



Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

May 2008 Bulletin

President's Message

Another new year and hopefully I will get to do all of the things that I wanted to do last year. Time flies, etc. I am in the middle of doing some home projects that I was supposed to do last winter.

I did get to the Southern California Micromounter's meeting at the end of January. I had hoped to get some serious collecting done while I was in that area. So many of the localities are now closed, especially in Arizona and parts of Nevada and Utah. John Dagenais and I did manage to get to several localities in Southern California and the area southwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. However, we only made it to the Silver Coin Mine near Golconda Summit, Nevada. A three week trip turned into a week and a half due to the weather (mostly in the low 20s and several blizzards).

The underground workings of the Gold Hill mine in Tooele County, Utah were closed this past summer. I hope everyone has a nice austinite or connellite specimens from this locality. The carminites were also world class.

I am planning on being at our annual get together at Washington Pass this August 8th, 9th, and 10th.

The 2007 Noble Witt Award

I must apologize for the very short award ceremony when I announced that Bill Dameron had won. I had misplaced my notes and, having found them, will now give you all of the particulars concerning this well earned honor for Bill.

I first met Bill on the wet, cloudy slopes of Long Ridge west of Pe Ell, Washington on a zeolite hunting trip that members of our FM chapter were invited to. Bill had just settled in the Vancouver, Washington area and was looking for some fellow mineral collectors. I don't think he was really looking for zeolites but was game for a collecting trip. At the end of the day Bill was still somewhat enthusiastic about minerals, although I don't think he was quite into the zeolites yet. Later, after seeing Bill's collection, I can understand his passion for the more colorful minerals.

I am quoting a letter by Sharleen Harvey on most of Bill's achievements but am familiar with them and am in complete agreement as I imagine most of you also are.

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2008-2009
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Current NW Chapter of FM Schedule for 2008

Annual Washington Pass event:
August 8-10, 2008

2008 Symposium: October 17-
19, 2008

Bill joined the FM soon after we met. Bill put a display in for the symposium the first year he was asked.

Bill volunteered to be the chapter treasurer and has done an outstanding job since.

Bill was our speaker Chairman until this past year. We have had some very fine speakers and thank Bill for his choices.

Bill volunteered to serve on the national FM board as the NWFm representative, then the National FM Vice-president for two years and the National FM President for two more years.

Bill has emphasized the importance of educational exhibits at the annual National FM meeting and the Tucson show.

Bill has a close relationship with the Rice Museum and promotes it in a variety of ways.

Bill has an outstanding collection and feels that he is the steward of the specimens and that he is obligated to set the standards for the class of specimens that he collects.

Bill has a special affection for the barites and has built a website listing the most prominent specimens and localities, emphasizing the proper identification and labeling for all minerals, again setting the standard for all collectors and mineral websites.

Bill, thanks for your attitude to commitment and your enthusiasm about minerals and FM and I hope that you will continue to make your presence felt in our organization for many years to come.

Wes Gannaway

A Short Newsletter

There hasn't been much going on in minerals in the PNW Chapter of FM, but the information and dates on the upcoming events needs to go out. This short, three-page issue has the news and the dates of the next events: the Washington Pass gathering and the Annual Symposium. Also, this issue is going out as an electronic version only, there is no printed version.

Another issue will go out in July and the Symposium registration information should be sent out shortly after that. I'm sure some collecting trips will be cancelled this year, and some will be taken closer to home due to high fuel costs (Why did I pick this time to buy a diesel?), but we need news and information on members and activities, and locality/collecting articles are also needed. If you aren't out collecting, sit down and write!

I hope you all have a great late spring and summer, and good luck out collecting.

Lanny R. Ream, Newsletter Editor

Themes and Speakers for Symposia of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy

Additional Information:

Credit goes to Bill Dameron for preparing this list published in December 2007 issue. Information on a few speakers was not available at that time. These have been supplied by Ray Lasmanis.

1990 - "Ore Minerals" speakers were Wayne Leicht, Ray Lasmanis, Bob Derkey, Bob Jones, Gilbert Gauthier, Mark Mauthner, and Rob Woodside

1992 - "Accessible Mineral Localities" no record of speakers

1993 - add Rob Woodside

1994 - add Peter Megaw, Bob Boggs, and Joe Nagel

1995 - "Classic Mineral Localities II" speakers were Richard W. Graeme, Ray Lasmanis, George Godas, Tony de Goutiere, Randy Becker, Lanny Ream

1997 - "Pegmatite Minerals and Localities" add Brendan Laurs, Art Soregaroli, Bart Cannon, Mark Mauthner

2008 Symposium

PNW Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

Minerals of Canada

October 17-19, 2008

Red Lion Inn, Kelso Washington

Barite Reference Web Site

Bill Dameron has created a website to serve as a locality reference for barite. The site has 400 photographs of barite specimens from worldwide locations that produce macro specimens of barite.

Visit: www.baritespecimenlocalities.org

Pacific Northwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy

34th Annual Show and Symposium

October 17-19, 2008

Minerals of Canada

Red Lion Inn in Kelso, Washington

Free Admission to the Mineral Show and Dealers

Main Floor Dealers, Room Dealers in the north hallway, selling minerals from the Pacific Northwest and worldwide locations.

Sixteen world class displays of minerals including a case from the Northwest's finest mineral museum: The Rice Museum in Hillsboro, Oregon

Book Review

"Gem Trails of Washington"

Written by Garret Romaine and published by the Gem Guides Book Company of Baldwin Park, California, in 2007 \$14.95

The first section of the book deals with the basic information usually found in most collecting publications: using the guide, basic collecting rules, how to start collecting, and how to read the maps.

The rest of the book describes the 78 sites where various specimens of cutting material, mineral specimens, and fossils can be found. Each site description includes the type of material that can be found, a description of how to get to the site, possibly a history of the site, past references, some photographs of the site and specimens, and a detailed map and other information such as the elevation, GPS co-ordinates, difficulty in collecting, maps, camping, and nearby features.

A nice example is the description of the Walker Valley site. A photo of the site is accompanied by a good description: small quartz geodes of various quality, no water, plenty of motorcycles, driving directions, getting the gate key from the Washington State Mineral Coun-

Annual Washington Pass event

August 8-10, 2008

A great weekend gathering, collect minerals at the famous Washington locality; a great opportunity to have a chance to collect calciohilairite, okanoganite, and zektzerite at their type locality!

Enjoy some great camping time sitting around a campfire talking minerals and collecting with knowledgeable Northwest collectors.

Donate a few hours to assisting the Forest Service maintain the area.

cil, and a nice accurate map.

Another example is of the Squaw Valley quartz crystal site north of Newport, Washington and accessed by going through the very western edge of Idaho. One reminder (personally experienced by myself) is to remember the bug spray as the mosquitoes are of the saber tooth variety.

I highly recommend the book, although I would take care as to property ownership at most of the localities, and the maps look pretty good but it has been at least 25 years since the last time I visited many of the sites. I would definitely look for the no trespassing signs around the Adna area and other sites in SW Washington, as Weyerhaeuser has posted or gated many of the old collecting areas. The Lacamas Lake area is also questionable due to the closeness of the outcropping to the busy highway (you can see the collector's behind sticking out into the roadway in the accompanying photo. When I collected here in 1980, I wouldn't even let my kids get out of the car.).

Overall, the book has many more positives than negatives. The book is very user friendly and can be useful to both the amateur and the more experienced collectors, as well as families with children. I would definitely spend the money for my own copy.

Wes Gannaway