
Bay Area Mineralogists

December 2009

December 9, 2009, 7:00 pm
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.

November Meeting Notes

If it seems like it hasn't been long since we last met, you're right... Veteran's day pushed November's meeting a week later and December's second Wednesday comes up early in the cycle. (Not that that's necessarily a bad thing, with the holiday season thundering closer each day like some Yuletide lahar.) November's meeting was a good one, with plenty of items worthy of note.

Lee McIlvaine provided the main event for the night with his talk on visiting the Langban area of Sweden. With plenty of glowing fluorescent rocks and a photographic travelogue of his visit

to this mineralogical Mecca, it made for an interesting program. I'll make a personal confession, though, that the nugget most likely to stick with me in years to come was hearing how the enterprising Swedes of yore used to lubricate the axles of their waterwheels with the large black slugs found locally... something most any gardener would gleefully appreciate.

A pleasant surprise was the return appearance of Bill Gisler, a BAM member from the distant past. Great to have past members renew their acquaintance, something that will hopefully continue with the switch to the USGS location.

Good news for next year: Gretchen Luepke, BAM's sponsor at the USGS, has signed us up for our standard second Wednesday slot for all of 2010 – no holidays or competing events in the way this year. Thank you Gretchen!

We still need programs (and a program director!) for meetings in upcoming months. Please contact President Spence with your ideas and/or commitment to provide content if you can (bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net).

Dave Lowe and others summarized their recent field trip to the Nightingale district and showed of the various clinozoisite, scheelite, and other skarn-a-licious finds; sounds like there may be interest in a repeat visit at some point. And to whoever dropped it in the middle of the access road: Gary Moss has your roll of toilet paper.

Stan Bogosian is planning to do some Arizona field collecting in the time around the Quartzite/Tucson shows. If you're thinking of heading out

there and might be interested, check with Stan at the meeting.

Rick Kennedy exhibited at what is likely to be the last Costa Mesa show down south; according to his info, it will most likely reincarnate at the Fairplex near Pomona / Claremont as a replacement for the old MSSC show. He also hinted at lots of new benitoite material being etched, soon to appear through his various distribution channels...

Barb Matz showed off the contents of her "Around the World in Eight Micros" box, a snailmail swap organized through mindat.org. She was very pleased with the options that came her way and is planning to drop her contributions in soon and send on to the next in line.

A final note, subsequent to the meeting: as many of you may have heard, Chuck Trantham's son Mike passed away on November 29, from complications following a bout with H1N1 and previous health problems. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Chuck in this difficult time.

December Program: Don Windeler on the Keweenaw Copper District, Michigan

During the middle of the 19th century, Michigan and Ohio squabbled over the position of their mutual border. Ohio eventually got to have Toledo and, as a consolation prize, Michigan received the Upper Peninsula. The northernmost bit, a remote peninsula called the Keweenaw, was eventually found to be the home of some of the richest copper deposits on the globe – throw in the Marquette and associated iron ranges and Michigan came out pretty well in the deal.

For December's program, Don Windeler (aka yours truly) will give a tour of the Keweenaw copper district, its geology and minerals. Much of this comes from firsthand experience from four years as a geological engineering undergrad at Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

There will be a healthy representation of Michigan coppers and associated species from the Keweenaw Peninsula as part of the program

– please bring out some of your favorites to continue the theme.

Silent Auction at December Meeting

Following the monthly program, BAM will run the second of the biannual silent auctions to benefit the club. These have developed into pretty lively events the last year or so – be sure to plan on being there and bringing something to contribute to the auction block!

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 5th 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!

Upcoming Shows

December 5

Bay Area Mini-Show:
Miner's Lunchbox, Marin Mineral,
Earth's Treasures, Dan Kennedy
Woodfin Suites Hotel, Sierra Room
5800 Shellmound St, Emeryville
11am to 5pm

Letters to the BAM Editor

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