
Bay Area Mineralogists

May 2014

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USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237

<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 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 May Program: Don Windeler, "Minerals and Stamps"

Due to a few late changes in travel plans, Ted Hadley found he would not be able to make it for this month's regular slot. Rather than change the meeting date, we'll be hearing about Ted's mineral hunting adventures in SoCal next month. In his stead, your newsletter editor will be filling in with a program on a side interest of mine: minerals on postage stamps.

Stamps offer a vast array of options to the interested collector, with windows into history,

geography and just about any topic in which one might take an interest. And the hobby virtually forces one to find an area of focus, as it's essentially impossible to collect everything out there! (Think # countries x number of stamps issued /yr x # of years stamps have been around...)



Minerals USA issue, 1992

I became involved in the hobby through osmosis, a result of looking for entertainment while at stamp shows with my wife. I started looking for mineral issues and found that with persistence one could develop an interesting collection for a relatively small amount of money. While not an especially active collector these days, the rock and mineral-related pages in our albums include well over 500 stamps from more than 50 countries.

This program represents a mix of philatelic fun related to minerals: a bit of background and history, along with a few stories and my own views on the good, the bad and the ugly in mineral stamps. In addition to the slides, there will be a few albums filled with worldwide examples and books on the topic. Rumour has it there may also be a few sets up for auction to benefit BAM as well.



East Germany, 1972

More CCMA Feedback and Tips

As discussed in our April meeting, a number of rockhounds from BAM and other clubs have already begun to take advantage of Clear Creek's reopening. As with last month, if you have been out there please let us know what's working and what's not. Word so far has been good regarding access and the permitting process, but not all roads and permutations have been checked out yet. If you are coming to the meeting, please be ready to share your experiences and tips on the permitting & access process with the group; if you can't be there, please send to President Spence at bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net.

President Spence also shared a tip that may be of value to those in the close-to-retired crowd: the Senior Pass for the federal park system. It is available to those who are 62 1/2 years old for a one-time, lifetime fee of \$10. It entitles one to avoid entrance and use fees at National Parks, Monuments and other federal recreation lands -- including the \$5 entrance fee at CCMA. According to Bill, a person on the phone at Hollister says that the procedure is to record your card number (it's on the lower right front of the Senior Pass card) on the envelope at the iron gate in lieu of the \$5 deposit. Given that the

\$10 purchase price covers you for the rest of your life, it's well worth the investment.

NCMA Coming Up!

Many BAM members participate in multiple mineral clubs and one of the most popular in the region is the NCMA (Northern California Mineralogical Association). The NCMA has a focus (pun intended) on micromounting, but like BAM includes many with a strong interest in the field of mineralogy and in personally-collected material.

Each year the NCMA holds a 3-day symposium that includes speakers, auctions, swaps and giveaway tables, with the last being well-known for the interesting materials that can be found. This year's edition will be held in El Dorado on May 30 – June 1. For more information, see <http://www.minresco.com/ncma/index.htm> (or just bug webmaster Gene or Sharon Cisneros!)

New Mexico Field Trip

Just a reminder for those who may not have been at the last meeting or two: there will be a group heading off to New Mexico at the end of the month, May 24 – June 2. The focus this time will be on the Cook's Peak and Blanchard areas, two spots where we had our best results in the 2008 expedition. Interested members in good standing can contact Dan Evanich (djevan@aol.com) to pick up details on when and where to meet up with the group.



Old mining gear in the Blanchard area, BAM 2008 New Mexico trip (D. Windeler photo)

Free to a Good Home: Old Min Mags

Len Piskiewicz sends this note along to the group:

“Old rockhound magazines, found while cleaning out the garage:

ROCK & GEM, most issues 1971-74

GEMS & MINERALS, most issues 1966-74

“Contact me and I’ll bring them to the next BAM meeting for you. If no takers – into the recycle cart. Leonard Piskiewicz, phone: 408-241-4626; email: lenp@pacbell.net “

Upcoming Shows

May 16-18

West Coast Gem & Mineral Show

Martin Zinn Expositions

Holiday Inn-Orange County Airport

2726 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana

Fri & Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

www.mzexpos.com

May 30-June 1

NCMA Annual Meeting

El Dorado Community Hall

6139 Pleasant Valley Rd., El Dorado

Fri 2pm-?, Sat 8am-?, Sun 8am-2pm

<http://www.minresco.com/ncma/Meeting.htm>

May 30-June 1

77th Annual Show & Convention

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Fairplex Building 5

1101 W. McKinley Ave, Pomona

Fri & Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 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.