

## SEARCHERS BOARD OFFICERS

- President: Kim Strange
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- 2nd VP: Andrew Bloxom
- Director: Doug Flaugh
- Secretary: Jamie Cassidy-Curtis
- Treasurer: Charlotte Spalding
- Federation Delegate: Charles Walker
- Committee Chairpersons
- Editor: Linda Horn
- Historian:
- Hospitality:
- Library Membership:
- Monthly Drawing:
- Sunshine:
- Veteran Liaison :
- Website: Steve Duncan
- Workshop: Adrian Callard

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## POINTS OF INTEREST

### FIELD TRIPS

### GENERAL MEETING

### SPEAKERS

# The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 1



JANUARY 2020

## The President's Message

Happy New Year Searcher's! I hope your holidays were filled with family and friendship.

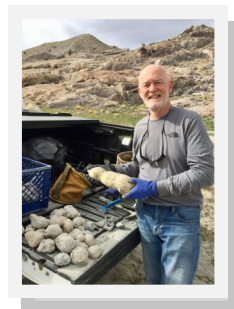
As I look forward to this new year, I want to start by thanking the terrific group of fellow Board Members and Committee Chairs that have agreed to serve the club this year. These individuals donate their time and energy to make our club function. Please join me in thanking them for their efforts.

For those of you who might be newer members of the club, I encourage you to get more actively involved. There are many opportunities for you to get involved, learn how the club functions and get to know your fellow club members better. There are still Committee Chair positions unfilled for this year. Consider volunteering for a Committee Chair or for assisting a Committee Chair with their role this year. Contact Adrian about volunteering at our first-class lapidary shop or contact Margaret about volunteering for our annual show in May or please reach out to me if you are unsure how to get more involved.

I also want to share my thoughts and goals for this year. As I said at the election meeting last November, I believe deeply that Searcher's is fundamentally a fellowship organization that should focus on the appreciation of earth sciences. Most of us are members because we enjoy this field of study and because we also enjoy each other's company. Therefore, one of my goals for this year will be to provide more opportunities to get to know each other better and to share in the various aspects of earth sciences that interests each of us. We share an appreciation for one or more of the diverse aspects of this fascinating, wonderful "hobby" – from lapidary arts to mineralogy, from field collecting to paleontology, from general geology to jewelry making and on and on. It is my belief that we should concentrate on what we share in common and not fixate on our differences.

Other equally important goals for the coming year will be to focus on the reasons that most of us joined Searcher's – to expand our knowledge of earth sciences by attending interesting and educational monthly programs, to "get outside" with a group of like-minded folks on club sponsored field trips and to access the equipment and member expertise in our first-class lapidary shop. Community service is an important goal as well – especially initiating programs to engage youth in earth sciences and ongoing support for the Long Beach VA lapidary program. These are all important goals for this year.

In closing, I'm excited by the opportunities that lie ahead of us this year and I thank each of you for your support of our club.



**\*Please remember to bring any slab donations for the vets.**

## Searchers Club Meetings and Presenters

Board Meeting- Tues. January 7th at 6 pm

Member Meeting— Tuesday January 14th at 7 pm, Anaheim Community Center

### 2020 Membership dues are now due for the year.

**Minutes:** The Searchers board doesn't meet in December, by tradition. Searchers also has a party in December instead of a regular member meeting.

Our annual holiday party was held on Saturday, December 7 at Polly's Pies in Yorba Linda. Members and visitors chose either a traditional turkey dinner or salmon, with a slice of pie for dessert.

Adrian Callard was an excellent Master of Ceremonies for the business portion of the meeting, where Searchers thanked and said goodbye to the board members of the 2019 board, and welcomed and installed the members of the 2020 board.

Then it was time for the gift exchange. Everyone who brought a gift to the party chose another gift from the table. Of course, since this was a Searchers party, many participants were delighted to receive new rocks! (Okay, new-to-them rocks.)



## January Speaker

### Chasing Color; Mining Boulder Opal in Australia

During their year-long “walkabout”, Geologists Dick and Mary Pat Weber visited most of the major opal mining districts of Australia. Their favorite area was the boulder opal deposits in the channel country of Queensland. Miners live under primitive and hazardous conditions in a remote area of the Outback, where there are more snakes, lizards and kangaroos than people.

Unique to the region, this opal is found in massive ironstone concretions of Cretaceous age. Through the generosity of their friends at Broken River Mining, learn how this material is mined and processed in order to bring the world's most beautiful opal to market.



## Field Trips

### 2020 Field Trip Season

Happy New Year Searchers! We had a great start to the winter collecting season, and let's get ready to hit the ground running this year too. As always, let me know if there is a spot you want to see on this list. I keep it fluid and update as we go.

Our next field trip will be to the Quartzite Pow Wow show which runs from Jan 15 -19, 2020. A few Searchers have indicated they will be taking up residence for short times while gathering up all those show goodies and rough material. We will set up camp at the location below and meet up for dinner on Saturday night at the Yacht Club.

Personally, I won't be staying two days at the show since my wallet can't take the heat. I'd like to drive by Wiley Well Rd. and do some de-stressing from Saturdays shopping, and maybe scout some of the roads up into Chuckawalla Springs for the following field trip. Get in touch with me if you plan to join and we can figure out a schedule.

B10 RV Park and Campground  
615 W Main St, Quartzsite, AZ 85346  
(928) 927-4393

Quartzsite Yacht Club Restaurant, Bar & Grill  
1090 W Main St,  
Quartzsite, AZ, 85346,  
Cheers, Andrew [andrewbloxom@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbloxom@gmail.com)



### SEARCHERS 2019-2020 Field Trip Schedule

Anaheim Searchers 2019-2020 Field Trip Schedule			
Date	Location	Leader	Notes
10/26/2019	Sleeping Beauty	Andrew Bloxom	
11/10/2019	Holbrook, AZ	Robert Burson	
11/16-11/17/2019	Baxter Wash	Andrew Bloxom	
12/14/19	Kramer Hills	Andrew Bloxom	
1/18-19/2020	Quartzite	QIA PowWow Show, Sat. Dinner @ YachtClub	
1/19/20	Wiley Well Rd.	Andrew Bloxom	
2/1-2/2020	Chuckawalla Springs		
Feb	Trilobite Wilderness/Turtle Mountains		
March	Opal Mountain	Jimmie Peterson	
March	Afton Canyon		
April	Sperry Wash		
May	Lavic Siding		
June	Clear Creek		
July	Northern CA, Owens Valley, Davis Creek		
Aug.	Santa Monica Mtns		

For field trip  
information  
contact:  
Andrew  
Bloxom Field  
Trips,  
Searchers  
Gem and  
Mineral  
Society,  
[andrew.bloxom@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.bloxom@gmail.com)



## FIELD TRIP REPORT

### Kramer Hills Day Trip December 14, 2019

On a brisk and windy winter day, twelve rockhounds (four juniors) met in Kramer Hills to explore the gentle terrain for agates, jaspers and silicified marine deposits. This locality in the high Mojave Desert is home to Joshua trees, desert tortoises, and neighborhood tracts that failed to germinate. However, strewn across the land is much evidence of transient human presence in old tobacco tins, cans, and spent ammunition casings.

The ancient lake bed that once resided here was infiltrated with silica rich fluids from Tertiary volcanic activity, preserving in time many fossil roots, palm, and boggy material. At our first stop we collected red jasp-agate encased with light green opalite, in seams and in float. Our second stop took us to some slightly different materials, most often found in concentrated areas indicating preexisting shorelines.

As lunchtime rolled around, the wind was steadily increasing to gusts above 20mph. We made a group decision to cruise into Kramer Junction in search of a burger. Our target, the Astro Burger, was unfortunately closed, but we found food and shelter before heading back into the desert along the Power Line Rd. in search of elusive blue palm. We stopped and prospected a promising hill, which held a few interesting finds, but mostly a swing and a miss. Finally, we explored an area with two vertical open mine shafts and many more interesting bits of material.

All in all, it was a great day with fun off-road driving in one of my favorite localities within two hours of home. Every time I return to Kramer Hills, I am pleasantly reminded of the uniqueness of the specimens and the tranquility of the landscape.









## Quartzsite History

### Old Fort Tyson

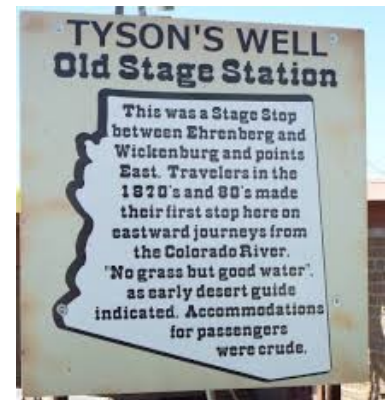
Originally a U. S. Army fort built for protection against marauding Apache Indians in the last century. Later it became a busy stage coach station on the famous butter field route between Prescott, Arizona and Riverside, California.

### History:

The town of Quartzsite is located on the site of old Fort Tyson, a privately owned fort built in 1856 by Charles Tyson for protection against Indians. Because of the water which existed at this place, Tyson's Wells soon became a stage station on the road from Ehrenburg to Prescott. In 1875 Martha Summerhayes described this place as being the most melancholy and uninviting that she had ever seen, saying that it "reeks of everything unclean, morally and physically..."

In 1897, the development of mining in the area resulted in a small boom. It was reported that Tyson's Wells had three stores, two saloons, and a short-lived post office. Apparently when it became necessary to re-open the post office because of renewed mining activity, a new name had to be found since the post office did not permit offices to re-open the post office under formerly used names. Therefore, George Ingersoll suggested the name Quartzsite, since quartzsite is actually found in the vicinity, but quartz is not. However, the post office in error apparently added an "s" to the name. The resulting "Quartzsite" erroneously implies that quartz is found locally. Actually Quartzsite is approximately nine miles east of the old Tyson's Wells which lay nineteen miles from Ehrenburg. Therefore, a different name was doubly suited.

From: <http://www.ghosttownaz.info/old-fort-tyson.php>



## January: Quartzsite Gem and Mineral Shows

### Location / Description

Quartzsite is located in western Arizona, just 20 miles east of the Colorado River on I-10. It's been a rockhound's paradise since the 1960s. These days, it's also a mecca to well over a million visitors each year, most of whom converge on this small town in a wave of RVs during the months of January and February.



At this time of the year, 2,000 vendors of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils and everything else imaginable create one of the world's largest open air flea markets in Quartzsite. Eight major gem and mineral shows as well as vendors of raw and handcrafted merchandise peddle their wares to snowbirds, collectors and enthusiasts, making Quartzsite the place to be the first two months of each year.

### Shows and Events

#### Tyson Wells Market Center Swap Meet

Oct 01, 2019 - April 1, 2020

#### Desert Gardens - Gem & Mineral

January 01 - February 28, 2020

#### QIA Pow Wow - Gems, minerals & jewelry

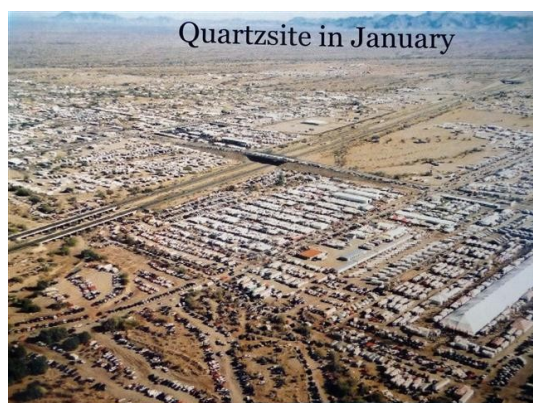
January 15 - January 19, 2020


#### Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show

January 03 - January 12, 2020

#### Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama

January 17 - January 26, 2020






**Coming to Quartzsite**  
**January 18, 2020**  
**Quartzsite Community Center,**  
**295 East Chandler Street,**  
**Quartzsite, AZ.**  
**7:00 PM to 9:00 PM MST**

**American Lands Access Association**  
**2020 Public Meeting and Forum**  
**"Recreational Rockhounding**  
**and Public Lands"**

**Our Featured Speaker for the Evening**



CONGRESSMAN  
**PAUL GOSAR**  
REPRESENTING THE 4TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

**Congressman Gosar, Representing the Arizona's 4th District and Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, will be presenting information on Recreational Rockhounding and Public Land issues in the Western States, accomplishments in the Arizona 4th District and the Congressional Western Caucus as they pertain to Recreational Rockhounding. After his presentation there will be a Question and Answer session relating to Recreational Rockhounding on Public Lands. Speaker is subject to change depending on availability and schedule.**

American Lands Access Association, Inc - [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)



## Searcher's Stuff

### Show Committee Update

As we head into an exciting New Year and decade, we have an important show to prepare for, our 62nd. Held the first weekend in May, our main income generator, it's a good opportunity to make a difference in our all-volunteer run organization. As I go on field trips, I collect for the Silent Auction, grab bags, and Wheel of Fortune prizes. You can help with that, also! If you can't get out in the field, go through your rock stash and set some aside for the Silent Auction. It is our most popular and biggest income generator. If you are tumbler, tumble some rocks for grab bags. Be creative this year and make some prizes for the show. We need all kinds of prizes, large and small, for both children and adults. Donate items to sell at the Searcher's Sale Table, or, sell your rock-related wares. We are always on the lookout for new children's activities in addition to our sand sifting, ring making, treasure hunt, and dinosaur stamp activities; please pass your ideas on to the show committee. We are very excited about having a food truck this year, not only because our kitchen took so much effort, we are looking forward to convenient and delicious menu choices. Show Committee meetings will be 1-2:30 p.m. in the Senior Center, past the workshop, through the wooden gates:

**Jan 4, 2020**

**February 1, 2020**

**Mar 7, 2020**

**April 18, 2020** (the center is usually closed for maintenance the first two weeks of April).

Join our talented, hard-working, and fun team! Please take the opportunity to sign up to work at the show. We have opportunities to help for people of all abilities. In particular, we need a partner for the Hospitality table. It is a great way to learn about rock-related things and make new friends!

Keep on rocking,

Margaret Hogarth

[Hogarth.m@gmail.com](mailto:Hogarth.m@gmail.com)





## Did you know?

What are Bylaws?

Bylaws are rules that are adopted by an organization which govern the activities and members of an organization. Bylaws are the internal written legal rules applicable to a corporation and must be followed by the company, its directors and officers when conducting business. Generally, bylaws are legal documents that formally set out the rules of a company.

The Searcher's Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. has a set of Bylaws available for all members to review through the club's website under the "More" tab and then under "Club Documents".

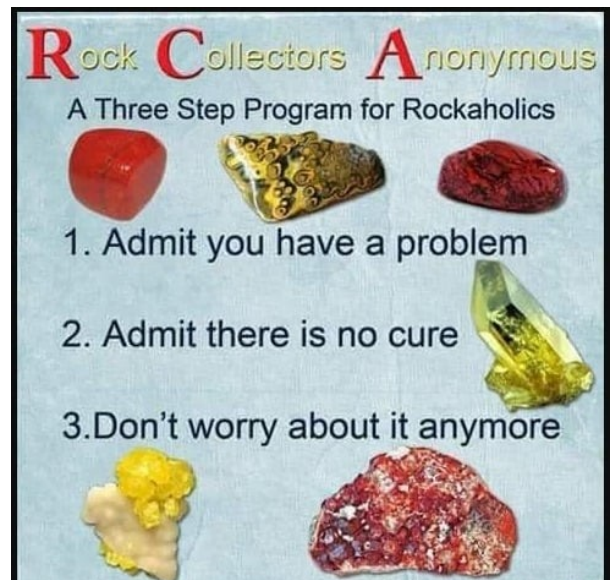
Next month, we will review the process that exists in our current Bylaws that must be followed to make a change to our Bylaws.

## Show and Tell / New Member Spotlight

As part of our monthly general meeting in January, we would like to trial offering members the opportunity to share a recent creation of theirs (jewelry item or lapidary item made by the member) or field collecting find with the club. We will refer to this as "show and tell". The only rules are that we need to keep the discussion brief (no more than 3 minutes) and the sharing should be for non-commercial purposes (i.e. no selling during the meeting).

Also in January, we would like to trial asking new members to introduce themselves during the meeting and tell us what interests you most about earth sciences. If you have a favorite rock, shop creation or collecting story that you would like to share with the club as part of your introduction, that would be great too. This is completely voluntary, but we would love to learn more about you and your particular interests. The only rules here are that we need to be somewhat brief (5 minutes or so).

If you are interested in participating in "show and tell" or "new member spotlight", please let the meeting host/hostess know when you sign-in for the meeting.



For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

## Upcoming 2020 CFMS Gem Shows

### JANUARY 2020

**January 18 - 19: EXETER, CA**  
Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia  
Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building  
324 N. Kaweah Avenue  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Gayle Bingham (559) 802-6029  
Email: [bandgbing@aol.com](mailto:bandgbing@aol.com)  
Website: [tulegem.com](http://tulegem.com)

### FEBRUARY 2020

**February 14 - 23: INDIO, CA**  
San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society  
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival  
82-503 Highway 111  
Hours: 10 - 10 daily  
Contact: Bert Grisham, (951) 849-1674  
Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)

**February 15 - 17: ANTIOCH, CA**  
Antioch Lapidary Club  
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds  
1201 West 10th Street  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Brenda Miguel  
Email: [brenda.miguel@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda.miguel@yahoo.com)  
Website: [antiochlapidaryclub.com](http://antiochlapidaryclub.com)

**February 22 - 23: VALLEJO, CA**  
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society  
McCormack Hall, Solano County Fairgrounds  
900 Fairgrounds Drive  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Debra Duhon, (415) 254-1506  
Email: [dduhonvgms@gmail.com](mailto:dduhonvgms@gmail.com)  
Website: [vjgems.org](http://vjgems.org)

### MARCH 2020

**March 6, 7 & 8: NEWARK, CA**  
Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley  
Newark Pavilion  
6430 Thornton Avenue  
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5

Contact: Cathy, (510) 305-4196  
Email: [cdmiller59@gmail.com](mailto:cdmiller59@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org) [Show Page](#)

**March 7 - 8: VENTURA, CA**  
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
10 West Harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Richard Slyker, (805) 312-8467  
Email: [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)  
Website: [vgms.org](http://vgms.org)

**March 13, 14 & 15: VICTORVILLE, CA**  
(Club is Victorville) Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
44th Annual Rockhound Tailgate  
Stoddard Wells Road/Dale Evans Pkwy  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily  
Contact: Ruben Martinez, (760) 429-8263  
Email: [rmstonewalk54@gmail.com](mailto:rmstonewalk54@gmail.com)  
Website: [vvgmc.org](http://vvgmc.org) [Show Page](#)

**March 21 - 22: SAN JOSE, CA**  
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
344 Tully Road  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: (408) 265-1422  
Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org)  
Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

**March 29 - 29: ANGELS CAMP, CA**  
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society  
Calaveras County Fairgrounds  
101 Frogtown Road  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Robin Williams, (209)-728-8277  
Email: [robinski@yahoo.com](mailto:robinski@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org) [Show Page](#)

**March 28- 29: ROSEVILLE, CA**  
Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society  
@the Grounds  
800 All American City Blvd  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: James Hutchings, (916) 995-7380  
Email: [jhutchings22@hotmail.com](mailto:jhutchings22@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com) [Show Page](#)

### APRIL 2020

**April 4 - 5: CHICO, CA**  
Paradise Gem & Mineral Society  
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds  
2357 Fair Street  
Hours: Saorot 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4  
Contact: Trish Haggerty, (530) 966-5112  
Email: [hagboyz5@gmail.com](mailto:hagboyz5@gmail.com)  
[www.paradisegem.org](http://www.paradisegem.org)

**April 4 - 5: RENO, NV**  
Reno Gem & Mineral Society  
Reno Convention Center  
4390 S. Virginia Street  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Daniel Ellis, (775) 229-2442  
Email: [greybeard65@hotmail.com](mailto:greybeard65@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.renorockhounds.com](http://www.renorockhounds.com)

**April 11 - 12: MARIPOSA, CA**  
Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
5007 Fairgrounds Road  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Meredith Meehan, (559) 868-3535  
Email: [mgmcc@sti.net](mailto:mgmcc@sti.net)  
Web Site: <http://mariposagemclub.org> [Show Page](#)

**April 25 - 26: LANCASTER, CA**  
Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Avenue H  
Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4  
Contact: Susan Chaisson-Walblom, (661) 406-0143  
Email: [slchaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:slchaisson@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.avgem.weebly.com](http://www.avgem.weebly.com)

## January Birthstone: Garnet





# Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

## General Information



Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

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

**General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

**Board Meetings:** 6PM, 1st Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

**Workshop:** Thursday 5:30 to 10:00 PM and Saturday 2:30 to 7:00 PM

**Location:** Anaheim Downtown Community Center  
250 East Center St.  
Anaheim, CA 92805

**Mailing Address:** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3492  
Anaheim, CA 92803

**Website:** [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

<b>Membership Dues:</b>	Individual	\$25
	Couple	\$35
	Junior (17 & under)	\$10

Valid Jan.1-Dec.31, not prorated

**Bulletin:** Submissions due 3rd Friday of the month via e-mail to: [editor@searchersrocks.org](mailto:editor@searchersrocks.org).

Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:

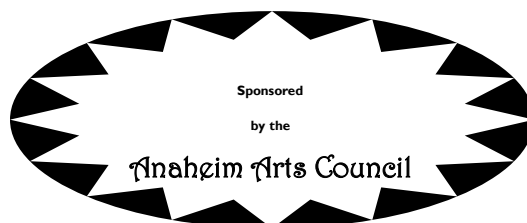
Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

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Anaheim, Ca. 92803

**Charter Date:** April 20, 1958

**Affiliations:** California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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