

Bay Area Mineralogists

April 2014

April 9, 2014, 7:00 pm
USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237
<http://www.baymin.org>



In this issue:

- **April Program: Bill Motzer**
“Mercury Deposits of the California Coast Ranges and Their Environmental Impact”
- **The CCMA Ping**
- **In Search of Telegenic Diggers**

The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year. 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.

BAM March Program: Bill Motzer, “Mercury Deposits of the California Coast Ranges and Their Environmental Impact”

In a pleasantly local program for the month, our scheduled speaker is Bill Motzer, PG, CHG. He is a member and frequent contributor to the Northern California Geological Society.

Many mineralogically-interested individuals may be surprised to learn that Northern California is splattered with mercury deposits and in the 19th century was a major producer of mercury in the

US, especially for the processing of gold in the Sierra foothills.

Bill Motzer is a Senior Geologist with Todd Engineers and will give us a little context on where and why these deposits occur as well as their downstream environmental consequences.



Mercury deposits in California mercury mineral belt. Fig. 12 from Rytuba, “Environmental Impact of Mercury Mines in the Coast Ranges, California”.
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2003/c1248/>

As for show-and-tell... in short, bring lots!!

Last month we were a little rushed because of the crammed schedule, so bring anything and

everything that you think others would like to see out of your recent (or less-so) acquisitions.

And of course, bring anything related to Northern California hot springs and mercury deposits, especially those nightmare specimens for Peninsula real estate agents that come from Redwood City. (We're in the minority that would consider an old Hg mine on the disclosure statement a positive...) Don't forget Mt. Diablo, home of arguably the world's best metacinnabar, and the contaminated ghost town of New Idria!

The CCMA Ping

Per last month's meeting and updates from Rick Copper at the BLM, it should now be possible for the diligent and enthusiastic to gain access to Clear Creek. If you have done so since the opening of the CCMA, we want to hear from you! If you are coming to the meeting, please be ready to share your experiences and tips on the permitting & access process with the group; if you can't be there, please send to President Spence at bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net.

In Search of Telegenic Diggers

Ever flipped the channels onto one of those omnipresent reality shows and thought, "I could do that"? Well, here's a (potentially) good bit of fun for you. A few of our members have received this note through the electronic grapevine, with request to forward on as relevant...

We are looking for mining industry experts with vivacious personalities to join our current cast of Ice Cold Gold, the #1 show on Animal Planet. We are specifically searching for a Geologist, a Dredger, a Jewel expert, a Mountaineer Field Guide and a "Rookie" Miner.

ICE COLD GOLD spotlights a spirited team of miners who are among the first Americans to prospect for precious metals and gems in parts of Greenland where humans never have set foot before!

The series follows men who leave behind their families, friends and homeland to strike it rich against all odds while struggling to survive against the harshest of conditions.

You've watched from home for the past two seasons and now is your chance to dig for the gold! We are seeking the most experienced geologists, miners, dredgers, jewelers, loggers, truckers, contractors, and shippers from across the country to join the cast for Season 3! Cast members will travel to Greenland for 3 months for what is sure to be an incredible life-changing experience.

If you have what it takes, are confident in your skills and abilities and have the balls to weather the storm, we want to hear from you!

To apply, please email us at casting@metalfloresmedia.com, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/metalfloresmedia, or apply online at www.metalfloresmedia.com.

This is the chance of a lifetime for the right individual.

Stranger things have happened. Lay on, MacDuff!

Upcoming Shows

April 12-13
Santa Clara Vly Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road, San Jose
Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 10am-5pm
<http://www.scvgms.org/>

April 19-20
Mariposa Mineral & Gem Show
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5005 Fairgrounds Rd, Mariposa
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm

April 26-27
Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Corner of Center and Church, Santa Cruz
10am-5pm both days

Letters to the BAM Editor

Please send your comments, content, compliments, and/or complaints to Don Windeler, don.windeler@rms.com, 650.591.1644.