

President's Page

Thanksgiving is over and those that survived the "Turkey Feast" are now preparing for the onslaught of Christmas holidays. Slow down and enjoy, this is a wonderful time of the year to greet old and new friends, spend time with your family, support your favorite charity and give thanks for all our blessings.

It has been a good year for The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society. Our Show this year was a spectacular event and plans are underway for another wonderful Show in 2015. We have had great field trips and memorable events that have provided an opportunity to socialize with our fellow members. Again, volunteers have provided the "backbone" of all our events, providing refreshments, giving of their time and energy and keeping our Society afloat. Thanks so much to all of you; it is rewarding to be your representative.

For those of you who attended, we hope you enjoyed the Christmas Party. Melody Louise was back and provided great entertainment. The food was traditional to celebrate the season. A

few new things were included that made it a truly special occasion. Thanks to Pat and Rose for spending a good deal of time making the arrangements and working out those awful details that either "make or break" an event. They included new ideas to add to the fun and I'm sure their efforts were appreciated.

The 2015 Show is coming fast so set a few hours aside to make it an absolute success. Lots to do,



but it is such an exciting time; it is always worth it.

Thanks so much for your help in making next year as wonderful as this year. If I did not see you at the Christmas Party, I will see you next year. Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a safe, productive and Happy New Year!



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TGMS General Meeting - November 3, 2014

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 7:30 p.m. Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

PROGRAM: Wolfram Schuh presented "The Historic Schwaz Silver Mining District, Austria – The Treasure Trove that Financed the Global Hapsburg Empire". According to legend, in 1409 farmhand Gertraud Kandler while looking after the cattle noticed that a bull had uncovered a silver-bearing stone with its horns. By 1420 the mine was opened up and workers came from all over to extract ore by hammer and iron bar. At the hey-day of silver mining (in the 15th and 16th century) Schwaz was the biggest mining metropolis in Central Europe and with more than 20,000 inhabitants was, after Vienna, the second largest town in Austria. By 1490 Schwaz supplied around 85% of silver production in the mining district. Over 300 years the mine produced 2268 tons of silver. Jacob Fugger, part of a German family that was a historically prominent group of European bankers and venture capitalists who controlled much of the European economy in the sixteenth century, accumulated enormous wealth. He loaned Karl I of Spain \$1.47 billion dollars and backed him to become the Holy Roman Emperor of the German Nation, uniting the Spanish and Austrian branches of the Hapsburg family. In 1545 silver was discovered in Bolivia which was richer ore and easier to extract. This led to a decline for the Schwaz district. Production ended in 1957, and in 1999 a massive landslide closed the mine. A video showing the story with local people in period dress was also shown. The area is now a tourist attraction and tours are offered of part of the mine. Wolfram has a MSc. Degree in geology from the University of Clausthal and a Ph.D. in Ore Deposit Geology from the U. of A. He has worked for Phelps Dodge and Freeport McMoran in Indonesia, Peru, Sweden and the Congo until 2010 and is now VP Exploration for Latin America for Freeport McMoran.

BREAK: Kerry Towe provided Thanksgiving dinner with ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, sweet potato casserole, stuffing, gravy, raisin sauce, cranberry sauce, cheeses, pumpkin bread and cookies. What a feast! Many thanks to Kerry.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes for September 6, 2014 and October 10, 2014 General Meetings as published in the Nov-Dec Rock Talk. **MOTION:** To approve as published. Seconded and approved.

Field Trips: Kerry Towe reported that the October 25th trip to the Carlisle area in New Mexico was a good trip. The trip to the Blanchard Mine in New Mexico for fluorite and smithsonite will be November 15th with the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Society who will meet the TGMS group in Socorro. There is no limit to the number of people who can participate, but membership in the Albuquerque group is required. The fee is \$10 and must be paid along with the membership form no later than November 7th.

December 6th Annual Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, Art & Craft Sale: Jo Anne Sam announced that all the inside spaces are full with one person on the waiting list, but there are some outside spaces left. Volunteers are needed to provide cookies for refreshments for guests. The clubhouse will be open Friday, December 5th, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. for set-up and Saturday morning from 7:00-9:00 a.m. The sale is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participating members will be treated to pizza after clean up.

Christmas Party: Wednesday, December 17th starting with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and entertainment by Melody Louise begins at approximately 7:30 p.m. Cost for members is \$5.00 and for member invited guests \$10.00.

February Meeting: Reminder that the meeting will be the **first** Monday.

NEW BUSINESS:

Educational Class: Presented by Bill Shelton on Tuesday, November 4th on "Dana's System" from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Donations Needed: TGMS will again be collecting new, unwrapped toys to be given to children in hospitals on Christmas by the Tucson fire fighters. Food for the Community Food Bank will also be collected. Members are encouraged to participate.

U of A Mineral Museum: Mark Candee announced that the museum is getting a famous trilobite collection for display. The exhibit will also feature minerals that could not be produced without animal life. The current exhibit "The Best of the Best: Prize Minerals from the Vaults of Arizona's Collectors" will close December 23, 2014.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: Kerry Towe, as meeting host, made the first choice. Drawing winners were Herb Ross, Jerry Glazman, Tim Hicks and Janette Simister.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary

TGMS General Meeting - December 1, 2014

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 7:30 p.m. Five guests were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

PROGRAM: Stan Celestian presented "Two Classic Collecting Localities in Central Arizona: Date Creek and Lion Springs." Lion Springs is in the Aquarius Mountains east of Route 93 between Wickenburg and Kingman on a very rough four-wheel drive trail. Spessartine garnets occur in topaz rhyolite and may be found at the base of the cliffs and on the steep, rocky slope below the cliffs in pockets where crystals are developed. They are very deep red in color, dodecahedral or trapezohedral individual crystals. Occasional topaz crystals may be found. Date Creek is south of the Aquarius Mountains two miles off Route 93 on a good road. Quartz crystals including some scepters with amethyst and occasional smoky quartz can be found. Stan has a BA in Geology, a MS in Education and has taught Geology, Astronomy, Physics and Physical Science. He is currently teaching Geology at ASU; was the Science Olympiad Director; NASA Ambassador to the Solar System; volunteered over 3,000 hours at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum.

BREAK: Thanks to Bob and Elaine Royer for providing the refreshments which included crackers, cheese, fruit, vegetables, deviled eggs, meat balls and cookies.

ANNOUNCEMENT: "Prospectors" will start December 7th, at 7:00 p.m. on the Weather Channel.

OLD BUSINESS:

Field Trips: Kerry Towe reported that four members went to the Blanchard Mine trip on November 15th and had a wonderful trip. He encouraged members to go on this trip next year if TGMS is invited by the Albuquerque club again. Saturday, January 17th, Jerry and Mary Glazman will lead a trip to St. David for selenite roses. January 31st will be a trip to the Silverbell Mine and February 27th will be a trip to the Mission Mine. In March there may be a trip to the J C Holmes Mine for vanadinite.

11th Annual Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, Art & Craft Sale will be Saturday, December 6th at TGMS. The doors will be open Friday from 5:00 p.m. until approximately 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until the sale starts for set-up. The sale is from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

TGMS Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 17th with social hour starting at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and entertainment by Melody Louise starting around 7:15 p.m. The dinner will be catered by Boston Market. Cost is \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for guests. Last date to sign up is December 12th.

Community Food Bank Drive: Members were encouraged to bring food to the meeting or the office. The last day to donate will be December 17th at the Christmas Party.

Tucson Fire Fighters Christmas Fund: New, unwrapped toys are needed for Christmas distribution to children in hospitals. Donations may be made up to December 17th.

Reminder: The February General Meeting will be the **first** Monday in February.

Jewelry/display cases that Richard Flagg collected from AGTA will be for sale at the December 6th sale for \$10.00. The cases need to be assembled and come with little lights and transformers. Two or three will be assembled for display.

NEW BUSINESS:

Education Class: There will be no class this month.

December 12th is the deadline to sign up to volunteer for the Show and get free admission, a T-shirt, hat, etc.

Jerry Glazman announced that there were a lot of young people on the Blanchard Mine trip. The Albuquerque club has a Junior club which encourages participation.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: Bob Royer, as meeting host, made the first choice. Drawing winners were Gail Schirmer, Barb Elliot, Wolfgang Mueller and Donna Pugh.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary

REMINDER!!!

PLEASE NOTE:

Per the September 10, 2014 General Meeting minutes.

The February General Meeting is now going to be held on the FIRST Monday of the month instead of the second Monday of the month.

So, make sure that you mark it on your calendar, that February 2, 2015 will be the date for the General Meeting instead of February 9, 2015!

TGMS Board Meeting Minutes

TGMS Board Meeting May 3, 2014

Present: Ellen Alexander, Mark Ascher, Madison Barkley (via Facetime), Diane Braswell, John Callahan, and Marilyn Reynolds.

Absent: Alrene Hibben, Mark Marikos, and Bob O'Donnell

Staff: Pat McClain

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 8:40 a.m. in the TGMS Conference Room.

Minutes Approval of the April 10, 2014 Board Meeting: **MOTION:** To approve the minutes as written. Seconded and approved.

Budget: Budget items were examined and discussed. **MOTION:** To approve the 2014-2015 budget as presented. Seconded and approved.

New Business:

MOTION: To recommend to the general membership changing the title of Administrative Manager to Executive Manager in the By-Laws. Seconded and approved. This will be presented to the membership for approval at the May 5, 2014 General Meeting.

MOTION: Change the Employee Handbook from Administrative Manager to Executive Manager and Administrative Assistant to Executive Assistant. Seconded and approved, pending approval by membership of the first motion.

Storage: Diane announced that discussion is ongoing regarding buying or renting a storage facility which will house all stored items in one place. All items need to be inventoried for insurance purposes and the TGMS accountant. Diane will ask the membership to notify her or the office if anyone sees some place for sale or rent/lease that may meet the Society's needs.

Peter Megaw will be the TGMS Ambassador to China again this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marilyn V. Reynolds,
Recording Secretary

TGMS Board Meeting May 28, 2014

Present: Diane Braswell, Dick Gottfried, Alrene Hibben, Mark Marikos, Marilyn Reynolds and Jo Anne Sam.

Absent: Ellen Alexander, Mark Ascher, Madison Barkley

Staff: Pat McClain

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 7:05 p.m. in the TGMS Conference Room.

New Business:

Show Chair: **MOTION:** To approve the Show Committee's recommendation of Paul Harter as Show Chair for the 2015 Show. Seconded and approved.

Vice Chair: **MOTION:** To approve the recommendation for a Vice Chair position as proposed by the Show Committee. Seconded and not approved.

Reallocation of budgeted raises for paid staff: **MOTION:** To reallocate funds and approve raise for the Executive Assistant. Seconded and approved.

Old Business:

Website update: Education will be stressed with the theme "Explore, Discover and Share". There will be articles on various members to show the diversity of members.

Storage update: Information is being gathered on available buildings and options being looked at for use of space. The space must be large and climate controlled. Anyone who sees a building with a phone number of it is encouraged to call the office.

Potlucks: The June potluck will be the 21st at TGMS. The August potluck will be the 31st at the U of A Mineral Museum. A host is still needed for the July potluck.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marilyn V. Reynolds,
Recording Secretary

ALL THAT GLITTERS (Part 2, The Klondike Gold Rush) By Anna Domitrovic

The goal was to drive the Al-Can Highway from Dawson Creek on the Alberta/British Columbia border to Delta Junction, Alaska. More than 1400 miles. But a trip like that wouldn't be memorable if not for a few side trips. One of them has to be to Dawson City in the far northwest corner of Yukon Territory and base camp for prospectors involved in the Klondike Gold Rush of the late 1890's. I stayed five nights at the Whitehouse Cabins in a walled tent, similar to those one would see in historical



pictures of early mining camps. The outside of mine would have easily passed for an abode of old, but I can guarantee theirs didn't have electricity servicing a mini-fridge, teapot, lamps and substantial heating element and a comfortable bed. Before you start to envy me, I did have to leave the confines of my tent for the bath house and outdoor

kitchen. Poor me!

It was an easy walk to downtown Dawson City. The main drag, the Klondike Highway, paralleled the Yukon River. It ended at the free ferry across the Yukon to Top of the World Highway which takes you Alaska. Just one street away from the highway the streets turn to dirt and mud and the sidewalks, where there were any, were weathered boards. My goal at the end of my stay in Dawson City was the ferry. But before that, there was much to see and do, especially as it relates to the gold rush.



Dawson City grew and spread fairly quickly from tents to faux front wood buildings. Businesses included general stores selling everything from food and clothing to hardware and mining supplies. Saloons lined the streets with the requisite number of gamblers and con men, and of course, "female entertainment." Banks and newspapers, theaters, blacksmiths and stables occupied



other establishments and properties. From the beginning of the rush, marked by the initial strike in 1894, miners, prospectors, merchants and thrill-seekers filtered in and out of Dawson City. The population peaked at 30,000 to 40,000 while more and more gold came out of the surrounding streams and gravels.

By late 1899, the rush was over. Some left wealthy. Others barely had the means to leave. Now, more than 100 years later, people flock to Dawson City for other reasons. Writer Jack London and poet Robert Service both contributed to Dawson City's history. Their cabins are the sites for period-dressed actors

ALL THAT GLITTERS - By Anna Domitrovic - CONTINUED



reliving the times when London and Service walked the streets and recorded their experiences. The modern-day travelers come to the area in search of a different

kind of adventure. Most stay close to the souvenir shops along the Klondike Highway, take in the tours and programs offered by seasonal employees or sit in

partake of the adventure that drew so many to Dawson City during the Klondike Gold Rush, but it was fun trying.



I couldn't help but notice how things had changed along Bonanza Creek Road since the last time I visited. The gold

dredge was still there. When panning wasn't good enough, huge three-story high dredges were brought in to get what the single prospector couldn't. The dredges dug into the stream beds and mechanically sorted and sifted the gravels and sediments to retrieve any gold that was left behind. A



on a vaudeville show in Diamond Tooth Gertie's. I admit I did some of the same when I first arrived. But I got the essentials out of the way my first day or two, then it was off to Bonanza Creek to try my hand at panning for gold. I looked closely with my hand lens at what I had in my gold pan and recognized the familiar

testament to this second stage in gold recovery was piles and piles of gravel waste lining the road and stream bed. And now a third stage is in progress. Current operations are going through the gravels again and apparently still finding gold. I guess the rush continues in a more subtle way.



minerals one would find in gravels of this type - quartz, feldspar, mica. But there were two things that were obviously missing -

The year-round population has diminished considerably since Dawson City's golden days. But thank goodness there are still those present to keep alive this gold rush city of bygone days for the next season's visitors. I've been a part of the experience twice now. How many times has it been for you? If your answer is *none*, shame on you! Do it! Go to Canada's Yukon Territory and experience the "rush" of being in one of North America's premier gold discoveries.

black sands and of course gold. So I had no luck in my efforts to

Photos by:
Anna Domitrovic

2015 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®



I woke up this morning and the temperature was about 55 degrees. Hard to imagine this is "winter." But when I see pictures and read weather reports from around the world, I know that "winter" is upon us. So why is "winter" important? It means the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® is just around the corner.

2015 will mark my fifth year as Show Chair. First and foremost, I want to thank every person, young or old, man, woman or child who has contributed to the success of the Show. It is the combined effort of each and every TGMS member that makes this Show possible. Thank you.



We have certainly seen some changes in the Show and there will be more to come. You will need to visit the Show and, when you do, please be sure to bring a friend. This year's Show, "Minerals of Western Europe," promises to be another in a long line of blockbuster shows.

The Dealer Chairs have lined up 250 dealers from around the world who will tempt each of us with great minerals, jewelry, loose gemstones and so many other arts. I am counting on all of you to support the dealers, for after all they make a concerted effort to present the best of their inventories.



Exhibits – The Board of Directors asked the Show Committee to make its best efforts at featuring the gems and minerals more prominently than in years gone by. We hope you enjoyed both the exhibit layout and quality last year. The new cases were extraordinary and will look just as good this year. Our Guest Exhibits Chair has pulled out all the stops with friends from not only the US, but also Europe, to bring classic European material that most of us have never seen. This may be a once in a lifetime opportunity to see classic European material. Please do



not miss this opportunity. After all a \$10.00 admission ticket is a far cry from an airplane ticket to England, France, Germany, Italy or any other European country that has a great mineral heritage.



This message would fall short if there was no mention of education. The mission of TGMS is centered on mineralogy, lapidary, geology and related allied earth sciences. The Show is replete with opportunity to enhance your knowledge, and that of your guests. Perhaps you can start your learning by buying a good book and then reading it. Leading publishers will have 100s of titles from which to choose. Attend a lecture by

a preeminent expert on a given topic. The best lecture, ever, was one about the Mars Rover. Visit with the public service Exhibitor-Dealers on the Galleria level. Look through a microscope and be awed by the beauty of a mineral specimen that may be 0.5 mm in diameter. Lastly, visit Junior Education and see what the students from the University of Arizona have cooked up for the younger collectors.



So you see, a day at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® is an opportunity to learn, view truly world class exhibits, shop with the best dealers and, most of all, just have fun.

Paul Harter
2015 Show Chairman



Other photos by: Ken Don, Ron Gibbs and P.R. McClain

WHY MINERALS OF WESTERN EUROPE?



Although many of our shows (Alpine Minerals, Quartz, Fluorite, Silver etc.) have included species found in the countries of Western Europe, we have never focused directly on the "Cradle of Mineralogy" ...another way of looking at our 2015 "Minerals of Western Europe" theme. Modern *mineralogy* was born there and probably half (or more) of all the mineral species ever

described come from this region, plus the geologic diversity is enormous, so this show should stand out as being among the most mineralogically varied ever. Modern *mineral collecting* was also born in Western Europe, so there will be a number of exhibits featuring historic figured specimens, specimens from historic collections incorporated into major museums scattered throughout the world, and perhaps more type specimens than ever exhibited at Tucson before. Add to this a host of mining and mineralogical artifacts, mineral specimens exchanged between the crowned heads of Europe (many of whose collections survive as the nucleus of major national museums), exquisite carvings from Idar-Oberstein, and some of the earliest Mineralogy books published, and you may actually risk reaching mineral saturation!

Many have asked how we define Western Europe. We decided to eschew politics (especially modern) and took a quasi-geologic perspective in our definition (**see map courtesy of Bill Besse**). We started mid-continent with the western border of Russia (our theme back in 2001) and going from there to the edge of the European Plate in all directions. (Remember, the eastern limit of the European Plate is the Ural Mountains, so the geographic balance is pretty close to even. And since the Mid-Ocean Ridge runs right through Iceland, specimens from eastern Iceland are welcome but western Icelandic minerals grew in the North American Plate and therefore don't count!) This encompasses everything from the complex ore minerals from the ancient mines in the eastern mountains to the nearly modern zeolites of eastern Iceland; and from the active volcanoes of the Mediterranean to the ancient metamorphic terranes of Scandinavia. Many will think first of classics like

Kongsberg Silver; Chessy Azurite; Pennine and Spanish Fluorite; Sicilian Sulfur; Alpine Gwindels and Epidote; Freiberg Silvers, Sulfides and Sulfosalts; Elba Elbaite; and Cornish Arsenates...and all will be well represented. But so will more modern finds like Norwegian Anatase; Golden Swedish Calcite; Les Farges Pyromorphite; Madan Galena, Spanish Pyrites; Serifos Prase; Strzegom, Burg and Rogerley Fluorite; Trepca Bournonite; Belgian Calcites; and Panasquiera Apatites. This just scratches the surface and there are sure to be surprises, like specimens from the Faroe Islands or Monaco...and perhaps even Grand Fenwick!


So whether you pay for your ticket to get here in Pounds, Francs, Crowns, Dollars, Yen, Yuan, Pesos or Euros, we take great pleasure in presenting a mineralogical smorgasbord that should leave you certain you got your money's worth. And the weather should be nice as well!

Peter Megaw
Special & Guest Exhibits Chair




Other Show Dates!!!

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MINERAL MADNESS 2015

VIP PREVIEW: THURSDAY JANUARY 15 5PM - 7PM
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ROCK OUT AT THE
ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM!

TGMS MEMBERS!

Join us for a VIP Preview of the Desert Museum's
Mineral Madness Sale
 Thursday, January 15, 2015
 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Print out and bring this invitation or your museum membership card for admission.

Rock Out at the Desert Museum!

This is your opportunity for a sneak peek and to purchase the finest specimens before they go on sale to the public. Enhance your existing collection or start one!

Can't come that night? Join us for our public Mineral Madness event, including geological activities all around the Museum grounds, Jan 17 and 18, 9am-4pm. Regular Museum admission rates will apply.

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 www.DesertMuseum.org

Please join us for refreshments, friends and a first-crack at new specimens at the Mineral Madness VIP Preview Thursday evening.

At the weekend Mineral Showcase & Sale, thousands of specimens will be on display and for sale! For seasoned collectors, you're likely to find some new varieties that would be great additions to your collection. This is also a great place to start a collection with expert staff and docents to guide you and many specimens priced at as little as 50 cents. Be sure to check out the jewelry-making demonstrations.

Especially for families, from 10 am - 4 pm you'll find activity stations all around the grounds where you can explore the amazing world of minerals. At each station, children can collect a free rock or mineral specimen in their own egg-carton collection box. (You are encouraged to bring your own but the Museum will also provide them while supplies last.) And the Art Institute is offering art activities including painting with minerals.

ROCK OUT! NEW FOR 2015!

11:00 am - 3 pm Rock Climbing Tower
LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCES FOR KIDS
 Saturday 11:00am - noon Nap Skippers
 Sunday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Mr. Nature

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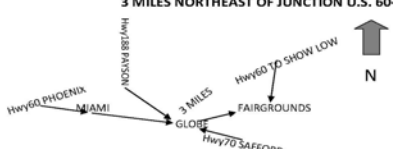
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ROCK TALK

FROM:

T.G.M.S.
P.O. BOX 42588
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85733



TO:

Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

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Tucson, Arizona 85733**

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E-mail: tgms@tgms.org**

**We're on the web
www.tgms.org**

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

Meetings: Usually the first Monday of the month, starting at 7:30 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), International Federation of Micromount Societies (IFMS), Visit Tucson, Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (TMCC), Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce

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