
Bay Area Mineralogists

December 2008

Next meeting: Dec. 10, 2008

7:00 pm

Foothill College

<http://www.baymin.org>



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Please bring in samples from any of these localities and we'll see what interesting stuff surfaces!

As always, we meet in the Geology Lab at Foothill College, 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

See <http://www.baymin.org/Meet/FoothillMap.gif> for a campus map. Bring \$2 for parking.

December Program: "Summer Sojourns with Brian"

Or perhaps "Rockin' the West"? "How I Spent My Summer Vacation"? Many of us find ways to insert a little of our mineralogical obsession into the summer session, and this month Brian Thurston will share a bit of his experiences on that front from earlier this year.

Even without making the BAM trip, Brian certainly got around the western states this year and will provide a geological travelogue of his summer vacation in Utah, Wyoming and Montana. A few collecting localities along the way will include

- Kemmerer, Wyoming
- Gold Hill, Utah
- Bingham, Utah
- Topaz Mountain, Utah
- Butte, Montana
- Crystal Park, Montana
- Helena and other localities in Montana.

Mini BAM Swap Meet

Stan Bogosian proposed something a little different for this Wednesday's upcoming meeting, in the form of a mini-swap meet. Stan suggests "self-collected" as a theme. Bring some good trading material and we'll see how it goes!

November Thank-Yous

Big thank-yous for last month go out to Len Piszkiwicz and the Cisneros.

Len gave us some great recollections of collecting with Craig Stolburg, punctuated with the personally-collected evidence of said adventures. My personal favorites were the fantastic cabinet selenites. (A close second goes to that rockin' shirt Len was sporting in the older pictures....)

Sharon Cisneros brought in a display case of about 70 of her personal Arizona thumbnails,

just for fun – lots of classic localities and pieces to check out. Some great unobtainium in there!

Note on January Program

Slight change of plan for next meeting. Sharon Cisneros was originally going to talk about noted South Bay mineralogist Ed Oyler, but prep has taken a little longer than expected. Instead, we'll continue the summer vacation theme, with David Lowe telling us about his recent visit to South Africa. More details on specific localities to highlight and share in next month's missive.

USGS Presentation, Dec. 18: Peter Modreski, USGS "Gemstone Deposits of the U.S"

This talk is part of the USGS monthly public lecture series, held the last Thursday of every month (more or less). The speaker's title is "USGS Gemstone Specialist" and the flyer suggests he'll cover both commercial and collector localities. His bullet points, lifted from the announcement:

- Gemstones found in the United States include sapphire, opal, tourmaline, aquamarine, turquoise, amethyst, peridot, and many others
- More than a half-dozen states are known for their gemstones, including unusual and exotic varieties such as red beryl, benitoite, and sunstone
- The gem material produced in the U.S. having the greatest overall value, does NOT come from rocks. What is this valuable commodity?
- In how many states have diamonds have been found; which states have produced diamonds commercially?

This lecture will also be posted online within a few days of the event.

Series URL:

<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/>

Thursday, December 18, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
USGS, Conference Room A, Bldg 3,
Menlo Park, California

Directions:

<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/map.html>

Happy Holidays!

By the time this gets to you readers, the joint Crystal Gazers / BAM Holiday party probably will be well underway or an historical footnote. (December 6th in Albany.) Watch for a recap next month.

Here's hoping that it's a great holiday season for you and yours... and as every BAMmie knows, when Santa leaves rocks in your stocking, it's because you've been a good boy or girl!

Letters to the BAM Editor

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