
Bay Area Mineralogists October 2016

Meeting: Wednesday, Oct 12, 2016; 7 pm
USGS, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
Building 3, 2nd Floor, Rm 3-237

President: Don Windeler, don.windeler@rms.com

Editor: Barb Matz, matz.barb@gmail.com

BAM web site: www.baymin.org



In this Issue:

- Program: Seaman Mineral Museum
- News of Members
- Minerals at CA Academy of Science
- Snow Lake Memories
- Upcoming Shows

The Bay Area Mineralogists meet monthly during the school year, on the 2nd Wednesday, at the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, on the second floor of Building 3, where the campus map says "Rambo Auditorium."

(<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/map.html>)

The front doors will be locked so you'll have to come up the exterior stairs on the Middlefield Road side of the building. Parking is free.

October Program

A Visit to the Seaman Museum

By Don Windeler

This summer Don Windeler and family traveled to Upper Michigan's Copper Country, where they visited the Seaman Museum at Michigan Tech. Don will report on their visit and show photos of some of the fine specimens housed there.

The A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum was officially founded in 1902 and it was designated as the official Mineral Museum of Michigan in 1991. It is the unofficial Great Lakes Mineral Museum and draws thousands of visitors each year to the campus of Michigan Technological University, which as originally founded as the Michigan College of Mines in 1885. The first great mining rush in North America was to Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula beginning in 1845. The museum is a repository of iconic specimens of copper and over 100 other minerals from the

copper mining era in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which ended in 1996.



*Copper,
Central Mine,
Keweenaw County MI*

Source, text and photos: www.museum.mtu.edu

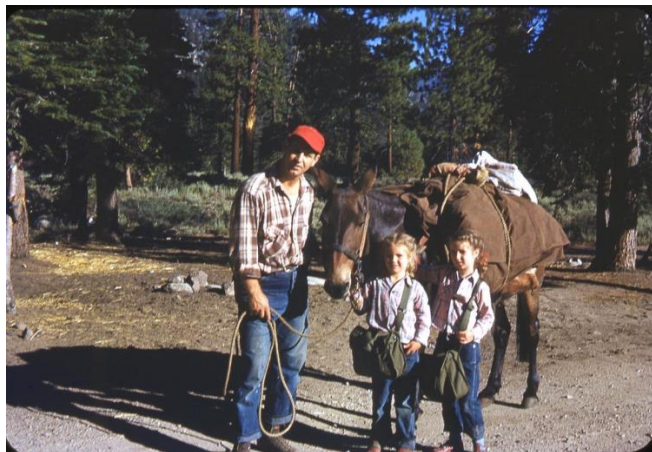
News of Members

Chuck Trantham will undergo bypass surgery on October 11 at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View. He'll stay there for 4-7 days, then return home for six weeks of recuperation (i.e., not collecting!). Phone calls and visitors are welcome prior to Oct 11 and sometime after he returns home (call first). Here's to a full and speedy recovery!

Minerals at CA Academy of Science

On September 30, minerals finally returned to public view at the Academy, with nearly 400 specimens on display on the mezzanine. We have not yet heard reviews of the exhibit, but it's just nice to have the specimens back out of storage in an ongoing feature. If you want to visit but are put off by the price (\$35!), on four Sundays each year admission is free to the general public; the next such date is December 11 – the museum recommends that you arrive early on these days.

Snow Lake Memories – Sharon Cisneros



During our round-table discussion last month we heard about Maurizio's adventures on a pack trip to the Snow Lake area in the Eastern Sierra. This led Sharon Cisneros to tell us about her visits to the same area as a child, and she followed up a few days later with a photo and email:

Just thought you would like to share in one of my very fondest childhood memories. I'm the gal on the right in the photo. My sister is in the middle and my Dad on the left. We always took the same mule from Kennedy Meadows every year, by the name of Pay Check. I guess my Dad had a good rapport with Pay Check so we could trust him not to take off at night while we were sleeping. One year we heard this hideous screaming from Pay Check, and woke up to find a bear in our camp! My Dad scared off the bear! We traveled pretty light as you can see by the sparse amount of gear loaded onto the mule: sleeping bags and enough provisions to keep us going. We fished every evening for food to eat that night. In those days, a good catch for dinner was a sure thing!

We visited Snow Lake on at least two of the trips, and I was able to get an underground tour of the scheelite mine at least once. The miners turned off their head lamps and turned on their UV lamps. What a sight it was, to see the ceiling and walls light up with millions of pinpoints of light in the darkness! They really were mining very rich ore. Everything was taken out by mule. This was in about 1947-1949, after WW II was over. They were hoping to continue mining even though the wartime need for tungsten was over. I guess they were voted down because of the difficulty of access – having to drill and blast underground and hand mine the ore, then put it

into pack sacks and haul it out to the nearest road by mule back.

The specimens we collected during those trips were family curiosities for many years and eventually donated to the back yard rock pile. Hiking has always been something I enjoyed, from my childhood. My Dad always taunted my sister, who did not like hiking, that if she didn't keep up with the rest of us, "the bears are going to get you"!! The little red sandals in this early photo were replaced by lace-up, high top tennis shoes in later years – guess my Mom realized that the red sandals were completely the wrong kind of footwear for all-day hikes, for 10-14 days at a time!

Upcoming Shows

October 22-23, Los Altos CA

Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
Los Altos Youth Center
One North San Antonio Road
Hours: 10-5 daily

www.pggs.org

November 5-6, Concord CA

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road
Hours: 10-5 daily

http://ccmgs.org/gem_show/

November 12-13, Sacramento CA

Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street
Hours: 10-5 daily

<http://sacgemshow.com/>

November 19-20, Santa Cruz CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
5th Annual Holiday Show & Sale
Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Avenue
Hours: 10-5 daily

<http://scrockngem.org/shows/index.html>

November 19-20, Livermore CA

Livermore Valley Lithophiles "Lithorama"
The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave, off S Livermore Ave
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4

www.lithophiles.org

A FEW MORE PICNIC PHOTOGRAHS, from Gary Parsons



BBQ Crew



Silent Auction Action



Group Shot