



# Bay Area Mineralogists December 2016



Meeting: Wednesday, Dec 14, 2016; 7 pm  
USGS, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park  
Building 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Rm 3-237

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The Bay Area Mineralogists meet monthly during the school year, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, at the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, on the second floor of Building 3, where the campus map says "Rambo Auditorium."

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

The front doors will be locked so you'll have to come up the exterior stairs on the Middlefield Road side of the building. Parking is free.

## December Program

### Sri Lanka – Gem Mining, Culture and Heat Treatment Methods / Sapphires – From Mine to Market

*By Sheahan Stephen*



To visit Sri Lanka is to experience one of the great gem sources and trading centers in the

world. The unity between the cultural, social and historical influences of Sri Lanka and the amazing gemstones it produces, creates an intricate economy. Sheahan Stephen will share his first-hand experiences in the gem trade and Sri Lanka and also discuss different types of mining and mining culture as well as history, heat treatment processes and gem pricing.



*7.18 ct. Ceylon Sapphire and 12.18 ct. unheated yellow Sapphire from AGTA Member, Sheahan Stephen Sapphires. (#AGTAGemFaire16)*

Sheahan founded his business, Sheahan Stephen Sapphires [on Post Street in SF], in 2006 and started working directly with the sapphire miners in Sri Lanka. He gained in-depth knowledge and learned all facets of the sapphire business, from mining and rough purchasing to thermal treatment and cutting. He expanded his knowledge of export and distribution and moved into the gem business as a merchant. Sheahan keeps up-to-date on political, economic and cultural matters in Sri Lanka, ensuring fair trade between the miners and merchants. He travels to Sri Lanka several times a year to meet with miners at the source.

## Show & Tell

The obvious Show and Tell at the December meeting would be to bring your favorite corundum specimens. We are also interested in seeing the specimens proposed by members for inclusion in the MinRec supplement, as well as any good stuff you recently collected, as usual.

## BAM & MinRec “Collections in California” Issue

To reiterate information from the November newsletter and meeting, the Mineralogical Record will publish a “Mineral Collections of California” supplement in 2017 and BAM is planning to have a section of photos from participating members, one per participant. You are encouraged to submit something you collected personally, but you could also show a purchased specimen that represents you.

Don Windeler is organizing the club submission and would like to hear from those of you who are interested in participating. If you want to take part, you'll need to provide a high-resolution, professional photo\* of your specimen and description of same, along with payment of the shared page charges, specific amount TBD but estimated at \$150-\$180/person.

Don's target is to have all content compiled for submission by mid-February, well in advance of MinRec's final deadline of April 1, 2017, and compatible with his work schedule! Contact Don if you have questions or are interested in participating ([don.windeler@rms.com](mailto:don.windeler@rms.com)).

### \*Mineral Specimen Photography Offer

Ron Wolf has generously offered to provide free photography for those who don't already have access to same. He can handle thumbnails (~1”) and up, but is not currently set up for photomicrography.

Ron will be bringing his photo gear to the December meeting and photographing specimens for BAM members. Anyone who needs high-resolution images is welcome to bring a few specimens. He'll set up and shoot before the meeting, starting when the doors open at 6 p.m., then continue for a while after the meeting.

Although all BAM members are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity, we'd like to give priority to anyone with specimens under consideration for the MinRec supplement next year. Please send him a note ([ronwolf@eyeonnature.com](mailto:ronwolf@eyeonnature.com)) if you'll be bringing specimens, so we don't schedule more than he can handle this month.

Ron has temporarily posted BAM photos that he has taken so far on a web page where members can get a look at how this project is shaping up. See the URL in the meeting announcement email. Here are a couple of favorites:



## Got Swarf?

We've seen the mining and mineral processing equipment that Ted Hadley has been making lately, and some of us have purchased a piece or two (or three). Now Ted has taken the next step and gone online with his products. Check out the web site at: [www.swarfsystems.com](http://www.swarfsystems.com)!



*This is not wire silver – it's swarf\*!  
(\*fine chips or filings of stone, metal, or other material produced by a machining operation.)*

## Upcoming Events

### December 11, San Francisco CA

Free Admission for anyone at California Academy of Science – a good chance to see the new mineral exhibit if you haven't already. Early arrival is recommended on free days!

[www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org)

### January 27-29, Redlands CA

52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pacific Micromount Conference  
San Bernardino County Museum,  
2024 Orange Tree Lane

Hours: Friday 3-8 pm; Saturday 8 am – 8 pm;

Sunday field trip to location TBD

Cost: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Giveaway and \$1 sales tables, and auctions.

<http://www.mineralsocal.org/micro/2017-PMC.pdf>

## BAY AREA MINERALOGISTS INFILTRATE MYANMAR!

*BAM members Barb Matz, Suzanne Ekwall, Leslie Gordon, Bob Kozak, PuTzu, John Magnasco, and Jean Lee traveled to Myanmar for the 4<sup>th</sup> Mindat Conference in November. Here they are at the Golden Butterfly Hotel in Mogok.*

