
Bay Area Mineralogists

October 2011

October 12, 2011, 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.

Please remember that we're trying to start on time at 7:00 – the USGS facilities staff can't leave until we do and we inevitably have plenty of catch-up at the first meeting, so come on down a little early!

BAM October Program: Paul Geffner, "Jacksons Crossroads"

This month BAM is fortunate to have Paul Geffner as a speaker. Many of you may know Paul through visits to the Hallelujah Junction / Peterson Mountain quartz locality, but he also is

also a partner in several other specimen collecting operations around the US. For October, Paul will be discussing the amethyst mine at Jacksons Crossroads in Wilkes County, Georgia.

The state of Georgia may not be the first place that comes to mind when a Californian thinks of mineral collecting, but it certainly hosts some great localities (e.g. the rutiles of Graves Mountain). Hints of good quality amethyst in the region had been noted since the 1960's, but in the 1980s and 1990s collectors began to focus on the Jackson's Crossroads locality. The first big finds occurred in the early part of the 2000s and Jackson's Crossroads has since set the standard for amethyst in the US. The material can be deep purple and clear, found on a white quartz matrix that provides a great contrast. For pictures and future reference, see the relevant chapter in *American Mineral Treasures*.

Paul will be sharing photos from the site, along with his unique perspective on the history, mining operations, and characters involved in the story of Jacksons Crossroads. He is always an entertaining speaker and brings his dry humor to bear – fans of "red arrow" specimen collecting might want to lay low.

Next Month...

In November, our speaker will be Jean deMouthe, mineral curator for the California Academy of Sciences. The primary topic will be gem minerals, but we'll undoubtedly get to hear

the latest in the ongoing saga of “when will the CAS put minerals back on display?” Definitely another program to mark on your calendar!

September Errata

Thanks go out to Dennis Perkins and Sharon Luckman, who last month provided an interesting program on ‘blue needle’ quartz, complete with a lighted display of examples from their collection.

One mistake in the newsletter, however: I wrote “Quartz with blue needle inclusions is far less effective as a radio frequency oscillator and hence was undesirable in crystals during WWII.” While the blue needle inclusions were identified during these studies, they did not have an appreciable impact relative to other mineral inclusions like rutile, which effectively rendered the quartz useless,

Apologies for the misinformation, which is entirely the fault of your editor.

Upcoming Shows

October 15-16
El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds
1351 Maple, Santa Rosa
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm

November 5-6
52nd Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord, Clayton Fair Shopping
5298 Clayton Rd, Concord
10am to 5pm daily

November 11-13
Sacramento Mineral Society
75th Diamond Jubilee
Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St.
Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4

Letters to the BAM Editor

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