

Bay Area Mineralogists May 2006 Newsletter

Next meeting: May 10th, 2006

Room P-24

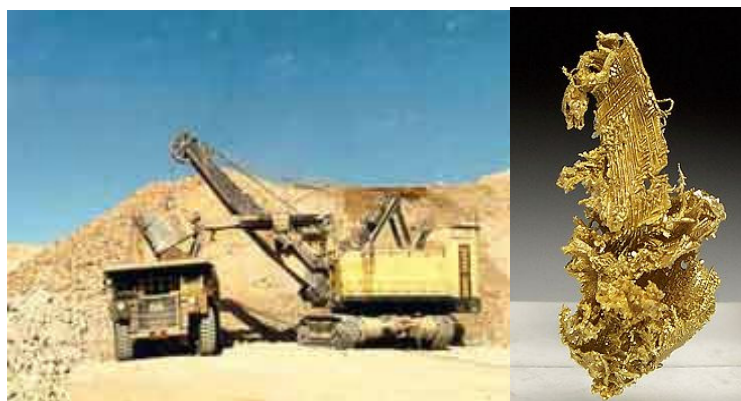
Foothill College, Los Altos, California

<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.

May Meeting Agenda



Round mountain mine with 3.5 cm Round Mountain Gold
(photos from UNR & trintityminerals.com)

The May meeting will feature a presentation by BAM members **Dan Evanich** and **John Magnasco** on **"Recent Nevada Mineral Activity"**. Dan will review Nevada collecting trips by BAM members in 2004 & 2005, while John will talk about significant mineral finds in Nevada over the last decade or so. **Please bring some of you favorite samples from Nevada** (killer pieces from Majuba, Willard, Red Bird or Bloody Canyon mines get you a front row seat... for what that's worth). With the price of metals, we might be seeing some renewed activity at long dormant mines!

Nevada Mining & Mineral References

University of Nevada, Mining Engineering (Mackay)
Durham Mining Museum
Great Basin Minerals (Scott Kleine's collecting reports)
Nevada Mining Association

www.unr.edu/mines/mine-eng/index.html
minerals.state.nv.us/
www.greatbasinminerals.com/
www.nevadamin.org/

[*Nevada's common Minerals*](#) (1941) V. P. Gianella Bull 36 110p

[*Rocks, gemstones, minerals, and fossils in Nevada*](#): (2001) Castor and Lapointe SP 29 folded map

[*Mineralogical Record \(1985\) Vol. 16, No. 1*](#) January - February 1985 Nevada State Issue

[*Rocks & Minerals*](#) (1999) Vol. 74, No. 6 Nevada State Issue and Mineral Locality Index

[*Minerals of Nevada*](#) (2003) S. B. Castor & G. C. Ferdock NBMG Spec Pub 31 512p.

April Meeting & Field Trip Review



Galena on Fluorite, Weardale
(photo from Minservice.com)

Jesse Fisher put on a great program taking us all into the fluorite deposits of Weardale and surrounds. Jesse imparted a good bit of knowledge about the general geology of the area, the veins cutting through the river valley, and ore bearing strata. Of course everyone's eyes lit up with the variety of fine fluorites shown as examples from famous mines such as the Boltsburn, the Blackdene, Frazier's Hush and of course, Jesse's dig, the Rogerley. Interspersed in the talk were musings of mineral collectors; locals clandestine intrusions into "closed" localities, and tall tales that were no doubt embellished over a pint or two in one of the local pubs like the Allenheads or Golden Lion. Well, if you don't find a good fluorite in Weardale you can always find a cool pint!

On Saturday, April 29th, five BAM members made their way to Clear Creek for this year's first official field trip. Dan Evanich, Dan Carlson, Rick Kennedy, Stan Bogosian and John Magnasco hit the road at 6AM for a one-day jaunt to the Victor Claim and the Fresnoite locality. The roads were a bit rutty, but pretty dry from about 10 days of clear weather. The BLM was there taken into on visitors plans, the Salinas Ramblers were helping to keep Clear Creek open with their efforts and the dirtbikes were screaming around the hills. Some big plates of Natrolite came out of the Victor claim together with a nice Neptunite and a handful of Chromite nuggets. The Fresnoite locality is barely producing anything, but we managed to haul in a few Fresnoite and Strontiojoaquinite samples!



Dan & Stan at the end of a long collecting day

Upcoming Field Trips

May 13th
May 24th-29th

Big Creek-Rush Creek Barium minerals. Contact Stan Vance @ 559-264-0222
Nevada: Majuba, Willard & vicinity. Contact Dan Evanich
See Nevada Trip itinerary later in this newsletter. More details to follow!

Upcoming Events of Mineralogical Interest

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

This Weekend!

Things that go Clunk in the Dark

My First Trip to Majuba Hill

by Rick Kennedy

If I remember correctly, it was May of 1998, the El Nino year. A group of friends in the Davis area had talked to me about this amazing (funny how they forgot to mention dangerous) place for rare arsenates called Majuba Hill. It was a place I had heard mentioned at BAM as being pretty dicey, but that made me want to see it for myself. We ended up going with what seemed like the entire geology undergrad class from UC Davis, but most of the people were there for a "Weekend away" and were not serious mineral collectors. We made camp in the little oasis at the base of the hill (note, since that time, a grass fire has obliterated that site), coolers were opened and a wild night was had by most. The next morning, we were given a short talk about Majuba by our most experienced mineralogist, Tim Rose. He also talked about mine safety and several of the do's and do not's (mostly the do not's!). We then drove up to the main addit and were led on a quick tour by Tim. There were about ten or fifteen of us, most along just for the experience. I had heard stories about the Copper Stope, but there really is nothing like living the experience! The crawl over the caved section was no big deal, Crosscut 212 made me a bit nervous, especially walking under the cracked 4" X 4", but the real thrill was going up "The Chimney", a short vertical climb where one does not want to touch anything on their right. It looks like the entire structure is being supported by three rocks stacked upon each other. Inside the Copper Stope it was pretty wet, not a good sign, so we left and explored the Tin Stope, a much more stable area, though the air is a bit stagnant.

At this point, the serious collectors were abandoned by the weekend warriors who left to hike, explore, or just generally stay out of our way. This left the four of us: Myself, Tim, Jeff and the other Rick. Scott Kleine had built a very nice bench system at the productive area of the Tin Stope and the four of us were able to work comfortably on the wall. We ended up working in two teams, Tim and I were one team and Rick D. and Jeff were the other. Each team had one lefty and one righty, very convenient! We were mostly going after the small button like sprays of Clinoclase with accessory Olivenite, Azurite, and Cornubite. We worked very well together and between Saturday night and Sunday morning we collected several flats of pretty nice specimens.

As we were finishing up Sunday, Tim and I went into the Copper Stope to look at some Olivenite specimens Jeff had found as the result of a rock fall. Jeff and Rick D. offered to finish the wrapping while we scavenged that which we could. We found the area Jeff had shown us and there were several pieces of a boulder that had fallen that were coated with very well formed blocky Olivenite crystals. We were field trimming and wrapping when we both heard a noise above us and to our left. The human body and mind are amazing things. Without a moment of rational thought, we both knew that a rock fall was happening and that we were in the way. Without looking, I took two steps at a right angle from the perceived path of the fall and dove blindly into the darkness. Tim was a little more careful, but still moved quite quickly. Once out of the way, we looked back just in time to see the first and largest rock bounce right past where we had just been. It was ellipsoid shaped and around 4' X 2' X 2'. It could have been very, very bad! Other smaller pieces came down as well and soon it was very dusty in the stope. Jeff and Rick D. came in a few minutes later and were quite relieved to find us completely unharmed. To make matters even better, the flat with the best specimens survived unscathed! We all decided it was time to leave and made our way out and into the relative safety of the open air. I have a number of specimens in my personal collection from that trip, including the best Olivenite and the best Clinoclase I have ever found.

Three weeks later Stan Bogosian and I stopped by the mine on our way back from Virgin Valley. I found an egg carton full of Pharmacosiderite specimens that Jeff had accidentally left in the Copper Stope. I decided to take a chance and go over to the area where the Olivenite rock fall had been. It was completely buried under new rock falls. When I saw that, I got a very queasy feeling and got out of there.

BAM Nevada Field Trip

May 24 through May 30

The first official “extended” Bay Area Mineralogists field trip for 2006 will be held over six days in late May. This will be a Northern Nevada mineral specimen collecting trip that will visit approximately six mines in three district areas. The first base camp will be setup on Wednesday afternoon, May 24th, at The Willard Mine just off of highway 80 north of Lovelock, Nevada. We hope you can join us for the entire trip or even a couple of days. Of course, there may be minor adjustments in the mine site visits, depending on weather conditions and/or popular consensus. But in any case, the base camps will remain fixed for those of you who may want to join up mid-trip.

Wednesday, May 24-----Depart San Jose for Willard Mine about 7am. We will be making a stop in Reno for lunch and a short visit with Scott Klein of Great Basin Minerals. Scott has been kind enough to share his insights to Northern Nevada mine localities. The target is to make base camp about 3pm and enjoy a few hours of collecting at Willard for phosphate minerals (like really cool Fluellite crystals!). Base Camp is at Willard.

Thursday, May 25th-----We will break camp at Willard Mine and head for Red Bird Mine, a cinnabar crystal locality, in the Humboldt Mountains. We will be collecting here and possibly a couple of other nearby mines for the day. Base Camp is at Willard Mine.

Friday, May 26th-----Leave Willard Base Camp for Bloody Canyon Mine located in the eastern flanks of the Humboldt Mountains just north of Unionville on Lovelock-Unionville Road. Collecting will be at this site and possibly others in the immediate vicinity. We will depart late afternoon and setup new Base Camp at Majuba Hill Mine by 6pm.

Saturday, May 27th-----Leave Majuba Base Camp and head to Bottomley Prospect for a half day of collecting. This site has quartz crystals with included stibnite needles. After lunch, head back to Majuba Mine Base Camp. There will be loads of dump collecting for people that choose to enjoy the sunshine. Majuba Hill Mine is a world-class locality for collecting arsenate minerals. We will spend both Saturday and Sunday nights here at Base Camp and will be holding the first annual Bob Herold “Oh Hell” card tournament. Finals will be on the second night with the winner taking home the King’s Crown (plus a yet to be determined “High Class Tucson Mineral Specimen”). That person will hold the crown until next year (we have really loose rules here) until a new winner is crowned at the next tournament.

Sunday, May 28th-----Remain at base camp at Majuba Hill Mine. There will be plenty of collecting here all day.

Monday, Memorial Day, May 29th-----This is departure day at your leisure and last chance to swap minerals with each other.

The itinerary for the trip is subject to minor changes. If you are interested in joining us on the trip, please contact me at djevan@aol.com or phone 408-281-3690.

Thanks!
Dan Evanich

Platinum Deposit at Konder to be Auctioned



Zvyagintsevite, 6mm

This is in the immediate vicinity of the deposit where the Platinum crystal nuggets are found often coated with gold or intermixed with one or more of the rare platinum group minerals such as: [Cuproiridsite](#), [Isoferroplatinum](#), [Erlichmanite](#), [Laurite](#), [Hollingworthite](#), and [Zvyagintsevite](#)

In the second half of May 2006, the platinum deposit located at Urgolan Stream and a part of Konder, Russia's largest platinum deposit, will be auctioned in Khabarovsk. The estimated platinum reserves are 1.22 tons. The lot is a part of Konder-Urgolan deposit (5.022 tons of explored reserves, 7.122 tons of preliminarily estimated). Auction starting price is 4 million rubles (roughly \$143,000)

Find out more at:

<http://www.bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/tenderlead.cfm?3014>

**A 235 carat diamond,
the size of a hen's egg.**

Nare Diamonds Ltd said it uncovered the gem on April 19, 2006 at the Schmitsdrift mine in South Africa . (Nare Diamonds



BAM Contact Information

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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.

Sign-up Sheet

We still need volunteers to fill the spots

Month	Newsletter	Program	Snacks	Field Trip
March		Tucson Show		
April	North Pennines	Jesse Fisher Weardale		Dan Evanich Clear Creek 4/29
May	Nevada Rick Kennedy	John Magnasco Nevada	John Magnasco	Dan Evanich Nevada 5/24-29
June		Don Windeler Ludwig Skarns		
July		OFF	OFF	
August		OFF	OFF	
September				
October				
November				
December				
January				



Get ready to uncork one at the 1st Annual Bob Herold Memorial “Oh Hell!” Tourney