

Special Tucson 2007 issue!

Bay Area Mineralogists

February 2007 Newsletter

Next meeting: Mar. 14th, 2007

8:00 PM, Room P-24

Foothill College, Los Altos, California

<http://www.baymin.org>

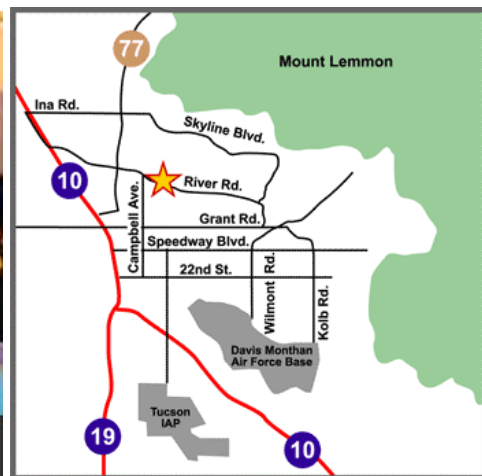


BAM is an eclectic group of mineral enthusiasts who gather to promote and share their interests in advanced mineralogy and mineral collecting. Membership is open to individuals with various levels of experience in mineralogy. The roster includes amateur mineralogists and professionals from organizations including the United States Geological Survey, the California Division of Mines and Geology, local universities and colleges, research laboratories and institutes, museums and mining companies, well-known mineral dealers, notable private mineral collectors and accomplished field collectors.

BAM Dinner in Tucson at El Corral

Please RSVP to: John Magnasco @ (408) 838-9186

A bunch of us are planning to get together for swap stories about what we've found at Tucson, what new minerals are being shown, who has what and where, and to enjoy a good steak dinner at El Corral. Please join us at **7:30 P.M. on Saturday night, February 3rd**. Just try to let me know by Friday evening if you would like to join us. We have a table for 10, but the folks at El Corral said "the more the merrier," so just let me know. Hope to see you there!



Take Fort Lowell Rd or Grant Rd west to Campbell Ave, and then take Campbell Ave north until River Rd, turn eastbound on River Rd, El Corral is located less than a mile down on the north side of River Rd at **2201 E. River Road**. See their website for menu and more details: <http://www.elcorraltucson.com/>

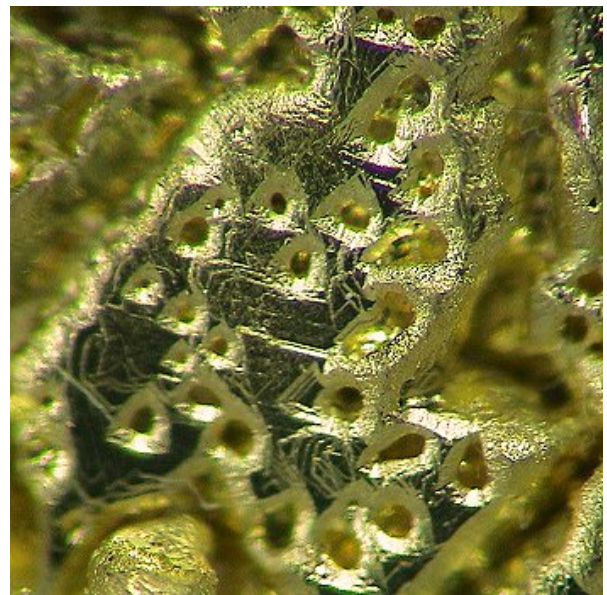
Tucson 2007 links and news

Check out Justin Butt's rundown of the upcoming Westward Look Show at <http://www.the-vug.com/vug/westwardlookshow.html>

The Tucson Show guide online is full of information and available at: http://www.tucsonshowguide.com/tsg/show_index.cfm

TGMS has published the list of lecturer's at this year's show at <http://www.tgms.org/07lectures.pdf>

John Veevaert's Show reports are always a great insight into what's happening at the Tucson show. Check them out at: <http://www.trinityminerals.com/tucson2007/specials.shtml>



Close-up photos taken by John Veevaert of some Round Mountain, NV Gold picked up by Scott Werschky of Miner's Lunchbox and available on John's site at: <http://www.trinityminerals.com/tucson2007/specials.shtml>

München 2006: Masterpieces and passions in pink but where is the beer?

by Claus Hedegaard Claus@Hedegaard.com

Mineralientage München 2006 was an interesting and invigorating show – as its predecessors you might say, yet with its own, distinct flavour. And lack of, but that's another story. The Keilmann family, organizers of Mineralientage München always emphasize making a fantastic special exhibit. I have said it before and will say it again: It is worth going to München just to see the show. This year's exhibit did not have a theme as such but showed mineral 'masterpieces' from the collection of the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Refreshing and different, more later. Early Autumn in München is always a culinary delight – the usual plethora of roast duck,

Saurbraten, Apfelstrudel, Hirschgulasch and Spätzle had to surrender on my plate, but something was missing. Going for the mineral show I often stay a day or two extra in München and sometimes allow myself the luxury (time-wise) to take lunch at Viktualienmarkt on Saturday and to enjoy a cup of first-flush Darjeeling with Alois Dallmeyer near Marienplatz. If you have not been to Alois Dallmeyer's shop, you have so much *not* been to München and missed out on more fine food than you could ever dream of. Forgive me, I digress.

The München buzz was about the fabulous pink Fluorite specimens offered by Riccardo Prato. These were recent specimens from Chukar Bakor (Nagar, Pakistan), collected September 2006, of pink, octahedral Fluorite crystals on a matrix with tabular Muscovite crystals. The crystals were to about 15 cm on edge, though specimens with smaller (4-6 cm) crystals in my view were more aesthetic. The small crystals are very sharp with smooth faces, whereas the larger tend to have slightly rounded edges and a few steps on the faces. The colour is a saturated pink and I perceived it as a touch more purplish, less yellow than pink Fluorite from the Alps – we are not talking colour, we talk hints of a shade! Fortunately the specimens had not been molested terribly by cleaning and the Muscovite crystals were fairly well preserved. Regrettably the blessings of hydrofluoric acid have penetrated deep into the bush and unskilled hands ruin many wonderful specimens. These wonderful specimens somehow escaped. Exhilarated I refreshed myself at a nearby watering hole – fortunately the facilities allow many small cafés, snack bars, candy carts, etc. and you are never far from fulfilling the basic culinary need (calories!).



Pink Fluorite, Chukar Bakor, Pakistan, ~9cm, Riccardo Prato Specimen

The duo behind Namibia Minerals brought excellent Villiaumite crystals from the Aris Phonolite Quarry (Windhoek District, Khomas Region, Namibia). In my view they are at least as interesting as the Fluorite, though the largest are only 1.5 cm. We have gotten used to see Villiaumite from a few deposits but crystals are few and far between. Petersen (1981) described the first Villiaumite crystals from Kvanefjeld (Ilímaussaq alkaline Intrusion, Grønland), which were only 0.1-0.4 mm, occurring in one small

druse only. The market has not been really flooded by Villiaumite crystals since – I have seen a couple of mediocre pieces from Kvanefjeld, Point of Rocks (Colfax Co., New Mexico, USA) and a few from Aris. 5-15 mm free-standing crystals in pockets are far better than anything else (except that single Aris specimen appearing in München two years ago). Villiaumite is a 'simple' cubic mineral, capable of producing many forms in crystals, but I believe the new Aris specimens are dominated by a combination of cube and octahedron. The colour is an unusual, reddish orange, not unlike what you would expect from a Spessartine.



Villiaumite, Aris Phonolite, Namibia, xl ~1cm, Namibia Minerals Specimen

My pre-Villiaumite snack had left me wanting, but I did not quite know for what. Something was distinctly missing but I could not put my finger on it and went on. All in all this was a good show with many new finds and spectacular specimens of old classics. Jordi Fabre of Fabre Minerals had several interesting, Brazilian phosphates including 8-12 mm Reddingite crystals, richly covering matrix, associated by 6-8 mm Hureaulite crystals. The Reddingite is cold tea coloured to cinnamon and the Hureaulite dusty pink and the specimens were collected April or May 2006 in the Cigana Mine (used to be João Mine) (Galiléa, Minas Gerais, Brasil). The Hureaulite is OK but the Reddingite is spectacular – interesting that the dull part is 'spectacular' and the bright, colourful isn't. Jordi also had a few pieces with brownish, Mn-rich Childrenite crystals to 25 mm from Lavra do Poço (Taquaral, Minas Gerais, Brasil).

To round off his *tour de force* of Brazilian phosphates, Jordi had brought partly resorbed, blue Topaz crystals from Mina Teixeira (Itinga, Minas Gerais), carrying cinnamon-coloured crusts of 'crud'. The crud is composed of tiny, greasy

crystals of a Zanazziite and Roscherite intermediate – no, this won't move the World, but mineralogy is only fun because of what it does inside our head and surprises are always good for a bit of mental gymnastics.



Reddingite & Hureaulite, Cigana Mine, MG, Brazil, Fabre Minerals Specimen

Strolling, mineralogically fulfilled, from Jordi's booth to a nearby refreshment – this was the sekt-and-overpriced-mediocre-coffee-pay-a-deposit-for-your-cup-and-wait-in-line-to-get-it-back coffee shop at the 'Mineral Pavillon', where most dealers with superb specimens hang out – I passed a real show stopper with Udo Hörig. That was a cut piece of Charoite from the Murun Massif (Yakutia, Siberia), measuring about one meter across, whose swirling purple generously imbedded amber-coloured Tinaksite crystals, greenish-grey blebs of Frankamenite and the usual amphiboles and other critters. The specimen is evidently intended either as a decorator piece or as cutting rough, but I still remember when collectors of rare minerals ran around to get micromounts of these minerals. This specimen increases the concept of rare species by two orders of magnitude, literally!



Udo Hörig pointing at the cut & polished Charoite, Murun Massif, Siberia

No mineral show would be complete without Chinese dealers and this year, Mineralientage München hosted more than ever and they still bring interesting, new finds. You will often see more, excellent, reasonably priced specimens from China than from anywhere else – you will also see many outrageously priced, perfectly irrelevant pieces! – and more new material too. I was thrilled to see the spherulitic Fluorite from Dongjiang in Inner Mongolia with smooth 6-10 cm globs on matrix. The lustre is greasy, a bit to the dull side and the colour is greyish blue to greenish. The Fluorite globs are radiating aggregates of fairly coarse rods, about 5-8 mm thick at the exterior of the globs.

At the show I heard of Babingtonite crystals on Prehnite from Da Liang Shan (Sichuan Province, China) but never saw them myself, but I did see Epidote crystals (dark green, to 6-8 mm) on matrix of Quartz crystals to 8 cm with pink Prehnite. The Epidote crystals are well-shaped, often double-terminated and tend to occur in clusters. The Quartz crystals are really excellent – not fantastic, knock your socks off, but choice and better value than most commercially available Quartz – being sharp without too much striation and small 'parasite' crystals, lustrous and transparent to somewhat milky. The Prehnite was sold for 'pink' but that is reaching ... the pieces I saw were not even close to the globular aggregates from Obřidul (Krkonoše Mts., Böhmen, Czech Republic), which are not really vivid. Most of the new Chinese specimens are an unsaturated, cinnamon but some are faintly pinkish – if it was Rose Quartz, you would not pick it up – but hey, any non-green, non-white Prehnite is a novelty.

Vesuvianite crystals from Da Ye (Hubei Province) were new to me. The crystals are about 1 cm, lustrous, idiomorphic, imbedded in a dense, fine-grained grey matrix. I am not good at petrology and can not tell which kind of matrix it is, but Vesuvianite often occurs in metamorphic, calc-silicic contacts, but the vendors said the material comes from a copper mine – they are unusual in metamorphic, calc-silicic contacts, but who says one can not occur next to the other? Most specimens have an intermediate green crust – think ho-hum Malachite – which would go well with the 'copper mine' explanation, but I did not like the fact that the green material only occurs on the outside of the matrix with lustrous Vesuvianite crystals sticking through. Sawn samples clearly showed a thick (0.5-1 mm) green coating on the

outside and absolutely no green in the interior. I am not certain whether this is a cleaning attempt that went terribly wrong or means the boulders were collected from a dump at a copper mine. Time will tell.

By now I needed that beer ... beer? Beer!!! THAT is what was missing! Being in München without immediate access to beer is like being in London without Indian curries. The past few years, ever since the Mineralientage moved to the new fair grounds, one of the halls had a substantial and diverse restaurant in a corner. They offered cold and hot foods, fresh sandwiches, traditional Bavarian fare, palatable pastries, coffee, tea, soft drinks and evidently a choice off beer. You would never beer more than four minutes' walk from a chilled Weißbier (chilled, not cold, perish the thought!) ... it was all organic too and given the setting, an international trade fair, reasonably priced. On top of that, service was swift, courteous and you'd get your deposit back in about 5-10 seconds, no line. Suddenly I realised the pride of the organizers – "this year more than 1,000 exhibitors" – came at the expensive of the replacing the 200 seat organic Bavarian restaurant, serving a range of beer, with a three-person sushi bar serving green tea! Not bad sushi, don't get me wrong, but when I travel, I like to eat with the locals and somehow I never made the connection between München and Sushi/Cappuccino. Admittedly, diligent inquiry brought me to a Bavarian style place in the corner of an adjacent hall, which did serve beer – and no sushi! True, beer was available elsewhere too, I just long for the old days – easy beer access, friendly service, rare minerals, etc.



A view of the main Mineral Hall without the crowds, photo by D. Nitschke

Duly refreshed I continued my search for unusual and new material and came across Gunnar Färber, who offered Falcondoite from Loma Peguera (Bonao, Dominican Republic). This is a good 'x' to get if you collect Sepiolite-group minerals. Jürgen Tron had a few of the recent, two-coloured Beryl crystals from the Erongo Complex. They are standard-issue Aquamarine at the base but heavily included, curry-coloured in the upper half of the crystals, which are well-shaped, lustrous, simple, hexagonal prisms. This is weird and should make any crystallographer wonder – the colour/inclusion pattern is distinctly hemimorphic and the separation of the two colours is sharp. Jürgen also had a piece of pink Apophyllite crystals around 8 mm on a 5 cm Anhydrite crystal from Naica (Mexico). Several dealers had very good wire Silver on matrix from Imiter (Morocco), heavy coatings of curly wires to 2 mm thickness and a couple of centimeter long on a black (Arsenic?) matrix. The specimens are heavily etched and I believe they have been etched from Calcite. A few dealers had Shigaite specimens from the recent find in N'Chwaning II at Kuruman (Kalahari Manganese Field, Northern Cape Province, South Africa), which has produced the World's largest Shigaite crystals to 2 cm length, often thick and blocky too (see Steinbinder, 2006).

The atmosphere at the show was quite pleasant this year. Practically no visitors were smoking and even many dealers went out to take a whiff – thank you to you all, you made it far more pleasant to be there. It seems as if a few older Germans and an occasional Latin dealer are not inclined to extend this curtesy. Smokers are, after all, just humans too – just not for as long! On my way to the collectors' exhibits I passed the *wellness* area – yes my friend, your neatly arranged plastic boxes with tiny chips of rare minerals have been replaced by *wellness*, the new buzz word of the modern leisure industry. I did not spend much time but saw a diverse crowd – for Heaven's sake, these people will do perfectly unspeakable things to and *with* minerals! This is a new trend and we should welcome anybody appreciating minerals as it keeps the wheels turning, promoting minerals and fossils as merchandise and ultimately leaving a niche for the ever shrinking crowd of mineralogical Luddites as yours truly, actually appreciating minerals for what they are, not what they supposedly do, where they come from, not where you can put them, as Nature's statement not as a crutch for a

philosophy. Strange as it may sound, the *wellness area* and the *Mineral Pavilion* are two flavours of the same trend of the modern Mineralientage: An increased fragmentation and specialisation. The organisers seem to increasingly make specialised sectors, catering to visitors of different inclination – wellness, high-ticket mineral specimens, jewellery, etc. – which facilitates visits for specialists but will also be the bane of classic ‘rock shop’ dealers with a wide selection of merchandise. Yes, there are still dealers who offer even excellent minerals, fossils AND jewellery – where do they go with increased specialisation? It will be interesting to see what the future holds.

I always enjoy seeing the *Sammlervitrinen* – Collectors’ Cases’ – at Mineralientage München, where you get a chance to see things that are usually out of reach. This feature is in the capable hands of Gerhard Voges, who manages to accommodate forty individualists at the same time, while cleaning windows, mounting boards, get an extra table, etc. He is one of the many ‘invisible’ hands that make Mineralientage München materialize. The displays evidently contain excellent specimens but also show the soul of collectors, often with a sense of self-depreciating humour, sometimes with deep insight into a topic or a locality. Alfred Kugler brought a case of ‘animals’ in stones: A septarian nodule with a pocket, shaped like a flying Pegasus, a Chalcedony ‘dinosaur’, etc. The case was entitled *Nicht nur Eulen* (Not just owls) in reference and reverence, I am sure, to last year’s display of the Hooded Owl Agate.

Josef Penzkofer had a case with epitactic growth and twin crystals that was informative and showed some exquisite specimens. I also enjoyed Bernhard Mattern’s case with pseudomorphs. Note, this was not just box stuffed with “My-ladyslipper-is-better-than-your-ladyslipper” specimens but a thorough presentation of different kinds of specimens, which have been designated pseudomorphs, including perimorphs, casts, paramorphs, etc. with explanatory text. Well done!

Having refreshed myself with the re-found Paulaner Weißbier, I was ready for the *grande finale*, the show in the show – the special exhibit, which is a major attraction and reason not to miss the Mineralientage. Just to appease puritan readers: No, I am not bar hopping at the show, glancing at rocks with a beer in hand – beautiful as it may be. Mineralientage München is about a

three-day event and I always enjoy the local specialties when traveling. The special exhibit at Mineralientage is traditionally thematic – about a mineral, group of fossils, locality, etc. This year it was not, except if aesthetics is a theme ... If it was, this year’s event was imminently successful. The core of the exhibit was the collection of Houston Museum of Natural Science, which is an aesthetic rather than a ‘scientific’ museum. They view minerals as aesthetic displays, like art, and seek ‘the one hundred best.’ Rather than collecting one or two paintings by every artist, they collect masterpieces by Tizian, de la Tour, Vermeer, etc. to stay in that line of explanation. They have collected some of the World’s finest, aesthetic mineral specimens among the maybe two or three hundred species capable of producing aesthetic specimens. They do not have a Shigaite, they do not need one and will never get one. It is an interesting way to collect and the aesthetic impact was tremendous.



Twinned **Geocronite** xls., Xanda Mine, MG, Brazil, Houston Mus. of Nat. Science

I found friends immediately! Sulphides are the World’s most interesting minerals and the display included a couple of stunning specimens. My favorite was an app. 8 cm Geocronite twin from Xanda Mine (Virgem de Lapa, Minas Gerais, Brazil). You’ll be forgiven if you never heard of it – it is a lead antimony/arsenic sulphide, mostly known as inconspicuous blebs in rock. This twin is not just undamaged and of a fairly rare mineral but also highly aesthetic – wow, had to go back several times! Their Sperryllite specimen from Noril’sk (Krasnoyarsk Krai, Siberia, Russia) with parallel grown, about 1 cm crystals was a

pertinent reminder of Josef Penzkofer's case on epitaxy and twins. The crystals are evidently 'individual' but grow in a highly organised fashion – parallel – and must have a 'common origin'. That may be as overgrowth on a pre-existing crystal, though you would not use the term epitaxy to describe a crystal growing on another of the same mineral, it is the same phenomenon. Alternatively the crystals may have grown oriented on another mineral, that is, by true epitaxy. Parallel growth is *weird* and far more common than you'd think. Rummage through your collection, particularly the less-accomplished specimens with many, not so wonderful crystals. You will often see many crystals growing 'parallel', that is having the same orientation of crystallographic axes, even if they grow separately on matrix. Something is going on; I don't know what it is, but *something* is going on!



Oriented **Sperryllite** xls., Noril'sk, Siberia, Houston Museum of Natural Science

The star of the show? The stars of the show were certainly the two superb Beryl var. Emerald specimens. One is the fantastic 17 cm crystal on matrix from near Hiddenite (Alexander Co., North Carolina, USA) in the collection of Houston Museum of Natural History, the other the huge (40 cm?) plate of micaceous schist from Takowaja (Ural, Russia) in the collection of Museum Reich der Kristalle in München. I've seen both before but mineral shows are such great places to meet old friends! The specimen from Hiddenite is in my view one of the World's most aesthetic mineral specimens, precious yet simple, balanced but a bit ... mocking? A superb specimen from a well-known and supposedly over-collected area. The

Takowaja specimen is one of the few, remaining specimens from the collection of Duke Maximilian von Leuchtenberg. Leuchtenberg was an envoy to the Russian court and formed the finest collection of Russian minerals in the late 18th Century. The collection was kept by the museum in München, which was destroyed by bombing in World War II. Only few specimens survived the fire in a recognisable state.



40cm plate of **Beryl** var. **Emerald**, Takowaja, Urals, Houston Mus. of Nat. Science

The masterpieces exhibit was quite a mouthful. I made many new friends in those cases and had to visit several times to grasp it all. Mineralientage München is a total immersion experience – no, I am not making a plea for *Badebier!* – and you necessarily return home overwhelmed, enlightened, thrilled and reasonably fed. Next year's special exhibit will on Himalayan Minerals – think Pakistan and Afghanistan, hope for Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal and a whiff of India. Bring your own beer, though.

References

- Petersen, Ole V. (1981) The first natural crystals of NaF, Villiaumite. Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie, Monatshefte 1981(3), 111-116.
- Steinbinder, Jürgen (2006) Neuigkeiten aus Südafrika. Kalahari-Mangan-Erzfelder liefern wieder schöne Stufen. Mineralien Welt, 17(6), 46-49.

Upcoming Events of Mineralogical Interest

TUCSON!

Jan 27- Feb 11

Jan 27- Feb 10

Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show Martin Zinn Expositions; five locations: The InnSuites Hotel, 475 N. Granada; The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; Clarion Hotel - Randolph Park, 102 N. Alvernon Way; Quality Inn, 1025 E. Benson Hwy.; Ramada Limited, 665 N. Freeway; 10-6 daily, 10-5 last day; free admission; more than 400 international dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artist Gallery at InnSuites Hotel; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail: MZ0955@aol.com; Web site:

<http://www.mzexpos.com/arizona.htm>

Jan 31- Feb 5

2007 AGTA GemFair™ Tucson Tucson Convention Center, 260 South Church, Tucson, Arizona 85701 (Main Entrance Off Granada)

<http://www.agta.org/consumer/tradeshows/gemfairtucson.htm>

Show Dates and Hours

GemHall & Galleria	January 31 - February 4	10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
GemHall & Galleria	February 5	10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.
GemHall II & Designer Pavilion	January 31 - February 4	10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.

Feb 2 - Feb 6

Tucson Westward Look Mineral Show Westward Look Resort

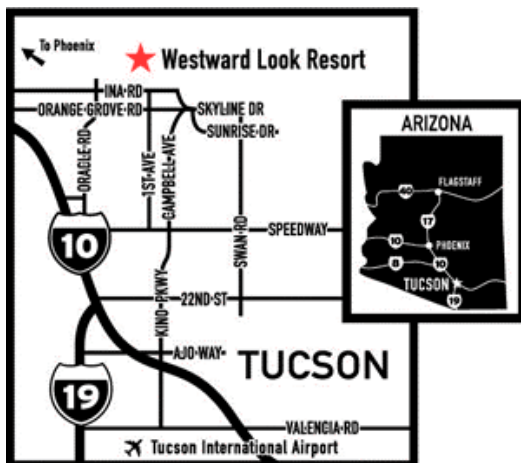
A Half-Mile East of Oracle Rd.
245 E. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704; (520) 297-1151

Web site www.westwardminerals.com

Dates: February 2-6, 2007

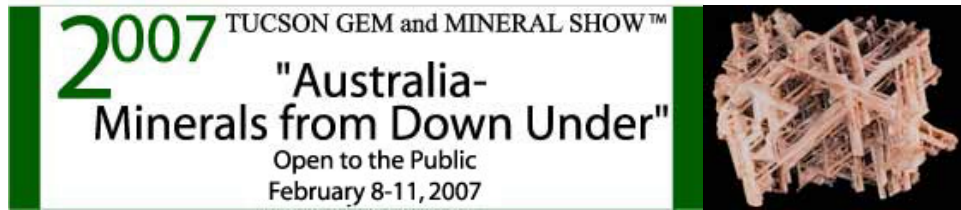
Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

<http://www.tucsonshowguide.com/tsg/shows/westwardlook.cfm>



Feb 8 - Feb 11

Tucson Gem & Mineral Show Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church, Phone 520-791-4101. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday - Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday <http://www.tgms.org/>



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Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month during the academic year (Sept → June) with the exception of each February, which is left free for those making their way to Tucson. The location is Foothill College, Room P-24, Geology Building, Los Altos Hills, California. 8-10pm. Take Interstate 280 North from San Jose toward San Francisco to the El Monte exit and head west.

Sign-up Sheet

We **still** need volunteers to fill the spots → **In case you couldn't tell; the cells that are empty are the ones that you can volunteer to fill!!!**

Month	Newsletter	Program	Snacks	Field Trip
September	Dan Evanich BAM Nevada Trip	Dan Evanich Majuba video	John Magnasco	Dan Evanich BAM Nevada Trip
October	Various	BLM on Clear Creek Mgmt Area	Rick Kennedy	Clear Creek and/or Big Creek Trip 10/21-22
November	None	None	None	None
December	Various	Winter Silent Auction	Dan – drinks Lenny - snacks	Benitoite Mine
January	Various	Lee McIlvaine Greenland	???	Benitoite Mine 13-January-2007
February	Tucson Special	El Corral Dinner 3-Feb @ 7:30 PM	NA	Tucson Shows
March		Tucson Show Report		
April		John Sulzbach's Brazil Mineral Trips		
May				
June				