

# 2007! Happy New Year!



## Bay Area Mineralogists

### January 2006 Newsletter

Next meeting: Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

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.

## January Meeting Agenda

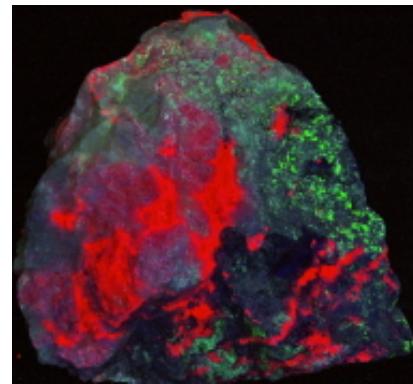
One of our newest BAM members, Lee McIlvaine, has graciously offered to enlighten us on the minerals of Greenland. Lee will present **GREENLAND: The Coldest and Oldest Rocks on Earth**. Lee writes, "During the summer of 2002, I had the rare opportunity to travel to southwest Greenland and collect fluorescent minerals in the Ilmaussaq complex. The mineral specimens that I collected made this trip well worth the journey and left me with the desire to return, which I did in 2004 and 2005. The rare mineral tugtupite is found there and it is the only source in the world for deep pink to red, lapidary quality tugtupite. The fluorescent response of tugtupite to shortwave ultraviolet is an equally as beautiful crimson-red which makes tugtupite highly sought after by fluorescent mineral collectors such as myself. My talk will share with you my hunt for tugtupite and other minerals."



Tugtupite xls. to nearly 1 cm



Lee splitting syenite rocks atop Taseq

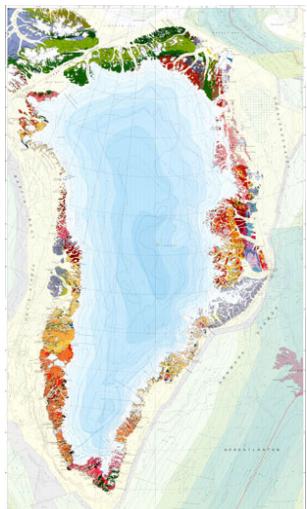


Sodalite, Tugtupite & more (6"x6")

All photos above courtesy of MinerShop & GeoAdventure Tours of Greenland [www.MinerShop.com](http://www.MinerShop.com)

## Some facts about Greenland and where to look for more info

by Lee McIlvaine [uvgeologist@yahoo.com](mailto:uvgeologist@yahoo.com) (references by John Magnasco)



Greenland is the largest island on earth, more than three times the size of Texas, and is comprised of rocks that span all periods of the geologic time scale. The oldest known rocks on earth are from Greenland and were dated at 3.8 billion years old. At present, over 80 percent of the Greenland landmass is covered by an inland ice sheet severely limiting access to the geology which lies below up to 10,000 feet of glacial ice. However, this same glacial ice was responsible for carving the fjords and eroding the landscape to provide exposure to some of the unique geology of Greenland. Access to the geology of these non-ice covered coastal regions is limited to the brief summer months.

In southern Greenland, a series of intrusions about 1.2 billion years ago formed a region of major alkaline igneous complexes. The Illemaussaq complex, approximately 7 miles northeast of the town of Narsaq, represents the most mineral-rich in all of Greenland.

For more information on the Minerals and Geology of Greenland check out these links:

- Wilfred Steffens' pages on Greenland alkalines: <http://www.koeln.netsurf.de/~w.steffens/green.htm>
- Kitaa (West Greenland) are on Mindat.org: <http://www.mindat.org/rloc.php?loc=Kitaa+%28West+Greenland%29+Province%2C+Greenland>
- Geologic Museum, Univ. of Copenhagen: [http://www.nathimus.ku.dk/geomus/index\\_eng.htm](http://www.nathimus.ku.dk/geomus/index_eng.htm)
- MinerShop's "Fluorescent Minerals of Illemaussaq": <http://www.minershop.com/FLmingreen.pdf>

## Dues are still due!

### Our October Meeting with BLM



A little bit of old news, but a good reminder of what's happening in our favorite collecting area; BLM's Clear Creek Management Area. We had about 30 people attend from our club as well as other local clubs that were invited. There were folks from Santa Clara Valley G&MS, the Livermore Lithophiles, the SFG&MS, and the Northern California Micromounters Association to name a few. **Brian White**, Project Coordinator for the Clear Creek Management Area and members of his BLM staff presented the status of BLM's plan for the CCMA and opened up the discussion for questions from attendees. Probably the biggest topics of discussion were the recent road closures, the addition of the entrance station and the EPA's study and recommendations on the asbestos issue. For more info on what's happening check the following sites for up-to-date info about the CCMA:

- BLM's site: [http://www.blm.gov/ca/hollister/clear\\_creek\\_management\\_area.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/hollister/clear_creek_management_area.html)
- Ray Iddings's "Three Rocks Research" site: <http://www.picacho.org/>
- Salinas Rambler's OHV site: <http://www.salinasramblersmc.org/clearcreek.htm>
- EPA's site on Clear Creek asbestos: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/toxic/noa/clearcreek/index.html>



Brian White of BLM



A huge turnout by BAM, SCVG&amp;MS, SFG&amp;MS, Lithophiles &amp; NCMA members



BLM &amp; mineral enthusiasts discuss Clear Creek



Storytelling among veteran collectors

## Bolivian Miners fling Dinamita at each other

In early October, there was a little blurb in the news about miners in Huanuni flipping sticks of dynamite over the hill at each other over a dispute about who gets to mine this rich hill, the cooperatives or the state. The conflict left at least 16 dead and over 60 wounded.

In [www.Mindat.org](http://www.Mindat.org), BAM friend, Alfredo Petrov wrote in early October:

"I was in Huanuni 5 weeks ago - Luckily all was peaceful then!"

This is basically a war between Mindat localities # 13781 and # 334. The weapons include a few old rifles, but mostly dynamite, which of course is abundantly available, being an essential tool for mining. The battles seem to have cooled down now, but now the miners are quarreling with the government over who is going to pay for the medical bills of the wounded (several of whom will probably still die because of the low quality of medical attention).

The upper levels of the ore veins on Cerro (Mt) Pozoconi, mostly oxide zone material, have been worked by cooperatives for many years (i.e. the miners themselves jointly own the mines and each miner gets to keep almost all of his production). The lower levels, mostly the sulphide zone, are in dispute, having been worked by the State for decades, then leased to

Allied Deals, a British company owned by an East Indian, for several years until they abandoned it, not having invested the required amount in modernizing the mine as per their original agreement with the State. The question now is what should

happen to those lower levels: The miners currently there (many of them ex-employees of Allied Deals) want to continue as employees of the State, with salaries, subsidized medicine, etc. The "cooperativistas" want to turn it all into cooperatives.

Among mineral collectors this mine is mostly famous for its vivianite and ludlamite. In the short run there will probably be fewer specimens coming out, because of military control of the access roads, and miners spending more time in political meetings than in digging. In the long run, pardon the macabre thought, more specimens will be produced because political disputes discourage investment by modern mining companies, who would grind everything to powder, thereby leaving indigenous miners (who want to sell specimens) in control."



Cooperativistas tossing dynamite over Cerro Pozoconi



Vivianite from Huanuni Mine



Miners inside Huanuni Tin Mine

The news story can be read at: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/10/06/world/main2072252.shtml>

## 603-Carat, D-colored "Lesotho Promise"



The Lesotho Promise is the largest reported find this century and ranks as the 15<sup>th</sup> largest of any diamond and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest white diamond ever found. It was discovered on August 22, 2006, at the Letseng Diamond Mine in the southern African kingdom of Lesotho. The Lets'eng kimberlite pipe is a low grade deposit but famous for quality and size. No less than 15% of the production is larger than 10 carats, and 1% is larger than 100 carats, per stone. Production officially restarted in 2004, after the mine had been idle for 20 years. The nearly 5cm glassy octahedron was auctioned at the Antwerp Diamond Centre and was sold to the South African Diamond Corporation, owner of the well-known jewelers, Graff, for \$12.36 million. It will likely be cut into stones that will total over \$20 million.

## Check out...

What's happening with Raman Spectroscopy and mineral identification on this website from the University of Arizona's RRUFF Project which is supported by funding from gemstone connoisseur and collector Michael Scott, founding president of Apple Computer. Scott has a degree in physics from the California Institute of Technology. RRUFF is the name of Scott's cat.

[http://rruff.info/about/about\\_general.php](http://rruff.info/about/about_general.php)

## Upcoming Events of Mineralogical Interest

**Jan 27- Feb 11**

### TUCSON!

**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 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/>



**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](http://www.westwardminerals.com)

**Dates:** February 2-6, 2007

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

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

## BAM Contact Information

Editor: John Magnasco  
 Phone 408-838-9186  
 Email [magnasco@SBCglobal.net](mailto:magnasco@SBCglobal.net)  
 BAM site: <http://www.baymin.org>  
 President: Rick Kennedy <mailto:riken@flash.net>  
 Treasurer: John Magnasco <mailto:magnasco@SBCglobal.net>

## 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	None	OFF	OFF	Tucson Shows
March		Tucson Shows		
April				
May				
June				