
Bay Area Mineralogists

May 2009

Next meeting: May 13, 2009

7:00 pm

Foothill College

<http://www.baymin.org>



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The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year. We meet in the Geology Lab at Foothill College (though see note below.) See <http://www.baymin.org/Meet/FoothillMap.gif> for a campus map. Bring \$2 for parking.

BAM May Program: "Behind the Scenes at the Benitoite Shoot" with Barb Matz

Back in December 2007 the show "Cash and Treasures" found its way into our part of California, casting its lucre-seeking gaze upon the Benitoite Gem Mine. Barb Matz was one of the lucky group to be out and about collecting that day, documenting the whole affair while sniffing for triangular blue treasure. Join us as she presents her take on the event – perhaps the statute of limitations has run out on some events worth a good story or two?

Field Trip to Eastern California May 17-24: Final Logistics

Thanks to Dan Evanich and others, the field trip to the Eastern half of the state is ready for launch next weekend. Dan has suggested we set aside a little time at the May meeting to review logistics and the latest locality agenda. Should be another great trip, so whether you're looking to go for the whole trip or drop in for a couple days, this is the time to come and "get all your picks in a row," so to speak.

The End of an Era: Final Meeting at Foothill College

After 15+ years in the Geology Lab of Foothill College, BAM will be looking for a new home. The college is bowing to budgetary pressures and closing down the geology program at the school, leaving our longtime host Chris DiLeonardo out of a job and BAM out of a meeting space. Fortunately, Chris has found a new position in the area, but once this school year closes the welcome mat rolls up.

Our future meeting site has not been finalized yet, so if you happen to know of a potential option please pass on the info to President Spence. Any such place should be able to handle up to 30 people, be (reasonably) centrally located on the Peninsula, and either free or dirt cheap. At the moment it appears we will be shifting to a room at the USGS in Menlo

Park or the College of San Mateo. Stay turned – updates to come as things firm up.

In the meantime, a great big “thank you” to Chris for his long-term support of the club!

Transitions: Passing of Bill Forrest, Congrats to the Carlsons!

Another member of the local collecting community passed on Friday, May 8th: Bill Forrest. Word comes from Steve Perry that services will be held sometime in the upcoming week, but no details are available yet.

Bill was best known for his longtime connection to the Benitoite Gem Mine. He and “Buzz” Gray leased the mine from the Dallas family from 1967 to 1987, then purchased and co-owned it until 1999. He continued to sell benitoite specimens from his stock on eBay as “bensllr”. Bill could also be found helping his son W. Scott Forrest at the Santa Clara Gem and Mineral Show, at which Scott was a dealer (WSF Gems).

As a break from the multiple passings recorded over the past two months, it’s worth adding congratulations for one addition to the community. At 3:01pm, April 23rd, Dan Carlson and Lynne Newton became the proud parents of Dexter Harris Newton Carlson. Checking in at 6lbs 10oz, Dexter made an early appearance after Lynne’s water broke during a Spinal Tap concert in Oakland. (Those of you who know Dan will appreciate the cosmic perfection of that!) Best wishes to the entire family!

Upcoming Shows

May 2-3
“The Great Contra Costa Crystal Fair”
Civic Park Community Center
1375 Civic Dr. at Broadway, Walnut Creek
2nd 10am-6pm, 3rd 10am-4pm

May 15-17
West Coast Gem & Mineral Show
Holiday Inn - Bristol Plaza
3131 S. Bristol, Costa Mesa
15-16th, 10am-6pm; 17th, 10am-5pm

June 6-7
“The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair”
Fort Mason Center
Bldg. A, Laguna and Marina Blvd
6th 10am-6pm, 7th 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.