

Bay Area Mineralogists March 2004 Newsletter

Next meeting March 10th, 8:00PM
Foothill College, Geology Building,
Room P-24, Los Altos Hills, California
<http://www.baymin.org>



Welcome to the March issue of The Bay Area Mineralogists (BAM) newsletter. The purpose of our club is to further spread the knowledge and interest of mineralogy in our world today and promote awareness in the field of natural sciences as they pertain to the geosciences.

2004 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

The subject of our annual March meeting will be a review of the recent Tucson Gem and Mineral show. Every year, we get together after this show to discuss new trends and individual mineral finds gathered from the show. This year was the 50th Anniversary of the world's largest event of its kind and the featured mineral, appropriately, was gold. Several BAM members attended and will be present at the upcoming meeting on March 10th to share stories along with show and tell minerals. Bring any Tucson or Quartzite mineral related articles, pictures, or specimens in to the meeting that night.

Recent Activities

Several BAM members recently visited LaPaz County, Arizona to collect minerals near the famous Red Cloud Mine. The Red Cloud is, of course, closed and off limits to collectors, but several more sites are located in the immediate region. Stan Bogosian, Bob Herold, John Sulzbach, and Dan Evanich left for four days of collecting at The Melissa, The Hamburg, The North Geronimo, and The Rowley Mines. We stayed on the surface at all locations except for one adit still open at The Hamburg. Wulfenite and mimetite are still collectable at most of these sites in the dumps, although pickings are getting slim. The best luck we had was on the second day at The Melissa. One large boulder split up into a nice seam of bright orange-red colored wulfenite crystals on quartz and matrix. The largest single crystal measured about five eighths of an inch across. Wulfenite from this area is difficult to collect due to the very friable nature of the matrix it occurs in. The crystals seem to barely perch themselves on crumbly surfaces and pop off rather easily. When splitting one seam, a four inch vug opened up and out spilled a handful of floater wulfenite crystals. Some were complex crystals and still ok. We kept about a dozen nice thumbnail specimens with several being transparent. They sure looked a lot like Red Cloud material. The Rowley Mine still has open access, but requires proper safety equipment to enter down into it. Our last day and a half was spent there with little luck other than micros. The dumps there are very well worked over and yielded little.



BAM March 2004 Newsletter Page 2

Mineral Find of the Month

This month's best mineral find (reported to date) goes to BAM member John Magnasco. And, of course, they were found on his annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show field trip. See what John has described about his acquisitions:

Hello Dan:

Here are a few quick shots I took of some samples with little stories behind them.

Wulfenite from Tiger was eBay find just prior to the show. It is about 12 cm in the longest dimension with crystals to 3cm and has interesting growth patterns and coloration on the crystal faces. Obviously collected long ago. About 45 bucks.

Ran across two flats of Amethyst Scepters form Onyang, South Korea and cherry picked the best of them. Again collected long ago. These guys cost \$6 a piece. Wohoo!

Finally, the find of the trip for me was this very large (approx 12cm long) pure mass of the rare mineral Chevkinite-(Ce) in sharp, lustrous, black crystals up to 3cm. These were erroneously marked Magnetite (sic) from Pakistan and the dealer was asking a whopping \$60. I asked if he would take \$40 and sure enough it was mine. The remnant yellow material is massive titanite.

Talk to you later this week.

Cheers,

John



BAM March 2004 Newsletter Page 3

Upcoming Events and Activities

We are rapidly approaching the better collecting time of the year. With that in mind, there will be discussions on future Spring, Summer, and Fall BAM field trips. There are no formal field trips yet confirmed for the year. Please bring in your suggestions for dates and locations.

A few members will be heading out the week of April 10-18 for an informal trip to the Eastern Sierra near Bishop. This is not a BAM sanctioned event, but if you are still interested in learning about collecting sites and mineral localities, see me (Dan Evanich) at the meeting on March 10th. You can also contact me by email or phone.

BAM Contact Information

Editor: Dan Evanich
Phone 408-362-0892
Email djevan@aol.com
BAM site: <http://www.baymin.org>
President: Rick Kennedy <mailto:riken@flash.net>
Treasurer: John Magnasco

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at Foothill College, Room P-24, Geology Building, Los Altos Hills, California. 8-10pm. Take highway 280 North from San Jose toward San Francisco to the El Monte exit and head West.

Here's a little taste of that California Gold shown in Tucson!! Courtesy of my Father-in-Law, John Byram

