

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

April 1, 2024

Hello Everyone,

We hope everyone enjoyed their Easter / Passover celebrations. It's April now and, no foolin', it's time to turn your attention to the upcoming NCMA conference. We are looking forward to renewing old friendships and welcoming new micromounters to the annual NCMA symposium on May 24-26, 2024. We have again secured the El Dorado Community Hall for this year's conference, which will run from Friday afternoon to Sunday noon.

The El Dorado Community Hall is located at 6139 Pleasant Valley Road in El Dorado, California. El Dorado is located about 40 miles east of Sacramento on Highway 50. From either direction on Highway 50, take the Missouri Flat Road exit south to Highway 49. Turn right on Highway 49. At the junction of Highway 49 and Pleasant Valley Road, turn right on Pleasant Valley Road. The Community Hall is about ¼ mile beyond the junction. Turn right on Oriental (directly across from the Post Office), then bear left twice to get to the Community Hall.

Registration materials for the symposium, in both Word and pdf formats, are included at the bottom of this announcement. Pre-registration is \$30 per person and on-site registration will be \$35 per person. (If you pre-register, you can save that extra \$5 to use towards the silent auction or the \$1 Sales Table!). You can also use the attached form to pay your 2024-2025 membership dues, which are still \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a couple.

Since no meals will be served at the symposium, time in the schedule has been provided for everyone to take advantage of nearby restaurants. We'll probably have a late afternoon social hour on Saturday, so please bring along your favorite finger-food and join us out on the deck then.

There are no longer any COVID vaccination or masking requirements. Masking indoors or outdoors is at your discretion, and mask-shaming will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Tim Rose, our Association's Program Director, has lined up the following speakers for your enjoyment and edification:

Friday evening, May 24 at 7 pm, Don Howard will share "What's Old in Minerals." He will show and discuss minerals he found at the prior year's give-away tables and maybe some surprises.

On Saturday morning, May 25 at 10 am, Inna Lykova will speak about "Tolbachik, Kamchatka – A Micromounter's Paradise." She has also volunteered for a short Friday evening presentation on "Mckelveyite Group Minerals."

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On Sunday morning, May 26 @ 10 am, Julian Gray will talk on "Type Mineralogy of Oregon: History, Revisions, and Puzzles."

There may be time for a few other short (15 minutes or less) volunteered talks by attendees on Friday evening, after the scheduled speaker. Please indicate your desire to give a volunteered presentation on your Registration Form. Steve Silva and Tim Rose will review the proposals submitted and get back to those volunteers.

We will hold a silent auction on Saturday afternoon and a live auction Saturday evening. We encourage you to support the silent auction by bringing mineral-related and/or non-micro-material. We also encourage you to bring choice micro-mineral specimens to support the live auction.

We should have plenty of material to stock the give-away tables all weekend; however, feel free to bring several flats and egg cartons along to the conference if you have some good excess materials to share.

Within the past few days, Al has received confirmation from Len Winkler, the newly elected president of the El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society, that EDCMGS is looking forward to once again picking up our leftover give-away material from the driveway of the Community Hall ~1 p.m. on Sunday. Volunteers to stay on the premises after the conclusion of the conference to tear down and store tables and chairs, clean the floors and organize the leftover giveaway material for transport are always appreciated.

We strongly encourage members to donate specimens to the \$1 Sales Table, which was a bit thin last year. These specimens should be of a quality better than give-away material, but not quite at the level for the live auction, and they should be mounted in some fashion. The type of box used to mount these specimens is at the discretion of the donor (e.g., 1"x1" white foldup boxes, plastic micro boxes, TN boxes), but the mount should be secure so the label and specimen cannot become accidentally separated. Labeling should be as specific as possible, both with regards to the mineral(s) and the locality. The \$1 Sales Table will be open starting at 3:00 pm Friday and all day Saturday, as well as Sunday morning until 10:00 a.m. Al has found it handy to keep boxes dedicated to NCMA & Pacific MM Conference sales tables in his mineral room, which he adds to while trimming large specimens throughout the year. He pledges to bring >100 labeled mounts to add to the NCMA sales table this year, to get things rolling.

Mike Cox will again have his Keyence scope set up at the conference, with the 20x to 200x stand/lens and the 100x to 1000x stand/lens. The system is available to anyone who would like quick, stacked photos of a favorite specimen or for further examination of an unknown specimen. In addition, the system can be connected to a PC projector to allow full appreciation by a full audience of a very tiny MM specimen in the verbal auction (which we made good use of to examine a donated bluebellite specimen at the Pacific MM Conference in Fallbrook in late January). ([Digital Microscopes | KEYENCE America](#))

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Swarf Systems (Ted Hadley) will bring one of his 6" rock trimmers for sale and another 10" trimmer for attendees to use on giveaway material. He will also be taking orders and performing minor repairs. You can see the products on his website: [HOME | swarfsystems](http://www.swarfsystems.com)

If a customer makes prior arrangements for a sale, Ted will bring his/her item(s) with him to the conference. Contact information is on his website.

Motel reservations should be made early, given that the symposium is again being held on Memorial Day weekend this year (necessitated by the mid-May graduations of family members of board members). A list of motels in the area is included in this mailing.

So, pack your microscope, gather up some egg cartons or flats of material for the giveaway tables, a few dozen mounted specimens for the \$1 sales table, unwanted scopes or mineralogical journals for the silent auction, and a few choice specimens for the live auction, and make your plans to attend. Be sure to come, enjoy the fellowship and share knowledge with other micro-mineral collectors. We hope to see you in El Dorado!!

Al Wilkins - NCMA President

Tim Rose - Program Director

Barb Matz - NCMA Treasurer