
Bay Area Mineralogists January 2017

Meeting: Wednesday, Jan 11, 2017; 7 pm
USGS, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
Building 3, 2nd Floor, Rm 3-237

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The Bay Area Mineralogists meet monthly during the school year, on the 2nd 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.

Notice – no BAM in February

As usual, there will be no BAM newsletter or meeting in February as many of us will be in Tucson spending our allowance, drooling over minerals, schmoozing with fellow mineral collectors, and other fun stuff. Our regular activities will resume in March.

January Program: Oceanview Mine

By Mark Mauthner

Our January program will be a presentation by Mark Mauthner on the Oceanview Mine in San Diego County, CA -- although he will not be here in person [sorry if we startled you, Mark!]. Rather, the program is a good recording of his talk at the AGTA GemFair in Tucson in 2016.

Mark spent a number of years working at the Oceanview Mine as a miner, photographer, and sales manager, and his talk describes the history, geology, and mineral discoveries at the mine.



Mark Mauthner & the Big Kahuna kunzite crystal.

The Oceanview is one of three claims in the Pala Chief group of lode mining claims on Chief Mountain in San Diego County CA. The principal workings are in the Oceanview pegmatite dike.

The mine was first claimed in 1907 but not patented and stayed in the public domain for 63 years. It was next claimed in 1970 and patented in 1979. Minerals produced from the mine since then include quartz (much of optical clarity), feldspar crystals, well-formed large morganite specimens, and most recently several zones producing abundant and spectacular kunzite crystals. (Sources: www.oceanviewmine.com and www.mindat.org)



Eager rockhounds at the fee dig in Nov 2013.

The Oceanview Mine has for years operated a fee dig where visitors can sift through mine tailings. During the years of kunzite zone production, many good crystals were collected from the tailings, along with quartz, tourmaline, and occasionally morganite.

Show & Tell

We'd like to see any Oceanview specimens you may care to show off. In addition, Don Windeler says he will bring his newly assembled collection of thumbnail size copper specimens – between 200 and 250 of them!

Dues, Dues, Dues!

Time again to scrape together \$5 for your BAM renewal. Dan Carlson will be at the January meeting to collect your money for another year!

Open House / Tucson Preview

Rick Kennedy will be holding his annual Open House / Tucson Preview on **Sunday, January 15th** from 10 a.m. until 6-ish, at 5360 Colony Park Circle in San Jose. (If you get lost, Rick's cell phone number is 408-529-9690.)

He'll have all of the new Jackson's Crossroads and California Blue material as well as new Hallelujah and other good stuff! In addition, anything from the Clay Williams collection, which debuted at last year's open house, will be **half off!**

AGTA Talks in Tucson

If you're in Tucson in early February and looking for a change of pace, the AGTA GemFair will take place in the Convention Center from Jan 30 to Feb 4. This event includes several seminars held in the meeting rooms in the north wing of the facility. While the talks mostly relate to gems and jewelry, particularly valuation and marketing, there will also be several on topics nearer and dearer to most of us: mines and gem minerals. You do not need to pay admission or enter the AGTA show floor to sit in on the talks. A schedule is provided on their web site:

<http://www.agta.org/tradeshows/gft-seminars.html>. Talks of potential interest in 2017 include Rediscovering the Chivor Emerald Mine, and Pegmatites as Sources of Colored Gemstones.

The Oceanview talk that is our program this month comes from a collection of all of the 2016 AGTA talks; others we may want to view in the future are: The History of Tavorite & the Scorpion Mine, Update on Aappaluttoq Ruby Mine in Greenland, Canadian Natural Fancy Colored Diamonds (Ekati, Diavik, and Victor Mines), Brazilian Paraiba Tourmaline & Bahia Rutilated Quartz (Batalha Mine history).

Tucson Rumors 2017

First and foremost – the dirt (free) parking lot at Tucson City Center Hotel (aka InnSuites) belongs to someone else who is now planning to develop it, so that area may be (or will be) off limits this year. Thus the related rumor that there will be a shuttle provided by the show from an off-site parking area, presumably somewhere nearby. I've also heard that there will be fewer or no tents east of the buildings, possibly freeing up some parking spaces there.

Photos of the hotel recently posted on facebook show a new wall constructed right through the lawn area where there has previously been a

row of tents in front of the hotel entrance. The lobby has been refurbished, removing the breakfast lounge where Jeff Scovill held his photography seminar (which is cancelled, of course) and possibly some of the other side rooms there.

It may be true that the International Fine Minerals Show at Riverpark Inn (aka Pueblo) is adding one or more tents in their portion of that hotel. They will definitely host several talks in their courtyard in the evening (and there is usually some wine and cheese provided just prior to the talks). This year the topics are the Fersman Museum in Moscow, the Smithsonian Mineral Collection, and collecting fluorescent minerals (<http://www.pueblogemshow.com/show-events.aspx>).

A recent email from Min Rec reports that they will no longer be at InnSuites, but will have a room at the Westward Look show instead. Presumably they will also be at the main show, as usual.

And finally (as far as I know), there is a new mineral show! See below:



Mogok ruby, 5.4 cm, 390 ct.

Tucson's New Mineral Show

Tucson's NEW mineral show is happening from January 31st to February 6th at a great location in the I-10 corridor, north of InnSuites. The show venue is the former Century 12 Theater at 1055 West Grant Road, just east of I-10. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. There is abundant parking and "a lot of mineral knowledge under one roof," with 15 dealers including Persson Rare Minerals, Shannon & Sons Minerals, Mineral Zone/ mineralspecies.com, Minerals Unlimited, Mark Candee (formerly of the U of A museum), Dr. David Garske, and more. Their web site (<http://tucsonnewmineralshow.com/>) says "The TNMS is focused on Quality Minerals."

Pacific Micromount Conference January 27-29, 2017

52nd Annual, hosted by the Mineralogical Society of Southern California. A number of BAM members will be in attendance!

Location: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands CA

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

Friday talks:

New Mineral discoveries from the Victorio Mountains skarn, Luna County NM, by Bob Walstrom

Other contributed talks (Stan?)

Saturday talks:

The Journey from an Unknown to a New Mineral, by Tony Kampf

Fumarole-related minerals from the Salton Sea, Imperial County CA, by Paul Adams

Sunday field trip: location to be announced

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

Also featuring: giveaway and \$1 sales tables, live and silent auctions, Saturday lunch and dinner.

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

BAM Dinner at Tucson

At the January meeting we'll discuss our official BAM dinner at Tucson. For the past couple of years we have held it on the Friday of the main show at El Minuto Restaurant, right across the street from the Convention Center, and that seems to work well. Whatever is decided will be announced in an email soon thereafter.