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## Bay Area Mineralogists

**April 2008**

Next meeting: April 9, 2008

7:00 pm

Foothill College

<http://www.baymin.org>



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### Give BAM its due(s)

Just a reminder: it recently was decided to switch BAM dues over from a fiscal year to calendar year schedule, hence everyone should get themselves paid up as of January. For the low, low price of \$6, you too can enjoy all the benefits of BAM membership... note that we do plan to soon switch over to a policy in which those who are members in good standing get the messages about special collecting opportunities, e-mailed newsletters, etc. such that there actually ARE some distinct benefits!

Please pass your checks, cash, or rolls of pennies on to BAM Treasurer Dan Carlson, who'll turn your spreadsheet entry from red to green – and if you won't be at the meeting, contact him via [dan@dextersinister.com](mailto:dan@dextersinister.com).

We meet monthly in the Geology Lab at Foothill College, 7:00pm on the second Wednesday. See <http://www.baymin.org/Meet/FoothillMap.gif> for a campus map. Bring \$2 for parking.

### BAM April Program: Building the “Complete” Mineral Database

Speaking of Dan Carlson, he'll also be providing a presentation that will comprise the April program. How do you impose order on your collection? Dan provides this perspective for your consumption:

*For years, I have been thinking about the criteria by which I would like to catalog my minerals specimens. Finally, using a well-known database program, I have constructed a database that accommodates all my criteria, is flexible and easily edited, allows me to sort and search on my criteria and even prints out specimen labels. The presentation includes discussion of mineral cataloging criteria and a demo.*

There's no doubt that a well-curated collection wins out in value over a big pile of rocks... come out and hear how one collector is taking a crack at the problem!

### Field Trip Updates!

Spring is upon us, and with it improvements to the weather that get you itching to pack the wagon full of gear and head out into the field. Not that there's anything wrong with freezing your butt off for a few benitoites more, but it's just easier when you don't have to chip through permafrost to get to them.

Trips and potential trips are popping up left and right, so keep some spots open on the calendar. Here's the latest...

### ***BAM New Mexico Trip, June 9-13***

Dan Evanich continues to research potential collecting localities for us to visit on the big June trip. In addition to a (non-collecting!) visit to the mineral museum at New Mexico Tech, possible sites include the Kelly Mine fee dig, the Blanchard, Mex-Tex, and Royal Flush Mines, and a few others via a local rock shop. If you know of any good prospects, please pass on to Dan at the meeting or via e-mail.

The latest count includes nine BAM members plus one 7-year old rockhound in training. Collecting sites and itinerary should be firmed up soon; the May meeting program will focus on logistics and localities.

As always, if you need additional information please shoot Dan a note at [djevan@aol.com](mailto:djevan@aol.com).

### ***Rainbow Mine, Fresno Co., July 19***

Stan Vance is organizing a July trip to the Rainbow Tungsten Mine in Fresno County. Note that this is a private claim and access needs to be arranged through Stan; if you are interested, please check in with him at the next BAM meeting or contact me for his address / phone # , as he does not have e-mail and I don't want to post his info to a public newsletter.

### ***Owyhee Reservoir, SE Oregon***

Steve Satra is back in the Bay Area and recently contacted me about gauging interest in a locality he visited in southeastern Oregon. This remote site shows little or no evidence of visits by other mineralogically-inclined sorts but boasts enormous calcite veins and the promise of some good material. The site requires access by boat (rentals available nearby) and needs more than a quick weekend visit. I misplaced my notes from conversation with Steve and have a request in to him; I will send this around as soon as I get it – or perhaps Steve will be at the April meeting and can lay out a proposal in person!

### **Berkeley Geology Dept. Visit**

President Spence has been working to arrange a visit to the Berkeley Geology Department for a behind-the-scenes look at the mineral collection and analytical facilities. As per my e-mail note a couple of weeks ago, his initial proposals were for a Saturday visit on either May 31 or June 7. The June 7<sup>th</sup> date has been ruled out because of the large group likely to be traveling to New Mexico that day, but it is possible it might get moved to later in the summer instead. Bill will provide an update at this month's meeting.

### **“Cash & Treasures” Benitoite Show Finally Airing!**

As has been noted here previously, several months back a contingent of BAM members helped out with the filming of the Travel Channel's “Cash and Treasures” show. The show will finally air for the first time at 10:00pm on Wednesday, April 9... same night as the BAM meeting. Set those VCRs and DVRS!

### **Upcoming Shows**

April 4-6

Santa Clara Vly Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
334 Tully Road, San Jose  
4<sup>th</sup>, 9am-5pm; 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 10am-5pm

April 12-13

Mariposa Mineral & Gem Show  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
10am-5pm both days

April 26-27

Santa Cruz Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium  
Center and Church St.  
10am-5pm both days

May 2-4

Eastern Sierra Gem & Mineral Show  
Bishop Fairgrounds, Sierra St.  
2<sup>nd</sup> 6-10pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30-4pm, 4<sup>th</sup> 10-3pm

### **Letters to the BAM Editor**

Please send your comments, content, compliments, and/or complaints to Don Windeler, [don.windeler@rms.com](mailto:don.windeler@rms.com), 650-591-1644.