
Bay Area Mineralogists

October 2010

October 13, 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 October Program: Dan Evanich, "The 2010 BAM Idaho Field Trip"

For this month's meeting, we'll be taking a look back at the main BAM activity this past summer: the trip to southwest Idaho. Over the week of July 17-24, eight intrepid BAMmies (and younger three collectors-in-training) crawled over various mines and prospects of the Seven Devils District near Cuprum, enjoying great weather and stunning scenery... along with some of the dustiest roads any of us have ever traveled.

Dan Evanich will be ringleader for this year's round-up and presumably will welcome additional photos from those who were along on the trip. (Ping to djevan@aol.com.) Be sure to bring your treasures and tall tales from the trip to share with the group.



Bogosian, Magnasco, and Evanich digging for quartz at the South Peacock. J. Sulzbach photo

Current plan for November is for John Richardson to recap his recent trip to Madagascar – stay tuned for details!

NCMA Meeting Wrap and Prezo CD

Another group that may be of interest to BAM members is the Northern California Micromounters Association (NCMA). There's already some cross-pollination between the groups; Bill Spence forwarded on the summary of this year's NCMA Conference in case it piques the interest of anyone.

An abridged version is included below.

Don Howard kicked the conference off again this year with his whimsical talk, "What's Old in Minerals?" a review of his major finds on the give-away tables during the 2009 NCMA conference. This was followed by a short presentation by Brent Thorne of his recent micromineral photographs, many of which he has been placing on the mindat.org website for general review. Friday night was closed out by a very nice presentation by Tim Rose on the 10 newly described California minerals of 2009, the majority of them from the Otto Mt. localities near Baker and from the Blue Bell claims about 6 miles south of there. Suffice it to say that NCMA members had a heavy hand in the collection, research and eventual description of the latter minerals. On Saturday, we were treated to "The Minerals of Gold Hill," delivered by Mike Kokinos and slated to be his Micromounters Hall of Fame induction lecture. Herwig Pelckmans finished up the lectures on Sunday with another eye-popping photo-lecture, this year on "Fluorite Oddities."

"DVDs of all of the lectures and presentations at the conference are now available for \$15. All are in full color and of high-quality this year, devoid of the technical glitches that affected the 2009 batch. The DVDs can be ordered for \$15, sent to me @ Al Wilkins, 23202 Via Celeste, Coto de Caza, CA 92679-3919."

Note that Bill checked in with the NCMA to confirm it's OK for non-members to order the DVD if they're interested – and he wholeheartedly recommends the content!

The other item of relevance to prospective attendees is that the NCMA voted to move their annual meeting to mid-May. Next year's meeting will be May 13-15, 2011, in the El Dorado Community Hall.

Bonhams & Butterfields "The Nature of Opals" Display & Auction, November 6-10

Perhaps not the usual newsletter notice, but this may be of interest to some of you. We received a message through the website from the B&B auction house about a major auction of opal specimens, carvings, and jewelry to be held in San Francisco on November 10. Parts of the catalog will be on a traveling display in the weeks leading up to the sale, with a preview of the full collection to be held in San Francisco November 6-9.

For reference, here's what they're highlighting for the specimen collection part of the catalog:

"Opalized wood is also represented within the sale by a unique example of a large tree limb in which the cellular structure of the tree has been replaced by opalization. Weighing in at a hefty 85 lbs, the extraordinary specimen from Koroit, Queensland, Australia, measures approximately five feet long and is estimated to bring \$35,000-45,000. Opalized fossils known to originate in Coober Pedy, Australia will also be featured in the November sale. Highlights will include a rare opalized jawbone section of the Cretaceous sea creature Pleiosaur, contour polished on one face to reveal the brilliant spectral play-of-color within (est. \$24,000-28,000)."

I won't fill the newsletter with the jewelry and carving sections, but am happy to send the full announcement to anyone interested. URL for the auction list is below:

<http://www.bonhams.com/cgi-bin/public.sh/pubweb/publicSite.r?sContinent=USA&screen=catalogue&iSaleNo=19039>

The display and auction will be held at the B&B office at 220 San Bruno Avenue in San Francisco. Open to the public, but we can arrange for a private tour if we cared to. If you go on your own, identify yourself as being with the Bay Area Mineralogists to get a free catalog.

In Search of BAM Mug Shots

One final note from President Spence in advance of the meeting: "I would like to start collecting website-suitable photos of BAM members for posting on the website with bios. Ideally these would be shots of the members

engaged in rockhound-related activities with clear facial shots. Anyone having such photos should send them to me electronically if at all possible." Bill can be reached at bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net.

SFG&MS Show Addendum

In last month's "Summer Roundup", I neglected one important acknowledgment. The group owes a big "thank you" to Dave Lowe for organizing the Bay Area Mineralogists' display case at the San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society's show in August.

Jean Lee was kind enough to pass on the shot below of the completed case. Thanks to all who contributed to the case and to Dave in particular!

October 16-17
Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society
Veteran's Memorial Auditorium
1351 Maple, Santa Rosa
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

November 6-7
51st 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.



BAM case at the 2010 San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society Show. J. Lee photo

Upcoming Shows

October 9-10
Trona Gem-o-Rama 2010
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
SLG&MS Lapidary and Show Building
13337 Main St., Trona
9th, 7:30am-5pm; 10th, 7:30am-4pm