
Bay Area Mineralogists

June 2012

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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. 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 June Program: Ted Hadley, "Perovskites: Natural and Synthetic"

For June we have an interesting change of pace: long-time member Ted Hadley will be taking us to a place slightly orthogonal to traditional mineralogy, that of synthetic minerals.

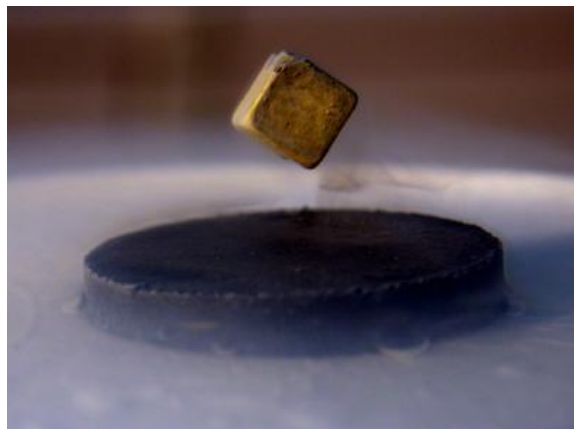
Synthetic perovskites are important in superconductors and other high-tech applications, and Ted writes:

"The mysteries of how and why the perovskite group minerals form is explained along with the chemistry, structure, and crystallography of this diverse group.

Synthetic perovskites, probably the single most important of synthetic crystalline material manufactured, are also described and explained."

Of course, natural perovskites can be found in San Benito County and are near and dear to many BAM members' hearts.

Bring along your favorite perovskite group specimens for show and tell – extra points for odd crystal shapes and localities outside of California! And in case you've forgotten the other members of the group, Ted suggests the most common include tausonite, loparite-(ce), lueshite, and macedonite; latrappite gets special mention but is not technically a perovskite.



Disk of perovskite superconductor (~1" diameter) resting in liquid nitrogen with a cubic neodymium-iron-boron magnet levitating above, demonstrating the Meissner Effect.

Last Meeting & Newsletter before the Summer

As we do each year, June marks the last of the formal BAM meetings before we head off to the field in the summer. You can expect the usual notes and such via e-mail, but there will be no meetings at the USGS in July or August and no real newsletters until September looms large.

Enjoy your summer and good luck finding the rock of your dreams while you're at it!

SFG&MS Show Coming Up...

Many of us look forward to the San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society Show as one of the highlights of the local collecting scene, with lots of mineral dealers (not just lapidary and jewelry) as well as excellent displays. The past couple of years have found the show in an uneasy dance between venues; last year's visit to the Presidio was fun but didn't work out as a long term option.

Instead, the 2012 edition will (fittingly) be held on Treasure Island with a theme of a "Spectrum of Jade". Dates are August 4 & 5, to be staged at Building 1, the administrative building at 1 Avenue of the Palms. See the SFGMS site for more details, <http://www.sfgemshow.org>.

In years past, BAM has entered both a display case and hosted a mineral ID / rockhound recruiting booth at the show. Such things don't happen on their own, however – there is always a need for help in organizing and staffing said endeavors, so please be thinking about these coming into the June meeting. First steps for the case are an organizer and a theme, both of which could be discussed in the June meeting.

On the topic of the club table, please note that BAM just finished a very successful two days at the USGS Open House in late May. Bill Spence, Dan Evanich, John Magnasco, Stan Bogosian, Barb Matz, David Lowe, Joe Langdon, and Don Windeler held down the fort over the two day event, giving away a lot of extra field rocks in the process! Hopefully we'll have time to share some stories next week, as it was definitely an interested, engaged crowd.

Summer Picnic & Other BAM Notes

Each year the BAM picnic and benefit auction is held at the end of the summer, usually on a Saturday afternoon. Stan Bogosian has hosted at his home in Saratoga for the past several years. We decided to give Stan a break this year, so the 2012 edition will be held at yours truly's home in Belmont. The official date is still to be locked down, but the proposal is August 25; the 18th is a possibility if there are enough votes in favor. (Note that the Labor Day weekend is definitely out due to a nearby Greek festival.) More details to come.

Note for those who have not visited the Windeler residence before: limited street parking and a very "vertical" property. That means you'll probably have a walk of a few hundred feet from your car and a fair number of stairs while at the picnic. If this is a concern, drop me a note (see end note) and we'll make arrangements.

Other news: The trip to western Nevada is coming up – talk to Dan Evanich for details if you haven't already. In the fall our meetings will resume in September with Chuck Trantham talking about his time working as an engineer on the Skookumchuck Dam, with associated zeolitic fun. And the end of the year will bring the report from the BAM contingent to the MinDat Morocco field trip – stay tuned!

Upcoming Shows

June 16-17
Pacific Crystal Guild
Fort Mason Center
99 Marina Blvd, SF
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Aug 4-5
San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society
Treasure Island
1 Avenue of the Palms, San Francisco
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 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.