
Bay Area Mineralogists

October 2013

October 9 (hopefully!), 2013, 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" – 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.

Meeting Contingencies For Government Shutdown

Given we meet at the USGS, the current political staring contest has us locked out of our usual haunts until someone tires of the posturing and allows the government to return to a functional state. President Spence has laid out the following protocol for assessing the date of our October meeting:

"Please be advised that all USGS buildings will be closed during the government shutdown. They will re-open on the day

after the president signs the authorization bill. Therefore if you see/hear on the news that he has signed the bill on or before **Tuesday, October 8**, you may assume that Building 3 will be available, and the BAM meeting will proceed as planned on Wednesday, October 9. If he hasn't signed a bill by then, we will defer the meeting one week to October 16. The same scenario will apply to that date; if the bill is signed by Tuesday the 15th, we will meet on the 16th. In the unlikely event that a shutdown lasts beyond October 15, the October BAM meeting will be cancelled, and we will combine the Utah and Colorado presentations in the November meeting."

Sub-optimal to say the least, but such is the congressional sausage-making process.

October Program: Stan Bogosian, "BAM in Utah" (+ Other Goodies)

Back in May an intrepid group of BAM members made the trip out to Gold Hill and the Thomas Range topaz localities in Utah with stops in Nevada on the route back home. Stan Bogosian will narrate a travelogue for this trip, from which I (unfortunately!) did not pilfer any preview photos. These are some classic localities with great minerals both rare and flashy, though, so be sure to come check out the stories and results.

As implied in the opening notes above, our November program will tentatively cover BAM's

other big collecting trip this summer, the run to Colorado and the amazonite / topaz claims visited therein. President Spence notes that this could get pre-empted by a visit from the BLM if the sky finally parts over Clear Creek.

And looking backward a month, the September meeting was a heavily-attended one. Over 40 BAM members and guests showed up to listen to Jolyon Ralph talk about MinDat's history and future plans as well as accept BAM's \$1,000 donation to help the site reach its fundraising goal. Many of us use MinDat on a daily basis, so keep it in mind as a possible landing spot for your charitable contributions.



*Jolyon Ralph with BAM President Bill Spence.
(Herwig Pelckmans photo)*

Trimingham Sale Updates

Per previous notices, the estate of ex-BAM member Bob Trimingham is looking to clear out the remaining content of his whacking extensive mineral collection and associated collecting stuff, including plenty of cabinets. The next open house in Livermore has been set for October 20th, 9:00am to 3:00pm. Those of you on the distribution list will have received a copy of the previous flyer with dimensions on the cabinets (\$400 each), but please let me know if you need one.

The sale is located at 5319 Charlotte Way, Livermore; map can be accessed at

<http://goo.gl/maps/8wDJg>. The principals can be contacted as follows:

Nicole (925) 200-1842
nicoleeliseallen@yahoo.com

Chris (925) 550-5934
chrisphil413@hotmail.com

BAMmies Out and About

My requests for fun photos of BAM members doing mineral-related things over the summer (or whenever, frankly!) yielded a few responses.

Maurizio Damiani sends along this photo of selenite crystals in an amethyst geode. He notes,

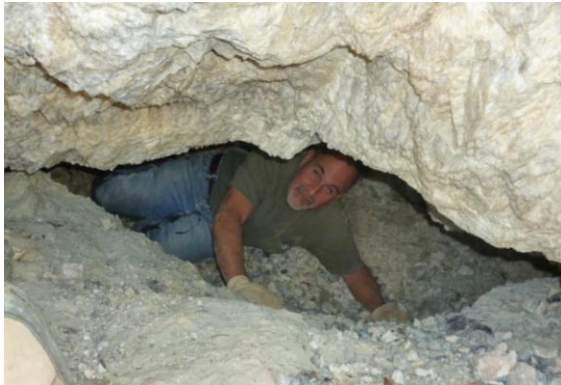
"This I found in a garimpeiro's garage in Ametista do Sul, Rio Grande, Brazil, this summer. The opening is about 2 feet. Not exactly a personal dig, so ... but then over there it's hard."



Selenite in amethyst. Not your average carry-on rock for the flight home. (M. Damiani photo)

Ted Hadley sends his contributions to the field of nature photography (ca. 9/2013) along for the group.

"I got this photo of the shy Thompson Peak gopher. He is usually found in rocky, crystal lined burrows, and comes out only to eat. One can find him by listening to his hammer-like claws and teeth digging through often solid rock. Since his burrows are always crystal lined, the rubble outside the burrow often sparkles in the sunlight. I have a similar photo of a crystal gopher digging a new burrow on Peterson Mountain. These types of gophers can often be lured out of their homes with large, fine quartz crystals, but their unpredictable nature makes doing this dangerous since they are tempted to hammer on everything in sight to relieve their frustrations. They eat all kinds of foods, but especially like pot roasts and carnitas. They are particularly fond of very hot, spicy food."



Thompson Peak gopher in its preferred habitat. Sometimes answers to "Paul". (T. Hadley photo)

Please, by all means keep the pictures and stories / fabrications coming!

Upcoming Shows

October 26-27
Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
Los Altos Youth Center
One North San Antonio Rd, Los Altos
10am to 5pm daily

November 2-3
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord, Clayton Fair Shopping
5298 Clayton Rd, Concord
10am to 5pm daily

November 9
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society Show
Vallejo Veterans Bldg.
420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo
Sat. 9am-5pm

November 9-10
Santa Cruz Gem & Mineral Society
Live Oak Grange
1900 17th Ave, Santa Cruz
10am to 5pm daily

November 23-24
Livermore Lithorama
Livermore Valley Lithophiles
3131 Pacific Ave, Livermore
Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 10am-4pm

Letters to the BAM Editor

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