

No government shutdown can slow down the work of the MSDC! While our regular meeting location at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum may be unavailable, the meeting will proceed as scheduled at an alternative venue, in the Capitol Hill area. We will be meeting at our usual time, 7:30 pm on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at 240 7th Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003, at the offices of our Board member, Dr. Dan Teich. We are grateful to Dr. Teich for making this location available to us on such a short notice. This location is two blocks away from the Eastern Market metro station, and has street and garage parking nearby.

Our January presenter is our own co-webmaster Casper Voogt. While we are benefitting daily from his computer skills keeping MSDC's website up and running, every year I look forward to Casper's presentations, which allow me to live vicariously through his adventures. Casper is always generous with his time presenting to our club and other area clubs on his amazing trips. Over the last few years, we had opportunities to "travel" with Casper to Mozambique, Myanmar, and the Kola Peninsula in Russia. At our January meeting, Casper will take us on the next adventure, this time to Namibia.



Casper will connect history, geography, and geology in a presentation that will take us from geological changes a billion years ago, to German colonization a century ago, to independent Namibia of today. We will travel from the capital of Windhoek in the center of the country to Etosha National Park and mining towns in the north, to the Sossuvlei desert in the south. We will see zebras, cheetas, lions, and more. And, more on point for our mineralogical interests, we will admire localities for, and samples of, diopside, amethyst, quartz, aquamarine, and copper.

Casper is a part-time mineral dealer, lifelong mineral collector, and avid traveler. His academic background is in architecture (Princeton and Georgia Tech). He has lived in the U.S., the Netherlands, Aruba, and Switzerland. Casper runs a web development company and is the webmaster of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club and co-webmaster of our MSDC website.

Please join us in taking Casper to dinner at 6:00 pm on January 2nd before the club meeting. Due to the change in the meeting location, the dinner venue is the Tannicliff's Tavern at 222 7th Street SE, Washington, DC, which is around the corner from the meeting location. If you cannot make it to dinner, please go directly to 240 7th Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003 for the meeting at 7:30 pm.



Meeting location – District Veterinary Hospital (check out Dr. Dan Teich’s 5-star ratings!)



Dinner location – Tunncliff's Tavern