
Bay Area Mineralogists

June 2011

June 8, 2011, 7:00 pm
USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237
<http://www.baymin.org>



In this issue:

- **Heads Up: Starting at 7pm Sharp!**
- **BAM June Program: Dennis Freiburger on the Karakoram Highway**
- **August Field Trip to Colorado**
- **Other Fun in the Summertime: SF Shows (and BAM Involvement)**
- **Special Acknowledgement...**

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.

Heads Up: Starting at 7pm Sharp!

Over the past year or so, our posted 7:00 start has drifted back to 7:30 as folks catch up and share the night's treasures. This would be all well and good, except that our room is the final stop on the USGS custodian's rounds and he needs access by 9:30 to finish by his 10:00 shift end. That hasn't been happening of late, something that is not in the best long-term residency interests of BAM.

In order to get the program back on track, we will be starting on time at 7:00pm. Please plan accordingly.

BAM June Program: Dennis Freiburger, "The Karakoram Highway"

This month we will have another guest speaker, Dennis Freiburger of the Contra Costa Gem & Mineral Society. His topic will be "The Karakoram Highway: A geography, gem, and mineral trip from Pakistan to Central Asia." Based on Dennis' 2001 trip from Islamabad to Kashgar, here's the good word on the presentation:

"Most people know the Karakoram for its high mountains and complex cultural / political situations. But most don't realize there is a spectacular 700 mile journey illustrating Earth Science at its best from Pakistan to far west China along the Karakoram Highway. The road winds amongst glaciers disappearing into deserts, mountains much more dangerous than Everest, and canyons several times deeper than our Grand Canyon. It is a region surprisingly rich in gems, minerals, and metamorphic rocks. People have been trekking to Asia and the Silk Road for thousands of years, but only recently can you drive the 'highway.' (Only for a few months each year – and then when sand storms, glaciers, landslides, earthquakes, and tribal bandits permit.)"

A presentation well worth catching, given how much less hospitable the region has grown over the past decade. Bring your favorite Pakistani material to share for show and tell!

BAM August Field Trip to Colorado

Parameters around BAM's annual epic field trip are getting locked down. This year's edition will take place in Colorado over the week of August 15-19.

Those interested should contact Dan Evanich (djevan@aol.com) as soon as possible to help with the logistical planning. Dan will not be able to make the June meeting, but we will pass along additional information as we get it.

Other Fun in the Summertime: SF Shows (and BAM Involvement)

June is the last formal meeting before we adjourn for the summer, so a quick note on two upcoming shows in the Bay Area.

On July 8 through 10 we have the "San Francisco Fine Mineral Show", returning to the San Rafael Embassy Suites for its third year. Still not in San Francisco, but inarguably a confluence of fine minerals worth a look. For more details, check out www.FineMineralShow.com

August brings us to the region's classic, the 57th annual show of the SFG&MS in San Francisco proper. Held August 6-7, the show has a new venue this year: the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio, formal address 135 Fisher Loop. This show always has a solid showing of collector cases to supplement the dealer room – not to mention many old friends and BAMmies amongst that latter crowd!

There are a couple of items on the latter show worth touching on in the June meeting. This year's show theme is "A Sea of Gems" – if BAMmies want to put in a club case, we'll need ideas for our take on the theme and a point person to organize the samples and display. Second, for several years BAM has set up a table for mineral ID and recruiting potential members. Presumably we want to keep this tradition up, in which case volunteers are appreciated / necessary. (Always good fun, and not that hard to do if you're going to be there anyhow.) More to come...

Special Acknowledgement...

An extra notice of thanks to member Wade Ji, who recently donated several specimens to BAM for the Cisneros to sell on consignment. No particular reason given, but the net result was another \$100 in BAM's coffers. Thank you Wade, and to Gene and Sharon for helping convert crystals to cash!

Upcoming Shows

June 4-5
"San Francisco Crystal Fair"
Pacific Crystal Guild
99 Marina Blvd, SF
4th 10am-6pm, 5th 10am-4pm

July 8-10
"San Francisco Fine Mineral Show"
Embassy Suites Hotel
191 McInnis Pkwy, San Rafael
8-9th 10am-6pm, 10th 10am-5pm
www.FineMineralShow.com

Aug 7-8
San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society
Presidio Golden Gate Club
135 Fisher Loop, San Francisco
7th 10am-6pm, 8th 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.