**The Sheeted Vein Swarm at Sir Bakis with Mr. Paul Angus $AAN**

By Peter "@Newton" Bell, 18 September 2017

The second in a series of articles with Mr. Paul Angus, Regional Exploration Project Manager for Aton Resources (TSXV:AAN) goes into detail on the sheeted vein swarms at the Sir Bakis prospect. Read on to find out about rainstorms in the desert.

As in the news release from September 13th, "the presence of narrow structurally controlled shear veins and vein swarms or sheeted vein systems" are one of several key features associated with reduced intrusion related gold systems. Sir Bakis is the first such prospect discussed publicly by the company and Aton has good reason to believe there is potential for a significant belt of this style of mineralization within the Concession. See the full news release here: https://ceo.ca/@nasdaq/aton-announces-new-regional-exploration-results-from

Peter Bell: Starting again with this picture looking north onto the Main Vein at Sir Bakis here – this X marks a spot where you've taken another photo looking in roughly the same direction, right?

Paul Angus: Yes, approximately. We have a couple of photos just over that hillside, actually. One shows the main sheeted vein swarm area and another shows trench SBT-001, where we intersected decent mineralization.

Peter Bell: SBT-001 – Sir Bakis Trench #1! Alright.

Paul Angus: That's right. SBT-001 is pretty much right at the bottom of the valley area, over the ridge where you've marked an X Peter. It runs from right to left in this picture. We intersected 109 meters at 0.21 grams across that. The vein swarms are very interesting, too.

These are little scars that run across into the distance – intermittent scars on the landscape. There are small ancient workings where they scratched at the surface looking for gold. These are workings within shears which host quartz veining.

Peter Bell: OK, that makes sense.

Paul Angus: Yes, they pinch and swell. They twist a little bit from time to time, but they generally run in that north-south direction.


Ancient workings


Ancient workings
sheeps


Peter Bell: Just to clarify – was this photo of the vein swarm taken looking back towards the spot where the first photo was taken?

Paul Angus: No, it's still looking the same way. It was taken from a spot just over the little ridge where the processing plant is, looking off towards the north; in the same direction.

Peter Bell: Looking up towards the pink granite intrusion to the north.

Paul Angus: Yes, but you can't quite see it as you're not up on a hill anymore. It can be difficult to get your bearings from a couple images like this.

Peter Bell: Well, this photo shows some pretty clear features. Amazing to think that these scars in the photograph are historical mine workings. They would have just dug in from surface, eh?

Paul Angus: A lot of these scratchings are just at surface, but some of them may go down to three or four meters depth. I have not managed to get into them yet because they are quite narrow.

Peter Bell: Are any of them really accessible?

Paul Angus: You can get into some of them if you're quite small, but most of them are infilled and inaccessible. They're also a bit collapsed in places, the

bigger workings in this area, in particular. There are some off to the right towards the north-east and others to the left towards the west. They could be accessed with the right equipment.

Peter Bell: Okay.

Paul Angus: Some are accessible with ladders and ropes, but we need to prepare to go inside those and explore. Safety is the first thing to consider.

Peter Bell: Interesting. In passing, I wonder if there is potential to use ideas from Outward Bound to help training a geological exploration team in a setting like this. When the old-timers were mining here, how did it look? Was there any overburden?

Paul Angus: A lot of the mineralization would have been exposed at surface. They would have targeted it just by looking at shears and quartz veins on the surface. And they would have just dug down into it. Some of the surface rubble is spoil from where they've been digging, and some of it is run-off from later wash outs.

Peter Bell: Have you encountered anything at surface?

Paul Angus: Yes, certainly. We've been trenching in this area, after all. Just to the bottom of the photograph we put a trench across which was the SBT-001 which hit 109.1 meters at 0.21 grams gold. A nice wide intersection of low grade gold mineralisation, especially bearing in mind that the highest grade veins would have been mined out at the surface.

Peter Bell: Wow. Was that section right there in the photo, or somewhere else?

Paul Angus: Yes, it is roughly there. From the bottom left corner running across the bottom of the photo.


Peter Bell: And how wide was the trench? A meter?

Paul Angus: A meter and a half, yes. A lot of it was dug by clearing the side of a drainage channel in the area as it made it easier for the excavators to trench.

Peter Bell: And that's a natural drainage feature?

Paul Angus: Yes, there is a natural drainage feature running down there and we used that as access for the excavator to get in there and dig a trench.

Peter Bell: Sorry, what is it draining there? They don't get any rain out there, do they?

Paul Angus: Yes, it does rain. It is rare, but can be quite heavy.

Peter Bell: Really? Okay. That would have a significant impact on the appearance of the surface.

Paul Angus: Yes. We often see it reflected in the size of some large wadis – there's evidence of a lot of water moving through there in a short space of time, and you certainly can get isolated flash flooding in the desert, although it is still a very dry part of the world.

Peter Bell: Is that like a 12-hour period of time?

Paul Angus: I'm not sure. The only time I've been there when it's rained, it was only 10 seconds of rain. That was it. I haven't quite managed to see these flash floods.

Peter Bell: It rained for 10 seconds and then it just stopped?

Paul Angus: We had a couple of drops on the roof of the office. We all ran outside to see what it was and then it stopped.

Peter Bell: Did it make a racket? Was it pretty like an aggressive rainstorm?

Paul Angus: No, this one was quite light. They had an aggressive rainstorm, which caused some minor damage a few days later, after I had left site, but that happens very rarely.

Peter Bell: This talk of water makes me think of placer gold mining. Any history of that here?

Paul Angus: Yes, historically the wadi's have been mined for gold in many places on our Concession. In some places it looks quite extensive but placer mining is difficult here because you don't have water to wash your gravels with.

Peter Bell: I wonder if there's an opportunity for new technology there – maybe a graphene sieve to catch gold for placer mining without water. Do you generally find fine gold?

Paul Angus: There will be fine gold. We also have anecdotal evidence of nuggets of gold being found as well. We do see visible gold within the Sir Bakis area. We have seen it in other areas as well.

Peter Bell: In chunks of rock from boulders?

Paul Angus: Yes, usually in chunks of vein quartz. We find them within weathered sulphides and sheared material.

Peter Bell: And this is a pretty extreme environment. Does oxidation affect the sulphides here?

Paul Angus: We do find a lot of weathered material at surface in this area. In the underground area, you can actually see sulphides but they are minor. We don't have large amounts of sulphide material in the quartz veins at Sir Bakis. The veins exhibit low levels of accessory sulphides, pointing towards this intrusive-related style of gold mineralization.

Aton mentions the sheeted vein swarm in the September 13th news release, noting that it extends approximately 400m along strike at surface and has widths in excess of 100m in width. Again, this is a great new prospect for Aton Resources to be exploring.

See the full quote from the September 13th news release here, “The Main Vein at Sir Bakis, which was the focus of the modern underground mining, can be traced at surface for a distance of some 1.6km in a N-S strike direction. The Main Vein is considered to be a shear vein and was mined at widths of up to 1.5m underground. Approximately 600m NW of the adits there is a zone of narrow sheeted veins which has been worked extensively at surface to shallow depths in ancient times, known as the NW Vein Swarm. The Vein Swarm is approximately 400m along its’ N-S strike length at surface, and in excess of 100m in width. There are also a number of other major veins in the area, to the NW of the modern mine workings, and numerous smaller veins and shears through the area which have been worked by the ancients. Limited previous sampling at Sir Bakis by the Company in 2014 has returned assays of 4.79 g/t Au from underground, and 2.38 g/t Au from surface channel sampling.”

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