
Bay Area Mineralogists December 2014

Meeting: December 10, 2014, 7:00 pm
USGS, Building 3, Room 3-237
345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

<http://www.baymin.org>



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The Bay Area Mineralogists meet on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year, at the USGS in Menlo Park. The campus map (<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>) shows our room in Building 3 on the second floor, where the map says "Conference Room." Note that the front doors are locked and you will have to come up the stairs on the Middlefield Road side of the building. Parking is free.



Jean in action, Mahaiza village, Madagascar.

December 10 Program: Madagascar Tour by Barb Matz

In June 2014 member Barb Matz journeyed through Madagascar on a trip organized by Tom Prazkier (Spirifer Minerals) and mindat.org. Her fellow travelers included BAM members Leslie Gordon, Jean Lee, PuTzu, and Bob Kozak.

Madagascar is world-renowned for its rich gemstone deposits as well as its unique wildlife. Our members explored the country for 16 days with a group of gem and mineral collectors from around the world. At the December 10 meeting, Barb will share the adventure with us, including fantastic scenery, gemstone mines, glimpses of wildlife, and scenes of life on the island nation. You'll enjoy this travelogue, so be sure to attend!

Barb did not acquire any spectacular specimens, so please help with show and tell if you have some Madagascar material to show off.



Leslie with new friends at the gold field near Ambositra.



Bob on the ferry to Belo Tsiribihina.



PuTzu on the hunt, Manjaca pegmatite

Sutter's Mill Meteorite

In April 2012, a meteorite streaked across the western Nevada sky before falling to earth near Sutter's Mill CA. Scientists studying the meteorite's fragments recently reported finding two small diamond grains, each about 10 microns in size. While microdiamonds frequently occur in meteorites, they are usually in the nanometer size range, not the relative "lunkers" that these two are.

In case you're curious, the Sutter's Mill Meteorite Consortium website (<http://asima.seti.org/sm/>) provides details of the occurrence and lists the discoverers of 78 fragments, along with a map showing where pieces of the meteorite were found. At least 54 teams of scientists are studying various bits of this space traveler! And - in case you have always wondered about this - the web site provides detailed instructions on how to preserve any meteorites you may find (and, of course, encourages you to donate your find for research).

Upcoming Events

Jan 30-31, 2015, Redlands CA
50th Pacific Micromount Symposium
San Bernardino County Museum
www.mineralsocal.org/micro/pmc.htm

Jan 29-Feb 15, Tucson AZ; 37 shows, including:
Jan 31-Feb 15, Tucson City Center/InnSuites
Feb 6-9, Westward Look Fine Minerals Show
Feb 12-15, TGMS: *Minerals of Western Europe*

Pacific Micromount Symposium

It's not too early to think about attending this excellent event in Redlands next January. To possibly whet your appetite, here are the talks listed in the meeting announcement:

- "The Thallium, Arsenic and Silver Minerals of Jas Roux in the French Alps - a Getchell-like Assemblage" by Georges Favreau
- "Minerals of the Blue Lizard Mine and other Western Localities" by Joe Marty
- "Some Other Mineral Localities in Inyo County, CA" by Paul Adams
- Other contributed talks

There will also be a give-away table, sales table (\$1 specimens), and a mineral auction, followed by a field trip on Sunday (Feb 1) led by Bob Housley. Several BAM members are regulars at this gathering.

Think you have Too Much Stuff?

In the Nov 2014 *Mineral News*, Tony Nikischer (Excalibur Mineral Corp.) reports that they are nearly unpacked from their move to Virginia last year - just under 800 crates* to go from the shipment that filled five semi trailers! (*average of 4 flats per crate - you can do the math!)

And Finally...

Member contributions or suggestions for this newsletter are always appreciated! Send content, incriminating photos, suggestions, or feedback to me at matz.barb@gmail.com.