
Bay Area Mineralogists

September 2011

September 14, 2010, 7:00 pm
USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237
<http://www.baymin.org>



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Welcome Back!

It's the first meeting after our annual summer hiatus. Hope to see you at the USGS to catch up on what's been happening the last three months!

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>.

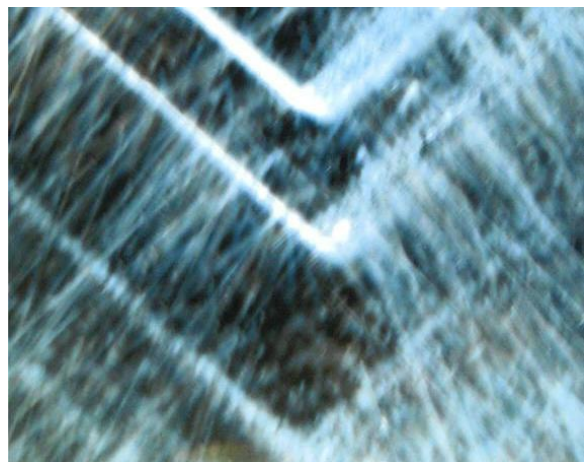
Our room is located in Building 3, second floor where this map says "Conference Room" – note that the front doors are locked and you will have to come up the stairs on the Middlefield side of the building. Parking is free.

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 September Program: Dennis Perkins, "Blue Needle Quartz"

This school year we kick off with a program by included-quartz aficionado Dennis Perkins, who'll be discussing a little-known phenomenon in quartz called "blue needles."

Blue needle quartz is distinctive for its oriented imperfections with (no surprise) a blue color. The blue needles are actually growth defects with the color arising from some interesting optical physics. Quartz with blue needle inclusions is far less effective as a radio frequency oscillator and hence was undesirable in crystals during WWII; it is relatively common, but rarely visible in specimens without special equipment.



*Detail of blue needle inclusions.
D. Perkins photo*

For those interested in exploring further, check out the 1945 *American Mineralogist* article by Gordon, "The Inspection and Grading of Quartz," available on the Internet near you at http://www.minsocam.org/ammin/AM30/AM30_269.pdf

Dennis will be bringing the combined spoils of over 15 years' worth of hunting by him and friend Sharon Luckman. These rare specimens actually show the BNQ feature to the naked eye and will be displayed so as to highlight.

Upcoming Programs

For the first time in a while, we have a pretty full slate of speakers lined up for the upcoming months:

October: Paul Geffner
November: Jean DeMouthe
December: Rick Kennedy

Paul Geffner will be discussing the Jacksons Crossroads amethyst locality next month – well worth it, given the amazing material that's come out of this site in Georgia.

That said, BAM is always looking for more... if you have a topic of mineralogical interest you'd like to talk about, know a friend who does and would come out, or have heard an interesting and relevant speaker in the area, please let President Bill S. (bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net) know for future scheduling.

BAM Summer Highlights: SFG&MS Show, the Picnic, and So On

Even though the plug got pulled on plans for a BAM collecting trip to Colorado this summer, there was plenty going on. It seemed like someone was heading off to collect over a weekend every time one asked – certain to be some good stories in the telling.

Closer to home, BAM made its yearly contributions to the San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society Show. This year the show was held at a new venue, the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio, with "A Sea of Gems" as the theme.

As per the last several years, BAM had a booth for the public to learn about mineralogy and collecting, have rocks identified, and gain an appreciation of our hobby. Thanks go out to all who helped out at the booth over the course of the show – this author saw Gary Moss, Dan Evanich, David Lowe, Bill Spence, and John Magnasco on duty at one time or another, but that undoubtedly neglects others working other shifts. (Thank you!)



*Gary and Dan discuss; Joe Langdon in the background as Jean Lee looks on.
D. Windeler photo*

BAM put in a case, focusing on blue minerals for the sea-oriented theme. Thank you to Dan Evanich, David Lowe, Stan Bogosian, Rick Kennedy, and John Magnasco for contributing specimens and time to the case.



*BAM display case.
J. Lee photo*

Other members with cases included Dan Carlson, Jean Lee, Barb Matz, Stan Bogosian, and Rick Kennedy; the Crystal Gazers also put

in one, with contributions from several 'joint' members.



*Dan Carlson's display with stream-worn gemstones illuminated
D. Windeler photo*



*Stan Bogosian's display of personally-collected quartz
J. Lee photo*



*Barb Matz's collection of American calcites
D. Windeler photo*



*Jean Lee's marine fossil display
J. Lee photo*



*SF Crystal Gazers mineralogical coral reef
D. Windeler photo*

And, of course, there were numerous BAM-associated dealers in evidence: Chuck Trantham, Rick Kennedy, Gene & Sharon Cisneros (Mineralogical Research Co.) and Si & Ann Frazier. Always a great show!



*Rick K. mans the Earth's Treasures booth
J. Lee photo*



*Chuck T. at the ready – where's the pie?
D. Windeler photo*

Another summer tradition is the BAM picnic, once again held at Stan and Sue Bogosian's home in Saratoga. An excellent turnout this year, with 20+ attendees, some non-BAMmies getting some exposure to the club, a great giveaway table, and good food as always. This year's silent auction raised over \$930 – thank you to the Bogosians and to all who donated and/or bought rocks!

Warm Fuzzies in Closing

A quick item to wrap up and make everyone feel good. A couple of days back the BAM website got an e-mail from one R. Davis of Clovis:

Please pass this message to the individual who left me and my four kids the minerals in the Sierra National Forest on 9/4. We had picked up and returned some of their supplies that had fallen out of their truck and were lying in the middle of the dirt road. This person was kind enough to leave us some awesome minerals at my truck while we were out backpacking. My kids thought the minerals were very cool, and learned a very important lesson about honesty.

Please thank this individual for me. He did not have to do this.

Also, where the heck did he find these minerals? I grew up in this area and have probably hiked over 400 miles in the Sierras. I haven't found anything like this.

The BAMmies in question were David Lowe, John Magnasco, and Dan Evanich on a visit to the Rainbow Mine – way to represent BAM and the collecting fraternity!

Upcoming Shows

September 9-11
Wildcat Gem Society
Humboldt County Fairgrounds
1250 5th St., Ferndale
Fri. 12pm-7pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm

September 17-18
Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park & Museum
2010 Riverside Dr, Paso Robles
10am-5pm both days

September 24-25
Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds
2004 Fairgrounds Rd
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

October 1-2
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
Oroville Municipal Auditorium
1200 Myers St.
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.