

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1995

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Incoming President's Message:

I volunteered to do this job for several reasons. The first one is that I know what John was going through when he tried to get someone to accept the office, and I understand why people don't volunteer for an office. Most folks don't feel that they can do the job or they can't devote the time. Actually the position mostly involves a commitment to attend to functions that I always wanted to be a part of anyhow, and I am planning on having all of the meetings on rainy weekends unless there is a field trip involved. I also am now in a position to set the schedule of the events to fit my schedule. I am a rotating shift worker and have had to miss over half of the meetings for the past ten years, so now I will be able to make most of the meetings for sure. The main reason I accepted the position is that I am planning on having fun and a lot of folks in the chapter have come forward to volunteer to help me have fun.

My goals as president will include an attempt to increase the membership and increase participation by the current members, mainly in attending the chapter functions. But most of all I am a collector, and I am hopeful that we can get together and do some great field trips and I will try to get as many of you to be out there banging rocks and mucking about as I can.

I wish to thank all of the people that set up and worked at the symposium. I only wish that more members would have turned out to hear the guest speakers. With this in mind perhaps we need to concentrate on what the theme of the 1996 symposium will be in order to build the interest of all of our members. Several ideas have been presented such as NW localities (my fave), Sulfides (last presented in 1979), Brazilian minerals, Tsumeb minerals, Lead minerals, rare earth minerals, NE localities, Metamorphic minerals, and Sulfates, Tungstates and other weird stuff. Be prepared to vote for the show theme at the Winter meeting.

Also, during the show someone took some of the mineral related magazines from the registration table. These were not free samples but were for sale and a remittance should be sent for them.

For a rundown on the symposium read Ray Lasmanis' column in this newsletter.

Treasurer's Report as of 10/2/95:

Beginning balance 3851.50

Deposits-dues 870.00

-symposium 5750.93

6620.93

Expenses

Ntl dues 365.00

Or Corp. dues 10.00

Postage 300.00

Phone 63.90

T Shirts 343.54

Sherwood Dep. 100.00

Cash for show 200.00

Case rentals 90.00

Speakers travel 444.18

Speakers rooms 294.00

Meals and Micro

Room 3185.26

5395.88

Ending Balance

5076.55

Outgoing President John Cornish has expressed his thanks to all for their help in everything during his term in office, and is continuing to give his support to the current administration.

NWMMSG

On Nov. 11, the NW Micro Mineral Study Gp met for their winter meeting in Vancouver, Wa. The meeting was very well attended with all the trading tables full of fresh new discoveries as well as old favorites back for another go around. Microscopes were eagerly employed by members as they rummaged through the materials brought by members for the give away tables. Three tables were completely covered by this material, and my own personal favorites from the tables were the soft green variscite and meta-variscite crystals from the Utahlite claim, Lucin, Box Elder Co., Utah. Several slide presentations were given by members on numerous NW collecting sites and their representative minerals. Another presentation was given on the wonderfully colorful phosphate minerals from Nevada. A snack table had been set out for members who desired to share goodies with the group (I brought Gloria's banana nut bread) so with this, as well as the popcorn which had been especially popped for the slide programs, this kept all of our tummies full and happy through the hours till the meetings end in the later afternoon. Another great time shared with this enjoyable group of collectors and enthusiasts.

John Cornish

Noble Witt Award:

This year's Noble Witt Award has gone to Norman Steele Jr. for his extra effort and unselfish work for not only the FM Symposium but for all of the help he has given to all aspects of the study of minerals. Norm has always been willing to share his knowledge and has always been eager to teach others. Thank you Norm.

Meetings and Announcements:

The winter meeting will be held at the home of Richard and Helen Rice of Hillsboro, Oregon on Feb. 3, 1996. There will be a short business meeting at 9:30 AM followed by a general meeting starting at 10 AM. After the meeting the Rice's will show their collection which should be a real treat from what I've heard. There is limited room for swapping or selling (Jon- bring some Goose Creek stuff !!). Directions: Go on Hwy 26 west of Portland to the Helvetia Road exit. Turn right then take the first left onto Groveland Drive. Its about .7 miles to the driveway. That's 26385 NW Groveland Dr, Hillsboro and the phone to call if you get lost is 503-647-2418.

Rudy Tschernich will be hosting a swap meet in Longview, Wa on March 23, 1996. It will run from 9 AM to 5 PM, and is at the AWPPW Union Hall at 724 15th in Longview. The admission is free. This is the first annual NW Crystal swap meet. No non-mineral items please. Contact Rudy at 360-568-2857 for table availability and further info. Driving directions: I-5 exit 36 west 3.4 miles to the fourth stoplight. Turn right onto 15th Avenue. It is the second building on the right next to the AM-PM minimart. Use the rear door to enter.

Other events around the Pac NW include the Everett R and G show at the Ntl Guard Armory on Jan. 27 and 28, the West Seattle R and G show at the Masonic Temple in West Seattle on Feb 17 and 18, and the R and G show at Klamath Falls, Oregon at the fairgrounds on Mar 2 and 3.

Future field trips will be discussed at the meeting. These include the annual Washington Pass Cleanup, Rob Belcher's post-Tucson extravaganza, a spring meeting at the Liebetrau's in Kennewick, a possible trip to NE Washington, a trip to NW Oregon and SW Washington (hopefully a go this year), a trip in SW British Columbia, and for sure a trip to view the Tschernich collection. Dates and times will be announced at the winter meeting.

1995 FM SYMPOSIUM DISPLAYS

described by

Raymond Lasmanis

As in years past, the display cases this year provided an opportunity for our members to get a glimpse into personal collections. A number of exhibitors made an effort to display material in line with our theme "Classic Mineral Localities II". There were a total of 17 cases, down by one from 1994. The real challenge for 1996 will be for the symposium team to increase member participation and bring back into the symposium displays by institutions. This will also act as an incentive for more members and guests to attend the symposium.

One of our featured speakers, George Godas, displayed a collection of 15 amethyst scepters from the Flat Jack mine, Yavapai Co., AZ. Crystal groups and individual crystals up to 5" long were shown. For a description of the prospect, see the Mineralogical Record, v. 22, no. 1, p. 21-28.

Jim Robison filled his case with 58 specimens of calcite, azurite, malachite, and other minerals from classic localities in England, Spain, Morocco, Greece, Republic of South Africa, Brazil, and Mexico. There was also an excellent selection of material from the mines of Missouri, Arizona, and Colorado. From the Northwest, Jim had a 2½" specimen covered by lustrous covellite blades from the Leonard mine, Butte, MT.

In one case, Lorna Goebel had 17 specimens with an assortment of minerals representing the countries of Afghanistan, India, Russia, Austria, Italy, India, and Australia. Lorna also had material from the Royal Flush and MexTex mines in one of her favorite localities, the Hansonburg District, NM. The second case was educational in nature, demonstrating the temperature/pressure relationships of andalusite, sillimanite, and kyanite in metamorphic rocks.

It is always a pleasure to view world-class minerals displayed by Wayne Sorensen. This year Wayne chose to show three minerals with photographs of the corresponding classic localities. There were fluorite crystals from the Deer Trail mine, Marysvale, UT. A photograph shows Wayne in front of a five-foot-tall matrix piece covered by fluorite crystals, which won him the best commercial display at the Northwest Mining Association convention exposition. Imagine the logistics of getting that one out of the mine and then cleaning the quartz off the fluorite with hydrofluoric acid! He also had an exquisite 3½ x 5" group of ¾"-wide shiny pyromorphite crystals from the Bunker Hill mine, Kellogg, ID. The third specimen was a spectacular 3½ x 6" group of 2" bright-red rhodochrosite rhombs from the Sweet Home mine, Alma, CO.

Gareth L. Bibbins displayed representative material, grouped by continents, of North America, South America (Brazil), Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. He had a total of 41 specimens in his case.

Wesley L. Gannaway, our new chapter President, had two cases displaying self-collected material from Utah. The first case had 13 specimens from the Tintic District mines of Carisa, Showers, Northern Spy, Boss Tweed, Sunbeam, and Red Rose. The second case had a 15-specimen suite of minerals from the Gold Hill mine (see M.R., vol. 24, no. 1). There was conichalcite, tyrolite, cuprian adamite, austinite, pharmacosiderite, chalcophanite, and Japan Law twin quartz crystals.

To supplement his talk, Ray Lasmanis displayed specimens representative of his collecting experiences from the last twelve months. Of the 25 specimens shown, seven were from Washington State. The local minerals were: grossularite and hematite crystals, Denny Creek, King Co., WA (coll. 5/31/95); gypsum coating rock, quartz, and calcite xls from the 2,000' Level, Pend Oreille mine, Metaline Falls, WA (coll. 4/7/95); natrolite and analcime xls from a new blast at the DNR quarry near the junction of forest roads L-1,000 and L-3,000, Doty Hills, Lewis Co., WA (coll. 9/19/95); and analcime, natrolite, and calcite xls from the Camp Wedekind pit, Capitol Forest, Grays Harbor Co., WA (coll. 6/27/95). Incidentally, several collectors made it to the DNR pit in the Doty Hills right after the symposium and collected typical material for the locality. The remaining part of the case contained minerals from the Tintic District, Utah; the '79' mine and the Old Yuma mine, AZ; quartz xls from the Golden Eagle mine, near Virginia City, NV (coll. 6/15/95); and quartz with epidote inclusions, Conner Dr., Valley Springs, CA (coll. 3/11/95).

Barbara Premo put in an historical exhibit on the Renton Coal mine, King Co., WA. The case contained photographs, artifacts, and specimens of petrified wood and coal.

Bill and Kellie Jo Conn displayed their self-collected material from Montana. There was 5" golden scalenohedral calcite xls on 18" matrix from the Red Cliff campground near Bozeman, Gallatin Co.; a 2½ x 4½" amethyst scepter from Crystal Park; and a nice 5 x 10" plate of 1 to 2½" slightly smoky quartz xls from the Sally Ann claim near Elliston. In total, 11 specimens from the above localities filled their case.

Dick and Ermadeane Rantz displayed eight lovely specimens. From Washington, there were three samples of amethystine quartz scepter groups with lepidochroite inclusions, upper Denny Creek, King Co.; a lovely 10 x 12" group of calcite xls on drusy quartz from the Cadman quarry south of Monroe; and slightly salmon-colored, up-to-2" stilbite xls covering 7 x 18" matrix from Poison Creek, Lewis River, Skamania Co. They also had large xl groups of calcite from Missouri, a quartz geode from Morocco, and stilbite with apophyllite from India.

The case by Al and Sue Liebetrau was a pleasure to view. It contained 17 exquisite calcite crystal groups, all from Tsumeb, Namibia. They ranged from clear to yellow, green, red, and all shades in between. Variations in color were caused by coatings and inclusions of duftite, hematite, cobalt minerals, and diopase.

Rob Woodside filled a case with 22 specimens of perfection from classic world wide localities. The Northwest was represented by a 3½" specimen covered by ¾"-wide covellite plates from Butte, MT. There was a spectacular crystallized gold specimen from the Mystery Wind mine, El Dorado Co., CA, and a thick, curved, 3" native silver specimen from Kongsberg, Norway. It was interesting to see native lead from Långban, Sweden. My favorite was a spectacular 1½" cubanite xl group on matrix from the Henderson #2 mine, Chibougamu, Quebec.

As in the previous year, Bob Meyer's case contained classics from famous collectors and well-known institutions. Although my primary interest is in Northwest minerals, I also have a desire to record information of an historical nature. Bob's case had a lot of material to admire, since the specimens shown were once in the collections of famous personalities—Paul Rhoades, Neil Yedlin, John Parnau, Carlton M. Davis, Rob Woodside, Walt Lidstrom, W. F. Davidson, Ralph E. Merrill, Lance and Darlene Hampel, Lezard Cahn, Scott J. Williams, Dave Waisman, Joseph Urban—and institutions—Fersman Museum, Vienna Museum, and the U.S. National Museum, Washington, A. Roebeling Collection. Of the 65 specimens on display, a number date back to the 1800s. The finest Canadian millerite caught my eye; it was collected by Dave Joyce at the Thompson open pit in Thompson, Manitoba. There were excellent examples of Arizona classics to go with the speaker's topics.

The Northwest was well represented in Bob Meyer's display. He had two spectacular specimens from Green Ridge, King Co., WA: a 3½ x 4" quartz xl with an amethyst scepter overgrowth and a group of 12"-long quartz crystals. From Butte, MT: a small specimen of covellite with hinsdalite, Leonard mine; a very nice group of pyrite and quartz xls (mine unknown); ½" digenite xls on 5 x 6" matrix, Leonard mine; and ¾" rhodochrosite xls with milky quartz xls on 4 x 5" matrix, Emma mine. He also had a suite of minerals from the Black Pine mine near Philipsburg, MT: a group of 2" quartz xls coated by manganese; kipushite on quartz (self coll. 6/93); a shiny ½" hübnerite xl; small attractive pyromorphite sprays on matrix; and, a ¾" doubly terminated veszelyite xl. Also from Philipsburg, Bob had a nice specimen of boleite.

From his extensive collection, John Lindell assembled 15 specimens representing Morocco classics. He displayed outstanding examples of crystallized cerussite, vanadinite, barite, wulfenite, azurite, erythrite, and skutterudite. The group of 1" vanadinite xls (spec. #772, coll. 11/85) from Mibladen is absolutely beautiful.

Dan and Sue Ice showed 21 specimens from worldwide classic localities. Seeing a yellow, cadmium-rich smithsonite from Rush, AR, brought back memories of my camping trips to Arkansas while going to school in Rolla.