
Bay Area Mineralogists

March 2013

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USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237

<http://www.baymin.org>



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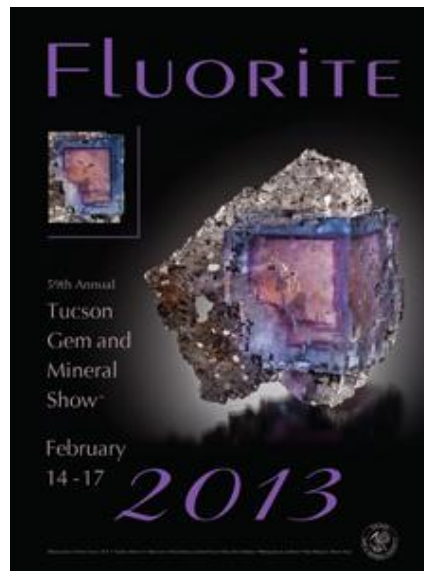
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The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year. We now meet at the USGS Menlo Park in Building 3. See campus map at <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>. Our room is located in Building 3, 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 March Program: The Big Tucson Recap

February has come and gone once again, and with it that multi-week orgy of mineralia known as Tucson. Those lucky rockhounds who made it to Arizona inevitably have their stories of things seen and specimens that may or may not have made it into their collection. The March BAM meeting is traditionally when the gang gets together to recap the event and show off their latest finds – even if they may have been vicariously acquired from a distance!

This year's edition will be MC'ed by John Magnasco with contributions by Dan Evanich, Rick Kennedy, and any other attendees they've enlisted as co-conspirators.



This year's Show poster – still available through <http://www.tgms.org/>

And, of course, it's not just about the rocks... there's also that sense of community and old acquaintances one runs into at the various shows. How better exemplified than through the BAM & Friends dinner? This annual tradition was held at Club 21 on Thursday, February 14. Thanks again go to John Magnasco, who chased down a group venue for Valentines' Day to host our merry band of BAmMies.



*Yukking it up at Club 21 in Tucson.
Rick Kennedy photo.*

March is always one of the best meetings of the year for checking out new rocks – bring your latest acquisitions (wherever you got ‘em!) for show-and-tell.

Special Gretchen Luepke Memorial BAM Benefit Auction

Many of you will recall Gretchen Luepke Bynum, a BAM member for many years until her passing in July 2010. Gretchen was a regular at the Tucson Show, usually competing in the judged displays, and never missed the post-Tucson BAM meeting if she could help it.

Just before this year’s Tucson Show, Gretchen Luepke’s husband, Bob Bynum, donated some books and a couple flats of Gretchen’s mineral specimens to BAM. These will be available at our March meeting for a silent auction with the proceeds going to the BAM treasury. Most of the specimens are modest but colorful. The most noteworthy book is a copy of American Mineral Treasures in which Gretchen collected the autographs of Gloria Staebler, Wendell Wilson and many of the individual authors of the articles. Bring lots of cash or your checkbook.

Santa Clara Show & BAM Case

The Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society Show will be held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on April 20-21. David Lowe is the Display Chairman this year and is organizing a BAM case with the theme of “California Minerals.” He’s soliciting loaner specimens for

said display and will be at the March meeting to collect any candidates people would like to hand off to him. (Make sure your name is in with a clear label, even though he’ll be taking notes.)

Specimens can be either purchased or personally-collected; in the latter case, be sure to indicate that on the label so we can highlight BAM’s field component. It’s going to be one of the big walk-around fishbowls, so David needs a bunch of material to fill it up!

The March meeting would be a convenient time to pass along specimens, but needn’t be the only opportunity. To arrange alternate options, check in with David at kanddineurope@hotmail.com.



“Fishbowl” case of Petersen Mt. scepters at the 2012 SCVGMS Show. Don Windeler photo.

Other March Notes of Note

As if Tucson, auctions, and displays weren’t enough already, we’ll have several other updates of note.

- President Spence continues to track the latest status at Clear Creek and has heard some new rumblings on the Resource Management Plan. He hopes to have further word on when it will reopen for collecting for the March agenda.
- Dan Evanich will give us updates on the big July trip to Colorado, as well some thoughts on other potential trips.
- Our April program will feature Ted Hadley sharing some of his tools and techniques for managing a paperless

library of topographic maps and using them in the field. More to come in the next newsletter.

All in all, March is sure to be a packed meeting!

Field Collecting at High Altitudes

A major proportion of the July collecting trip to Colorado will take place at higher elevations, something Bay Area collectors probably haven't had to deal with on a regular basis. President Spence ran across some useful commentary on this in the San Juan issue of *Extra Lapis* (2011, #15) and recommended those considering the trip keep these points in mind.

A condensed excerpt:

"The lowest altitude in the San Juan Triangle is in the area around Ouray (7800 feet) and some people need several days to acclimate to breathing comfortably in the mountains, as many collecting areas are above 12,000 feet; some are even above 13,000 feet. Altitude sickness, sunburn, and other hazards of spending time at high altitudes are real concerns, and collectors should understand the health risks and remedies unique to mountain collecting before venturing out.

"Many collecting areas are accessed via 4-wheel drive roads that are very steep and narrow and are often treacherous, especially when they are wet or icy. It can snow or hail in the mountains at any time of year. Thunderstorms blow in quickly, and lightning and rain can make high-altitude collecting all the more dangerous. Flash floods are possible with any thunderstorm and can potentially close 4-wheel drive roads for a day or longer. It is therefore important at all times to carry plenty of potable water as well as emergency food supplies. The 4-wheel drive roads vary in difficulty, and information about the roads in each area can be obtained from the Visitors Centers, as well as from tour companies.

"When collecting in areas where mountain goats roam it is a good idea to don a hard hat, as the goats like to hang around people and have been known to dislodge rocks and send them bouncing downhill.

"Rocky Mountain marmots abound.....and commonly climb up into vehicle engines to gnaw on rubber hoses. More than one collector has had to "coast" downhill after having a radiator hose gnawed through.....

"I recommend that all hikers, including mineral collectors, purchase a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search & Rescue card. It is valid for 5 years and costs about \$12. A card can be purchased at most outdoor sports stores. In case of an accident, the cards insure individuals against the expenses incurred for mountain rescue teams, helicopter extrication and Sheriff's expenses."

Good stuff that may help in your planning for Colorado. If you have other tips, pass them along and we'll include them in a future newsletter.

Upcoming Shows

March 16-17
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds
900 Fairgrounds Dr., County Bldg
10am-5pm both days

March 23-24
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds
101 Frogtown Rd, Angels Camp
10am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun
<http://calaverasgemandmineral.org/show.html>

March 23-24
Roseville Rock Rollers
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds
800 All America City Blvd, Roseville
10am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun
www.rockrollers.com

Letters to the BAM Editor

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