



Meteoritical Society

<http://meteoricalsociety.org>

METEORITE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE REPORT



Chris Herd

The purpose of the Nomenclature Committee (NomCom) is to approve new meteorite names and to establish guidelines and make decisions regarding the naming of meteorites. The committee also keeps the community apprised of new meteorites through the *Meteoritical Bulletin* and the *Meteoritical Bulletin Database* (www.lpi.usra.edu/meteor/metbull.php). While the yearly publication of the *Meteoritical Bulletin* (e.g. MB103 = 2014, MB104 = 2015) lags behind the database entries, new meteorites are automatically added to the next issue of the bulletin by the database editor. The contents of the bulletin are accessible using the "Publication" dropdown window in the database. MB103 contains 2593 meteorites (1082 non-Antarctic), and MB104, so far, has 1138 meteorites (385 non-Antarctic).

As of January 1, we welcome Emma Bullock, Vinciane Debaille, and Hasnaa Chennaoui-Aoudjehane as new members. Special thanks to Kees Welten, Henning Haack, Smail Mostefaoui, and Caroline Smith, who have completed their terms on the committee. I thank Caroline in particular for serving as committee secretary, a position she has held since 2008.

In order to assist in preventing a backlog of new meteorite submissions requiring revision, a 90-day limit on revisions has been implemented. Any submitter that does not revise their submission after 90 days will have the submission rejected and they will need to resubmit the file. This is not a change in our procedures because the editor has always had this power. However, we found it necessary to implement this editorial policy in order to manage old jobs where the submitter does not make revisions in a timely fashion.

The NomCom has been considering the issue of naming of meteorites found in Morocco. It has determined that there should be no special treatment of meteorites found in Morocco and the surrounding areas for which location information is made known after a northwest Africa (NWA) name has already been assigned. It is a longstanding tradition in meteoritics that formal meteorite names should not be changed once they are established in the literature or in public use.

Further to this topic, the NomCom has revised the Guidelines for Meteorite Nomenclature. The most significant changes are as follows:

1. Eliminating the special rules for meteorites recovered from Morocco and surrounding areas. In the past, for meteorites from these areas to receive location-specific names, a photograph of the meteorite in place with a GPS unit next to it was required. This requirement was found to be onerous and difficult to enforce. Recognizing the large numbers of meteorites found in any given area within this region, we eliminated the special rules and established a dense collection area (DCA) grid for all of Morocco and Western Sahara. DCA sizes are consistent with those from other desert areas (e.g. Saudi Arabia, Oman, etc.) and are approximately 1 to 1.5 square degrees. From now on, any meteorites found in these areas will be given DCA names that better reflect the general area in which they were recovered.
2. Redefining the use of NWA (northwest Africa) and NEA (northeast Africa) prefixes. NWA will apply to meteorites thought to be found in Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Mali, Algeria, Tunisia, or Niger. NEA will apply to meteorites thought to be found in Libya, Chad, Egypt, or Sudan.
3. Rebooting the numbering system for NWA meteorites to start at 10001, to reflect the implementation of the new use of the prefix.

The guideline changes were met with some consternation from the meteorite collector/dealer community, as well as some members of the Meteoritics Society. In response, I have established a DCA subcommittee to examine the implications of the revised guidelines for meteorites found in Morocco and surrounding areas, to make any recommendations for change, and to review the outlines of DCAs in this part of the world.

A new categorization scheme for falls and finds has been implemented to better express the varying level of confidence as to whether a given meteorite was actually an observed fall. The five categories are the following: confirmed fall; probable fall; find, possible fall; find, doubtful fall; and find. A document explaining the new scheme can be found at www.lpi.usra.edu/meteor/docs/falls-finds.pdf.

As of March 2015, I stepped down as chair, having served in that capacity for five years. It has been an excellent learning experience for me, and I am pleased that a number of significant initiatives have been brought to completion in that time. NomCom is one of the hardest-working and most active committees in the Meteoritical Society, the rewards of involvement in which far outshine the challenges.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns about NomCom, especially with suggestions for improvement. Essential information on meteorite nomenclature, instructions and the template for reporting new meteorites, and NomCom membership can be found at meteoricalsociety.org/?page_id=106.

Chris Herd

Chair of Nomenclature Committee



IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Bernard Ray Hawke

passed away on 24 January 2015, in Honolulu (Hawaii). Dr. Hawke, known as "Ray" to family and childhood friends and as "B. Ray" to most of his planetary science colleagues, was a renowned lunar scientist, valued mentor, devoted brother and uncle, and cherished friend to many. He was born on 22 October 1946, in Louisville (Kentucky) and grew up in Elizabethtown, where he attended public schools. He participated in Future Farmers of America and 4-H activities [4-H is a US-based youth development program]. His 4-H leader worked for the US Geological Survey. This sparked an interest in geology in young Ray and later led to an internship doing field mapping in central Kentucky. He also was inspired by US President Kennedy's speech calling for a manned Moon landing.

B. Ray earned a BS in geology at the University of Kentucky. He then entered the army and served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and N Company, 75th Rangers, in Vietnam during 1970–1971. After leaving the army, he returned to the University of Kentucky where he earned a MS in geology. He continued his geology studies at Brown University (Rhode Island) where he earned another MS and a PhD.

Dr. Hawke joined the small group of planetary geologists at the University of Hawaii in 1978. That group grew and later became part of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology. In 1983, he established the Pacific Regional Planetary Data Center, one of NASA's Regional Planetary Image Facilities, and remained director until his death. Dr. Hawke's lunar geology interests included impact craters and volcanic deposits. He was a pioneer in advocating the use of the resources associated with pyroclastic deposits by future inhabitants of the Moon. His scientific studies involved active collaborations with colleagues in Hawaii and around the world, and their success was due to his generosity. He shared his ideas and knowledge and gave his time to help others.

Dr. Hawke is survived by his brother Stephen, Stephen's wife Nancie, and their children David and Michael of Columbia (Missouri).