
Bay Area Mineralogists

December 2012

December 12, 2012, 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.

December Program: "BAM at MinDat Morocco!"

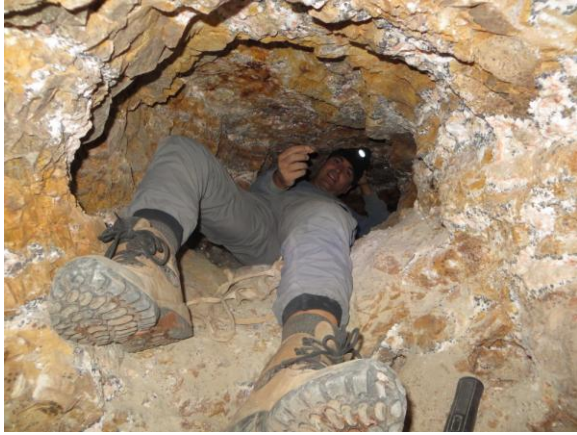
In the final days of October, BAM members Dave and Kris Lowe, John Magnasco, Barb Matz, Pu Tzu, and Don Windeler joined 100+ other mineral enthusiasts in Morocco for two weeks' worth of the 2nd MinDat Conference and field trips. Now all back in California – with the exception of the still-wandering Pu Tzu! – it's time for a little recap and group therapy. This month's program will be a collaborative effort between Barb, Dave, Don, Kris and John sharing photos and stories from the 12+ days of the conference. (And in some cases the journey there and back...)

The conference began in Marrakesh with some sight-seeing and a visit to the Sidi Rahal agate locality. After a drive through the High Atlas Mountains to Ourzazate, the group spent a day in Bou Azzer. En route to the conference site in Midelt, there were stops at fossil localities, Taouz, and the Erg Chebbi dune field. The rest of the trip was based in Midelt, with the conference covering three days of presentations free time. That was followed by more field trips to Mibladen and Aouli / Sidi Ayed before everyone began their treks back home.



BAM represents! Don & John on the hoof at Erg Chebbi (D. Windeler photo)

For a quick view of the venue and the conference participants, check out the MinDat Photo of the Day for November 13: <http://www.mindat.org/photo-497192.html>. All six of the BAM crew are pictured, though it may take a sharp eye to pick everyone out.



Mark Mauthner digging for cerussite underground in Mibladen (D. Windeler photo)



On the "road" to Aouli (D. Windeler photo)

Weather was a real wild card, with Superstorm Sandy in the US on the front end and rain and snow in the Atlas Mountains on the way back. Always fun to pack for hot and cold extremes just a few days apart!



The trip out of Midelt – not your stereotypical Moroccan scenery! (D. Windeler photo)

Buses, Berbers, and Bou Azzer, camels and cerussites, Taouz, trilobites and toilet trucks, vodka and vanadinites, Yasmina and "yalla yalla!" ... plenty of stories to be told. Come join us for what's sure to be an entertaining wrap up, with lots of Moroccan rocks both picked up and silver-picked!

Reminder: January Mtg. on 1/16

Yes, it was mentioned last month, and yes, it'll be flogged again in next month's newsletter – but just to make sure no one shows up a week early, the January meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, the 16th. Alfredo Petrov will be swooping in to talk with us, the subject of which will be more fully articulated in the aforementioned January newsrag. Same time of day, same location, just a different week. Should be a fun Tucson warm-up!

Happy Holidays!

As it has the past few years, this notice coincides with the final run-up to the Crystal Gazers / BAM Holiday party in Albany. – December 8th for this annum's edition. Hope many of you take the chance to celebrate with friends old and new and enjoy a little time with fellow mineral-crazy humans.

Best wishes for 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 8
Bay Area Mini-Show:
Miner's Lunchbox, Marin Mineral, Earth's Treasures, Trinity Minerals & private collector Dan Kennedy
Hyatt House Hotel
5800 Shellmound St, Emeryville
12pm to 6pm

Letters to the BAM Editor

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