

“The Geology of Santorini” by Dr. Robert Hutchins “Hutch” Brown -- Santorini is one of the most famous Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. If you’ve ever seen a Greek island in a tourism commercial, chances are it was Santorini. Hutch Brown happened to go there in summer 2018 on vacation with his family. He knew nothing about the geology of Greece, but from the moment he arrived, he knew there was a terrific story there – actually, multiple stories. Hutch will explain why the island exists, from its origins in metamorphic bedrock to its status today as a sunken caldera partially ringed by the remains of ancient volcano walls.



Santorini is part of an island arc formed by the collision of Africa with Eurasia, and Hutch will discuss the corresponding tectonic processes. The same processes are building a new volcanic shield in the middle of the caldera today. As time permits, Hutch will talk about the last violent eruption of the volcano more than 2,000 years ago and its connection with the ancient myth of Atlantis. He will also show photos of the cave dug into the volcanic tuff to create the vacation home where he and his family stayed.

Robert Hutchins “Hutch” Brown has a Ph.D. in German Literature from the University of California–Berkeley. After getting his degree in 1992, Hutch moved to northern Virginia, where he worked as a contract editor for various organizations, including the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Forest Service. He took adult education courses in natural history, including a course in geology. In 2000, the Forest Service hired Hutch as a full-time writer/editor, mainly to write speeches for the Forest Service Chief. In addition to writing speeches, Hutch edits and writes articles for *Fire Management Today*, the quarterly journal for the Forest Service fire organization.

Please join us in taking Hutch to dinner on October 2nd at 6:00 pm at the Elephant and Castle at 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. If you cannot make it to dinner, please go directly to the lobby of the Natural History museum (Constitution Avenue entrance) at 7:30 pm. We will head upstairs to the Cathy Kerby Room at 7:45 pm for Hutch’s presentation.

For our sharing this month, it seems appropriate that we should look to minerals with a volcanic origin, but volcanoes are not a good source for minerals. They are a good source for rocks – like basalt, pumice, and obsidian. So let’s expand our sharing to minerals with an igneous origin. Bring in your favorite igneous minerals or any other minerals you think the club will find interesting and tell us what makes them special and appreciated.