
Bay Area Mineralogists March 2015

Meeting: March 11, 2015, 7:00 pm
USGS, Building 3, Room 3-237
345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

<http://www.baymin.org>



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The Bay Area Mineralogists meet monthly during the school year, on the 2nd Wednesday. We meet at the USGS in Menlo Park, on the second floor of Building 3, where the campus map (<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>) says "Conference Room." The front doors will be locked so you'll have to come up the stairs on the Middlefield Road side of the building. Parking is free.

March Program: Tucson Download

This month is our annual debriefing of members who have recently attended the many and varied Tucson Shows. John Magnasco will compile some photos contributed by attendees, so that those of us who didn't make the journey can see what was on offer and on view. Members are encouraged to bring some of their newly acquired treasures and/or stories to show off.



Alien-looking Uruguay amethyst. The Y is about 1 ft tall!

The 2015 theme was *Minerals of Western Europe*, and the displays, both on- and off-theme, were fantastic. One display even included Belgian beer and chocolates... Also at the show, a total of sixteen cases participated in The Great Quartz Crystal Face-Off (some of these may appear at the SFGMS show in August).

The general reactions to Tucson that I have heard include: "not many new finds" and "hoo boy, what prices!" It seems some of the most interesting material on offer these days is coming from old collections that are making their way into the marketplace. Whatever the source, there is plenty of fabulous stuff to see at Tucson, and this meeting will be a visual treat!



"World's largest shark tooth" – megalodon from Peru.



Krisna got caught in the thumbnail vortex (so did !!).

Pacific Micromount Conference
 BAM was well represented at PMC this year, with seven members in attendance. We spent a sometimes-rainy Saturday at the San Bernardino County Museum hearing talks and collecting from the give-away table, followed by a glorious Sunday (and beyond) collecting at the Blue Bell Mine. There will be photos and specimens from this event at the meeting, as well.



Dan and Ted at Pacific Micromount Conference.

Upcoming Shows in our Area

Mar 6-8, Newark
 Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley
 Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Ave
 Fri/Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm
<http://www.mgscv.org/show.html>

Mar 14-15, Turlock
 Mother Lode Mineral Rock & Gem Show
 Stanislaus Fairgrounds, 900 N Broadway
 Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm
<http://www.turlockgemshow.com/>

Apr 11-12, Mariposa
 CA State Mineral Museum and Mariposa Club
 Mariposa Fairgrounds, Hwy 49 S of Mariposa
 Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm
<http://www.camineralmuseum.com/category/gem-show/>

Apr 18-19, San Jose
 Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
 Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road
 Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm
<http://www.scvgms.org/>

Apr 25-26, Santa Cruz
 Civic Auditorium, corner Church St & Center St.
 Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm
<http://scmgs.org/shows/index.html>

Upcoming Field Trips

As you may have heard, Dan Evanich is working on plans for an extended field trip to Montana in August 2015, and there is already some discussion of a tentative idea for 2016. Stay tuned to this space, and meetings, for details.

And Finally...

Member contributions to this newsletter are appreciated! Send content, incriminating photos, suggestions, or feedback to me at matz.barb@gmail.com.