
Bay Area Mineralogists

January 2009

Next meeting: Jan. 14, 2009

7:00 pm

Foothill College

<http://www.baymin.org>



In this issue:

- **January Program:
David Lowe Down Low
(...South Africa, that is!)**
- **BAM Tucson coordination**
- **San Rafael show in July**
- **Reminder: No February meeting**
- **Crystal Gazers Holiday party wrap**

January Program: “David Lowe Down Low ... South Africa!”

Following on Brian Thurston’s summer travelogue through the western US in search of minerals and family fun, Dave Lowe will be pulling up slides and stories about his trip to South Africa. Not many direct opportunities to collect, but an interesting sojourn nonetheless!

Sharon and Gene Cisneros will be bringing in South African thumbnails to complement the talk; everyone should feel free to bring in some of their own favorites to show off and start some conversations!

As always, we meet in the Geology Lab at Foothill College, 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month.
See <http://www.baymin.org/Meet/FoothillMap.gif> for a campus map. Bring \$2 for parking.

BAM Tucson Coordination

The annual pilgrimage to Arizona is nigh upon us... even if last year’s “American Mineral Treasures” is a tough theme to follow up, there’s certain to be a few diehards heading out to buy, sell, or just ogle shiny bits of inorganic joy.

As usual, there will be the usual BAM get-together dinner at some point during the festivities. If you would like to be kept in the loop on where and when – or will be in AZ and just want to be able to find other BAMmies, please e-mail me with your

- Tucson attendance schedule
- Cell phone #
- Contact e-mail (if you’ll be internet enabled)

I’ll set up a contact list and distribute to those going out.

San Rafael Show, July 10-12

Just saw the brochure for the new high-end show being organized for Marin County. It’ll be July 10-12 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. Amusingly enough they’re calling it the “San Francisco Fine Mineral Show,” which doesn’t quite match up with the geocode!

Nonetheless, it looks like an impressive array of dealers in a hotel-style layout – a nice summer addition to the real San Francisco Show in August!

Check it out online at www.finemineralshow.com

Reminder: No February Meeting

As per norm, we'll skip the February meeting so everyone can go gallivanting around the desert. See you in March with treasures in hand!

Crystal Gazers / BAM Holiday Party

In December, the Crystal Gazers collecting club (acknowledging the significant overlap between their membership and that of BAM) invited all the BAMmies to their annual holiday party at Si and Ann Frazier's place in Albany. It was a great success, with a room-filling turnout of Crystal Gazers and BAM members alike... lots of food, drinks and fun all around.

At the risk of missing someone, the BAM list included Gary Moss, Chuck Trantham, Len Pisciotta, Dan Carlson, David Lowe, Dan Evanich, John Magnasco, John Dabney, Jesse Fisher, the Fraziers, Gail Matthews, Steve Smith, Brian Thurston, and Don Windeler, along with various spouses and spawn.



Checking out the goods and monitoring the bids



Steve Smale (L) with El Presidente Spence (M) and Gail Matthews (R). Backs of heads belong to Jack Halpern (L) and Paul Geffner (R)

The benefit auction was an impressive affair, with some nice specimens up for bids. BAM members contributed generously on both the sample donation and auction bid fronts. Might well be a good idea to have the BAM summer picnic and auction a joint affair as well, given how much action the auction brought.

That's all for now, folks – see you at the meeting, have a great Tucson Show, and hope you're having a Happy New Year so far!

Letters to the BAM Editor

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