

Bay Area Mineralogists

October 2006 Newsletter

Next meeting: Oct. 11th, 2006

8:00 PM, 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.

October Meeting Agenda



Brian White, Project Coordinator for the Clear Creek Management Area and members of his BLM staff will join us at our October BAM meeting on October 11th. Following are suggested topics of discussion including how they affect rockhounds as opposed to other users of the CCMA:

- Road maintenance
 - Will current routes be maintained at least at current condition?
 - Can some degraded roads be improved?
- Seasonal closures
- Permanent route closures – reasons? accessibility?
- Camping rules
- Historical background on lawsuits, Jade Mill, pollution abatement, New Idria
- What is known about developments at the Benitoite Mine?
- Use fee plans establishing and working claims within CCMA
- How are plans prioritized between rockhound, motorcyclist, environmental concerns?
- How does the EPA concern over asbestos affect access?

Don't forget!

Bring your favorite samples of Clear Creek area minerals to share with the folks from BLM!

Dues are due!

The 2006 BAM Picnic

The annual BAM picnic was held at Dan and Sharyn Evanich's home in San Jose, California, with about 15-18 members present. The weather cooperated and we didn't experience any of the heat waves that dominated California in July. There were plenty of BBQ hamburgers and sausages as well as desserts aplenty! Even homemade apple butter brought in by Chuck Trantham. Mineral collecting tales were shared and the silent auction offered something for everyone's taste. All in all, it was another great time with a bunch of dedicated mineral enthusiasts.



The silent auction table



Rick gets a new sticker



John explains Alaska gold to Stan

What's New?

THE BENITOITE GEM MINE RE-OPENS FOR COLLECTING!!!

Recently, Rick Kennedy and Dan Evanich were informed by the Dave Schreiner, the new owner of The Benitoite Gem Mine that it would be open for fee collecting beginning in September. A classic collecting locality has been resurrected and, for the immediate time being, is open to the public for fee collecting. I have to tell you, the mine is not dead, as many comments and rumors have stated over the last year. It was just resting. There is still benitoite-bearing mine run scattered about, and, from personal experience, nice specimens can be found. It is certainly more difficult now, but patience and a good eye should pay off. Contact Rick Kennedy or Dan Evanich for more details regarding the mine.



Recycled mine-run



Parked mid-level



Looking down from the top

New minerals at the Denver Show



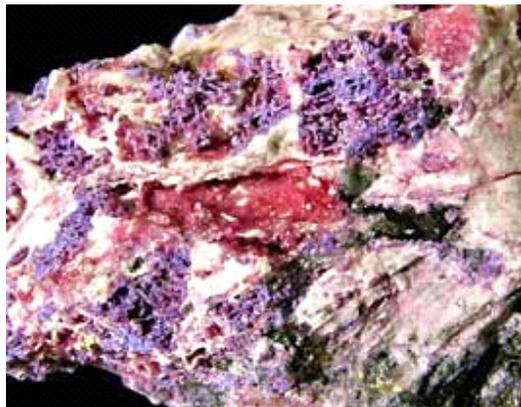
Demantoid Garnet from Tubussis farm,
Erongo, Namibia 5.4 x 3.5 x 2.3 cm
www.irocks.com



Pyrite on Calcite from Chenzhou, Hunan
Province, China 17 x 10 x 6 cm
www.irocks.com



World-class Augelite crystals from
Ortega Prospect, Northern Ancash Dept.,
Peru 5 x 2.4 x 3.3 cm
www.irocks.com



Red Variscite with Strengite from Lavra
Boa Vista, Galiléia, Minas Gerais, Brazil
5.5 x 3.4 x 3 cm
www.fabreminerals.com



Alfredo Petrov, holding a rather large
Bolivian Stibnite in his room at the
Denver Show as shot by Jolyon Ralph of
www.mindat.org Thanks Jolyon!

September Meeting Review

Dan Evanich presented a talk on BAM's extended field trip that was held over the Memorial Day Weekend to various localities in the Great Basin ranges of Nevada. The presentation featured an excellent 45-minute video tour of the adits of the Majuba Hill Mine together with a brief review of other localities and various Summer trips. Thanks Dan!



Check out...

Thomas Krassmann's Giant Crystal Project webpage at <http://giantcrystals.strahlen.org/indexneu.htm>



Upcoming Events of Mineralogical Interest

- Oct 14-15** Nevada County Gem & Mineral Show, Earth's Treasures, Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Road, Hours: Sat. & Sun. 10 – 4.
- Oct 28-29** Santa Rosa Gem and Mineral Show, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 1351 Maple Avenue, Sat 10 – 5, Sun 10 – 5
- Nov 10-12** West Coast Gem and Mineral Show (Fall), [Holiday Inn -- Bristol Plaza, 3131 Bristol, Costa Mesa.](#), Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5.
http://www.mzexpos.com/westcoast_fall.htm
- Nov 18-19** Livermore Valley Lithophiles Show, "The Barn" 3131 Pacific Avenue, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://www.lithophiles.com/>

Incredible Plesiosaurs unearthed midway between Norway and the North Pole



Uncovering a small plesiosaur



Intensely folded Carboniferous and Permian Strata, Ingeborgfjellet, Van Mijenfjorden

A little off the topic of minerals, but fascinating to the naturalists and geologists among us, Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean where researchers from the University of Iceland have discovered numerous vertebrate and invertebrate fossils. One particular discovery found its way into the mainstream news this week as University of Oslo researchers have revealed that numerous plesiosaurs, some up to ten meters long, have been unearthed in Svalbard. Take a look at the web page from Ólafur Ingólfsson, Professor of Glacial and Quaternary Geology for the University of Iceland Department of Geology and Geography and Institute of Earth Sciences. It discusses the various aspects of these inhospitable northern islands. In fact, he refers to the mountainous isles as a geologists “mecca”. There are some excellent photos of the area, nice geologic maps and charts, and a brief description of the geography and geology of the area. http://www.hi.is/~oi/svalbard_geology.htm

BAM Contact Information

Editor: John Magnasco
 Phone 408-838-9186
 Email magnasco@SBCglobal.net
 BAM site: <http://www.baymin.org>
 President: Rick Kennedy <mailto:riken@flash.net>
 Treasurer: John Magnasco <mailto:magnasco@SBCglobal.net>

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
September	Dan Evanich BAM Nevada Trip	Dan Evanich Majuba video	John Magnasco	Dan Evanich BAM Nevada Trip
October	Various	BLM on Clear Creek Mgmt Area	Rick Kennedy	Clear Creek and/or Big Creek Trip 10/21-22
November				
December				
January				
February		OFF	OFF	
March		Tucson Show		
April				
May				
June				