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# Bay Area Mineralogists

## January 2011

January 12, 2011, 7:00 pm  
USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237  
<http://www.baymin.org>



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The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year, unless diverted by extenuating circumstances. We now meet at the USGS Menlo Park in Building 3. See campus map at <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>. Our room is located in Building 3, second floor where this map says "Conference Room" – note that the front doors are locked and you will have to come up the stairs on the Middlefield side of the building. Parking is free.

### **BAM January Program: "Rescued: The Chilean Mine Story"**

Any collector out there who's spent time underground in creaky old abandoned mines had to feel at least a mild *frisson* when they heard about the 33 miners trapped nearly a half mile underground in the San Jose mine. Sixty-nine days (and some remarkable engineering) later, the last of the miners was winched out on 10 October 2010.

For January, we'll be watching a Discovery Channel DVD production on the mine collapse

and recovery, "Rescued: The Chilean Mine Story." A few BAMmies who saw it on cable recommended it highly – should be a great opportunity for those who missed it the first time around. To follow up on the theme, bring along some of your favorite rocks from Chile, Bolivia, or Peru. And if you collected them underground yourself, all the better!

For viewers who find themselves enthralled enough to want their own copy, check out the Discovery store at:  
<http://store.discovery.com/detail.php?p=283588>

### **December Notes**

Last month's meeting saw a bigger than usual turnout, and it wasn't just because word got out about the wonderfully boozy rum cake Sharon Cisneros brought to share. The micro / species collecting members were out in force to hear Tim Rose give a summary of the ten new minerals from California approved in 2009, eight of which came from the previously obscure Otto Mountain locality in San Bernardino County. Thanks again to Tim for providing a view into a world of tiny, very hard to find stuff!

Also of note was the giveaway pile of very old, unlabeled – or at least unconnected to the labels! – material from a German collection, brought in by Dan Evanich, and the news that Rick Kennedy had acquired a great deal of quality Gem Mine material from Buzz Gray. Some of the latter was in flats at the meeting and definitely nudged the bar up for those in the market for a taste of triangular blue goodness.

In the weekend before December's meeting, BAM joined forces with the Crystal Gazers for the third annual commingled holiday party at the Frazier's place in Albany. 'Twas a good turnout by the BAM (or BAM/CG) membership, including Bill Spence, John Magnasco, Rick Kennedy, Gary Moss, Stan Bogosian, Barb Matz, Len Piskiewicz, Le Pisciotta, Karla Galloway, Jean Lee, Dave Lowe, Gail Matthews, Brian Thurston, Paul Andrade, Chuck Trantham, Steve Smith, Bob Trimmingham, and Don Windeler. (Plus spousal units, of course!) Apologies to anyone I missed, but happily there were a lot of people.



*Checking out the auction table*

As usual, there was food & cheer a-plenty, a silent auction with some interesting lots up for grabs, and some singing at the end of the eve. If you haven't made one of these yet, be sure to give it a crack sometime!



*Sugar crystals growing in a bottle of Portuguese anise liqueur*

## Dues Be Due

For those who haven't purchased the BAM Member For Life package, please note that January 1 marks the official renewal date for all annual memberships. BAM continues to hold the line at a paltry \$6 per year of membership. Less than the cost of two big Peet's coffee drinks buys you the prestige of membership, ongoing newsletters, and notice of special field trips / sales that won't be distributed to the general mailing list.

Treasurer Dan Carlson will be in the house Wednesday to collect... exact change appreciated.

## A Pre-Tucson Interlude: The Los Angeles Museum of Natural History

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, Yours Truly and family made a stop at the LA Museum of Natural History to see the mineral displays. Review: if you've never visited there, make a point of it sometime! Some absolutely stunning material, especially the huge display of California gold.

To help get you in the mood for Tucson's theme of "Minerals of California", here are some snapshots. Don't be surprised if some of these find their way into a Tucson display case in February.



*A Cryo-Genie tourmaline big enough to chock Chuck's truck*



*One heck of a rough-and-cut set – that benitoite is about an inch across! Too bad I didn't notice it was out of focus...*

**Reminder:  
Tucson = No BAM in February**

With Tucson in mind, don't forget that BAM skips the February meeting in favor of Tucson pursuits. See you in March with treasures in hand!

**Letters to the BAM Editor**

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



*I love these corundums from the Mt. San Jacinto find in Riverside County, and this one is amazing*