



Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

April 2009 Bulletin

President's Message

I have been quite busy since the 2008 symposium. I am back to working full time and most assuredly will be full time through June. Therefore, the next meeting won't be until July. I will try to do the meeting in conjunction with a field trip, possibly somewhere near the Portland-Vancouver area. I may get one of the members in the area to set something up.

I am still happy to do the Washington Pass get-together but am considering another locality as so many of you probably have several (or many) flats of WP material stacked in your shop or garage. Let me know if you have some special place you would like to go. The main requirement is that there should be a camping location close by and the collecting site should be able to handle a small group, say 5-15 collectors. Let me know by email if possible. If I get several possibilities, then I could travel to the areas and check them out (debnwes@comcast.net).

Due to my working again and having limited time to go to Tucson to talk to prospective speakers for our symposium, I am indebted to Allan Young for volunteering to be the Speaker Chair for the 2009 symposium. His phone call from Tucson was very welcome. Please say thanks to Allan the next time you see him.

I did manage to get two weeks off prior to the start of the Tucson event but only managed to re-visit the SCMA conference in Redlands, California at the end of January (and to collect on the way back north, of course). There is an article elsewhere in this bulletin on my adventures. I am sure that some more of you have made a trip to a collecting site or show and our bulletin editor Lanny Ream would like to get an article or two.

Wes Gannaway

2009 Symposium

The symposium will be held at the Kelso Red Lion Inn on October 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2009. Our theme is Africa and our guest speakers are Bill Pinch and Rock Currier. Most of our members may remember when Rock gave his talk at our banquet during a previous symposium. Bill is the proud owner of one of the world's best rare mineral collections. I hope that all of you will be there to listen to the speakers and view some great displays. Our favorite dealers will be back in the main room and of course we should have a good turnout of satellite dealers. See you all there.

**Pacific Northwest
Chapter**

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Current NW Chapter of FM Schedule for 2009

Washington Pass Cleanup
August 7-9, 2009

Annual Symposium:
Minerals of Africa
October, 16-18, 2009

The 2009 Southern California Trip

Wes Gannaway

I made my 2nd annual trip to the Southern California Mineralogical Association Conference at the end of January. John Dagenais went with me down I-5 to L A, then east to the Redlands where we attended the conference at the San Bernardino County Museum. Dr. Robert Housely headed up the conference and we had presentations from Sugar White, Paul Adams, and John Koivula. Bob also presented his talk on the Blue Bell Mine, a world famous location near Baker, California. Bob led a field trip to the Blue Bell on Sunday. Seven attendees went on the trip and everyone got some goodies.

Bob showed us the area where the new mineral plumbophyllite was found. John Dagenais spent several hours breaking rock in the area which had been the target of commercial collectors using a rock drill. We managed to get a couple of specimens. We also collected tsumebite, plumbogummite, wulfenite, fornicite, chlorargyrite, vaquelinite and murdockite. We dug in the area where quetzacotolite had been discovered but never found any. John and I also collected several plates of chrysocolla covered with diopside.

John and I collected at the Blue Bell Mine for two days, then moved over to the Goodsprings area which is located along the Nevada side of the Nevada/California state line north and west of I-15. We always stay at one of the casinos at Primm. The food is okay and the rooms are nice and the price is very good.

Goodsprings is a small community with about 50 homes, some abandoned, and a tavern that caters to bikers and has a claim to fame because some movie actor stopped there once and had a beer. Most of the residents have some connection to mining, and the town is surrounded by the Goodsprings District. John and I had visited the district on our prior trips, collecting at the Milford, Singer, Potisi, and Root mines. This time we visited the Alice Mine which is the location for some fabulous molybdofofnacite crystals. We found the collecting area in the mine and each collected a beer flat of world class molybdofofnacite along with wulfenite, hemimorphite and fornicite, mostly



John Dagenais collecting in the Blue Bell at the plumbophyllite area.



John checking out the tsumebite and murdockite area in the Blue Bell Mine.

out of one pocket. Just this two hours of collecting at the Alice made the trip a success.

The next day John and I met with Bob Housely and Joe Marty and went back to a site near Baker where we found some other rare minerals including the lead copper tellurate, khinite.

The next day John, Joe, and myself headed east to collect at the Mohawk Mine. This mine is on the

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

The Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy

35th Annual Show and Symposium

Minerals of Africa

October 16-18, 2007

Red Lion Inn, Kelso, Washington

Free Admission to the Mineral Show and Dealers

Main Floor Dealers

EARTH'S TREASURES: Richard Kennedy
LEHIGH MINERALS: Jim and Yolanda McEwen
OXCART MINERALS: Priscilla & Hollis Oxley
PACIFIC RIM MINERALS: John Meek

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

Visit our webpage at www.pnwfm.org for
more information



John collecting molybdoferite in the Alice Mine.



Collecting on the Otto Mountain dump. Bob Houseley is checking out an outcrop in the distance.



Joe Marty looking for specimens in the Mohawk Mine.



The gully at the Reward Mine. The incline was used to load ore from the Brown Monster and Reward Mines into large ore bins that were winched up and down the gully.

north side of I-15 on the west end of Clark Mountain, just a few miles west of the Nevada line. The Mohawk Mine adits can be seen from the freeway and are accessible from the Cima exit. We concentrated on the west adit, spending several hours underground. We all did well here, collecting several different species such as goethite, chalcophanite, chlorargyrite and other minerals. We also collected on the dump. John found a real nice azurite pocket.

On the following day John and I headed back west and then north on Highway 396 to Lone Pine, California. We woke the next morning to fresh snow on the upper elevations, but it was nice a clear day so we headed northeast through the Owens Valley to the Reward Mine. This mine is located in a canyon about 1500 feet above the valley floor and was quite a climb for us old folks. We took our time and made it to the main adit of the Reward. The gully intersects the ore deposit with the Brown Monster Mine on the north

side and the Reward on the south side of the gully. We did not get into the Brown Monster as we ran out of time and nice weather. We collected tsumebite, caledonite, linarite, azurite, wulfenite, chrysocolla and several more minerals. It was raining when we came out so we went back down to the valley and headed north to the town of Independence and the Green Monster Mine. After several attempts to get to the mine, we finally gave up and headed back to Lone Pine. Our intent was to go east across the north end of the Death Valley Monument to Beatty, Nevada. We crossed over the pass at the west end of the park, around 4700 feet, where we hit a blizzard, then dropped down to sea level at Stovepipe Springs. The water was washing over the roadway for several miles. A park ranger turned us around due to road washouts



Looking across the Owens Valley from the entrance to the Reward Mine. The truck is down at the bottom of the gully near the metal shed. Ruins of the Brown Monster Mine ore chute and ore cart rails are on the opposite gully wall.



View inside the Reward Mine. Minerals are everywhere on the walls and floor, mostly chrysocolla with wulfenite, azurite, and occasionally a crystal of tsumebite, linarite, and calcedonite.



Flooding road on the way to Stovepipe Springs, Death Valley.

so we drove back through the water covered roads and through the snow, eventually following a snow plow for ten miles and spent the night at Lone Pine. The next day we drove to Bishop, California and then east into Nevada and Highway 95.

We had planned to go to the Tonopah area to collect but the ground was covered in snow so we headed north on 95 and I-80 to Winnemucca and spent the afternoon collecting at the Silver Coin Mine. The next day we headed north into Oregon, driving for about 150 miles on packed snow and ice almost to Bend. We made good time and arrived back home that evening. We are now planning our outing for a little later in the year as this is the second time we have run into bad weather while attending the SCMA conference.

The Annual Washington Pass Cleanup and Collecting Trip

The 2009 PNWFM Washington Pass field trip is scheduled for August 8th, 9th, and 10th. Again, we have some camp sites at the Klipchuck campground set aside for us. Our camp hosts will have a chore for us Saturday morning and then we are free for the rest of the weekend to hunt for those elusive rare minerals up in the granite rocks at Washington Pass. I will be there on Friday so come up and enjoy the beautiful area and collect some of the rarest minerals on earth. For more information if you haven't been there before, email me at:

debnwes@comcast.net, for more details.

Hope to see you there.

Wes Gannaway

Symposium Mineral Displays

One of the enjoyable features of each Mineral Symposium are the wonderful displays put in by members and visitors. These are enjoyed and greatly appreciated by the attendees. Everyone who has specimens they care to display and show to others should consider putting in a display. Contact Ray Lasmanis in early September to have him reserve a display case for your specimens.

Ray takes notes and writes up a report on each display for the purpose of documenting them. It is a permanent record of some of the specimens from a few of the many mineral localities of the PNW and world, an effort that is worthwhile and appreciated.

Lanny

Dues

We currently have 94 members paid up for 2009! Only six more to reach one hundred.

Our Chapter's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Dues are \$15 annually, of which \$6 goes to the National FM. If you have paid dues since July 1, 2008 no NOT pay again. Otherwise, you can send your dues to me at any time before June 30, 2009. If you pay by January our outstanding membership is reflected in the report at the annual FM meeting in Tucson.

We save money and you get faster, color newsletters if you sign up to receive the Chapter and National Newsletter via e-mail. Please include your current e-mail address below and let me know if it changes. We do not accept dues in advance or for past years.

Return completed forms with your check for \$15 made out to PNWFM to:

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Vancouver, WA 98665 (baritebill@aol.com)

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