
Bay Area Mineralogists

October 2009

NEW LOCATION!

October 14, 2009, 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. 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". Parking is free.

Inaugural BAM Meeting at USGS

September marked our first gathering of the 2009 "school year" as well as at BAM's new home at the USGS. As everyone showed up to hear about summer-goings-on, recap the Eastern Sierra trip, and catch up with friends, turnout was sufficiently robust to fill up all the seats around the tables and spill out into the perimeter chairs.

For future meetings, be forewarned that the front entrance to Building 3 will likely be locked, but that the door nearest the conference room (up the stairs, Middlefield side of the building) should be open.

A big welcome goes out to Leslie Gordon, our first new member from the USGS. BAM and the Survey have a long mutual history, one which we hope will be renewed by the proximity of BAM's monthly meeting!

October Program: Len Piszkiwicz, Mineral Collecting Localities of the San Gabriel Mts, Southern California

For October's main event, Len P. will be talking about mineral localities (and his experiences collecting at such) in the San Gabriel Mountains. As he passed on in his summary, "Some of the San Gabriel localities are well-known, such as the Pacoima Canyon pegmatite, while others aren't known to anyone else... at least not yet. All will be revealed during the meeting, however – be sure to attend so you don't miss it!"

Program Director Needed!

For the past year, Bill Spence has been pulling double duty as both BAM president and the organizer of programs for our monthly meetings. We're looking for someone to step up and take on the Program Director role for the year... no experience needed, just good ideas and a willingness to occasionally wheedle or gently twist an arm. (We even have November taken care of, thanks to Lee McIlvaine.) If you'd like to give it a crack, let Bill know at either a meeting or via e-mail (bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net)

Alternative Date for November Meeting

That said, we'll have to change our traditional second-Wednesday meeting date for November. The 11th is Veterans' Day and the USGS campus will be closed. The membership will vote on a preferred alternative date, most likely the 4th or 18th – watch this space for updates.

Strawberry Mine Field Trip, September 18-20

On the weekend of September 18-20, Lee McIlvaine, Stan Bogosian, John Richardson, and Gary Moss headed toward Fresno and the Strawberry Mine for a little blacklighting and skarn collecting. While a relatively short stay, it was a scenic locality and great weather for the weekend.

The main finds for the weekend were scheelites and garnets, but Stan found some decent molybdenites on matrix as well.



*Garnet plate, Strawberry Mine; 12" diameter
(Stan Bogosian picture & specimen)*

Stan adds, "There are buildings left over from the old mine on the west side, as well as the newer buildings from the Teledyne era (1978-1982) on the east side. This is one of the most scenic areas in the state to collect: Yosemite is to the north, and there is an unobstructed view of the Eastern Sierra front including the Minarets and Mammoth Mountain."



*View across the Strawberry Mine site
(Stan Bogosian picture)*

A big thank you to Lee McIlvaine for organizing the trip and arranging access, as well as to the owner for allowing BAM to collect!

The Great California ShakeOut

Every once in a while my hobbies and my career cross paths and I feel compelled to briefly step out of the "impartial editor" role. I came out to California to attend Stanford in the fall of 1989, just a few weeks before the October 17 Loma Prieta earthquake. While by no means "the big one," this M6.9 event killed 63 and did more than \$6 billion in property damage.

At the time, it was a tradition for professors Gordon Brown and George Parks to lead new geology students on a mineralogical field trip to New Idria and the San Benito Gem Mine. While driving out on that field trip we stopped in Watsonville to see the epicentral effects of the earthquake firsthand. While we couldn't get very close in, what we could see was a sobering experience for those of us from more tectonically stable terranes.

These days I work with tools for estimating financial disasters (such as earthquakes) and am continually reminded of the value of being prepared for these events. This is a good opportunity for everyone to be reminded, however: with the 20th anniversary of Loma Prieta upon us, the USGS and others are pushing for California residents to participate in the Great California ShakeOut, a statewide drill to raise preparedness for The Next One. The

drill will take place Thursday morning, the day after the October meeting.

Sign up to “duck, cover, and hold,” check out what you need for a home earthquake preparedness kit, and remember that it’s always earthquake season... For more information, cast your eyeballs on <http://www.shakeout.org/>

Upcoming Shows

October 10-11

Trona Gem-o-Rama
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
SLG&MS Lapidary and Show Building
13337 Main St., Trona
11th, 7:30am-5pm; 12th, 7:30am-4pm

October 17-18

Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society
Veteran's Memorial Auditorium
1352 Maple, Santa Rosa
10am-5pm daily

October 24-25

Peninsula Gem & Mineral Society
Los Altos Youth Center,
1 San Antonio Road, Los Altos
10am to 5pm daily

October 23-25

Gem Faire
Alameda County Fairgrounds
4501 Pleasanton Ave, Pleasanton
23rd, 12p-7p; 24th, 10a-7p; 25th, 10a-5p

November 7-8

50th Anniversary Contra Costa Mineral &
Gem Society
Centre Concord, Clayton Fair Shopping
5298 Clayton Rd, Concord
10am to 5pm daily

Letters to the BAM Editor

Please send your comments, content, compliments, and/or complaints to Don Windeler, don.windeler@rms.com, 650-591-1644.