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# Bay Area Mineralogists November 2014

Meeting: November 12, 2014, 7:00 pm  
USGS, Building 3, Room 3-237  
345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

<http://www.baymin.org>

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- Note from the Editor

The Bay Area Mineralogists meet on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year, at the USGS in Menlo Park. The campus map (<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>) shows our room in Building 3 on the second floor, where the map says "Conference Room." Note that the front doors are locked and you will have to come up the stairs on the Middlefield Road side of the building. Parking is free.

November 12 Program:  
Imperial County, CA –  
Overlooked and Undercollected  
by Bob Walstrom at NCMA

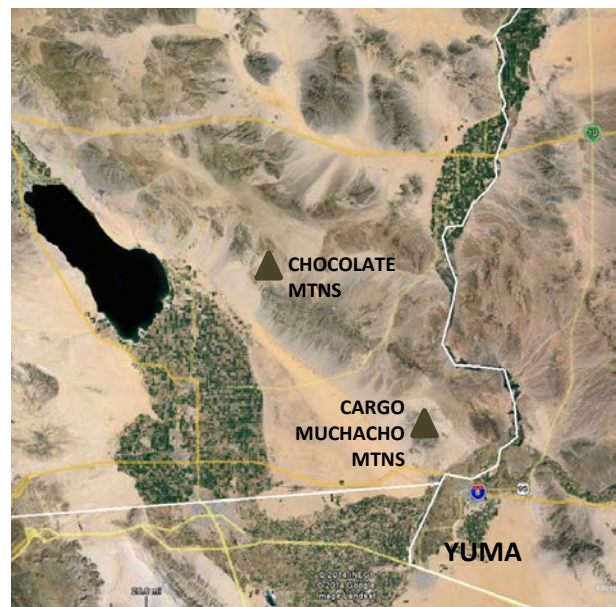
The November program will be a DVD of the presentation by Bob Walstrom at the June 2014 meeting of the Northern California Mineralogical Association. (Bob will not be at our meeting.)

Bob reported finding new occurrences of many minerals in this area, including many very rare minerals, nearly all of which are micros. His talk was so enthusiastically received that he has planned a field trip to these collecting areas.

## Cargo Muchacho Field Trip, Nov 23-25

Bob Walstrom is leading a mineral collecting trip in the far southeastern corner of California in early Thanksgiving week (Nov 23-25). The field trip will visit seven mines in the Cargo Muchacho and Chocolate Mountains to collect a variety of minerals, primarily micros. High clearance and some 4WD or hiking may be needed to reach the various mines. Any BAM member is welcome to attend the field trip. Please see Bob's field trip notice, sent with this newsletter, for more information.

Bob will be camping at the Cargo Muchacho Mountains, and there is plenty of room for other campers around him. It is a dry camp with no facilities. For non-campers, the closest lodging is in Yuma AZ (22 miles away, on good roads).



November field trip area, in the far SE corner of CA.

## Crystal Gazers & BAM Holiday Party

Mark your calendars now for the Crystal Gazers & BAM Holiday Party on Saturday, December 6. The gathering will be graciously hosted by Si and Ann Frazier in the Community Room at their condo complex in Albany. Be sure to RSVP to them ([siannfraz@aol.com](mailto:siannfraz@aol.com)) by December 1<sup>st</sup>, so they can get your name on the building entry list. Festivities will start at 5 pm and run until 9 pm. We'll have a pot-luck dinner and a silent auction. Bring a dish to share, and something good (mineral specimens, book, calendar, etc.) for the auction. Parking nearby can be a challenge, so consider carpooling to free up some spaces.

Note: The mini-show in Emeryville that has been held on the same day as the party for a number of years will most likely be scheduled for a different date this year. A notice will be sent to BAM members if/when a date is established.

## Mineral Names

I sometimes try to find out the story behind mineral names, and I may occasionally share what I learn here, if you don't mind. – ed.

## Weeksite

On the SFGMS field trip to Utah in September 2014, we collected weeksite at the Autunite #8 Claim on Topaz Mountain. As we were collecting, Stan mentioned that weeksite was named for a woman, so that aroused my curiosity.

(Incidentally, I later learned from mindat that Autunite #8 is the type locality for weeksite.)



<http://www.mindat.org/photo-324503.html>

Weeksite ( $K_2(UO_2)_2(Si_5O_{13}) \cdot 4H_2O$ )  
Autunite #8 Claim, Thomas Range, Juab County, UT

Weeksite was named in 1960 in honor of Alice Mary Dowse Weeks, PhD [1909-1988]. Dr Weeks earned her PhD from Harvard while teaching geology at Wellesley, then in 1949 joined the USGS where she worked as a mineralogist in the Trace Elements Lab. Much of her important research was done on the mineralogy of radioactive deposits, particularly those of the Colorado Plateau. She did extensive field work at many mines, although she sometimes had to disguise herself as a man to gain access.

Later she was a professor of mineralogy at Temple University in Philadelphia where, beginning in 1962, she expanded their geology department into a full-fledged degree program.

One interesting note from her early life: During WW II she taught mapmaking to Navy personnel. She was ambidextrous and would draw on the left side of the map with her left hand, and on the right side of the map with her right hand.

## Nearby Shows & Sales

Nov 22-23 – Livermore

Livermore Lithophiles *Lithorama 2014*

The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave, Livermore

Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm

<http://www.lithophiles.com/lithorama.html>

Nov 22-23 – Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society Winter Sale

Live Oak Grange Hall

1900 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Santa Cruz

Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm

[www.scmgs.org](http://www.scmgs.org)

Nov 29-30 – San Francisco

Pacific Crystal Guild Show & Sale

Fort Mason Center, 2 Marina Blvd

Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm

[www.crystalfair.com](http://www.crystalfair.com)

## And Finally...

Member contributions or suggestions for this newsletter are always appreciated – and I know that many of you know more about minerals and mineralogy than I do! Send content, photos, or suggestions to me at [matz.barb@gmail.com](mailto:matz.barb@gmail.com).