
Bay Area Mineralogists

November 2010

November 10, 2010, 7:00 pm
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, unless diverted by extenuating circumstances. 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 November Program: John Richardson "A Madagascar Travelogue (Mineralogical and Otherwise)"

John Richardson recently had the good fortune to make a visit to the exotic island of Madagascar. For this month's meeting, he'll share with us his impressions of that epic trip (albeit likely with a different title than the one I made up.)

John sends on the following preview:

"The ancient island of Madagascar, sitting remotely in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Mozambique, conjures up a variety of exotic images: from its unique flora and fauna, to its wealth of minerals developed when it was part of the supercontinent Gondwana 3 billion years ago. The 150 million year old island is practically one huge pegmatite, carrying rocks and minerals found on all the other continents. The list of minerals - both precious and semi precious - goes on forever. "



John checking out the not-quite-ready-for-carry on-luggage goods

"Besides minerals, Madagascar is a primary depository for ancient sea creatures predominately ammonites. Most of the mining, with a few exceptions, is done by locals making use of hand tools. Not unlike a typical BAM field trip."

“There have been some recent developments – not all of them good for the island and its inhabitants – that you will learn about. The photo images will take you through one of the largest open pit sapphire mines, a wild mineral market, and some of the fauna such as lemurs (the first monkey) and chameleons.”



*“I’ll trade you a pezzotaitite for that banana...”
J. Richardson photo*

October Notes + Upcoming Programs

Good fun last month with the Idaho trip wrap-up – thank you to Dan Evanich for pulling together photos from the trip and playing ringleader for the lie-swapping. We were happy to see lots of new faces in the crowd, including our latest addition to the members’ rolls, Paul Favia.

One more item from the Idaho trip: this year’s champion of the Bob Herrold Memorial “Oh Hell” tournament was Jean Lee. Jean actually donned the hard hat crown at the September meeting and, per tradition, will have to add her touch to its ever-growing decorations.

One unfortunate note confirmed at the October meeting was the demise of the Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society Show, at least for 2011. This has always been a nice little show on the Peninsula, held in September and featuring our very own Chuck Trantham as a mineral dealer. Unfortunately, the unending squeeze from cash-strapped city governments has pushed the

rental fees for the Redwood City community center out of a workable range for SGMS, and it appears that the club won’t be putting it on again next year. (One can hope something comes through to bring back the show in 2012.)

Finally, in December, our speaker will be Tim Rose, BAM member and current president of the NCMA. Tim will be talking about new mineral species described for California in 2009. Stay tuned for further details.

Crystal Gazers’ / BAM Holiday Bash, 2010 Edition

Continuing the summer/winter reciprocal parties, the Crystal Gazers have extended their annual holiday party to the BAM membership.

The party will be in the community room of Si and Ann Frazier’s Albany apartment complex the evening of Saturday, December 4, between 5pm and 9pm. Much like BAM’s September picnic, there will be a benefit auction. Food will be bring-a-dish potluck. Plan on carpooling and probably a short walk down the street, as parking is extremely limited in the complex.

The Fraziers need to hear from folks by Dec. 1st, both for a headcount and to speed things along with a name list for the security desk. Please contact either me or the Fraziers directly (siannfraz@aol.com) with your RSVP and to receive more specific directions to their place. Come on out – it’s always a good time!

Errata: 2011 NCMA Meeting Date

Last month I sent on info for next year’s meeting of the Northern California Micromounters’ Association (NCMA). As it turns out, the message I was working from was out of date. Next spring’s meeting will be May 20-22, 2011, not the 13th to 15th as listed in the October newsletter. The meeting will still be held in the El Dorado Community Hall – no change there.

BAM Website Updates

Bill Spence and Charles Nelson have started the process of updating baymin.org, the official BAM

website. The full overhaul to implement the conceptual redesign begun last year is still to come, but some housekeeping and enhancements are underway.

In addition to cleaning up typos and removing some unnecessary personal information, Bill has been adding to the member biography section. Biographies have been created and submitted for Gretchen Luepke, Fen Cooper, Gail Dunning, and Bill himself. Gretchen's is up at present, expect the others soon.

To further improve this section, Bill is looking for the following:

1. Help from someone who knew Bob Herrold well to put together his bio text;
2. Photos of Kurt Servos, Dick Erd, and Bob Herrold to supplement the biography text; and
3. Current member photos and biographies – per last month's note, that means you!

Send your contributions on to bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net.

Upcoming Shows

November 6-7
51st Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord, Clayton Fair Shopping
5298 Clayton Rd, Concord
10am to 5pm daily

November 12-14
Sacramento Mineral Society Show
Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St.
Fri. & Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm

November 20-21
Livermore Lithorama
Livermore Valley Lithophiles
3131 Pacific Ave, Livermore
20th, 10am-5pm; 21st, 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.