
Bay Area Mineralogists

April 2011

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USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237
<http://www.baymin.org>



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The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year, unless diverted by extenuating circumstances. We now meet at the USGS Menlo Park in Building 3. See campus map at <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>. Our room is located in Building 3, second floor where this map says "Conference Room" – note that the front doors are locked and you will have to come up the stairs on the Middlefield side of the building. Parking is free.

Possible Cancellation Due to Government Shutdown

Not everyone may be following the latest drama in DC, but failure to pass a budget or stopgap in the next day or two may lead to many "nonessential" government agencies closing their doors until the issue is resolved. Because the USGS falls into that category, we may find ourselves without a meeting location on Wednesday night.

While there's some slim chance we can arrange an alternative venue, the most likely outcome is that we will cancel the meeting if the government is dysfunctioning at the time. Please watch your e-mails for updates in the days to come.

BAM April Program: Rick Kennedy, "The California Blue Mine"

Assuming that we do have our meeting, our program will be compliments of our very own Rick Kennedy. He sends along the following summary of this month's presentation:

"New discoveries are rare, and new discoveries in California have been almost unheard of for a while. This is the story of the discovery and subsequent exploration of the California Blue Mine, a pegmatite in southern San Bernardino County, California. To date, the California Blue Mine has produced some of California's highest quality Aquamarine crystals. Other minerals found at the deposit are Topaz, Smoky Quartz, Orthoclase, Clevelandite, Fluorite, Apatite, Schorl and Rutile."

Rick has been involved in bringing some of this new material to market and one presumes that he will roll out the beryl (and examples of other finds) for those attending to view.

(Sorry, that fruit was just hanging way too low.)



*Etched aquamarine, California Blue Mine, ~7cm.
Photo Elizabeth Schmidt.*



*Topaz, California Blue Mine, ~4cm.
Photo Mark Mauthner*

May Program: Tim Greenland on Chessy, France

We have the luxury of our next month's program also being lined up. For May, Tim Greenland will be speaking on the geology, history and current status of mineral collecting in Chessy, France, with personal experiences and views.

Timothy Greenland is originally from the Welsh borders of England. Fascinated by chemistry from childhood, he directed his academic studies in that direction. He studied chemistry at Manchester University and later did his graduate studies, in the field of biochemistry, at Birmingham. During his career, as a virologist, he has worked at the French Medical Research Institute (INSERM), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pasteur Institute. Tim retired in 2005 and now catalogs and curates his mineral collection. He is also active in the l'Arbresle and Chessy Mineralogical Association.

For those looking to get a head start, see *Mineralogical Record*, March / April 1971 (volume 2, #2) or copious examples posted to MinDat.org.

R.I.P. Thomas Serwatka

We must unfortunately take another name from the BAM roster. While details are light, word from Len Piskiewicz is that past member Thomas Serwatka passed away at home from an undisclosed medical issue in March 2011.

Tom used to be a more active member, but in recent years was limited by his crutches and other medical conditions. He periodically went to shows with Len when he was more mobile. Len notes he met Tom about 30 years ago and was introduced to him by Craig Stolburg, another longtime Lockheed employee

More details to be passed along as I get them.

UCSC Seeking Spares

Several BAM members had the opportunity and pleasure of attending the weekend meeting at the University of California Santa Cruz last month. It was suggested that BAM members

might contribute spare samples for teaching purposes at the school, and in response they have come up with a list of minerals that would be especially appreciated.

Please bring to the April meeting spares you might have of the following:

- pyrite
- sillimanite
- scapolite
- titanite (sphene)
- plagioclase feldspars other than albite and
labradorite (anorthite, andesine are
always needed)
- talc
- cordierite
- aragonite
- magnesite

Contributions appreciated!

Upcoming Shows

April 9-10

Mariposa Mineral & Gem Show
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5005 Fairgrounds Rd, Mariposa
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm

April 15-17

Santa Clara Vly Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road, San Jose
15th, 9am-5pm; 16th-17th, 10am-5pm

May 13-15

Superior California Gem & Mineral Society;
Shasta District Fairgrounds
1890 Briggs St, Anderson
13th-14th, 9am-5pm, 15th 10am-4pm

Letters to the BAM Editor

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