
Bay Area Mineralogists

June 2009

SPECIAL TIME & PLACE!

June 20, 2009, 7:00 pm
Si & Ann Frazier's, Albany

<http://www.baymin.org>



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The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year. We are temporarily homeless, but expect to have a new meeting place sorted out by the time the fall meetings roll around.

BAM June Program & Meeting: “Pseudomorphs” with (and at!) Si & Ann Frazier’s

With the May meeting closing out BAM’s 18-year run at Foothill College, June finds us temporarily short a place to meet. Si and Ann Frazier have graciously offered to bridge the gap into summer by hosting this month’s meeting at their home in Albany. Note also the atypical date: instead of the usual second Wednesday, we’ll be congregating Saturday, June 20, starting at the usual 7:00pm. That said, the Fraziers will have an open house starting at 5:30 for those interested in chatting and/or viewing their famous quartz collection.

In keeping with this year’s Tuscon theme of “Mineral Oddities,” the Fraziers have picked one

of my personal favorites: pseudomorphs. There’s a whole spectrum of these “mineral fossils” depending on the type of geological indignities they’ve suffered in their genesis, however, and the Fraziers will help shed some light on the various whatzimorphs out there. Bring your favorite examples for show and tell – should be an interesting gathering!

Rather than posting addresses and instructions to their home onto the web, I will send directions separately to the BAM membership via e-mail. If you are planning to come, please be sure to let the Fraziers know so that they can work out logistics and provide a list to the security guard at the complex.

Summer Plans & Fall Programs

The June meeting will be the last formal meeting until the fall, but Mighty Leader Spence has been busy lining up the calendar. As per the past few years, the annual picnic will be held in August (date TBD) at Stan Bogosian’s place in Saratoga. We’ll have the annual silent auction fundraiser there as well.

Our fall meetings will resume in September with a recap by Dan Evanich, Dave Lowe and others on the May field trip Eastern California. In October, Len Pisciewicz will talk about collecting in the San Gabriel Mountains. That still leaves most of next year to contribute... please let Bill know if you have a topic to contribute. Our new venue is still unconfirmed, but we should be able to nail down and officially announce during the summer.

Just because there are no meetings doesn't mean BAM has gone totally dark, though. If you have a field trip in mind, long or short, and are looking for others with an interest, shoot me an e-mail with the details and I'll circulate them to the group.

The Foothill Finale

As noted before, May marked the end of BAM's long-time connection with Foothill College, an indirect victim of budget cuts that closed down Chris DiLeonardo and the Geology program. At the May meeting, Chris got a round of applause and many thanks for his hospitality over the past two decades. Foothill is a tradition that will be missed. (Except for the occasionally balky parking machines, that is.)

For those who inquired previously or might be curious, most of the materials in the Geology Lab will be moving with Chris to his new gig at DeAnza. Anything not taken will be handled by Foothill through their surplus property disposition group.

Transitions: Ken Gochenour & Walter Koniuk

Relating the passage of fellow members of the collecting community has become an unfortunately regular component of the newsletter of late.

During the May meeting, John Sulzbach related the news that Ken Gochenour passed away in Klamath Falls in early May. Notes from Bill Spence: "Ken's brother, Dana, owns the Cryo-Genie Mine in San Diego County, and Ken worked there as well as Coahuila Mountain, the Felix fluorite locality in Azusa, the corundum locality near Palm Springs and others. Cantankerous but good-hearted, Ken was adept at finding long lost mineral localities by researching in old books."

Walter Koniuk passed away May 28. He was a long-time member of the SF Gem & Mineral Society and the Crystal Gazers. From Gary Moss: "Given Walt had suffered steadily deteriorating health over the last some years, his passing was not totally unexpected. Yet in better

days, there were few more engaged, more active Crystal Gazers. Walt really was quite a guy, and he leaves an empty spot in the lives of his friends who enjoyed the benefits of his puckish humor, 'can do' pragmatism, and above all, generous spirit." SFG&MS has a more detailed memorial column on their front page, www.sfgms.org

Upcoming Shows

June 6-7
"The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair"
Fort Mason Center
Bldg. A, Laguna and Marina Blvd
6th 10am-6pm, 7th 10am-4pm

July 10-12
"San Francisco Fine Mineral Show"
Embassy Suites Hotel
191 McInnis Pkwy, San Rafael
10-11th 10am-6pm, 12th 10am-5pm
www.FineMineralShow.com

Aug 1-2
San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society
Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park
9th and Lincoln, San Francisco
1st 10am-6pm, 2nd 10am-5pm

Letters to the BAM Editor

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