



# THE MINERAL VEIN

Official Newsletter of

## THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA March/April 2021

### APRIL 7th VIRTUAL MEETING

For the April meeting, Ron Zeilstra will give a presentation on his spring 2017 trip to Morocco. Ron was invited to travel with 2 mineral dealers on one of their buying trips in Morocco. The 2 week trip started in Casablanca, and included visiting the traditional markets of Marrakesh, the mines near Bou Azzur, multiple mineral sites in the High Atlas Mountains, fossil sites in the Sahara Desert, an apatite crystal mine at Imichil, buying crystals in the famous mineral markets at Midelt, and going underground in several vanadinite mines near Minbladen.



Above; Ron Zeilstra in Morocco on a collecting trip, in 2017

### FEBURARY MEETING SUMMARY

Our first meeting was a relative success, with 15+ members in attendance. There were a few expected, minor concerns, that we will mention, regarding Team meeting Etiquette. *Cont. on page 3*

### MEMBERSHIP DUES REQUESTED

#### 2021-2022 SEASON, Due October 2021.

At this point, Spring events look doubtful.

It is with optimism, that out door events may be able to happen, late summer/Fall.

With this in mind, we are hopeful, that in person meetings may start in 2022. We are also hopeful that we can host our Spring BBQ potentially in summer, with September as back up. Also, we are hopeful that our Xmas Party will happen, this year, but only time will tell for sure.

### MAY MEETING

Get your favorite minerals out and cleaned up. We are going to do a virtual show and tell for the May meeting. If you are interested in showing your specimens— please e-mail Jack Bauer the number of minerals you would like to present, as we have to ensure everyone gets some time to share their finds.

### COVID UPDATE

Code orange is limiting travel and get-togethers here in Manitoba. The MSM is optimistic that we can begin hosting in person events in the later half of 2021 and early 2022.

Manitoba is currently in code orange and out door events to 25 people/ depending where you are gathering. We will be waiting for the government to provide guidance for the months ahead. Stay tuned for more info.

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### THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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[mineralsocietyofmanitoba.weebly.com](http://mineralsocietyofmanitoba.weebly.com)

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*The Mineral Vein* is published monthly from September to June.

**Meetings** are held on the first Wednesday of each month from September to May inclusive at the Manitoba Museum in room P47 on the Planetarium level. They begin at 6:30 PM and feature announcements, an invited speaker and a raffle. Members are encouraged to bring along any new, interesting specimens, or specimens appropriate to the speaker's topic.

**Field Trips** take place from May to September to interesting sites in Manitoba or neighbouring provinces and states.

**Membership:** A single membership is \$15 while a family membership is \$20. Memberships run from October to October.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL MEETING;** April 07, 2021 at 6:30– virtual presentation by Ron Zeilstra, on collecting in Morocco

**MAY MEETING;** , May 5th 2021 at 6:30pm- virtual Show and tell mineral discussion.

**ANNUAL MSM BBQ, 2021—** June/summer, *to be confirmed*

**SELENITE DIG, 2021;** *August/ September to be confirmed*

**METEORITE HUNT;** *September or October 2021- to be confirmed*

**CAT LAKE; CENTRAL PEGMATITE;** *September or October 2021-to be confirmed*



Founded in 1971, the Mineral Society of Manitoba is dedicated to promoting the study of minerals, rocks and fossils for their scientific and recreational value.

The Mineral Society of Manitoba hosts monthly meetings covering a variety of mineral related topics. In addition, the Mineral Society organizes summer field trips to collecting localities, hosts educational exhibits about minerals and fossils and local trade events.

## VIRTUAL MEETING ETIQUETTE

When joining; check if your microphone is on/off.

When a presenter begins speaking; turn off your MIC

When your MIC is on: refrain from eating or creating back round noise (turn off radio or TV in background)

When a presenter is speaking; please keep questions on topic

Keep off topic questions till the end of the presentation.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING TEAMS FROM YOUR WEB BROWSER:

**Step 1:** The Teams meeting invite should look like this:

**You're invited to join a Microsoft Teams meeting**

Title: Carrie Carino's Teams Meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

The link will be sent with the newsletter, to join the meeting you just click on the “*click here to join the meeting*” the link will be blue in color. This link will take you directly to the “*lobby*” of the meeting and the host will let you in. You can add this event to your calendar, if your e-mail is set-up with the calendar function.

During the meeting there will be a chat function, through out the presentation you are more than welcome to pose questions or make comments. The presentation will begin at 6:30pm, the meeting room will be open at 6:15pm for those who would like to see and chat with other members prior to the presentation.

***If you want to watch the presentation on a tablet/ cell phone or desk top computer, you may need to install the Teams App or free software prior to the meeting.***

## BACK YARD GEOLOGY, by Herman Samano

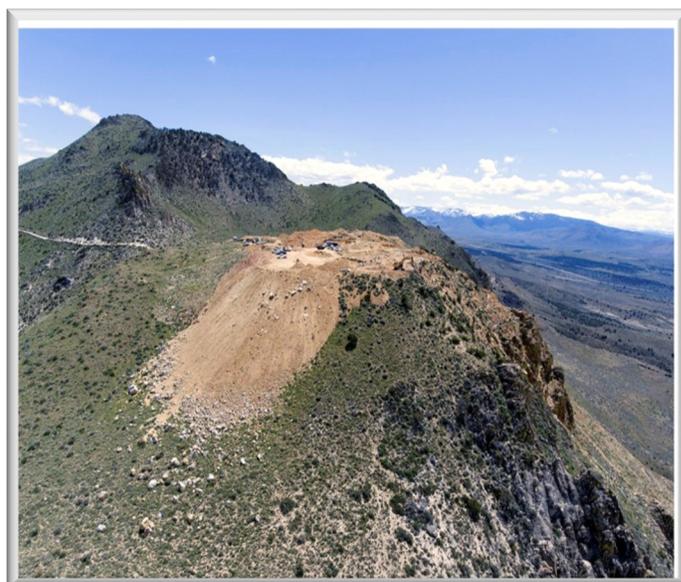
This is now an extra link on our website and is the perfect introduction to a perfect hobby experience. It promotes hands on learning with the family and provides all of the basic information needed to get the most out of this wonderful hobby.

In Europe, rock hounding/mineral collecting is one of the top five hobbies. In Canada it is a relatively new hobby and does not yet rate in the top ten.

### FEBRUARY SUMMARY, *cont.*

Ron Zeilstra gave an interesting virtual presentation on collecting smoky quartz and amethyst scepters near Hallelujah Junction, Nevada. The site is actually on Petersen Mountain, approximately 6 miles north of Hallelujah Junction and about 25 miles north-northwest of Reno, Nevada.

Petersen Mountain has been producing quartz crystals for more than 5 decades. It is a claimed site with 2 active crystal mines, the Foster Hallman Mine and the Royal Scepter Mine.



Above; areal view showing the mine workings on top of Petersons mountain

## FEBURARY MEETING SUMMARY, *cont.*

The primary rock of the deposit is granodiorite that is highly faulted and fractured, with the fractures filled with hydrothermal quartz. The granodiorite was formed in a pluton which is part of a series of plutons formed during the Jurassic period that make up the Sierra Nevada Cordillera.

Ron started the presentation by providing examples of the quartz crystal varieties that are found at the site, and their associated forms. Quartz is the main mineral found in the pockets, and can be smoky, amethyst or citrine.

Phantom quartz crystals are commonly found there, as well as scepter quartz crystals. Very often the scepter heads show skeletal growth forms, and can be enhydros. The stems generally have a matte finish and are pockmarked with tiny muscovite spheres on the surface and as partial inclusions.

Occasionally quartz “dumbbells”, double terminated scepter quartz crystals are found. Matrix pieces are rare. The vugs typically do not have other associated minerals.

The mining season is short, typically 2 months. It can be dangerous when the clay access road gets wet. Mining the crystals typically involves using heavy machinery to scrape the wall faces top expose fresh rock, followed by miners coming in with hand tools.

The miners follow the quartz seams hoping they will open up into vugs containing crystals. The intersections of quartz veins are even better candidates for having large pockets with crystals. Vugs can range from 1 cm to almost 2 meters across.

The miners occasionally find “Legacy Vugs”, which are large vugs containing spectacular large valuable smoky quartz or amethyst scepter which could pay for the entire field season. Public access to the mines are currently prohibited. However, there is the possibility, that the owners will offer limited fee digs in the future.

**Pictures and Summary provided by:**

**Ron Zeilstra**



Above; On top of Peterson mountain, an areal view from drone, shows miners working the face by hand, looking for vugs filled with quartz crystal scepters. The excavator is used to scrape the face, after the vuge have been stripped of the precious quartz crystals, in order to expose new vugs .

## FIELD TRIP UPDATES

**GYPSUM CRYSTAL RECOVERY DIG;** We are still optimistic that the dig will take place in the fall (August/September) of 2021, but be prepared for the possibility that the dig may be postponed till 2022.

**METEORITE HUNT;** *September or October 2021-* We have acquired a map of the crown lands in S/E area of Manitoba, that could provide access to good potential collecting areas.

**CAT LAKE; CENTRAL PEGMATITE;** *September or October 2021*

**GILLIS QUARRY;** *May or June 2021, during the week.*

### MAILING ADDRESS FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Mineral Society of Manitoba, C/O Manitoba Museum

190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3B 0N2

We are also considering e-transfer.

Our first in person event, may be our Spring(/ summer BBQ.