

Bay Area Mineralogists March 2006 Newsletter

Next meeting March 8th, 2006
Foothill College, Room P-24, Geology
Building, Los Altos, California
<http://www.baymin.org>



BAM is an eclectic group of mineral enthusiasts who gather to promote and share their interests in advanced mineralogy and mineral collecting. Membership is open to individuals with various levels of experience in mineralogy. The roster includes amateur mineralogists and professionals from organizations including the United States Geological Survey, the California Division of Mines and Geology, local universities and colleges, research laboratories and institutes, museums and mining companies, well-known mineral dealers, notable private mineral collectors and accomplished field collectors.

Winter Review



photos courtesy of John Veevaert from [Trinity Minerals](http://www.TrinityMinerals.com)
Jolyon Ralph from www.Mindat.org
and [Superb Minerals](http://www.SuperbMinerals.com)

TUCSON: To many who visited this year, the Tucson show was a bit disappointing. There seemed to be fewer new minerals available, fewer recycled collections available, prices were up even more over last year and attendance appeared lower. Notable new finds included the sharp Vesuvianites and large Babingtonites from China, a large haul of Amazonites from the "Tree Root" pocket in Colorado, and at least a motel room full of Amethysts for Las Vegas, Mexico. There was also a nice find of what turned out to be green Hydroxyl-apatite from the Sapo Mine, Brazil with little or no prism faces and some fantastic arrangements of Pentagonite xls. from Wagholi, India. A new crop of gem and associated crystals from the marbles and pegmatites of Burma were widely available as well. One of the most notable North

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March Meeting Agenda

Two big items on the March Agenda: The annual BAM Tucson Review followed by a BAM Revitalization resenatation & discussion → → **Bring some of your new Tucson treasures to share along with any new field finds you picked up over the Winter!!** ← ←

BAM Revitalization Preview

Make sure you don't miss the March 8th meeting so you can hear the exciting changes we have in mind for the Bay Area Mineralogists organization! Over the Winter break, a small group of active members gathered to discuss ideas for improving the way BAM works and what we do. Led by Rick Kennedy, Dan Evanich and John Magnasco, the group solicited ideas from the general BAM membership on how we could improve meeting attendance, re-energize the members, involve more people in the administration of BAM, update the newsletter format and update the website. We also established some scheduling guidelines for the newsletter, field trips and programs, looked at field trip possibilities, looked at program possibilities, and reviewed a smattering of other suggestions contributed from many of you. Bill Spence and Stan Begosian joined us in the later stages to help us hone our changes and recommendations into more developed thoughts. Special thanks to all of you who offered specific input: Chuck Trantham, Jessie Fischer, Eugene & Sharon Cisneros, Len Piskiewicz and Chaz Nelson! Rick, Dan and John hope that these changes will cultivate an environment where everyone wants to be involved, everyone has a voice, and everyone is excited to come and talk about minerals every month!

Upcoming Events of Mineralogical Interest

This Weekend!

Mar 3-5 **Castro Valley Gem & Mineral Show**, Centennial Hall in Hayward, Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5. <http://www.mgscv.org/show.html>



Apr 21-23 **Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show**, Holiday Inn – Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St., Denver, CO, Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5. http://www.mzexpos.com/colorado_spring.htm

April 23-24 **Santa Cruz Gem and Mineral Show**, Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium (corner of Center & Church), Sat. & Sun. 10-5 <http://www.scmgs.org/newsite/shows/index.html>

May 12-14 **West Coast Gem & Mineral Show**, Holiday Inn – Costa Mesa, 3131 S. Bristol St., Costa Mesa, Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5. http://www.mzexpos.com/westcoast_spring.htm

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American “new finds” was attributed, on a few websites, to collectors from BAM! More correctly, Dan Evanich and Rick Kennedy collected, cleaned and distributed some of, if not, the best Karpaitite ever found. Bright yellow crystals to nearly 10cm long were found in quartz veins in silica-carbonate rock from Los Picachos, near Picacho Peak. The finest specimens are a mix of crystals exposed by fresh breaks combined with free-standing crystals covered by a fine druse of clear quartz crystals. The samples fluoresce a brilliant yellow-green under UV light!



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Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month during the academic year (Sept → June) with the exception of each February, which is left free for those making their way to Tucson. The location is Foothill College, Room P-24, Geology Building, Los Altos Hills, California. 8-10pm. Take Interstate 280 North from San Jose toward San Francisco to the El Monte exit and head west.