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## Bay Area Mineralogists

### September 2013

*Special date!*

September 18, 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 (such as this month).

We 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!

#### Welcome Back & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Meeting Date

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! As announced previously via e-mail,

this month we're pushing the meeting out for a week to accommodate both the Denver Show and our speaker's schedule. We'll return to the traditional second Wednesday slot in October.

#### BAM September Program: Jolyon Ralph "MinDat and Its Uses"

MinDat probably needs no introduction to most mineral collectors, but for those who may not have stumbled onto it yet it's a vast database of mineral information: photos, localities, physical properties, and discussion groups, all content uploaded and managed by its members. It's become an invaluable resource for looking up and researching localities, seeking out experts for opinions on all things mineralogical (and some not), just looking at pretty pictures, and far more – I personally hit it several times a day.

Jolyon Ralph started the site in 2000, building on a mineral cataloguing program he'd been tinkering with since 1993. He's continued to expand and refine its capabilities, along with its user community, until mindat.org is now the world's largest and most visited mineral website. At the end of 2012 he launched gemdat.org, a sister site for information on gemstones. And they're free!



Jolyon will be speaking to us this month with a little more about MinDat, its history, how it's being used in the private and research community, and what he's looking at for ongoing capabilities. He'll also discuss his plans for keeping MinDat free in the future by raising funds to set it up as a not-for-profit institute.

At the BAM picnic, the membership voted in favor of President Spence's suggestion to donate \$1000 from our treasury to help support MinDat. Come on out and hear more about it from the founder himself.

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

Even without meetings at the USGS, there are plenty of things to keep the mineral collector occupied for the summer, especially once August rolls around. As per tradition, we have some pics to share – the stories will just have to wait until the September meeting.

In late July, a group of BAM members and friends headed out to Colorado to collect in the pegmatite deposits of Crystal Peak, Tarryall, and Mt. Antero. Be on the lookout for a future program and many more pictures to come. (Thank you to Ron Wolf for sending along a CD's worth to build from!)



*Hi ho, hi ho, we're off to dig in Colorado....  
(Ron Wolf photo)*

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This year's edition of the BAM picnic returned to its traditional spot at Stan and Sue Bogosian's home in Saratoga. In addition to the usual good

food, drink, and company, we were joined by Rick Cooper (BLM) with updates on Clear Creek.

[Ed. note: The final usage plans are getting wrapped up and President Spence hopes to have some more specifics at the September meeting, but from the discussion at the picnic there will be access allowed, with permits required and maximum number of days per calendar year per person.]



*Rick Cooper, BLM (far left, standing) addresses the membership. (Don Windeler photo)*

This year's silent auction was a big one, pulling nearly \$1100 – thank you to all who donated and/or bought rocks!



*Cliff Impresua checks out the auction pickings.  
(Don Windeler photo)*

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The San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society Show consistently provides one of the best events for rockhounds in the Bay Area. This year's show was held August 24-25, later in the

month than usual, and returned to its past home in the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park.

This year's theme was "Heavy Metals", one that apparently caused a little grumbling amongst the lapidary crowd. It certainly inspired some excellent display cases of minerals, however; there were a greater number of mineral displays than in recent years and with some great rocks.



BAM "Heavy Metal" case. (Don Windeler photo)

BAM put in a case with specimens on the heavy metal theme, organized by Dan Evanich with a bunch of member contributors. Individual displays included cases from Stan Bogosian, Dan Carlson, Dan Evanich, Ted Hadley, Jean Lee, David Lowe, Barb Matz, Colleen McGann, Len Pisciotta, Bill Spence, Harry & Mary White, Don Windeler, Forrest Windeler – and I'm sure I missed some from the list!



Dan Carlson's iron minerals case; companion case of tin minerals not shown (Jean Lee photo)

Member David Lowe was even interviewed and quoted for a piece in the San Francisco Chronicle that ran August 24<sup>th</sup>:

<http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Enthusiasts-gather-for-SF-Gem-and-Mineral-show-4758655.php>



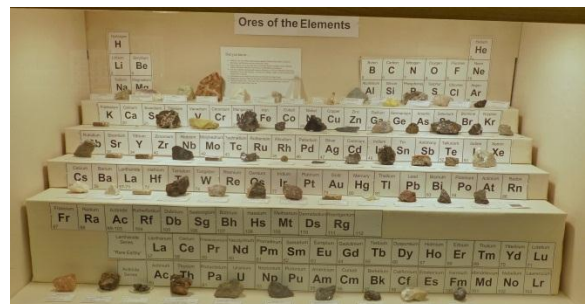
Len Pisciotta's "Haiku Minerals" display (Jean Lee photo)



Don Windeler's Keweenaw copper case (Jean Lee photo)



Bill Spence's "Heavy Metal" case. (Jean Lee photo)



Ted Hadley's "Ores of the Elements" case. (Jean Lee photo)



*Jean Lee's "Heavy Metal" case.  
(Jean Lee photo)*



*Forrest Windeler's case of personally-collected specimens, including from two BAM trips  
(Jean Lee photo)*

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 – this author saw Gary Moss, Dan Evanich, David Lowe, Bill Spence, Stan Bogosian, and Joe Langdon on duty at one time or another, but that undoubtedly neglects others who helped. (Thank you!)



*Gary, Dan, and Joe at the BAM table  
(Jean Lee photo)*

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If you have pictures of mineral-related exploits over the summer, please send them along with a short caption or paragraph of explanation. Given we've got a lot this month already, we'll share them in the October newsletter. (Thank you, Maurizio!)

We hope you had a great summer and that we'll see you at a BAM meeting soon!

## Upcoming Shows

September 21-22  
Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society  
Community Activities Building  
1400 Roosevelt Ave, Redwood City  
10am-5pm both days

September 28-29  
Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds  
2004 Fairgrounds Rd  
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

September 29-30  
Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club Show  
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds  
413 E. Lockeford St, Lodi  
10am-5pm both days

September 28-29  
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society  
Wells Fargo Center for the Arts  
50 Mark West Springs Road  
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

## Letters to the BAM Editor

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