s Mojave Desert; and more.

There are cases and cases full of astounding mineral specimens that rival those found in the finest museum collections. And endlessly inventive and highly skilled artists show off their talent at crafting jewelry and lapidary creations, and faceting gems.

Demonstrations vary daily and include faceting, chain-making, fossil preparation, wax carving, wire-wrapping, bead-stringing, and more.

Free gem identification is provided by the **Gemological Society of San Diego (GSSD)** every Saturday and Sunday, between 11:00am and 4:00pm. Knowledgeable staff provide daily docent tours of the exhibits, and kids are invited to sift for treasures in the sand pile.

Volunteer! Get a free ticket to the Fair!



Gem I.D. ~ If you are a current or past member of the Gemological Society, or have a degree in gemology, have we got a job for you! The refractometers and microscopes will be out each weekend during the Fair, waiting for YOU! Please contact **Jim Porter** at JLPorter@att.net to sign up.

Faceting Demos ~ If you would like to show off your faceting skills to the public (and you know how to run an Ultra Tec...), please contact **Bob Hancock** to sign up: rtourmaline2@aol.com

Other Demos ~ Chain making, Fossil prep, Wax carving, Wire wrap, Bead stringing, and the list goes on. If you have a rock or gem related activity that does not involve an open flame, please contact Asst. Coordinator **Rich Yarbrough** to schedule your time slot: sdfair@sdmg.org

Info Booth ~ If you like interacting with kids of all ages, and would like to help them screen for a free rock in the sand pile, please sign up for a two-hour slot in the Info Booth. (You can bring



Top: The San Diego County Fair's 2017 Gems, Mineral & Jewelry Department features more than 350 competitive entries. **Bottom:** Debra Clough's "Paint Me a Picture Pendant" won 1st Place, Constructed jewelry with stones, Amateur. Biggs Blue Jasper cabochon bezel set in sterling silver. Photos: L. Thoresen.

a couple show'n'tell items, too, for fun.) Contact Coordinator **Anne Schafer** to schedule your time slot: sdfair@sdmg.org

Fair report

by Anne Schafer, Coordinator

The exhibits – 352 in all – are wonderful this year. We had 120 entries from **SDMG** members. We are so lucky to have a strong core group of exhibitors who are dedicated to showing their best, educating the public, etc. That includes mineral dealers and collectors; fossil collectors; faceting, lapidary and jewelry instructors and students from local gem and mineral clubs; and professional jewelers who are willing to enter their work, as well.

I am also lucky to have a great team – **Wayne Moorhead, Rich Yarbrough, Peggy Leibitzke** and **Jennifer Stapp** – to put the whole thing together. We also had help from key **SDMG** volunteers: **Mike Harlow, Tim Bickford, and Wayne Leibitzke**. Both Navy and Marine volunteers helped with set-up for three days: hauling, cleaning, and painting. Two 18-year old high school students joined the Gems & Minerals Dept. staff this year to help out during the Fair: **Conner Tisdale and Roen Hickok**.

~ RESULTS (SDMG MEMBERS) ~

- **Minerals (10 entries, including single items, sets of five, and a full case exhibit):**
Garry Cannon; Angie Cannon (full case, Master); Rhonda Epstein; Doug Peeler
- **Fossils (5 entries, including single pieces and full cases):**
Garry Cannon (petrified wood, full case & single piece); Hugh Lawrence (full case, petrified ferns; single piece, **cycadoid – 1st**)
- **Mixed Display (3 full case exhibits):**
Meg Berry (also member of FGMS) – Mixed Display, work done by exhibitor – carvings, faceted gems, works in progress, rough
David Lipson – collection of purchased spheres, jewelry & carved frog
Paul Williams – full case of fluorescent spheres that he made himself
- **Faceting (approx. 18 entries, including single items and sets of 3 cut gems):**
LuAnn Benton; Meg Berry (also member of FGMS); Bill Brisebois is an **SDMG** faceting instructor and he won seven First Place ribbons; Tim Sandiford; Charles Shupe (also member of **Palomar G&MS**); Dee Smith; David Smith; David Sullivan
- **Lapidary (approx. 20 entries, including single items and 3 full cases of spheres):**
Meg Berry (carvings)(also member of FGMS); Tim Bickford (stone bracelets); Jan Kunsa (carvings);
John Kruzel (spheres and cabs) – Best Single Lapidary Work for hollow carnelian sphere, in his full case exhibit
David Lipson (full case, spheres) – 1st Place & Best Case of Lapidary
Doug Peeler (cabs); Sherry Trochta (single spheres); Denny Turner (cabs); Dolores Wheeler (carvings);
Paul Williams (full case, spheres)
- **Jewelry (approx. 54 items):**
Jeanne Abriel (also in Enamel Guild); Lee Bennett; Rocio Bergum; Donna Casey; Debbie Clough; Shannon Dempsey; Kathe Dunn; Diane Hall (also in Palomar GMS); Heather Hochrein; Jackie Leverone; Tom Kckelvey; Lloyd Steven PekitPekit; Danielle Polley; Al Puente (two no shows, alas); Denny Turner; Dolores Wheeler; Jill Williamson.
- **Educational (6 full cases) - all won Award of Merit ribbons & \$50:**
Donna Beers – Educational exhibit on methods of casting, with Native American & western emphasis
LuAnn Benton – Steps for Carving a Rock, lots of images and materials, excellent “how to” exposition
SDMG – 1880s diorama, from the **SDMG** Museum
Bob Hancock – display of work done by **SDMG** faceting students
Lisbet Thoresen (specimens courtesy of Bill Depue, Vivian and Danny Watts, and John Pickett) – Agates & Jaspers from Mojave Trails Nat'l Monument – Anne Schafer Best Showmanship Award; Greg Anderson Memorial Trophy for Best Educational Exhibit

Multi-Club Field Trip Kramer Junction and Beyond

May 27–29, 2017

*Report by Joe Goetz**

FRIDAY MORNING was a nice morning without the hustle and bustle of the rest of the week. It was definitely the time to get stuff packed and out the door for the field trip.

We got to the campsite after lunch. There were people from PLS, WGMS, Searchers and San Diegans. And camp set-up seemed reasonably organized. After chit chatting for a little bit, collecting a few strays, putting out a guiding sign, we headed for the room.

The next morning we were back at camp deciding where we'd go. I was surprised to see a crowd of people (later tally of 50). I gave a safety talk, we all got in our vehicles, and we were off like a herd of turtles heading for Gerhardt Road. Marcia and I led the way to Gerhardt Road, then Jay led the rest of the way to the collecting sites.

After visiting a couple of sites, we had lunch and decided to head over to the borax mine. I believe the mine was very educational and was actually quite fun, especially on the boron piles, gathering samples to play with.

A lot of us went back to camp for a potluck dinner. The food was delicious and there was plenty of it. A good many of the people who were on the trip Saturday didn't join us for dinner, but had gone home – too bad for them, they missed a lot of good food, and they missed the camaraderie that forms when sharing a meal with folks.

Sadly, Marcia and I had to go home Sunday morning. But, I imagine those who stayed had fun collecting at Castle Butte and other sites on other days.

Going the wrong way somewhere.

* Reproduced by permission.

This 'n' That...

General Announcements

SDMG June Board Meeting

Monday, Jun 19, 2017
7pm, SDMG bldg.

Summer Classes

Check with your instructor to find out if there will be summer session for your favorite class.

Fall Classes

The Fall session starts Monday, September 11. Juniors' classes will begin Saturday, September 16.

Membership Renewals for 2017–18

Due NOW

Don't forget to send in your membership renewal form. **SDMG** classes are open to members only, so don't put it off any longer! (The renewal form can be found at the end of this bulletin.)

School Closure Schedule 2017

Closure date	Description
Sat, July 1 – Sun, July 9	Fourth of July shutdown, one week.
Mon, July 10 – Fri, Sept. 1	Optional Summer Class Period, two months. (Instructors must notify School Director if you plan to hold summer classes.)
Sat, Sept. 2 – Sun, Sept. 10	Labor Day shutdown, one week.
Mon, Sept. 11	Fall classes begin.
Fri, Sat & Sun, Nov. 3, 4, 5	Gem Diego Show shutdown, three days. (Everyone's help is needed with your club's show.)
Thu, Nov. 23 – Sun, Nov. 26	Thanksgiving shutdown, four days. Reopens Mon, Nov. 27.
Mon, Dec. 18, 2017 – Mon, Jan. 1, 2018	Christmas and New Year's shutdown, two weeks.
Tue, Jan. 2, 2018	Classes begin.

Negative impacts on the horizon for museums and libraries if crucial funding is cut off

by Raquel Alonso-Perez

*Curator, Mineralogical & Geological Museum
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA*

MANY HARVARD MUSEUMS have benefited from **IMLS**, including us! Thanks to this help, we not only improve our collections storage facility, but also, most importantly, it stimulates other projects and additional private funding. It provides very important seed money for us and also for smaller museums and libraries, which support the populations which need it the most. **IMLS** is more than just a seed, it enables museums and libraries to thrive.

It's a tough time for cultural and educational institutions, so I would really encourage each of you to pass the word and support the preservation of the main funding source for museums and libraries in the United States.

Editor's note

I had the chance to visit **Dr. Alonso-Perez** at the **Mineralogical and Geological Museum (MGMH)** this past May, where she made time to tour me through the mineral collection on public display and behind the scenes, in the storeroom. It was a marvelous opportunity to see one of the most significant mineral collections in the United States. (If you go, don't miss the extraordinary collection of glass models of botanical and sea creature specimens made by Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka, father and son glass artisans from Dresden, Germany – the delicate glass sculptures are a marvelous synthesis of artistic virtuosity and scientific study.)

I was stunned to learn there are just four staff members who care for this great collection directly. In addition, the **MGMH** staff collaborates with the **Harvard Museums of Science and Culture**, for which the combined education, marketing, communication and exhibits staff is much bigger. The museum's operations budget is covered by Harvard's endowment, which is allocated to the care and preservation of the collections. However, **MGMH** depends on grants

POTUS Proposes Elimination of IMLS, NEH, NEA

May 24, 2017

"In his formal Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal released yesterday, President Trump proposed the elimination of several key agencies that support museums, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The \$4.1 trillion spending plan – which will now be considered by Congress – allocates a minimal amount of funding to begin the process of closing these agencies."

Proposed budget cuts include:

- \$23 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services – a \$208 million decrease – to begin closing the agency. No new grants would be awarded.
- \$42.3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities – a \$107.5 million decrease – to begin closing the agency. No new grants would be awarded.
- \$28.9 million for the National Endowment for the Arts – a \$120.9 million decrease – to begin closing the agency. No new grants would be awarded.
- \$51.1 million for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, a \$7.3 million decrease.
- \$719 million for salaries and expenses at the Smithsonian Institution, a \$10.4 million decrease. The Smithsonian facilities capital account would receive \$228 million, a \$94.1 million increase over current funding.
- \$2.225 billion for National Park Service Operations, a \$200 million decrease.
- \$760.5 million for the National Science Foundation Education and Human Resources Directorate, a \$119.5 million decrease.
- \$37 million for the NASA Office of Education – a \$63 million decrease – to begin closing the office.

Source: Alliance Museum Advocacy

For more information & what you can do, visit:

<http://www.aam-us.org/>



Raquel holds the sketchbook made by Augustus Hamlin, a 19th century physician who collected and faceted tourmalines from Maine and designed jewelry to show off their beauty.

and donors for making new acquisitions, which is challenging, given current market values of museum quality specimens.

Having worked in a museum for 17 years, albeit one with a healthy private endowment, I know firsthand how most museums, universities, and libraries struggle to preserve the patrimony in their care. Charged with preserving material culture and its intellectual legacy, museums and libraries are habitually under-staffed by under-paid, yet extremely dedicated and competent

professionals. They are chronically low on resources, unable to afford even basic equipment or research that would leverage the intellectual value of their holdings and enable them to be presented to the public for their edification and enjoyment in the most engaging and instructive manner possible. Even the most prestigious museums struggle mightily. Natural history collections seem to suffer more than most for want of resources.

Museums and libraries are not dull ivory towers. They are vibrant places, brimming with the wonder of the world's natural and crafted treasures. They manifest the exuberance of human curiosity, ingenuity, and enterprise when a tool is applied to make something of a raw material or a thing is cherished enough to save.

Caring for collections held in trust for posterity so it can be enjoyed and discovered anew by every successive generation takes money. Funding from **NEA**, **NHS**, and **IMLS** are critical life support, yet as part of the discretionary budget, the monies are modest. They return terrific value by extending the historical, artistic, or cultural legacy inherent in natural and crafted objects. They enable researchers to learn their secrets and what they can elucidate about the world as it once was and people who once were. Supporting **NEA**, **NHS**, and **IMLS** is an affirmation of human aspiration at its best.

This article features a correction since its original publication.

BLM's Open House on proposed route designations in San Bernardino County

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

The Open House, which was held at the Barstow **BLM** field office, mostly attracted OHVers, who stand to lose access to routes that are slated to be open only to street-legal vehicles. Few Rockhounds showed up at the event, but then, we got word of it just days ahead of time. Even so, 91-year-old **Bill Depue**, president of Diamond Pacific, in Barstow, CA, showed up to find out how Rockhounds might be affected by the proposed changes in route designations.

He accepted the task of researching some routes where access to hobby collecting areas appear to be in doubt. If not for **Bill**, we might never have known about it. Thank you, **Bill**.

For readers who may not recall what's at issue, the sidebar at right provides a summary.

From the BLM Web site at:
<https://www.blm.gov/node/11505>

The Bureau hosted three public open house meetings to gather public input on a route designation proposal affecting 148 miles of routes located on BLM public lands currently maintained by the County of San Bernardino Public Works Department. Segments of these routes are under county maintenance and are limited to street legal only vehicles.

The route designation proposal will allow the BLM to analyze and determine if the consistent management of these routes across two jurisdictions is in the public interest. This process is temporary until a final decision on the West Mojave (WEMO) Route Network Project is issued.

Representatives from the BLM will be available to answer questions regarding location of routes, and maps will be available for viewing. Representatives will also explain the process involved in proposing the route designations and how the public can formally participate.

The open house meetings will allow the public an opportunity to learn how the proposed actions may affect the use of these routes, as well as the overall recreational experience on public lands.

Public Lands management under cloak of darkness

No June business meeting of Desert District Advisory Council

June 1, 2017

by Lisbet Thoresen, Public lands representative for SDMG

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR (DOI) is taking a hiatus from transparency and public engagement on crucial decision-making that has longterm implications and impacts, especially for Rockhounds. **DOI** announced on May 11, 2017 that it would be reviewing department function and process. All meetings of advisory boards and councils, including 220 **Resource Advisory Councils (RACs)** and the **Desert District Advisory Council (DAC)** in California, as well as all subcommittees and subgroups are suspended during this review. One of the reasons given for this review is that the advisory panels may not be engaging effectively with the public. Shutting down the spigot on communication would seem to aggravate, not obviate such concerns.

The review is expected to conclude in September. Meanwhile, land use policy planning is going forward without any forum available for public input.

The stated goal of the review is ironic, to say the least, given that National Monument designations made by presidential proclamation under authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 by **Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama** are currently under threat of being rescinded on the grounds that the public did not have adequate opportunity to provide input on their creation. Never mind that this justification is not applicable to presidential proclamations – they are not subject to public review.

The **DOI** review was triggered by an executive order signed on April 26, 2017, which appears aimed at gutting the Antiquities Act of 1906 altogether. If one concedes for the sake of argument that National Monuments should be created only by Congress, only after the public has had opportunity to provide input, shouldn't the public have opportunity to comment on

all land use amendments, planning processes, and policy changes proposed for existing federal lands, especially when selling or swapping land is contemplated? The **RACs** and **DAC** were created specifically because government recognized that the answer to this question is yes – the public shall have input, and that input will be incorporated into land use administration.

Depending upon where you live, you may not be all that thrilled with the advisory council that is supposed to serve you. Your local **RAC** may be more or less responsive to the public. We are fortunate in southern California that the **BLM** makes an effort at outreach; although, yes, it should give more notice on meeting locations and times – realistically, people should have 30 days notice. Draft plans and reports should be available for review and discussion before the meeting, not at the meeting or afterwards. However, the corrective is not to abolish the **DAC**, which is a vital conduit for communicating public interests to the **BLM**. By and large, our local **BLM** offices and their field officers are pretty responsive and sympathetic to Rockhounds. Consider the alternative, where no medium for discourse exists or is even required by law.

So, lest the **DOI's** hiatus becomes permanent, and you might want your forums restored for giving input on how **BLM** could do better and how federal lands should be administered, **DOI Secretary Zinke** needs to hear from the public. Silence is condonation, and now is no time to be complacent or silent.

BLM did right by the public when it submitted its own letter requesting reinstatement of the **DAC/RAC** meetings on May 11th. The letter was signed by 71 **DAC/RAC** members and **BLM** staff supporting YOU (see the short url below).

<https://goo.gl/YC0ouj>

Feel free to download a sample letter requesting reinstatement of the DAC and RACs at:

http://www.sdmg.org/blmdocs/Zinke_letter_reinstate_DAC_201706.doc
–or– (short url): <https://goo.gl/d8f2WH>



National Monuments –

Future refuges for preserving Rockhound habitat?

by Lisbet Thoresen

Public Lands Representative for SDMG and PLAC–South Chair for CFMS

PUBLIC LANDS under a protective designation such as national monument and wilderness are not much appreciated by users, including Rockhounds, whose experience is that they impose barriers to access and uses previously enjoyed and perceived as a right. In all things, experience animates our expectations for the future. Experience – historical memory – also tends to hinder our agility at recognizing and adjusting to sea changes that bring dramatic transformation to a familiar landscape. Public lands management is undergoing a sea change. Some of it is good, much of it is not. How Rockhounds adjust to this sea change and leverage conditions in a dynamic state of flux may determine future prospects of hobby collecting as a recreational and educational activity.

DRECP is the sea change in land use management

As improbable as it may seem to some Rockhounds, federal lands under (some) protective designations may prove to be a last refuge for hobby collecting

on publicly accessible land. Why? In part, because protective designations ensure that they stay public while huge swaths of land are being designated Development Focus Areas (DFAs) or are convenient real estate that makes them targets for being swapped or leased for public-private development of utility scale energy projects or other economic development. Recreational users of public lands can look forward to more and more BLM-administered lands, including public-private DFAs, eventually becoming off-limits to them, probably sooner rather than later. In California, the overarching driving force guiding land use management is the Desert Renewable Conservation Plan (DRECP). How things worked before DRECP does not matter. That was then, this is now. It's all different now, we are living in a post-DRECP world. Rockhounds, take note.

Joe Sumner at the Top Notch Claim in the North Cadiz Mountains. He and partner Bill Depue staked the claim before the Mojave Trails National Monument was designated. Photo: Lisbet Thoresen, 28 May 2016.

The Desert Renewable Conservation Plan (DRECP) is the most ambitious land use amendment in California history. It is a programmatic guideline for administering 22.5 million acres of public and private lands in California's deserts (through 2040).

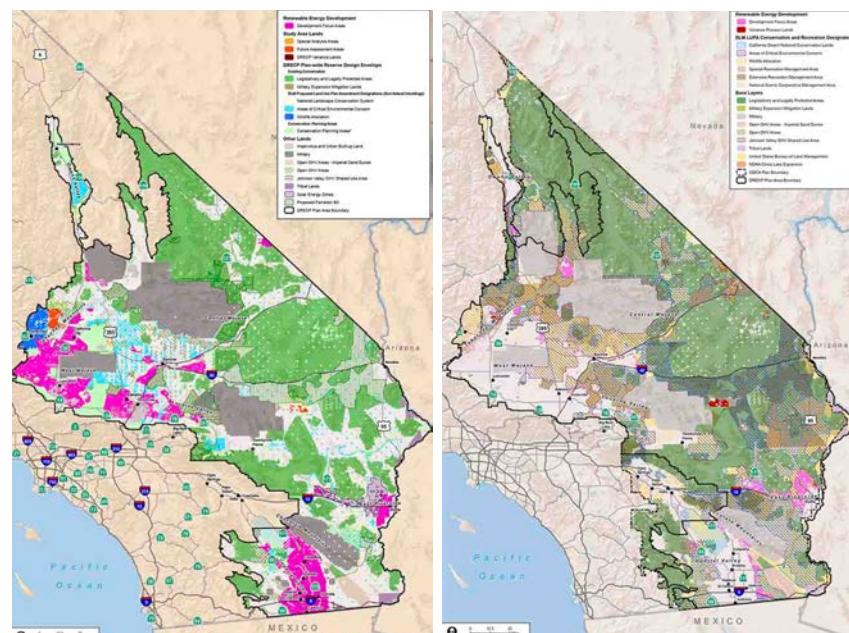
The Record of Decision for Phase I of the DRECP was signed on September 14, 2016. Its focus concentrated on conservation and recreational values of 10.8 million acres within DRECP's scope. The ROD paves the way to streamline the permitting process for as many renewable energy projects as quickly as possible in the Mojave Desert.

Make no mistake, public lands, especially deserts once deemed useless wastelands now have tremendous economic potential, and exploiting that potential is a top priority for industry and government agencies at federal, state, and municipal levels. Recreational values, including hobby collecting, are far, far down on the list of priorities where values conflict.

Rockhound experience with protective designations

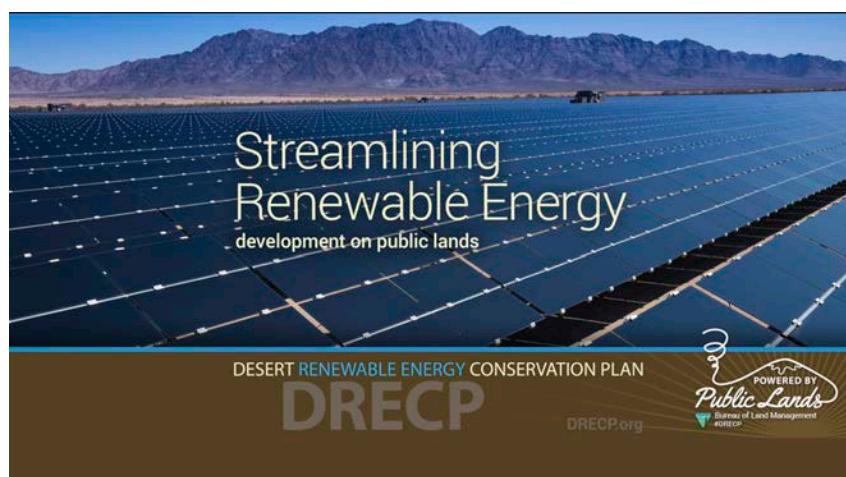
For decades, Rockhounds have seen access to public lands shrink at an alarming rate. The relationship with BLM and other Department of Interior (DOI) agencies has frayed as promised accommodations were forgotten or brushed aside. Friction among Stakeholders with divergent values too often have left Rockhounds feeling shut out, marginalized, or disparaged in the process.

In the last three administrations, Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama, accelerated the designation of National Monuments under authority of the Antiquities Act



Figs. 1a, b (Left) DRECP map of the draft version of preferred alternative plan. Development Focus Areas (DFAs), where renewable energy projects may be permitted, are highlighted in magenta. (Right) DRECP map of the final plan. According to DRECP managers in Sacramento, some Development Focus Areas (DFAs) were scaled back where they intruded hobby collecting areas; the changes were made in response to numerous detailed letters received from Rockhounds.

Fig. 2 (Below) Promotional ad by BLM. Source (above and below): BLM.



of 1906, with 27 protective designations created by Obama alone. Exercising this executive prerogative so prodigiously has alternately alarmed and infuriated some Stakeholders, including more than a few Rockhounds. The designations appeared to throw into overdrive the longtime trend toward exclusion already felt so keenly and resented profoundly. Understandable. The boilerplate language of the proclamations disallows collecting.

Although the DOI agency charged with oversight of a monument has three years to publish a management plan for it and nothing prevents accommodations for hobby collecting being written into the

plan, such accommodations have seldom been codified. Thus, Rockhounds have had reason to be unhappy about the national monument designation insofar as it affected them.

For a community both proud and passionate about its values and traditions, hobby collecting is rooted in the customs and culture of California's deserts. Since the 1800s, when they were known as prospectors, Rockhounds have been finding beauty in desert viewscapes and in their unique geology and minerals. So, on the one hand, protective designations which are welcomed by some Stakeholder groups are perceived as existential threats to Rockhounds; on the other hand, industrial scale development of the desert obstructs hobby collecting with closed roads and locked gates and fences. It is far more consequential in the longterm, because some of the attendant harms are indelible, pernicious, and irreversible.

For many Rockhounds, the perceived barriers to hobby collecting, which are attributable to both of these two opposing forces, weighs more negatively against the prospect of collecting being accommodated on lands with protective designations than lands where development occurs. Perhaps that's because there is plenty of experience with protected designations and no history with DFAs, but exactly the opposite is true. Let's look at each in turn.

Industrialization of the desert, a done deal

In California, developing public lands to tap their resources for renewable energy and water projects is being pursued aggressively, perhaps more so than anywhere else in the country. It's not a tentative idea, it's not in beta phase – re-purposing the desert is in full implementation under DRECP.

A clear perspective on scope & scale matters:

DRECP is just one blueprint among many for the multi-trillion dollar mission to create an upgraded nationwide power grid based on renewable energy over the next 25 years. Re-purposing public lands is a key feature. If you're not a Stakeholder in renewables, your values on the use of public lands have been re-prioritized.

The Register-Guard

WEST

Jerry Brown pushes plan for a Western power grid

California's governor has been working with Oregon and other states to broaden the grid



California Gov. Jerry Brown speaks at the California Independent System Operator stakeholders' symposium. (Rich Pedroncelli/The Associated Press)

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

The Associated Press

SEPT. 11, 2016



SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown said last week that he remains committed to expanding California's power grid to include other Western states, despite a delay announced this summer when it appeared the state Legislature was unprepared to grant the broader approval needed to advance the project this year.



Fig. 3 Bill Depue (age 91) and Jonathan Davis (age 8) are lifelong Rockhounds; although, Bill has been doing it a little longer – he has been going out to the desert nearly every weekend since he was 15 years old. Jonathan got an early start – Bill took him out on his first rock collecting expedition when he was 17 months old. Asked what he looks for when he ventures out into the desert, Bill says, "I look for beauty." Photo: Lisbet Thoresen, 13 May 2017.

Fig. 4 (Below) Article by Juliet Williams in The Register-Guard, 11 Sept 2016.

To meet demand, especially in population centers where the need is greatest, utility-scale renewable energy projects are proliferating rapidly in the desert. BLM is eager to enter into public-private ventures, municipalities are eager to have the revenue and the promise of jobs, and public servants are eager to get re-elected. To date, the track record is not encouraging. The Palen solar project near Desert Center in Riverside County, for example, has been administered by three different companies after successive bankruptcies. Palen's history is hardly unique.

Water harvesting proposals previously rejected because they risked depleting desert aquifers to unsustainable levels are being revived.[1]

All these projects will be fenced and all will need transmission corridors to be built to connect them with the power grid.

*File under:
you just can't make this stuff up*

Using the desert as a dumping ground is a solution to urban waste management considered every now and again, and lately it's getting serious re-appraisal, this time targeting a remote area in Cadiz Valley, which happens to be in Mojave Trails National Monument (also in the vicinity of nine wilderness areas). The plan is to dispose of 1,800 tons of toxic nuclear waste from the decommissioned San Onofre nuclear generating station.[2] The choice of sites should be extremely disturbing, especially to the NIMBYs in coastal communities who want the radioactive waste out of their backyard. In a separate plan which is poised to proceed, Cadiz Inc. proposes to tap the aquifer under the dump site and export it to consumers in coastal communities (see fig. 6). The unintended consequence of course, is that the water may not be safe for human consumption, with the possibility of toxic exposure from San Onofre's waste coming right back to (or near) where it originated.

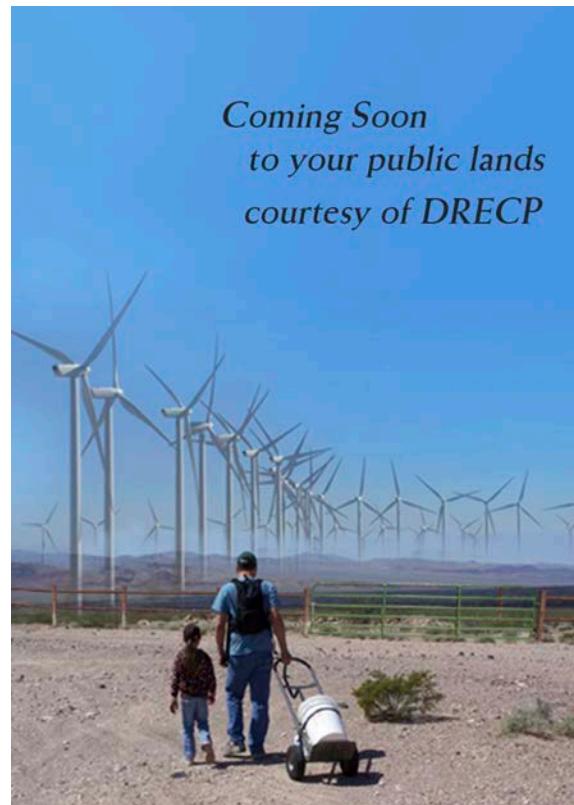


Fig. 5 Composite photo by L. Thoresen; Lavic Siding by Kris Rowe; wind turbines by Wiki user Z22.

Distributed energy generation such as rooftop solar, micro-grids, load-shifting technologies, and local battery storage are among the alternatives that do not require destruction of the desert to achieve energy goals (or create jobs). Despite, copious critical comments from other federal agencies and public opprobrium on the draft plan, the final plan for DRECP did not take into account any distributed energy alternatives, and California's energy calculator for the state's projected needs excludes their actual output and their prospective output. Unless this changes, every available piece of desert real estate could be vulnerable to utility-scale development. Mordor in California.

- 1.) For a summary with references, see: L. Thoresen. May 2017. The Rime of the Mojave Mariner. The Pegmatite, bulletin of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc., pp. 12–13. Available online at: <http://www.sdmg.org/peg-online/sdmg-pegmatite-2017-may.pdf#page=12>; see also: <http://www.desertsun.com/story/opinion/contributors/valley-voice/2017/04/23/valley-voice-making-case-stringent-review-mojave-groundwater-harvesting-project/305798001/> or short URL: <https://goo.gl/0dnW7f>
- 2.) C. Clarke. 31 May 2017. Desert National Monument Suggested as Nuclear Waste Disposal Site. Available online at: <https://www.kcet.org/shows/earth-focus/desert-national-monument-suggested-as-nuclear-waste-disposal-site> or short URL: <https://goo.gl/sNX54z>

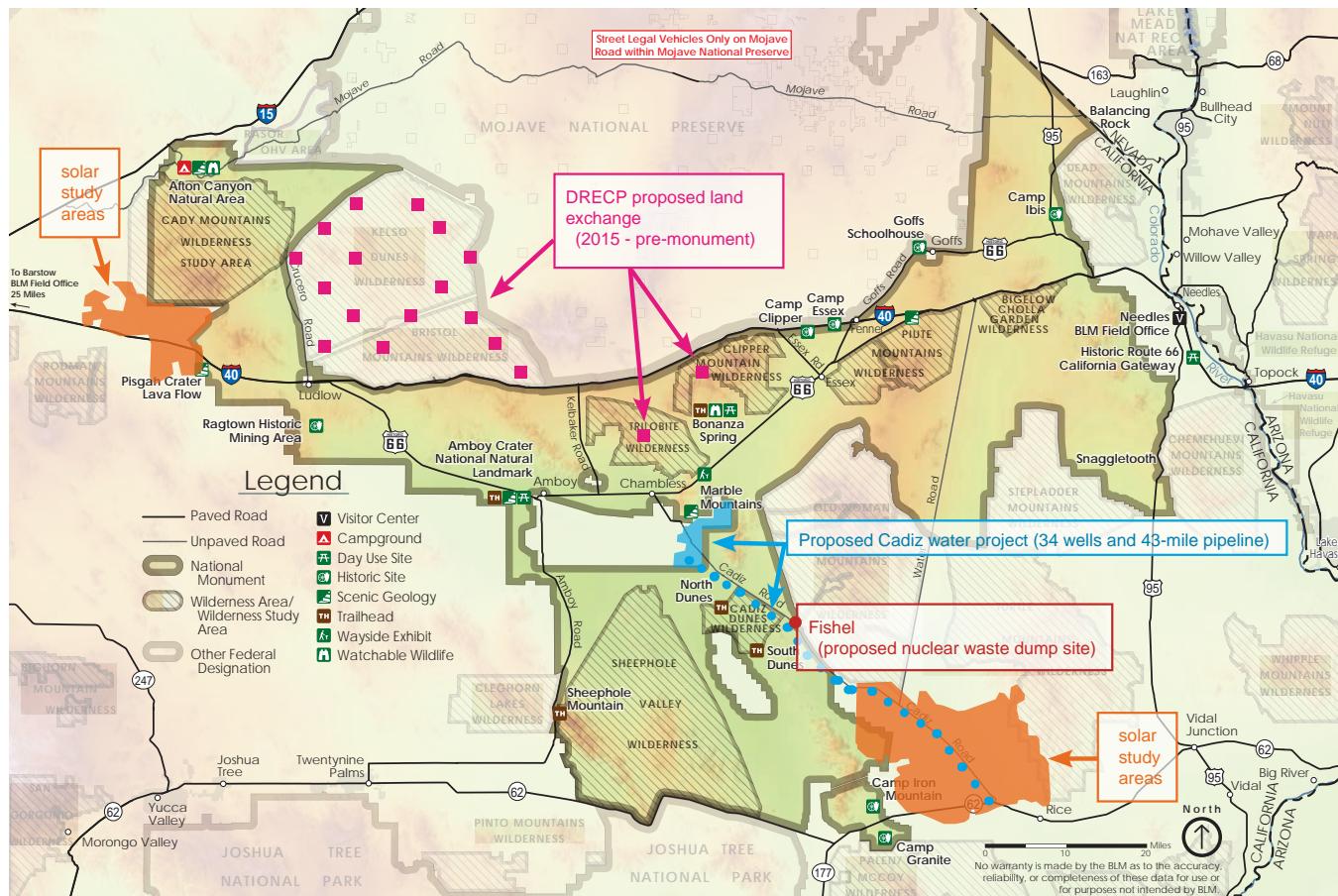


Fig. 6 Mojave Trails National Monument is surrounded by wilderness areas, with the Mojave National Preserve to the north, the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base and Joshua Tree National Park to the south (west and east, respectively). The monument provides a buffer in the region, protecting surrounding wildlands and unique geological and culturally significant landscapes within its boundaries. Together, they provide contiguous natural viewscapes and habitat for threatened and endangered species. The area that is now a monument was (and still is) targeted for a variety of projects that would irrevocably change this unique, largely unspoiled region. Some of the proposed uses are overlayed on the monument map above. Source: BLM; annotations: L. Thoresen.

Protective designations: a barrier to rampant development, not Rockhounding

National Monument designations and other protective designations may be the only way to protect public lands from being bulldozed for utility scale projects under sweeping planning efforts like DRECP. That appears to have been Senator Dianne Feinstein's (CA-D) motivation for asking President Obama to designate three national monuments in Southern California: Castle Mountains, Sand to Snow, and Mojave Trails. He obliged on February 12, 2016. Feinstein made the request after her signature bill, the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, failed to garner enough support in the House and Senate to succeed.



Fig. 7 Stripping the desert to make way for a power link corridor. Source: BLM.

The net effect of Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM) having been created is to safeguard pristine wildlands from development. Rockhounds benefit, too. On May 12, 2016, Feinstein wrote a letter to then DOI Secretary Sally Jewell expressing full-throated support of Rockhounds. Not only did she portray Rockhound values and activities positively, she asked for accommodations to be considered in management plans for national monuments, in general, not only in the plans for the three monuments designated on February 12th.

*Mojave Trails – a BLM case study
for trying to get a National Monument
management plan right for Stakeholders*

As I reported in the April bulletin on the Desert District Advisory Council's (DAC) winter business meeting,[3] BLM, which had administered the public lands that were brought into the monument was not the only agency that could have been tasked with responsibility for managing Mojave Trails. The National Park Service was a logical administrator, given its proximity to Joshua Tree. However, the southern California BLM offices in Barstow and Needles were well aware of the disparate special interests invested in Mojave Trails. Among the agencies of the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Land Management is chartered to accommodate land use in myriad ways, while the National Park Service, as all Rockhounds know, is the least accommodating.

BLM was not wrong about the hew and cry that would erupt from Stakeholders, if they were deprived of their customary activities – ranching and prospecting date backs to the 19th century, and tribal values for sacred land date back much earlier.

Fortunately, for Rockhounds, BLM was charged with oversight of Mojave Trails. Now it has to show DOI that the management plan can be a model of harmonious uses within a National Monument. This should be a welcome development for Rockhounds whose past experiences with BLM have been frustrating or worse. Did you ever wonder why the southern California BLM field offices plan field tours to complement the quarterly DAC meetings or why they arranged three

“Envisioning Sessions” last summer to invite public participation in the management planning process for Mojave Trails? Were you at the DAC meeting in February when council members admonished the DRECP manager about the importance of transparency and accountability to the public, cautioning him that excluding public involvement from the very beginning of any planning process would foment distrust and deep discontentment?[4] (BTW, BLM renewed the Hauser Geode Beds MOU last year.)

Whatever apprehensions or even cynical suspicions you may have acquired by personal experience, DAC and southern California BLM field offices are trying hard to be responsive to the Rockhound community, and they appear to be making a good faith effort to produce a management plan for Mojave Trails that will accommodate hobby collecting.

Consider the alternatives. Reverting to the old days when Rockhounds could be left alone to go where they please in the desert is not the remotest possibility. Municipalities, counties, or the state will sell away your patrimony for pecuniary gain, the promise of jobs, and votes from their constituents, not enough of whom are Rockhounds. Industry will gobble up whatever isn't shielded from them by a protective designation. To them it's just cheap real estate, to Rockhounds and other Stakeholders, it's a whole lot more.

~~~

Six national monuments in California, including Mojave Trails, are currently under federal review and could lose their protective designations. The comment period is now open to entertain input from the public and from Stakeholders. Your engagement can determine the fate of Mojave Trails and the other national monuments under review. Please support Mojave Trails and other recently designated monuments for the sake of preserving wildlands and hobby collecting.

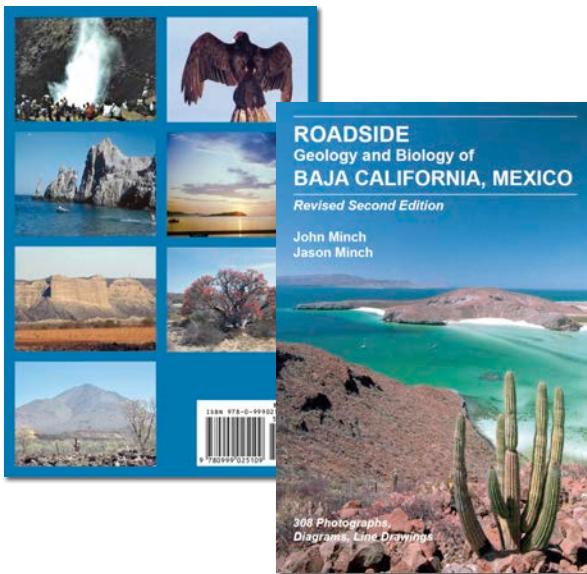
**The comment period deadline is July 10, 2017**

To submit a comment & for more information, see:  
[www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov) Search: DOI-2017-0002

If you would like to sign onto a letter,  
email [editor@sfdmg.org](mailto:editor@sfdmg.org)

3.) L. Thoresen. April 2017. The Rime of the Mojave Mariner. The Pegmatite, bulletin of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc., pp. 11–14. Available online at: <http://www.sfdmg.org/peg-online/sfdmg-pegmatite-2017-apr.pdf#page=11>.

4.) See note 3; Chair Randy Banis, former Chair Leslie Barrett, and new member Frazier Haney all spoke up on behalf of the public and Rockhounds, specifically.



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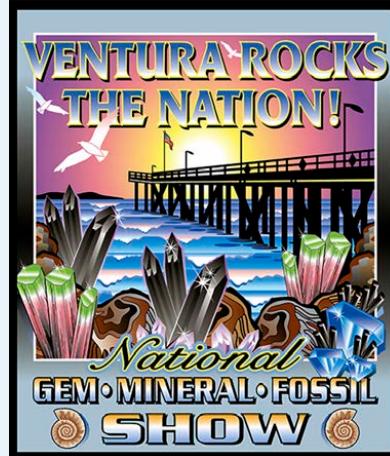
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**Contact:** Armando Perdoza, 909-455-6800

or [forestandson@yahoo.com](mailto:forestandson@yahoo.com)

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**Parking:** Free.

**Contact:** Dawn Vickers, [dawnjvickers@gmail.com](mailto:dawnjvickers@gmail.com)

or [2017pgmcshow@palomargem.org](mailto:2017pgmcshow@palomargem.org)

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Sun, 10:00am–4:00pm

**Admission:** Free.**Contact:** Bonnie Bidwell, 626-963-4638  
or [Ybidwell@aol.com](mailto:Ybidwell@aol.com)**17-18 CAMBRIA, CA****Annual Summer Gem & Mineral Show****Sponsor:** San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club**Where:** Cambria Vets Hall

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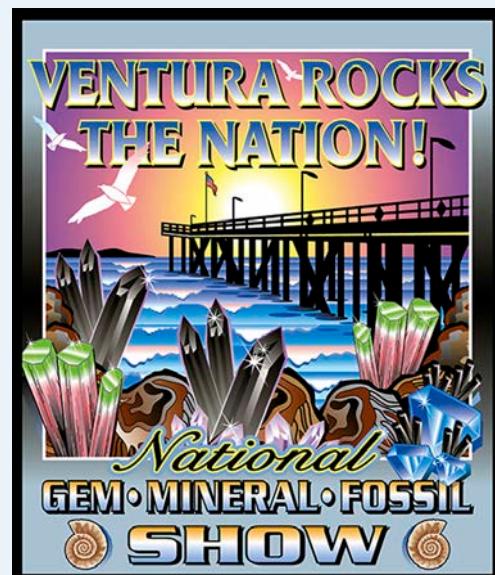


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**Contact:** 805-312-VGMS or [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)**Web site:** [2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com](http://2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com)*The theme for 2017 is “Ventura Rocks the Nation!”*

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|                           | Thu | 7 – 9pm        | Jon Evans         |
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|                           | Tue | 7 – 9pm        | Jerod Schneider   |
|                           | Wed | 9am – noon     | Bob Hancock       |
|                           | Wed | noon – 3pm     | Donna Beers       |
|                           | Wed | 7 – 9pm        | Elbert McCune     |
|                           | Thu | 7 – 9pm        | Bill Brisebois    |
| <b>BEG. SILVER FAB.</b>   | Tue | 6 – 9pm        | Stephanie Griffin |
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|                           | Thu | 1 – 4pm        | Denny Turner      |
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| <b>INT. METALS FAB.</b>   | Sat | 4 – 7pm        | Andy Anderson     |
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|                           | Tue | noon – 3pm     | Lois Lukasky      |
|                           | Wed | 7 – 9pm        | Al Fuente         |
|                           | Thu | 7 – 9pm        | Ellen Riceman     |
|                           | Fri | 9:30am – noon  | Dee Smith         |
|                           | Fri | 12:30 – 3:00pm | Dee Smith         |
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| <b>JUNIORS</b>            | Sat | 10am – 1pm     | Lois Lukasky      |

# Thomas M. Schneider Quality Gemstones



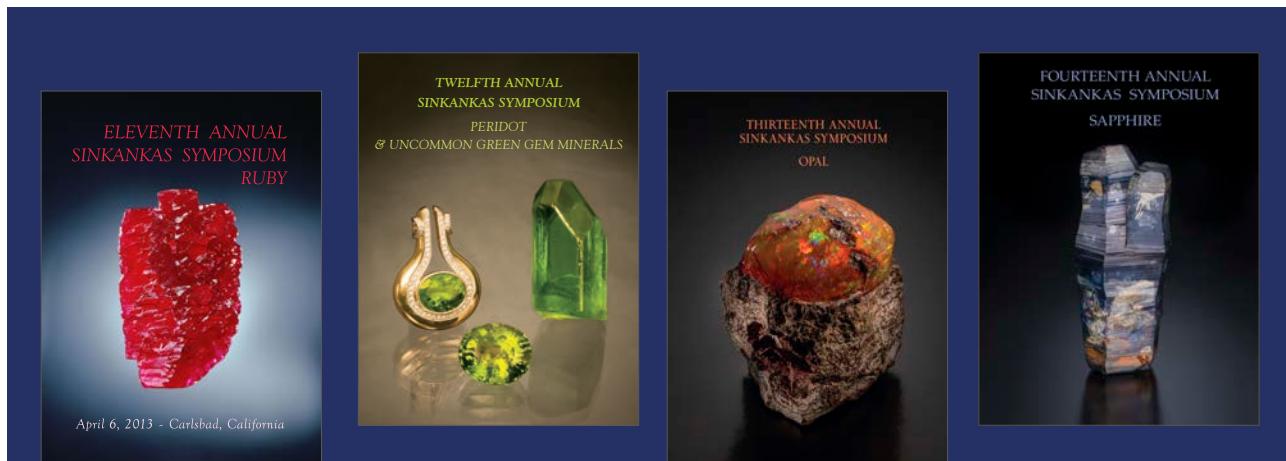
**861 6th Avenue, Suite 517**

**San Diego, CA 92101**

**[www.tmsgems.com](http://www.tmsgems.com)**

**Ph: 619-232-2624**

**Fax: 619-232-2213**



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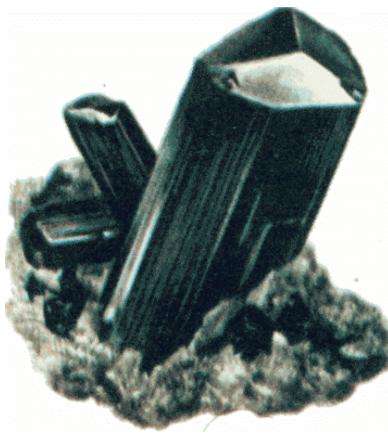
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## San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

A Non-Profit Educational and Scientific Organization

1.) Make Check Payable to: **SDMG** 2.) Send Application + Check to:

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.  
attn: Angela Cannon  
P.O. Box 710783  
Santee, CA 92072

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Check on the membership classification/s you are applying for (check as many as apply):

**Adult**     **Associate** (Adult in same household as primary Adult member)     **Junior** (Ages through 17)

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Associate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (First and Last Name, if different from primary adult member)

**Junior Name (1):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Junior Name (2):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip/Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ (+ 4 digit suffix)

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **eMail:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership in the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. As a member, I will participate in SDMG activities and will help to promote knowledge of and interest in minerals, fossils, lapidary, and related subjects.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership dues for the period beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Dues Schedule:

**\$30 – annual dues for ADULT member, anyone 18 or older.** Entitles member to one subscription to *The Pocket Pegmatite* bulletin (defined as access to online PDF version of bulletin or one printed bulletin mailed to member address); member is also entitled to enroll in lapidary classes.

**\$10 – annual dues for ADDITIONAL ADULT (Associate) member at same address.** Additional adult member will share copy of the printed bulletin or have access to the PDF version of the bulletin online with original adult member, and will have the right to enroll in lapidary classes. If additional adult members want their own copy of a printed bulletin, they must pay the full \$30 adult membership dues.

**\$10 – annual dues for JUNIOR member, ages through 17.** Entitles Junior member to one subscription to *The Pocket Pegmatite*, provided no one else at the same address is already receiving a printed bulletin. The Junior will have the right to enroll in Junior class.

Your membership in **SDMG** continues to be the best deal in town, and we hope that you will agree. When you mail in your check, please note any corrections to your area code, address and include your zip+4 on your check. **Please write "NO EMAIL" on your check, if you do not have an e-mail address.** *The Pocket Pegmatite* monthly bulletin (September – June) is available to members online, so we encourage you to provide/procure a working e-mail address, so that you can receive notifications when the online (PDF) bulletin is posted.

You can fill in the form below, then print it out, or you can print it out and then fill in the form manually, and send it in with your check. If you need help with your renewal or have any additional questions, please contact the membership secretary via email at: [membership@sdmg.org](mailto:membership@sdmg.org).



## San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

A Non-Profit Educational and Scientific Organization

1770 Village Place, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA 92101-1651

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

### WELCOME!

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Spanish Village  
in Balboa Park

SDMG Museum hours:  
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on classes, events,  
field trips, reports,  
reviews, slideshows  
and more at:  
[www.sdmg.org](http://www.sdmg.org)

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## THE PEGMATITE – JUNE 2017

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mon                                                                                                                          | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 28                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 29                                                                                                                           | 30  | 31  | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 5                                                                                                                            | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| <br>VENTURA ROCK<br>THE NATION'S<br>CFMS-AFMS<br>Show & Convention<br>Ventura - end<br>National<br>Mineralogical<br>Society | 11                                                                                                                           | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <br>SDMG Board Mtg<br>7pm, SDMG Bldg      | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 25                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <br>SDMG<br>General Mtg<br>7pm, SDMG Bldg | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                              |     |     |     |     | 1   |