

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>**2014 ANNUAL MEETING, CASABLANCA****Meeting Report**

Group picture of participants



Hasnaa Chennaoui Aoudjehane, chair of the meeting, welcoming participants

The 77th annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society was held in Casablanca, Morocco, on September 8–12, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency Casablanca. The meeting was organized by Hasnaa Chennaoui Aoudjehane (Hassan II University, Casablanca), chair, and Pierre Rochette (CEREGE, Aix-Marseille) and Guy Libourel (OCA, Nice, France), cochairs.

The 24-member Program Committee, chaired by Pierre Rochette, used the 447 abstracts submitted to create an exciting program, including new reports on Chelyabinsk and NWA 7034 (and paired) meteorites. Some 265 oral presentations were accommodated in parallel sessions through to Friday afternoon, with 182 posters presented in poster sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The meeting was attended by 420 people from 36 countries. Sixty-six students and professionals from low-income countries were awarded travel funds, primarily through the support of the Barringer Crater Company, NASA, and the Meteoritical Society Endowment Fund.

The scientific program included 20 sessions that covered a wide range of topics, including space missions, primary and differentiated meteorites, Solar System chronology, and the development of analytical techniques. Three special sessions were held: (1) Carbonaceous chondrites and the 150th anniversary of Orgueil; (2) Meteorites from Morocco and desert areas, followed by a roundtable discussion on the NWA nomenclature; and (3) Impact cratering and mass extinctions (part of the AICAC series, AICACIII).

The Barringer Invitational Lecture was presented by Professor Philippe Taquet, president of the Académie des Sciences in France. His talk, entitled “Meteorites and Dinosaurs,” was given on the evening of Monday, September 8, after the Society awards ceremony.

On Wednesday, participants explored the local area, with visits to Rabat and Casablanca. The banquet was a typical Moroccan gala dinner in the historical site of El Mechouar, in the Habous quarter. El Mechouar, or “the Mahkama of the Pasha,” built between 1948 and 1952, served as both a court and a reception room for the Pasha of Casablanca. The building includes at least 60 rooms and has many kinds of decorative shapes and motifs belonging to the Spanish-Moroccan architectural style. This monumental building today shelters the City Hall of Méchouar, seat of the Greater Casablanca area.

The meeting was sponsored by NASA, the Barringer Crater Company, the Lunar and Planetary Institute USRA, the Meteoritical Society, the Moroccan Ministry of Culture, the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education, Hassan II University Casablanca, the Faculty of Sciences Ain Chock, Cameca, the International Meteorite Collectors Association (IMCA), the Planetary Studies Foundation (PSF), Wilaya du Grand Casablanca, and the Académie Hassan II des Sciences et Techniques (ACASITEC).

Photos can be seen on the meeting website: <http://metsoc2014casablanca.org/gallery.php>.

Two premeeting workshops were held, one on using radar imagery to detect and recover meteorites (convened by Mike Zolensky and Marc Fries; see below) and one on the identification and curation of meteorites (convened by Brigitte Zanda and Albert Jambon).

Conference Field Trip

The postconference field trip was an excursion to southern Morocco. This six-day trip was led by Hasnaa Chennaoui. Forty-two participants visited the shatter cone-bearing remnant of an impact structure near Agoudal (Imilchil, High Atlas Mountains) and the area around Erfoud in the Rissani region, the origin of most NWA meteorites. Participants had the opportunity to discover the excellent and highly varied geological exposures and landscapes of Morocco by crossing the Atlas Mountains and visiting the desert of southern Morocco.



Participants in the postconference field trip enjoy the Itto panorama, High Atlas Mountains, near Azou, Morocco.

Workshop on the Use of Weather Radar Imagery for Meteorite Fall Detection and Recovery

The meeting in Casablanca included a workshop on how to use weather radar imagery to find and recover meteorite falls; it was organized by Marc Fries and Mike Zolensky, both of NASA's Johnson Space Center. The main goal of this workshop was to facilitate the increasing use of radar to find new meteorite locations in all countries with Meteoritical Society members. The workshop was well attended and included both lectures and practical work. Attendees learned how to locate meteorites by examining radar data from actual meteorite falls. The topics covered included weather radar fundamentals, meteorite falls seen on radar, the distinguishing characteristics of falls as opposed to weather, and weather radar networks around the world. Presenters also discussed the importance of using different techniques for fall analysis, including all-sky camera networks, eyewitness report aggregation, seismometry, and other topics. Representatives of the FRIPON, the Spanish Meteor and Fireball Network, and the Finnish Fireball Network presented information to the group about their networks and meteorite recovery efforts.

The workshop benefited from fortunate timing, as radar data were presented showing the Kosmos 2495 satellite fall that occurred a few days before the workshop. An impressive bolide also occurred over Catalonia, Spain, on the day of the workshop, providing an opportunity to try out the techniques demonstrated.

2014 SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The Society gives out four major awards each year. For more information on individual awards, please see the Society web page.



The **LEONARD MEDAL**, which is the Society's highest and oldest award, is given to individuals who have made outstanding original contributions to the science of meteoritics or closely allied fields. It is named for Frederick C. Leonard, who was a founder and the first president of the Society. The 2014 winner of the Leonard Medal is **Roger Hewins** of the IMPMC, Paris, France, and Rutgers University, USA, for seminal petrologic and experimental studies on the origin of chondrules and,

by extension, the mechanisms and environments of formation of these essential building blocks of meteorites and planetary bodies. The citation for this award was given by Harold Connolly.



The **BARRINGER MEDAL AND AWARD**, sponsored by the Barringer Crater Company, were created in memory of D. Moreau Barringer Sr. and his son, D. Moreau Barringer Jr. The award is given for outstanding work in the field of impact cratering. This year, the Barringer Award is given to **Alex Deutsch**, of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany, for his broad contributions to the understanding of impact cratering, particularly in the areas of radiometric

dating of terrestrial and lunar impact events, isotopic geochemistry and petrology of impact rocks from terrestrial impact craters, and experiments in shock metamorphism. The citation for this award was given by Falko Langenhorst.



The **NIER PRIZE** recognizes young scientists in the field of meteoritics. This year's winner is **James Day**, of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, USA. James receives his award for significant contributions to an improved understanding of the late accretionary history of the terrestrial planets and smaller planetary bodies of the inner Solar System. The citation for this award was given by Frederic Moynier.



The **METEORITICAL SOCIETY SERVICE AWARD** is given this year to **Roy Clarke Jr.**, emeritus curator at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, USA. Roy receives this award for his role in helping to build the meteorite collection at the Smithsonian into a national and international resource, for archival and historical work important to the Society, and for his efforts that helped guide the Society at critical moments. The citation for this award was written by Tim McCoy and presented at a special reception in Washington, DC, for Roy,

who was unable to travel to the conference, and the citation was presented in Morocco by Ed Scott.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please renew your membership by March 31, 2015; after that date, a \$15 late fee will be assessed. You can renew online at <http://metsoc.meteoriticalsociety.net>.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please consider nominating a colleague for one of the Society's awards. Nominations should be sent to Secretary Michael Weisberg (metsocsec@gmail.com) by January 15 (January 31 for the Service Award and the Pellas-Ryder Award). For more information and details on how to submit a nomination for any of these awards, please see the latest Newsletter on the Society website or e-mail the secretary.

The Society gives a number of awards each year. The **Leonard Medal** honors outstanding contributions to the science of meteoritics and closely allied fields. The **Barringer Medal and Award** recognize outstanding work in the field of impact cratering and/or work that has led to a better understanding of impact phenomena. The **Nier Prize** recognizes outstanding research in meteoritics and closely allied fields by young scientists (under 35). The **Service Award** honors members who have advanced the goals of the Meteoritical Society to promote research and education in meteoritics and planetary science in ways other than by conducting scientific research. The **Paul Pellas-Graham Ryder Award** is given for the best student paper in planetary science and is awarded jointly by the Meteoritical Society and the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America.

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- 2015 July 27–31, Berkeley, California
- 2016 August 7–12, Berlin, Germany
- 2017 Dates to be determined, New Mexico, USA (Albuquerque or Santa Fe)
- 2018 Dates to be determined, Moscow, Russia

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