

# ROCK TALK

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**EXPLORE  
DISCOVER  
SHARE**

## TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

**EXPLORE DISCOVER SHARE**



The summer heat has finally ended and for the next eight months we get to enjoy the outdoors of Arizona. With this comes a responsibility to make sure we do so safely, both for ourselves and our families. When getting out to hike, rockhound, bird-watch or whatever draws you out to the open spaces of our beautiful state, please spend some time preparing for your trip. Include proper clothing because, after all, while sandals and shorts may work for going to the mall, they are not appropriate for going out looking for rocks and minerals, especially if the area is rugged. Make sure you have plenty of water, your cell phone is 100% charged, apply shade screen and wear a hat, along with letting someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back. I know I am beginning to sound like my parents but these few common sense precautions will make your trip more enjoyable, especially for the ones left at home. No one thinks they will fall and get hurt, become dehydrated, lost or bit but these things happen.

With the coming of fall, the proliferation of shows in Arizona and the surrounding states abound. The best place to see where these are happening is to go to the show events list in either *Rock and Gem* or *Rocks & Minerals* magazines. Of course, we know the best and biggest is our very own Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® in February, along with all of the satellite shows and venues occurring throughout the city. The other I will remind you of is the Flagg Mineral Show the first weekend of January on the campus of Mesa Community College. It is the largest club sponsored outdoor show in Arizona and works closely with the geology club at the college to promote geology education. This year's theme is Arizona volcanics and the students are planning to build a working volcano at the show. Should be fun!

Your Show Committee is working very hard on the 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. The floor plan has been revised and the new look is going to be the most significant change in quite some time. No longer will we have to deal with scheduling our show along the need for ice in the arena for the hockey team. It may not seem like a big deal but try to imagine setting up on temporary covers over a sheet of ice and then requiring our dealers to stand on those covers for four days. The special displays are going to be spectacular once again. I would like to encourage our members to either heed Peter Megaw's invitation to place a guest exhibit or, if you feel more competitive, I would love to have your display entered in competition. It is a great opportunity to show off your prize specimens. If you have any questions about competing please contact me at [Presmyk@cox.net](mailto:Presmyk@cox.net) or by calling/texting me at 602-370-0639.

Your TGMS Board is also busy working on important issues for the Society. We are updating the By-laws and we hope to have a draft for your perusal either in December or January. We have received a number of applications for our U of A scholarship and also expect to announce our selection(s) in December. You'll be able to pick up a formalized agenda at the November meeting, mainly to hopefully streamline the business portion of our general meetings and so I do not forget all of the important items we need to cover.

The University of Arizona Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum is moving forward. Fabrication of the display cases is proceeding and the contractor constructing the tenant improvements in the Pima County Courthouse will be working through next June or July to get everything ready so the displays can be placed in preparation for a "soft" opening in the fall of 2020 and a grand opening to coincide with our 2021

## Presidents' Page .....CONTINUED

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. The numerous fossil, rock, mineral and gem displays are being laid out in the basement of the Flandrau planetarium. Specimens for each theme and each shelf are being selected, itemized, documented and packed in anticipation of the move into storage in early January. At the same time we are working with the management of the Flandrau to ensure the geologic and mineral displays are there to further their education mission with the 20,000+ school children who visit the facility throughout the year, including all of the summer months.

Finally, I want to thank Pat and Rose for the job they do, along with the members who are volunteering their time on the Show Committee, teaching and leading our education groups, field trips, our hosts and hostesses and the community outreach programs like Family Fun Day and the presentations being made at the various schools who invite us. We are only limited by the number of our members willing to step up and donate their time.

Les Presmyk  
TGMS President



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### 2020 TGMS SHOW VOLUNTEER!!!

Below is the information on how to sign up to **VOLUNTEER** at the 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®.

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** Use this link to the Membership page: <http://www.tgms.org/membership>. Once there, you will find the category heading, "Show Volunteer." Then you will find the live link, "**Volunteer.**" Once you click on that link, it will take you to a secure site, where you will need a password to enter. That password is: **Volunteer2020**

## TGMS General Meeting - September 9, 2019

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President, Les Presmyk at 7:00 p.m. Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bill Hodgson, a long-time member, passed away on August 9<sup>th</sup>. He served TGMS as a President, Vice President, and as a Show Committee Co-Chair for the Exhibition Hall Information Booth. Cards are available for you to sign. Laura (his daughter) needs to find a home for his cats. His estate sale will be held on September 28th and 29th.

TGMS has books for sale, "The 100 – A Practical Guide to Mineral Collecting in Today's World" by Bill Shelton for \$15.00 each. Proceeds go to the TGMS Library Fund.

**PROGRAM:** Les Presmyk introduced Mark Candee who presented "Gems of Arizona". (Dr. Glecker, our scheduled speaker was called away on business and unable to present this evening.)

Mark Candee presented "Gems from Arizona" with samples of gems that can be found here in Arizona. Mark studied Geosciences at the University of Arizona from 1978-1981. However, due to mining economics at the time, he turned to goldsmithing, designing and creating jewelry, and gemology. His passion for gemstones was evident as he led a "tour" of gemstone collecting across Arizona.

He began with gem quality Amethyst, found in the Four Peaks Mountains east of Fountain Hills, Arizona. Amethyst has been collected on the surface and in the mine since the 1830's. The Four Peaks amethyst has a richness of color that rivals the best amethyst in the world. Finished gemstones well over 100 carats have been mined from this location. Due to the mine's difficult access, helicopters are used to bring in equipment, miners, enthusiasts, and ferry the mined rough amethyst back to civilization. Gem Peridot is mined from ancient lava flows on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, north of Tucson. Clear facetable peridot rough is difficult to find. The large clear and gemmy specimens are even harder to find.

## TGMS General Meeting - September 9, 2019 .... CONTINUED

They are typically 1-2 carats and are known for their vibrancy and "blue flash" apple green color. The finished faceted stones rarely exceed 20 carats. Gem Turquoise from the Sleeping Beauty Mountain near Globe is such a clean and bright blue (sometimes it can be translucent!), that it can be valued at \$100 a carat or more. Gold, in comparison, sells at only \$9.65 per carat, at the current price of \$1500 per ounce. Remember, a carat is .20 grams, about the same total mass as a baby aspirin. In fact, many gemstones can be valued more per carat than gold. Pyrope garnets from the northeastern corner of Arizona and on the Navajo Reservation contain chromium-this imparts a bright red color, even a color-changing quality. Very few pyrope garnets exceed 3 carats as a finished faceted gemstone. Smithsonite, both the green and bright blue varieties from the 79 Mine, polish beautifully, but is usually too soft for most jewelry uses. Soft stones are easily scratched and may be damaged in jewelry. Both the Ray mine and the Inspiration mine have produced gem Silica (chrysocolla in quartz), an amazing saturated light blue translucent gem that is as durable as quartz. However, the robin's egg blue color of the Ray material can discolor to black, given time. Fire Agate, a limonite-infused chalcedony quartz found in many areas in Arizona (especially near Safford), has an amazing display of colors, very much like the best gem opal. Fire agate has a brown background color, due to the iron inclusions. Once again, being quartz, it is a very durable gem. Arizona Azurite and Malachite can be cut and polished into some fantastic blue and green stones and are well-known from many of the copper mines in the state. Stanley Butte andradite garnets make for excellent collector specimens and can rarely be faceted into gems up to a carat in size. Arizona Opal in rhyolite can be found near Ruby and Nogales. These opals typically have a blue to gray body color. Opal must have flashes of primary colors to be considered gem quality.

Mark answered questions after his presentation and again after the meeting.

**BREAK:** Thanks to John Callahan and Kathy Steiner for providing refreshments. Volunteers are needed for the remainder of the year. Sign-up sheets are on the back table.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Approval of minutes for the May 6, 2019 General Meeting as published in Rock Talk: **MOTION:** to approve the minutes. Seconded and approved.

Field trip: Kerry Towe has planned a field trip to the Blanchard Mine on September 28th.

Micromount Meeting: Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

Community Outreach: Pat McClain stated that Family Fun Day is October 12<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed starting in mid-September to build the cave. Rose Marques has several Community Outreach Events planned that include Innovation Academy, STEM Night at Gridley Middle School, Rio Vista Elementary School and Science City at the U of A in March. Les added that the elementary students and visitors at Science City are fun to work with. Volunteers will be given materials to present to the kids and visitors. The presentation is a "Show and Tell" format, just answer questions that you can, and instill an interest in collecting. Schools are asking us to come back. Just bring your enthusiasm.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Per bylaws, approval to hold the 2020 TGMS Show: **MOTION:** to hold the 2020 TGMS Show. Seconded and approved. Volunteers are needed to conduct this Show.

Field Trips: Field trips are being planned for the Silverbell Mine in October, and a geode locality near the Superstition Mountains in November. When more information is available, the Office Staff will forward it to the membership.

**DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES:** John Callahan, as meeting host, made the first selection. Winners were Jenny Shook, Dave Crumley, Al Martone, Barb Melzer, Louis Pill, Mary Ann Penkova, Wayne Klement, Denis Menard, Art Friedman, Scott Diegel, Lillik Hajlola, Steve Harsy, Bob O'Donnell and Bruce Kaufman.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ross  
Recording Secretary

## TGMS General Meeting - October 7, 2019

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Les Presmyk at 7:01 p.m. Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

TGMS has books for sale, "The 100 – A Practical Guide to Mineral Collecting in Today's World" by Bill Shelton for \$15.00 each. Proceeds go to the TGMS Library Fund. Bill Shelton offered to sign his book this evening.

Les Presmyk reminded the audience that an additional 8-10 volunteers were needed for the Family Fun Day on Friday for set up and again on Saturday to staff stations. Participants will be able to crack geodes, view micromounts, study meteorites, learn about fossils to name just a few of the activities. Last year over 250 people attended. This is an opportunity to promote the Club to the City of Tucson, to promote TGMS across the community throughout the year as additional contacts are made that result in invitations to present at more schools and events.

**PROGRAM:** Mike Hollonbeck introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Ray Straw. Dr. Straw earned his degrees from the Colorado School of Mines and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Metallurgical Engineering. He has collected pseudomorphs and sulfo salts for over 50 years. He built his collection of malachite after azurite pseudomorphs over the internet from his home in Bloomington, Illinois. Dr. Straw discussed the chemistry of the pseudomorph process that changes azurite to malachite. A pseudomorph, in mineralogy, occurs when a mineral replaces the original mineral, but the appearance of the original mineral is maintained. Dr. Straw presented pictures of azurite and malachite pseudomorphs from the Tsumeb Mine in Namibia, the Milpillas Mine in Mexico, the Chessy-Les-Mine in France, the Sepon Mine in Laos and the Bisbee Mine in Arizona.

**BREAK:** Thanks to Julie and Joe Parker for providing refreshments. Volunteers are needed for the remainder of the year. Sign-up sheets are on the back table. TGMS will pay up to \$100 for refreshments; members simply need to shop and set everything up.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Posters/Exit signs: Show posters from every year are now framed and displayed on the wall. New exit signs have been installed.

Library: Kathy Heitzmann and Janette Simster have been working on the library. Cases and bookshelves will be organized and ready for an open house and a book sale in November.

Field Trips: Kerry Towe has planned field trips: the Silver Bell Mine on October 26, a mine near Florence on November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Tiger Mine in December, the Red Cloud Mine in January, and the Mission Mine in February.

Educational Class: October 9, 7-8:30 p.m.

Micromount Meeting: Monday, October 14 at 7:00.

Community Outreach: Pat McClain stated that Family Fun Day is October 12<sup>th</sup>. Additional outreach programs are scheduled for October, November and December. Contact the TGMS office for information.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business.

### **Call to the Audience:**

December Sale: Member asked about the December Sale. It will be held December 7<sup>th</sup>. Vera Schlitcher will notify the membership via email when details are available.

Field Trips: Tim McClain will lead the field trip to Silver Bell. Bring safety gear and arrive by 8:00 a.m. The trip to the Blanchard Mine resulted in an excellent chance to collect galena quartz and malachite. Due to the increased cost of insuring mines with visitors, there are no longer any open mines in Nevada, except for



## TGMS General Meeting - October 7, 2019 ... CONTINUED

an opal mine near Virgin, Nevada.

2020 Show: There are coupons and advertisements for the 2020 Show on back table.

Lois Meinert: The membership was notified of her death. She was highly involved with micromounts.

**DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES:** The Parkers, as meeting hosts, made the first selection. Winners were Marilee Crumley, Diane Braswell, Anita Nisonger, John Callahan, Donna Pugh, Laurie Small, John Ebner, Barb Elliott and Lilik Hakola.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ross  
Recording Secretary

## TGMS Volunteers at Gridley Middle School - STEM Night!

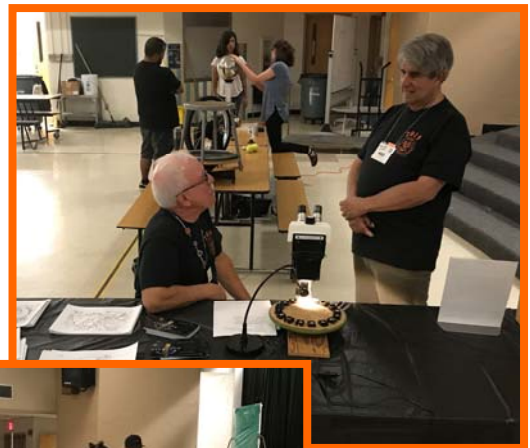


On Thursday, October 24, 2019 ... Tim McClain, Dave Korzendorfer, Ihor Kunasz, Art Friedman, Cynthia Roedig, Marilyn Reynolds and Pat McClain ... we all volunteered to participate in STEM night at Gridley Middle School.

We provided lots of information, mineral samples, crystal patterns ... a peek at the world of micromount and fluorescent minerals.

We all had a great time!!!

Thank you all for volunteering!



## Competition for the 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®

To: TGMS Member

Please join us at the 66th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, February 13 - 16, 2020. The numerous mineral collectors and visitors who enjoy viewing beautiful exhibits will appreciate your participation. Your competitive exhibit(s) will add greatly to the Show. The area for the competitive exhibits will again be right at the center of the Exhibition Hall. This will really highlight your exhibit and the others who compete.



The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society and Show Committee are very interested in promoting interest in young exhibitors. Each junior age exhibitor, regardless of which exhibitor class they enter, will receive \$100 cash from Dr. Rob Lavinsky of The Arkenstone. He wishes to help encourage young collectors to exhibit and compete and this is his way of honoring those adults who helped him when he was a junior-age collector. The high point score by a junior-age exhibitor will receive \$500 cash and the second high point score will receive \$300 cash, regardless of the exhibitor category.

Various applications are available for you to enter competitively. If you would like to have the forms, information or a competitive handbook sent to you, please contact our TGMS Office. **Applications must be received no later than December 6, 2019.** Due to increasing security concerns, **ALL competitive entries, including those for the Special Trophies and Best of Theme competitions, shall require a signed Competitive Exhibitor Agreement. No Agreement, No Entry.**

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® theme for 2020 is “**World Class Minerals.**” Trophies will be awarded for the best specimen in each of five size categories and lapidary/jewelry in the Best of Theme competition. In addition, there is a new category for self-collected specimens. An individual is eligible to enter a specimen in each category. This competition, and specimens for the Bideaux Trophy, are open to all individuals and entries will be accepted from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

The Show Committee awards five special trophies to honor those who have contributed to mineralogy and the collecting hobby. The Desautels Trophy is for the “Best Case of Minerals in the Show,” entered in this competition, with the emphasis on quality and aesthetics of the specimens. The Lidstrom Trophy is awarded to the best single specimen contained within a competitive exhibit. The Yedlin Trophy is awarded to the best case of Master micromounts. The Bideaux Trophy is awarded to the best single Arizona specimen entered in this competition. The Romero Trophy is awarded to the best Mexican specimen or case in the Show. Any case or specimen to be judged for these trophies, except the Romero, must have a signed Competitive Exhibitor Agreement submitted.



If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at (602) 370-0639 or email: [presmyk@cox.net](mailto:presmyk@cox.net), or the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society office at 520-322-5773, or email: [tgms@tgms.org](mailto:tgms@tgms.org).

We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Les Presmyk  
Competitive Exhibits Chairman



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## Guest Exhibits for the 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®

To: TGMS Member:

This portal allows you to request a Guest Exhibit space for the upcoming 2020 TGMS Show theme "**World Class Minerals.**" As always, suites from localities, including unusual or historic areas are extra welcome as are cases **honoring 50 Years of The Mineralogical Record** such as exhibits featuring specimens figured in MR or exhibits focusing on a locality featured in MR. Or ask to be placed on our Guest Exhibitor list for future years like 2021 when our theme is "**The Show That Glows**" celebrating **50 years of the Fluorescent Mineral Society**. Note that our Guest Exhibit cases are provided free of charge for **non-commercial** exhibiting ... you may not have sales information of any kind in the case or sell from the case. Please read the attached materials that explain the detailed terms under which you exhibit and the logistics of exhibiting.



Although preference is generally given to exhibits that play to our annual theme we do seek as wide a range of exhibits as possible. **ESPECIALLY welcome are items that can attract the public: famous gemstones, jewelry, historical items, exceptional fossils, dinosaurs, etc.** **NOTE that exhibits need not all be "pretty", so educational exhibits, rarities and items of unusual mineralogical, paleontological, cultural or mining interest are encouraged.** Suites from localities, including unusual species and historic specimens, are always desirable.

In 2015 TGMS instituted two awards to honor two couples who laid the groundwork and supported the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® for years. The Clayton and Betty Gibson Trophy will be presented to the best museum exhibit. The Bill and Millie Schupp Trophy will be presented to the best exhibit entered by a TGMS member.

Please note that space is limited, and we may not have a case for you this year, so please let us know if you would be willing (or would prefer) to exhibit in a later year and we will add you to our on-going invitation list. Doing so will get you a direct e-mail invitation each Fall but note that we start from scratch for every Show so you must submit a new request each year in response to that year's electronic invitation.

We confirm exhibits in late December, but there are always cancellations before the Show, especially at the last minute. It is a real help to us to have stand-by exhibitors willing to fill in on set-up day. Please let us know if you are willing to be on our stand-by list in the event we cannot confirm a case in advance.

**ALSO**, If you acquire or learn of an exceptional exhibit after our confirmation deadline, please do not hesitate to let us know as we can often accommodate these (up to the last minute) if cancellations occur.

**WE ALWAYS WELCOME SUGGESTIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS TO INSTITUTIONS AND COLLECTIONS WE SHOULD INVITE FOR FUTURE SHOWS, SO PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO PASS THIS ON OR PUT US IN CONTACT WITH EXHIBITORS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT OUR SHOW!**

We look forward to seeing your exhibit at a future show.

Peter Megaw  
Exhibits Chair



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## Family Fun Day - October 12, 2019



A "BIG" thank you to all the volunteers who helped out at Family Fun Day: Ortrud Schuh, Diane Braswell, Mike Hollonbeck, Tim McClain, Bev Lynch, Mark Marikos, Bill Shelton, Bruce Kaufman, Marilyn Reynolds, Anita Nisonger, Janette Simister, Linda Oliver, Carlo de Mattos, Cecila de Mattos, Mark Ascher, Bill Heffron, Linda Ross, Brad Ross, Joy Wood, Bob Melzer, Louis Pill, Warren Lazer, Jennifer Isbell, Doug Reif, Debra Reif, Victoria Fila, Pat McClain, Kathy Heitzman, John Callahan, Rose Marques.



## 2020 Guest Exhibits

Although I recognize that many of you believe that you'll be too busy volunteering at the Show to put in an exhibit, remember that I am always happy to supply a "note from the doctor" (rock doctor that is) for your volunteer chairperson that excuses you long enough to put it in. (I do this myself and have found that having prepared the case in advance...with generous help from our case lining crew, which is also available to you if needed...and a phone snapshot of the layout, it does not take that long to put it in...or take out on Sunday).

Point being that we would love to fill a pod...or even a line of cases with TGMS members exhibits. This is a great advertisement for our Show and Society...and someone will walk away with the Schupp Trophy! NOTICE: There is one caveat here...in the unlikely event that we get more outside requests to exhibit than we have cases, I ask TGMS exhibitors...starting with myself...to surrender their case to a visitor. I have only had to do this once, but I'd rather forewarn you of the possibility.

The reverse (no-shows or last minute cancellations) is common, so we always need pinch hitters willing to put in an exhibit at the last minute. We simply do not open our Show with an empty exhibit case, so you may have noticed years where there are cases featuring a seemingly random pile of vaguely mineral related things...this reflects my pulling things together at the last minute because I have run through all our back-ups and still have cases to fill.

**If you can sign-up as a stand-by for a last minute vacancy we would be VERY grateful!!** It would be a supreme twist of fate...that Bill and Millie Schupp would have loved...if a stand-in wound up winning the Schupp Trophy!!

Peter Megaw  
Special/Guest Exhibits Chair

## 2020 School Visits

Before the Show, prior to the school visits on Friday morning, we deliver to each school signed up a packet (usually a box, sometimes two) containing instructions for the teachers of each of the classes coming to the Show. It includes the February 2020 issue of *Rocks & Minerals*, which features our Show and gives a great writeup on it, to each of the teachers, plus, and this is a BIG plus, a "coloring book" for each of the students coming to the Show (plus an extra one for each of the teachers). This is "BIG," and in quotation marks, because this isn't just a coloring book. It is a virtual textbook about some of the WORLD CLASS MINERALS that may be seen at the Show.

I will need several helpers to set up the packets. This shouldn't take more than an hour or so. The date will depend on when the coloring books are delivered, so I will have to call you one or two days before you are needed.

What takes the most time is delivery of the packets to the individual schools. TUSD is most accommodating and their mail people deliver the packets to the individual schools for us. I will take those to their mailing office. The other school districts (Amphi, Sunnyside, Marana, Private Schools, Magnet Schools, etc.) will not do so, and these packets have to be delivered to each school personally. I have done this in the past, and all you have to do is take it to their office. They will know what to do with it. Each packet is labeled with the name of the instructor, the school name, the address, and number of classes, students, and chaperones. I need as many volunteers as possible to deliver them to the schools. We usually have 30-40 schools for delivery, geographically ranging from Catalina in the north to Sahuarita in the south, from West Ajo Road to East Tanque Verde Rd. And any point in-between.

So, HELP !!!

Dick Gottfried  
School Visits Chairman

**FROM:**

**T.G.M.S.  
3727 E. BLACKLIDGE DRIVE  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85716**



**TO:**

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**PURPOSE:** To encourage interest and study in geology, mineralogy, lapidary, and allied earth sciences.

**Meetings:** Usually the first Monday of the month, starting at 7:00 p.m., except September (second Monday because of the Labor Day holiday), June-August (potlucks). The TGMS facility address is: 3727 East Blacklidge Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85716

**The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show ®:**

The second full weekend in February, starting with Thursday.

**Affiliations:** American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (AFMS), Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS), Visit Tucson, Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (TMCC), Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce

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