
Bay Area Mineralogists

March 2009

Next meeting: March 11, 2009

7:00 pm

Foothill College

<http://www.baymin.org>



In this issue:

- **Back to Monthly Meetings**
- **BAM March Program: Tucson**
- **Upcoming Programs**
- **Eastern California Field Trip in May**
- **Seminar on Rockhounds and Claims**
- **Reminders on Dues**

Welcome Back to the Monthly Sched

After our yearly February hiatus for Tucson, BAM resumes its usual second Wednesday schedule on the 11th. The March meeting typically prompts the biggest turnout of the year, so be sure to come on out and catch up with friends old and new.

We meet in the Geology Lab at Foothill College. See <http://www.baymin.org/Meet/FoothillMap.gif> for a campus map. Bring \$2 for parking.

BAM March Program: Tucson!

As per tradition, the March meeting goes light on a formal program in favor of the collective recollections of and findings from the Tucson show. There were a goodly number of BAMmies out in the desert this year, so expect the usual fun at show-and-tell.

This year's theme was "Mineral Oddities" – a wee change of tone from last year's "American Classics" orgy of eye candy. Perhaps a good call on the part of the organizers; when there's no hope of topping the sheer level of brain stun

brought on by the best specimens from the best US localities, why not go for something a little askew? Mineralized animals, pyrite phalluses, stuff crystallized in the bottoms of wine barrels... it just about begs for the theme from *Monty Python's Flying Circus* playing in the background.

If you have pictures or stories to share, please pass along to me and I'll include in next month's newsletter.

March is always a fun BAM meeting – be sure to bring your Tucson rocks (and stories behind them!) next Wednesday. And even if you didn't get out to Arizona, run with this year's theme and bring something off the wall, be it a pseudomorph, inclusion, petrified fruit/rodent, or calcite that looks like Britney Spears. See you there!

Upcoming Programs

In April, Stan Bogosian will give us a recap of his recent collecting exploits in Arizona. He'll share stories of Quartzsite, the state of field accessibility and truck parts, then show off finds from locations such as Melissa, C&B Vanadinite, Barking Spider, and Grey Horse mines.

While on the topic, I'll add yet another plea for someone to take up the mantle of BAM Program Chair. It's not a very significant time commitment, just requiring a willingness to wheedle the occasional BAMmer or external speaker to talk about something of interest to the group. President Spence has been holding down the fort in the absence of a dedicated chair,

but it's not technically part of the job requirements...

Eastern California Field Trip in May

Dan Evanich has been scurrying about to pull together another good semi-local collecting trip this year and has settled on May 17-24 for a run to the eastern part of California. The agenda is still being finalized, but visits will include stops in Darwin, Cerro Gordo, Crystal Ridge, the Reward Mine, and Saline Valley. If you are interested in joining the group for this in whole or in part, please contact Dan (djevan@aol.com) to let him know.

Seminar on Rockhounding & Claims

A seminar on claims presented by Dr. Gregg Wilkerson (Bakersfield BLM District Office), will be hosted by the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society on Saturday, March 21 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, CA. An announcement flyer with details and directions is available on the CFMS web site (www.cfmsinc.org).

Key topics include:

- General overview and history of claims and claiming.
- Current status of claim procedures and the associated rights and obligations.
- Use of claims to have and maintain access to rockhounding areas.
- How to stake and file a claim.
- Where and how to get information about claims and claimed land?

Cost of the seminar is \$5.00, which includes coffee, a lunch of hot dogs with all of the trimmings, chips and a beverage. Please reserve your place at this seminar by notifying Dick Pankey at dickpankey@juno.com or 925-439-7509 no later than March 16th.

Reminders on Dues

Treasurer Dan Carlson would like to remind all that last year BAM went on a flat calendar cycle for renewing dues – that is, when the calendar page flipped to 2009, everyone owed anew for the year. (Except for those holding BAM Lifetime Memberships, of course.) For the princely sum of \$6 you can continue to support

the club and all the collecting trips and programs we organize.

Dan takes cash or personal check and plans to be at Wednesday's meeting. (Exact change appreciated.) You can also pay via PayPal to his ID of dan@dextersinister.com, but note that the total goes up to \$6.47 to cover the additional charges with which he gets tagged.

Upcoming Shows

March 14-15

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
Spreckels Veteran's Memorial Hall
5th and Llano Streets, Spreckels
10am-5pm both days

March 14-15

Mother Lode Mineral Society
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
900 N. Broadway, Turlock
14th, 10am-6pm; 15th, 10am-5pm

March 21-22

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
Vallejo Elks Lodge
2850 Redwood Parkway, intersection
with Admiral Callahan Rd
10am-5pm both days

March 28-29

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras "Frogtown" Fairgrounds
Hwy 49, Angels Camp
28th, 10am-5pm; 29th, 10am-4pm

March 28-29

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Club
1st Annual Mineral Show
Trinity Hall, Lemoore
10am-6pm both days

March 28-29

Roseville Rock Rollers
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds
800 All America City Blvd, Roseville
28th, 10am-5pm; 29th, 10am-4pm

Letters to the BAM Editor

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