
Bay Area Mineralogists April 2015

Meeting: April 8, 2015, 7:00 pm
USGS, Building 3, Room 3-237
345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

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The Bay Area Mineralogists meet monthly during the school year, on the 2nd Wednesday. We meet at the USGS in Menlo Park, on the second floor of Building 3, where the campus map (<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>) says "Conference Room." The front doors will be locked so you'll have to come up the stairs on the Middlefield Road side of the building. Parking is free.

April Program:
History and Geology of the
North Pennine Orefield, England
By Jesse Fisher, UK Mining Ventures

The North Pennine Orefield is a classic fluorine-enriched MVT (Mississippi-Valley Type) deposit, remarkably similar to the Southern Illinois fluorspar district. It has been worked for much of the last millennium for lead, fluorite, barite, zinc, and other mineral commodities. Like Illinois, the region's mines have also been the source of many attractive mineral specimens.

Jesse will tell us about the history and geology of the district, and will have some specimens on hand to illustrate the topic. For show and tell, bring your favorite fluorite(s) from England, Illinois, or other localities.



Groverake Mine in Weardale, which was the last operating commercial fluorspar mine in the region.



A good day's take at the Rogerley Mine.

BAM Summer Field Trip

At the March meeting, Dan Evanich announced a BAM summer field trip to southwest Montana on August 1-8, 2015. The group will meet on Aug 1 at Calvert Hill, southwest of Anaconda and Butte, MT, and then continue in and around Butte. Details are being worked out, including coordination with local collectors/guides. Stay tuned to this space for additional information.

Santa Clara Show

BAM will have a large display case to fill at the Santa Clara Show on April 17-19, so we need plenty of good self-collected or other material to fill it. With a larger case, we can probably handle some larger specimens, too.

You can bring your loaners to the April meeting. Stan Bogosian, who is working on set-up and take-down of the display, will take good care of them. He may need a hand or two to help him. Contact Stan at sbogosian@aol.com.

Dues are Due

Our treasurer, Dan Carlson, is collecting dues for 2015. At \$5, this is the best deal in the Bay Area! If you can't make it to a meeting, send your check to Dan at PO Box 666, Belmont CA 94002. Write the check to Dan Carlson and indicate in the notes that it is your BAM dues.

You may also wish to donate (totally optional) to our mindat fund – just add that amount to your check. There was general agreement at a recent meeting for BAM to sponsor a page or two on mindat with the donations, although no further discussion has taken place on the topic.

Member Bios Sought

When you have visited our web page, you may have noticed the member profiles posted there. We'd like to add more members to that page. To add yours, prepare a write-up and send it with a photo or two to Don Windeler. The existing bios are a good guideline for level of detail, etc.

Butte Mineral Symposium

The first ever Montana Minerals and Mining Symposium, hosted by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, will take place on the Montana Tech Campus in Butte, MT, May 8-10, 2015. The Symposium will feature talks by experts in mineralogy, economic geology, and mineral occurrences within Montana and adjacent states; and will host tours of the Orphan Boy Mine in Butte. For more information and a registration form, go to: www.mbmgt.mtech.edu/2015symposium.asp. Let Dan Evanich know if you plan to attend – maybe we can have a BAM contingent there!

Status Update from mindat.org

Mindat has finally achieved its desired non-profit status, by joining the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy (www.hudsonmineralogy.org/) as an outreach program. The mindat site and operations will remain the same, and six mindat managers are now on the Hudson Institute Board of Directors.

This does not mean that fundraising is over – there is a lengthy article on mindat.org that explains its annual expenses and notes that “Keeping mindat.org alive for another year could cost you less than the cost of one reasonable mineral in your collection.”

Upcoming Area Shows

Apr 11-12, Mariposa
CA State Mineral Museum and Mariposa Club
Mariposa Fairgrounds, Hwy 49 S of Mariposa
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Apr 18-19, San Jose
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm

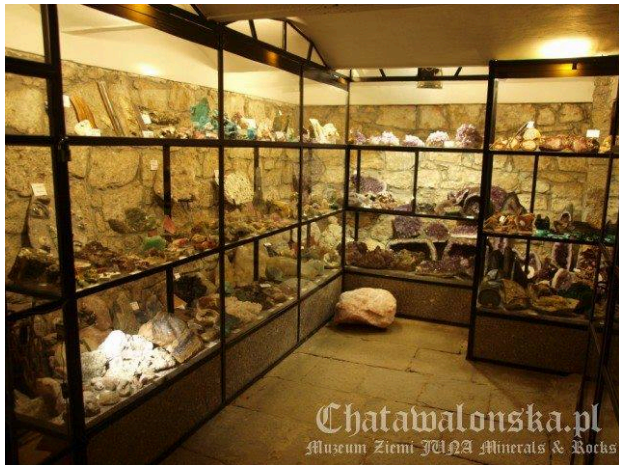
Apr 25-26, Santa Cruz
Civic Auditorium, corner Church St & Center St.
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Juna Museum Fire

In March, Tom Praszki reported that the Juna Museum of Minerals in Szklarska Poręba, southwest Poland, had burned down. The fire started on the second floor at about 3am and ended up destroying large parts of the building and many of the minerals that were displayed and stored in it.

Tom says it was one of the best mineralogical museums in Poland, and the owners were actively involved in all mineral-connected cultural events in the region including Crystal Days in Lwówek Śląski and mindat meetings. Fundraising efforts for rebuilding the museum and restoring the collection have already started. Among others, look for a special charity auction on www.trinityminerals.com sometime soon.

JUNA MUSEUM BEFORE:



AND AFTER:



(T. Praszkiar photos from facebook)