

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

COLORADO CHAPTER



January 2024 Newsletter!

Next Meeting

January 11, 7:30 PM

Berthoud Hall Rm 108

Colorado School of Mines

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/](https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/95281354908)

95281354908

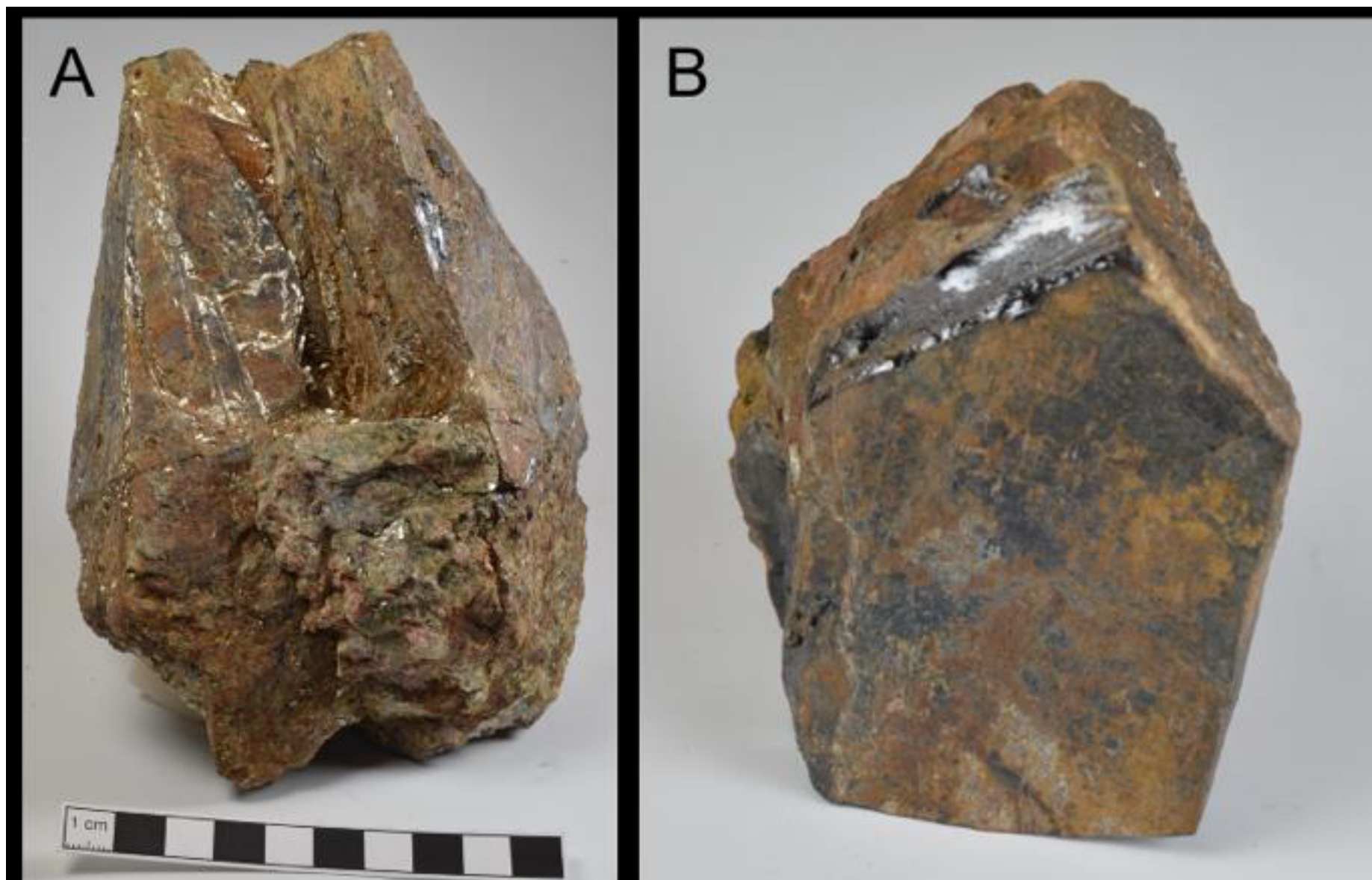
Meeting ID: 952 8135 4908

Samarskite-(Y) & associated minerals, Platt Pegmatite, WY

Markus Raschke & Mark Ivan Jacobson

The Big Creek Pegmatite area, Carbon County, Wyoming, on the western slope of the Medicine Bow Mountains is known for its niobium-bearing pegmatites hosted in Precambrian gneiss and schist. The local rancher and miner, Ralph Platt, reportedly found, in July 1956, a dense, glassy black, radioactive boulder, about 30 kilograms in weight on the surface of a potassium feldspar-quartz-muscovite pegmatite. After claiming the property as the Uranium King claim, Platt sunk a shaft into the core of the pegmatite and sold the hand-cobbed Nb-U mineral as uranium ore to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Crystals of this mineral from this locality have since been widely sought by collectors and museums worldwide labeled as euxenite, rarely as samarskite, and sometimes also as allanite. Although a qualitative analysis was described by Houston (1961) and referred to the material as euxenite, no further analysis on this or other associated minerals has been documented.

We report on our recent reinvestigation of the pegmatite studying the mineral associations and structural relationships both above ground and in the underground workings. Samples were obtained from the dump, stockpiled material from the Platt family, and in situ underground.



January meeting deets!

I) Note that parking on campus is free in the evenings. Also note that Mines has instituted a new building policy: exterior doors will lock starting at 8pm. Though this should not effect you, as the talk starts at **7:30pm sharp!**

II) Post talk and pre departure, we will hold a competition, just like the November meeting. The theme for this one will be "**GARNET.**" Specimens can be self collected or purchased, or otherwise acquired in any manner, though hopefully within UN regulations. They can have been acquired at any time. Individuals are welcome to enter up to three specimens; they will be placed out just on a table for everyone to look at and vote on (voting approach will be the same as last time). Top three will receive small prizes.

Save the Date!

Markus Raschke is very kindly allowing us into his White Raven Mine property to search for beautiful baryte, siderite, galena and more! This will be on **Saturday, March 30**, so stay tuned for more details!

2024 Symposium

We have a website people! <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium/>

Symposium date has been decided upon: June 13-16, on Mines Campus. As previously announced, the theme is "Mineral Oddities: Twinning, Inclusions, Pseudomorphs, and More." The symposium will include field trips on Thursday, June 13, a mineral photography workshop with Jeff Scovil on Friday June 14, a reception at the Mines Museum the evening of Fri June 14, and two days of talks on Sat-Sun June 15-16. More information, including registration details, can be found on the lovely website above, and please fill out the Symposium Mailing List Sign Up Form to stay up to date on everything!

