

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 on January 2nd before the club meeting. We will be meeting at 6:00 pm at Elephant & Castle Restaurant, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC, about 2 blocks from the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) where our club meeting is held. If you cannot make it to dinner, we will meet in the NMNH lobby at 7:30 pm and head up to the Cathy Kerby Room for Casper's presentation.