

ROCKDUST NEWSLETTER

Sun City



April 2024

2024 Monthly Guest Speaker Schedule

April

- Our own Colin Morley will be our guest speaker
- Topic: Meteorites and Meteor Crater

May

- Bret McKeand, President of the Sun Cities Museum

CALENDAR

APRIL

4-Board meeting, Museum, 10:00 am

11- 60th Anniversary Banquet, Fairway Arizona Rooms 1-3

5:00-5:30 PM Arrive & Be Seated. Dinner Promptly served at 5:30pm After Dessert & Game, Colin Morley will speak

18- Field Trip to Wickenburg area for Mushroom Rhyolite & Perlite. Meet at Bell, SE Corner at 7:30, Leave at 8:00. No High Clearance needed

25-Show & Tell, Noon-1:00, Open House at Club's new Storage Facility at Lakeview Center Annex. (Behind George's restaurant, bowling alley) Bring snack to share and Specimen to ID

MAY

1-Museum goes to Summer Schedule. Only open Saturdays, 10:00am-1:00pm

9- Member meeting, Refreshments: 6-6:30pm, Fairway Rec Center, Rooms 1 & 2

Announcements/recognition/table prizes: 6:30-7:00pm, Bret McKeand of Sun Cities Museum will speak about Sun City's history: 7:00-8:00pm

HAPPY AND SAFE SUMMER TO ALL!

Highlights of Club's 60th Anniversary Year (2023-2024)

- Two Field Trips led by Linda & Colin Morley. October Trip to Tonto Bridge, March Trip to ASU Meteorite Museum. Thank you!
- October 27th Kickoff Bar-B-Q at Oakmont. (where Rockhound club first met)
- 4 Field Trips led by Bill Freese to mines that were otherwise closed to the club
- Fun Trip to Goodyear Rockhounds home to view his stunning Fluorescent collection
- Museum Hall display on loan to our Mineral Museum from the University of Arizona Mining & Mineral Education Museum
- Curator, Catie Sandoval, sharing about the display at the October Show & Tell and Speaking at the March Club meeting
- Successful Fall Festival and Spring Rock Sale in which new sales records were set
- Increased new publicity via Coordinator Carol Ann Hewitt and Vice President Carol Bankert George. (Social Media)
- Initiation of egg carton project at Fall Festival and at Flagg Mineral Show and Rock Sale
- Donation of club's Native American artifacts to SALT, a group seeking to preserve and educate about skills of the native peoples.
- Updating of the Museum's State Mineral Display
- 60th Anniversary Banquet celebrating the Sun City Rockhounds Diamond Anniversary

The State of the Sun City Rockhounds Finances

In a word, fantastic. The club is blessed with a healthy bank account. At the end of the year, each club in Sun City files a financial statement. The following is a summary of ours for 2023.

Balance at the end of 2022- \$17,625.36

Income \$ 12, 022.57 (Club dues about \$1,200.00, sales about \$10,000)

Expenses \$10,807.07

Ending Balance \$18,840.86

In addition, the club requested an Audit through the RCSC. In early March, Maryse Mercier, Treasurer, and Cheryl Alvord, President met with a volunteer auditor. The audit was successful. The Club was found to keep good records with no material inconsistencies.

Respectfully submitted

Cheryl Alvord

True Rock Collectors gather at least 10,000 rocks during a lifetime without having the least idea of where they will put them when they get home. (Source unknown, found in early Rockdust)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE APRIL 11TH 60TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET (and hopefully were not afraid to ask)

-Come Early! Between 5:00 and 5:30

-Bring your ticket/s

-Door Prizes

-MEAL SERVICE TO START PROMPTLY AT 5:30 PM

-Buffet catered by **Famous Dave's**. We have kept track of your meal choice

-We have eight honored guests joining us.

-Club is providing cake as dessert

-Lynn Applebaum, Rockhound and Banquet Coordinator has an Arizona Trivia game for us to play

-Colin Morley, longtime Rockhound and Geologist extraordinaire will speak to us after the evening's activities

-Huge thank you to Lynn who planned the entire banquet event and the Refreshment committee who are helping with decorations and service of beverages and dessert

60th Anniversary Committee: Beth Mead, Carol Ann Hewett, Carol Bankert George, Lynn Applebaum and David and Cheryl Alvord

SHED to SHED

Dan Round and I happily took the lead for this important move. I would like to thank everyone for all the hard work you did to move everything from the Mountain View shed to our new location by Lakeview Recreation Center. First a huge thanks to our president, Cheryl Alvord for working closely with the RCSC to get the new location and coordinate to have the move the week of March 18th.

I thought it would take three days, with four hours each day. I did not consider how hard members work when they have a goal. RCSC had staged 9 pallets and the hard-working group had them loaded up on Tuesday in less than 2 hours. When we arrived Wednesday to finish cleaning out the shed, the RCSC had already moved 3 of the pallets to our new location. Members loaded their vehicles with the remaining shed items and headed to the new location. The RCSC delivered the remaining pallets on Wednesday while we were at the new location. The plan was to unload all the pallets on Friday, the 22nd. Again, not considering how hard members work, all 9 pallets were unloaded and put into the shed in about 2 ½ hours on Wednesday. We were able to cancel the additional RCSC help for Friday and shifted from heavy lifting and moving to identifying and sorting on Friday. The new location is climate controlled so we will be able to work throughout the summer to complete the organization and sorting of all our rocks.

In addition to the excitement of a new location, member Dan Round is making wood trays to store and display our rocks.

A HUGE THANK YOU to members Dan Round, Connie Johnson, Suzanne Chamberlain, Dan Kulis, Roddy Mac, Fred Wieck, Phil Applebaum, Thomas Ritz, Deb and Ed Carlone, David Alvord and Roz Shafer for your time and hard work. Also, A HUGE THANK YOU to two RCSC members, Angela Willette who worked closely with our club to procure the new location and Tim Fields for safely wrapping and moving the pallets.

As Cheryl Alvord said in one of our communications, “MANY HANDS MAKE QUICK WORK” and they sure did!

Cheryl Etten



Field Trip to Chilito Mine: March 21

Sun City Rockhounds take a new adventure to the Chilito Mine (written by Carol Ann Hewett)

On March 21, 20 club members in nine vehicles left the Bell Center for an all-day adventure to the Chilito Mine. Our mission was to find some beautiful samples of Chrysocolla and Azurite. The mine is located south of Superior Arizona in Gila County. It is a beautiful drive this time of year, the desert was many different shades of green. Thank you, mother nature, for all the rain! We passed Ray Mine in Kearny Arizona. It is the second largest copper mine in the state, and one of the largest copper reserves in the United States. Arizona produces 65% of the nations mined copper. The mine itself is an open pit that spans 53,000 acres (about twice the area of Manhattan) and employs over 1400 people.

The Chilito Mine was discovered in 1885 by Jake Schneider and has a rich history in copper and silica mining. The mine is 3,799 feet above sea level and is on National Forest land. Operations at the mine ceased in 1962. Our drive to the mine took close to 3 hours, and once we

reached the main road up, those in low clearance vehicles parked their cars and carpooled in the high clearance vehicles. There are magnificent views of canyons, and the desert flowers and cacti were in full bloom. The road up is narrow and rough. When you reach the mine tailings, parking is easy. We were all eager to exit our vehicles and stretch our legs. Everywhere you looked you could see the greenish/ blue of chrysocolla, on the ground and in the hillsides. This is a great area for all levels of collecting. You could climb a hill or just stay in the level parking area and find all the small or large samples you wanted. Your choice! The Azurite seemed harder to find and the samples were smaller, but still that beautiful deep blue. We had a nice lunch together in the sun with a gently blowing breeze. After lunch, many members left to make the journey home. My advice is if you plan to visit this mine stay overnight in Globe AZ. and explore the area even more. The rocks are waiting for you!





The Rockhounds explore Mars, the Moon, and Meteorites at ASU

(submitted by Linda and Colin Morley)

In our 60th anniversary year our club looked as far into the past as it is possible to do by handling rocks. Surrounded by rocks that came from space our rockhound group were taken into the highly secure ‘Vault’ at the Center for Meteorite Studies at ASU. Our thanks to Meg Hufford from ASU for her invaluable help.

Founded in 1961, the center is one of Arizona State University’s first-established research institutes, and it is home to one of the world's largest university-based meteorite collections. This is not the first time that our Rockhound club have been hosted there, I think it was in about 2012 or 2013 that Joe Chan organized and led a trip to the Center for Meteorite Studies. Appropriately, in our anniversary year Joe and Eliz were able to join us.

The person using codes to unlock the doors to the first outer chamber and letting us in was the Collection Curator in person, Laurence A. J. Garvie. He is a Research Professor, School of Earth & Space Exploration. He achieved his PhD. at the University of Bristol (1992) – Dr.

Garvie deciphers early Solar System processes through the use of innovative, high-spatial-resolution electron microscopic and spectroscopic studies of meteorites. There that was a mouthful; it just means that he knows what he is talking about.

Laurence then prepared us to move into the inner sanctum. Bags were left in the outer chamber and we moved through into a highly controlled, low humidity environment, past a barrier designed to ensure that the ‘outside’ stayed outside. Laurence is very enthusiastic about his job and had the ability to pitch the information in a way that we could understand it. He sorted out some samples of meteorite that we could handle and explained a little about each.

We were introduced to each of the meteorite groups. The samples ranged from extremely dark and heavy nickel-iron meteorites to very light (in color and in weight) silicate examples.

We were also hosted by Dr Steve Ruff, a Research Professor (FSC), of the Mars Space Flight Facility at ASU. Steve is a planetary geologist with a focus on the mineralogy of Mars determined via infrared spectroscopy, part of an effort to understand the geologic history of Mars and potential for past habitability. Through field work in Mars analog settings and laboratory work using field samples, his work is to better interpret observations from Mars. Steve Ruff may be better known to established club members from his annual talks on the progress of the Mars missions and latest discoveries. Steve has been coming to Sun City Rockhounds for about 20 years. Steve may be known to others in the club as “Mars Guy” from his YouTube videos. They are worth watching.

Steve took us into a laboratory that he uses and explain the process for obtaining a signature from rocks and using earth processes and rocks to add geologic understanding to the Martian findings.

We rounded off the day by seeing the control room where real-time data arrives from the moon for later analysis. We could not leave that building without seeing a large-Ish chunk of Moon rock that was collected at the Apollo 15 landing site. This alien rock was brought back and has been extensively examined and tested and is more formally known as sample 15555. It is a basalt and basalt is probably the most common rock in Arizona. It may only be a relatively common type but – this erupted and crystallized almost 3.3 billion years ago. However, this rock is predominantly composed of silicate minerals such as olivine, pyroxene, plagioclase, along with some opaque minerals such as ilmenite, an iron-titanium oxide. All the basalts collected at the Apollo 15 site were found to be the same age, and it is likely that they are related geologically. The bulk composition of 15555 is thought to represent that of a primitive

volcanic melt and has been used for experimental studies related to the geologic origin of lunar basalts. Planetary scientists use information gleaned from such analyses to gain key insights into how terrestrial planets like the Moon and Earth form and evolve. Our thanks to Col. Scott for collecting it on his field trip to the moon and to all at ASU who made this trip possible.





Museum Updates

Display Revamps

50 States Display

Deb Carlone spearheaded a team to update the 50 states display. The team included Deb's husband Ed, Susie Treadwell, Roz Schafer and Irina Donaldson. The team, under Deb's leadership, did a tremendous job at recreating the display. A big thank you to the team and

Karin Schardt for donating a rock for New Jersey. Make sure you check out the article by Deb in the newsletter and the display the next time you are in the museum.

Artifact Display Change - Update

Catie from UOA Mining and Mineral Museum will be putting up a display of ‘rock feast.’ If you saw her presentation at the March Meeting, you saw pictures of a display at the Mining and Mineral Museum of rocks that look like food.

We also are in contact with a local meteorite collector, Bob Holmes, who has offered to loan part of his collection for display. This should be happening in April.

Members of museum committee, Karin Schardt, Priscilla Davis, Carol Bankert-George will be working over the summer to identify hazardous or potentially hazardous minerals currently on display, throughout the museum, to move, under glass, in this one area for an additional new display. We would like to provide

information of the potential hazards of these specimens to educate our members and the public.

NEW: Answering machine in museum. The museum has installed an answering machine. A message has been recorded giving details about our museum, hours of Operation, and our email address for more immediate responses to questions.

If you are working in the museum calls should be answered with a greeting such as ‘Sun City mineral museum, how can I help you’

Sun City residents who call for rock identification should be directed to come to a monthly meeting where there are more members available for review of item. Questions on is my rock a meteorite? Should be directed to ASU website OR scrockmuseum@gmail.com with a picture. We can pass on their information to an outside source.

Retail Update

UV Flashlights

- **Short Wave** – SOLD OUT
- **Long Wave** – 3 different sizes

NOTE: No discounts for members. We only do a small markup to cover shipping costs.

Looking for Museum Monitors!

- Please stop by the museum and sign up if you can monitor or sign up at the monthly meeting

Rock and Mineral Shows May - September

May 2024

4-5—KINGMAN, ARIZONA: Annual show; Mohave County Gemstoners; Mohave County Fairgrounds, 2600 Fairgrounds Blvd; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Free Admission & Parking; Educational Displays & Exhibits: • Gemstones • Minerals • Fossils • Rocks • Jewelry • Woodwork • Clothing. Great Shopping: • Mineral Specimens • Petrified Wood • Fossils • Handmade Jewelry • Gems • Rock Art & Carvings. Website: www.gemstoners.org/

June 2024

1-2—PHOENIX, ARIZONA: Annual show; Mineralogical Society of Arizona; Phoenix Shrine Auditorium, 552 N. 40th St; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 Cash, \$3 Members, Children 12 and under free with paying adult; 35+ Quality Dealers, Demonstrations, Raffles, Competitive Exhibit. Website: www.msaaaz.org

This is a very nice show, indoors and close to home. This club was established in 1935 making it the oldest society in Arizona.



The 4th PHOENIX HERITAGE MINERAL SHOW

Largest, Quality Mineral Show in the Phoenix Area!

FLUORITE with Baryte
Baryte mining area, Huespedesite, Asturias, Spain
6.5cm - Nick McClure Collection - Jeff Sawall Photo

Café & Bar: Open - 4pm
Admission:
CASH ONLY - ATM Available
• \$5.00 Adults
• FREE for Members
• FREE for children 12 and under with paying adult
• Free Parking (subject to view)
msaaaz.org

JUNE 1st & 2nd 2024
PHOENIX SHRINE AUDITORIUM
552 N 40TH STREET • PHOENIX, AZ 85008
Saturday 9am - 5pm | Sunday 10am - 4pm
Featuring Minerals, Competitive and Guest Exhibits
Saturday Night: Dinner, Talk, Awards and Auctions!



July 2024

26-28—SHOW LOW, ARIZONA: Annual show; White Mountain Gem and Mineral Club; Elks Lodge, 805 E. Whipple; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$4, kids with adult free.

Website: www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org

August 2024

29-1—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Annual show; JOGS Tucson Fall Gem & Jewelry Show; Tucson Expo Center, 750 E Irvington Rd; daily 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Registered Buyers: FREE - General Admission: \$20 - Proof of Military: FREE - Children: No children under 14 admitted; The JOGS Gem & Jewelry Show, one of the largest trade shows in the Americas, in the fall of 2023.

Website: www.jogsshow.com

September 2024

27-29—CLARKDALE, ARIZONA: Annual show; Mingus Gem & Mineral Club; Clark Memorial Clubhouse Auditorium, 19 N. Ninth Street; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Free; Daily raffles. Dealers offering geode-splitting demonstrations, agates, fossils, gems, beads, findings, cabochons, crystals, rock slabs, tumble-polished minerals, handcrafted jewelry, carvings and unique gift items. Website: www.mingusgem.club/

Looking for something to do?

Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum – 150 N Plaza Circle, Miami, AZ

Open Wednesday – Saturday 11am to 2pm.

Free admission

Mineral, geology, and mining exhibits

Arizona Capital Museum – 1700 W Washington Street, Phoenix

Open Monday – Friday 9am to 2pm, till June 1st open on Saturday 10am to 2pm

Walking tours Wednesday and Friday at 2pm

Free admission

Mineral exhibits from U of A Mining and Mineral Museum, rock and cactus garden

50 STATE MINERALS – ONE NATION

(written by Deb Carlone)

Stop by the Mineral Museum and check out the new 50 State Mineral Case where samples represent the current ‘official’ state mineral, gemstone, rock or stone for each state. The new display has been relocated to the display case on the end cap in the back of the museum opposite the door to the fluorescent room.

A year ago the discovery was made that many of the samples in the State Mineral Case did not match the ‘official’ mineral, gemstone, rock or stone for that state, so a committee was formed to update the display. The creative team of Deb & Ed Carlone, Irina Donaldson, Roz Shafer, and Sue Treadwell did the research to determine what was ‘official’ for each state and got to work redesigning the display. Special thank you also to Dave Dow who measured, ordered, and installed the new clear glass shelves which really brightened up the display.

Along with state flags and state mottos, individual states within the United States have often designated an official mineral, gemstone, rock and/or stone. These official recognitions and designations often promote the state's history, natural resources, tourist sites and more. Not every state has a selection for every category so the decision was made to display the official mineral whenever there was one. For example; Arizona did not have an ‘official’ state mineral until 2017 when formally introduced legislation, bill A.R.S. § 41-860.04, was passed naming **Wulfenite**. If there was no official mineral, then the official gemstone or rock/ stone is represented.

We were able to use some of the samples from the original state display case. We found others in museum cabinets and at the rock shed. However, there are still a few samples missing and we welcome donations before we purchase the final specimens. We are also looking into getting a new main sign printed up for the top of the display case to finish the project.

This is a great addition to our Museum and the Rockhound Club as we wrap up the Celebration of 60 years in Sun City. Come on in and check it out!



YouTube Channels

Mars Guy Channel– Our favorite ASU professor Steve Ruff (our February 2024 guest speaker) has over 142 videos now on Mars he has created and has 34 thousand followers.

Elley Knows Rocks Channel – Our one-time guest speaker Elley Ringo has over 500 videos on rocks, minerals, Arizona mines and her adventures in Greenland.

Sidetrack Adventures- Not rock hound related, but, the host of the channel, Steve, takes you weekly on the highways and byways of southern California and Arizona. Many could be potential day trips from Sun City.

Rock Hounding Channels

- AZ Rockhound Expeditions
- Currently Rock hounding
- Native Arizona Adventures (local group also on Facebook, sponsors monthly field trips)
- Rockhounding the West

FACEBOOK & PINTEREST

As a reminder, our club has both Facebook & Pinterest Pages. Both can be found by searching Sun City Rock Hounds in these applications.

Facebook: includes pictures of rock and mineral specimens that are posted weekly along with occasional news stories on topics club members may find of interest. Meeting and field trip information will also be posted.

Pinterest: includes hundreds of pictures of rock and mineral specimens in and the Nazca Lines in Peru, home collections and even a few pictures of club activities.



Club Contact Information

Museum Telephone 623-428-6442 Club Email srockmuseum@gmail.com

Club Contacts		
President	Cheryl Alvord	207-797-0619
Vice President	Carol Bankert George	623-688-6364
Board Secretary	Deb Carlone	607-423-1390
Treasurer	Maryse Mercier	732-673-5567
Board Member	Connie Johnson	425-879-0874
Board Member	Tom Schonewald	425-308-4310
Membership	Tom & Linda Schonewald	425-308-4310
Monitor Coordinators	Gale Willett	734-731-0065
Refreshments	Marty Martin	847-406-6489
	Beth Mead	307-262-6715
	Karin Schardt	602-402-0506
	Lynn Applebaum	
Rockdust Editor	Dave Noll	253-905-6274
Fluorescent Room	Dave Balzer	626-375-8086
Retail Committee	Phil Applebaum	
	Roz Shafer	
	Eden Toliver (intern)	
Museum Advisory Committee	Phil & Lynn Applebaum	Eliz & Joe Chan
	Cliff DeVig	Carol Bankert George
	Mary Brown Martilik	Roz Shafer
	Karin Schardt	Linda & Tom
		Schonewald