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Pacific Northwest Chapter
FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
August 1, 2003 Bulletin

**The long anticipated
Symposium Registration Form is enclosed.**



**2003 Symposium
Minerals of China**



September 26th - 28th, 2003

**Red Lion Hotel, Kelso, Washington
(40 minutes north of Portland, Oregon)**

Recent e-mails inquiring about this year's Symposium Registration Form are proof of the true prominence and distinction this annual event holds for Northwest mineral collectors. It is the one time each year when mineral collectors drive from far and near to learn something new from keynote speakers, share stories and comraderie, and spend hours drooling over specimens from others' collections.

This year should be no different. Read inside about plans for this year's symposium and fill out and return the registration form you've all been requesting.

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**July 2003 Montana Collecting Trip:
Good Collecting & Company & GREAT Food**

by Aaron Wieting

During the week of the 4th of July, 13 collectors and one culinary artisan converged on the Montana outback for a fun-filled week of collecting, camping, and camaraderie. The trip was led by Lanny Ream and the author (Aaron Wieting) with Jonathan Ream providing culinary artistry and additional color. The purpose of the trip was to introduce newer FM members (and the author!) to some of Montana's classic collecting localities.

A few collectors stopped at the Butte Mineral show on the way but most collectors met at the Summit Mine in the Radersburg District, Broadwater County, on the evening of Saturday, June 28th and the morning of Sunday the 29th. The Summit Mine is also known as the Montana Silver Star and consists of fairly extensive dumps and a few mine buildings and structures. Minerals found on the dumps are primarily oxide minerals from Cu-Pb-Zn-V ores in limestone. Most collectors worked the main dumps below the headframe and had good luck finding specimens of descloizite-mottramite, vanadinite, mimetite, willemite, and hemimorphite. The Summit Mine is well-known by mineral collectors and local collectors have been digging into the dumps for specimens. Material below the top couple inches tends

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The President's Message

Pacific Northwest Friends of Mineralogy has participated in the Seattle Regional Gem and Mineral Show (SRGMS) for many years along with other clubs in the Puget Sound area. This has been part of our educational outreach. SRGMS had moved to Puyallup several years ago but wanted to move back into the Seattle area to reduce travel for their members. As a trial, the SRGMS held a spring show at the Seattle Center this April. The show was deemed a success! Thanks to Rusty Etzwiler for representing PNWFM at the planning meetings and coordinating PNWFM participation. On the one hand PNWFM found new members due to our participation. On the other hand, PNWFM participation has fallen off a significant amount and we need to discuss our continuing participation at our annual meeting. The next SRGMS show is in Puyallup the first weekend in November—Think about your ability to participate.

Thanks to Mickey Marks, a PNWFM member, for bringing to the attention of PNWFM a problem he had while out collecting. Additional thanks to Vice President, Aaron Wieting, for taking the time to check into the requirements to solve this problem and writing about it for this newsletter (see “The Future of Mineral Collecting in the Columbia Gorge”).

My thanks to Lanny Ream and Aaron Wieting for organizing and leading the collecting field trip to Montana (see “July 2003 Montana Collecting Trip”). I am envious of every one that was able to attend while my work kept me in California away from all collecting opportunities.

Another outreach program of PNWFM is the annual Washington Pass Cleanup. On August 8-10 we gather to help the Forest Service in the Washington Pass area along Washington State Route 20. In exchange they allow us to camp free in their campground and we also get a mineral collecting field trip for the rare minerals found in the area.

The 2003 PNWFM Symposium is September 26-28. The theme is “Minerals of China”. See the enclosed flyer for more details. Send in your registration as soon as you receive it and do not forget to make a room reservation.

-- Jim Etzwiler, President, PNWFM

Upcoming Events

Aug. 8-10, 2003 -- Washington Pass Clean-up

Sept. 26 - 28, 2003 -- Symposium - Minerals of China

Included with this newsletter is a sheet with four flyers on it. Please make copies on bright paper, cut them down to size and hand them out at every opportunity. Do you know people who may be interested but aren't FM members? Are you planning on attending an event where it would be appropriate to hand these out? If you have children or grandchildren in the area, can you hand them out at their school?

Noble Witt Award Call for Nominees

If a member of the FM community stands out to you as making great contributions to minerals, the science and the life-long hobby, please submit your nomination to one of the Board members. All nominees will be considered and the recipient will be honored at the Symposium.

2002	John Lindell	1996	Ray Lasmanis
2001	Harvey Gordon		Cheryl Burchim
2000	Rudy Tschemich	1995	Norm Steele
1999	Bob Boggs	1994	Bob Smith
1998	Arlene Handley	1993	Mike Groben
1997	Richard & Helen Rice		



Recently improved trade relations with China have been a boon to mineral collectors as some truly spectacular finds have been discovered and made available to museums and collectors. Hence, this year's symposium highlights the "Minerals of China". Rock Currier and Bob Cook will be our featured speakers discussing, among other things, the evolving mineral market in China. Sunday speakers will be announced in the next newsletter.

As shown in the Symposium Committee list below, the committee has come together and is hard at work. High standards have been set at recent symposiums and we anticipate that this year's symposium will continue that tradition.



Additional show highlights and registration information is included in the Program and Symposium Registration Form enclosed in this newsletter.

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What's New at the Rice Museum

The calendar has been filled with student tours this year and we wrapped it up with a "Free for Kids Weekend" May 31-June 1, with all kinds of activities for kids and prizes for all.

We are really thankful for the support of our local and regional rock and mineral clubs. As a museum, we are unique in the use of regular "guest exhibits" that give hobby club members recognition and the opportunity to display their specimens for the public to enjoy and continually provide something new and interesting for our return visitors. The Columbia-Willamette Faceters Guild members painted the basement work/study room and the museum installed vinyl flooring, tables and chairs. The Guild sponsored and taught a series of well attended faceting classes at the museum this winter and spring. Tualatin Valley Gem Club has provided a display case and their members are participating in a rotating exhibit, currently polished slabs of Brazilian Agate. Graveyard Point Plume is currently displayed in the FM case and the exhibit will be replaced with recently acquired northwest crystallized minerals in June. Most of these specimens were donated to the museum by northwest collectors. The Mt. Hood Rock Club display now features a variety of agate slabs and cabachons.

The Dennis and Mary Murphy Petrified Wood Gallery opened in January and is enormously popular. A new CD player with remote control has been purchased and the "Talking Log" will soon be telling its own story. The Main Gallery has stunning new individual specimen cases and spot lighting to better show off some of our "masterpieces", the Alma Rose rhodochrosite, Peruvian pyrite, Brazilian emerald, and Gibeon meteorite.

April featured a huge "Oregon Opal Sale," a successful money raiser for the construction fund that is financing a new gallery for Northwest Minerals and the Rudy Tschernich collection of Zeolites. Work on this gallery is in progress (slowly, but surely!).

Effective June 1st, the museum has a new curator, Rudy Tschernich. I will continue as an assistant (volunteer) in any way the museum needs my help. Next to my family, the Rice Museum is my first love and we are pleased and proud to have Rudy assume the curatorial responsibilities. We can all sleep well every night knowing that all of those beautiful specimens are in very good hands.

by Sharleen Harvey

July 2003 Montana Field Trip Report (cont'd from page 1)

to be dusty and dirty, thus new material in freshly-dug areas may be revealed by infrequent rainstorms.

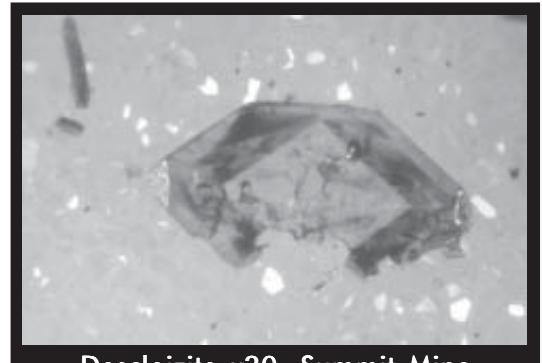
Sunday afternoon, collectors drove to Crystal Park in the Pioneer Mountains southwest of Butte, and camped at the recently completed Price Creek Campground, an approximate one-mile drive southwest of the Crystal Park parking area. The Forest Service currently charges \$5 per car per day and the group spent Monday and Tuesday collecting at the park. The park has become very popular in recent years and the surface of the hill has become thoroughly cratered. Most digging has been done in the loose overburden, so collectors can look for areas between holes that have not been dug, or dig down to the decomposed granite in search of quartz veins to follow. Doug and Mary Toland found a couple of good smoky quartz scepters following a quartz vein on the east slope of the hill above the south parking lot. Leo Plas found some good 2-4 cm amethyst scepter heads by working in the same area. Having showers available at Elkhorn Hot Springs to the south provided collectors with the incentive to get filthy at Crystal Park.

Wednesday morning, collectors drove to the Dickey Bridge campground on the Big Hole River and claimed campsites. Jonathan Ream stayed behind to continue preparations on his masterpieces for the evening's blow-out barbecue while the group headed up to the Calvert Hill tungsten mine (aka the Red Button Mine). Jerry Gray, former mine geologist at the Calvert Hill Mine and a friend of Dexter Leonard provided an introduction to the history and geology of the mine. Collectors primarily worked the walls of the upper pit and the face of the main dump. Several collectors worked the dump trail of the "hollow boulder" found several years ago. Apparently, a 2' cavity was found in a 3' boulder; however, the boulder tumbled down the face of the dump leaving a trail of epidote and smoky quartz crystals. The area has been collected over the last couple years, but trip members were still able to find gemmy, terminated epidote crystals to 1.3 cm. Also found in the upper pit were masses of irregular scheelite up to 1 cm in calcite/pyroxene/amphibole matrix. Aquamarine is an unusual mineral found at Calvert Hill and one find included a 14 cm shattered crystal in a calcite-filled cavity in a smoky quartz boulder. Several pieces of the calcite-filled cavity were etched upon return home and revealed a few masses of clear/white/light blue beryl/aquamarine needles to 3 cm.



Dexter Leonard collecting
micros at the Summit Mine

Wednesday evening was highlighted by the culinary skills of Jonathan Ream, who set the standard for future FM field trip meals. Jonathan's hand-rubbed, apple-wood



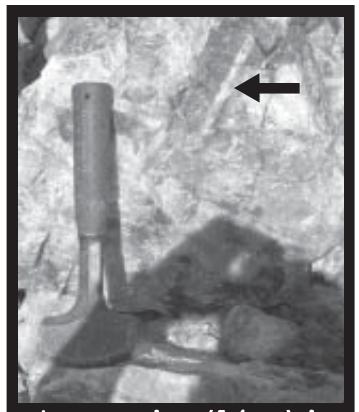
Descloizite x30, Summit Mine

smoked, barbequed ribs with spices mixed from scratch and home-made barbeque sauce converted the author to the glory of the barbequed rib. Accompanying the ribs, Jonathan also prepared (with help from Lanny) corn bread, chicken curry-stuffed cucumbers, potato salad, oven-baked salmon, and berry cobbler. Thursday morning was a little slower, partly due to collectors still digesting the previous evening's feast. Two collectors (including the author) also stopped in Anaconda to repair flat tires earned on the drive to and from Calvert Hill.

The group reconvened in Phillipsburg and later at the Black Pine Mine to look for various rare and unusual minerals for which the Black Pine Mine is famous. This site was important to visit since there are plans to reclaim the mine dump to prevent leachate from impacting local streams. Since the dumps will probably be capped to prevent rainwater infiltration, collecting opportunities following reclamation will likely be limited. Collectors found good specimens of tetrahedrite, huebnerite, ferberite, pyromorphite, and hemimorphite, mostly micros.

Following the Black Pine Mine, collectors traveled to the Lolo Pass/Granite Creek area on the Montana/Idaho border for the last collecting locality of the trip. Collectors camped at Granite Pass on Thursday and Friday nights (nary a firework was heard) and spent all day Friday in the area northeast of Granite Pass. Collecting consisted of digging in loose overburden and decomposed granite/diorite though most collectors were running out of gas after nearly a week of collecting. Still, a few collectors were successful, including Leo Plas, who found a good dark smoky quartz approximately 5 cm in length.

Original plans included a stop at the Snowbird Mine; however, collectors were informed at the Butte Show that the road was still snowed in and



Aquamarine (14cm) in
quartz, Calvert Hill

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The Future of Mineral Collecting in the Columbia Gorge

Aaron Wieting, pdxpounder@hotmail.com, 503-284-5361

As usual, the pursuit of enjoyment of our hobby becomes increasingly complicated when we least expect it. The Columbia River Gorge is home to one of the three great flood basalt deposits in the world; and when compared to the Deccan flood basalts in India and the basalts of the Serra Geral Formation in Brazil, residents of the northwest certainly have the right to feel cheated. However, we do have a few minor mineral deposits including some quartz, amethyst, and zeolite localities located within the confines of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA). The Shellrock Mountain amethyst/zeolite locality was published in John Gladwell's *Crystal and Minerals of the Northwest* and the Dog Mountain amethyst locality, though difficult to find, has been known among collectors for at least 50 years.

Recently, Mickey Marks, one of our members, contacted PNWFM officers to report that he had been accosted while collecting in the NSA by a representative of one of the locally represented public agencies. Mickey reported the following:

"Recently, I was doing some collecting of quartz crystals by breaking up some boulders set back around 20 feet from Washington route 14 near Dog Mountain. A Fish and Wildlife officer stopped by and asked if I had a Forest Service permit for collecting minerals. I told him that my understanding of Forest Service regulations was that no permit was required for "recreational collecting". He was not convinced, and asked me to stop, which I did. He did not write a citation, but the implication was that a permit would be required for future collecting. He referred me to Dan Blyth at the Forest Service office in Hood River, OR, which has jurisdiction for that area. I called him the next day, but he expressed complete ignorance on the subject, and passed me off to Pam Campbell, Staff Officer for Lands. She stated that there is no clear cut policy covering casual

collecting in the Scenic Area, but that "to be on the safe side", that I should make an application known as a "Plan of Operations - Notice of Intent". Now, the Forest Service regulations (36 CFR Sub Part A, Section 228.4) specifically exempt this type of activity, but since this area is now part of the Scenic Area, Ms. Campbell feels we should comply with the more stringent standard."

I contacted Pam Campbell with the Forest Service in Hood River, Oregon to request additional information regarding mineral collecting in the NSA. For Ms. Campbell, essentially there seemed to be no issue with one person removing a few rocks; however she requested a Notice of Intent (NOI) describing the proposed activities. As presented in 40 CFR 228.4, mineral collecting is specifically exempted from NOI requirements with respect to disposition under mining law. However, a catch-22 exists in that regulators ultimately need some documentation in writing to demonstrate that the proposed activities are specifically exempt; and that the regulators have documented that they have enough information to make a determination of non-significance (i.e., that they are doing their jobs as caretakers of public lands).

I communicated to Ms. Campbell that we believed that since our activities were recreational in nature, we were exempt from NOI requirements; however, we would willing to provide information in writing similar to an NOI in order to certify that we were not mining. In addition, since submitting the equivalent of an NOI each time an individual would like to collect in the NSA seems unduly burdensome, I proposed expanding the "NOI" to cover our group and to leave the collecting period open-ended while providing information detailing our group's interests, goals, and respect for land use policy goals.

Based on further communication with Ms. Campbell, activities by a few individuals would likely stay "under

the radar"; however, proposing a broader consideration would force the FS to ultimately make a policy decision. The areas where specimen minerals occur in the Columbia Gorge NSA are in areas that have been withdrawn from mineral entry which further complicates the issue. This unit of the FS does not currently differentiate between mineral collecting and locatable minerals, thus, members of this particular Forest Service office believe that mineral collecting can be subsequently prohibited.

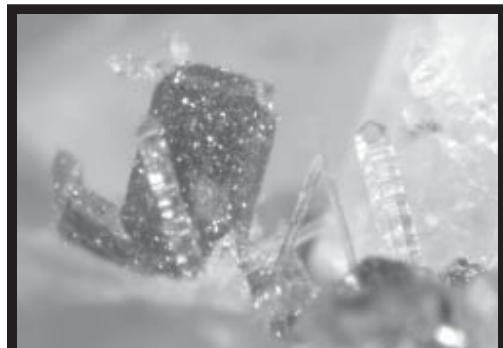
It follows, then that I must present the question to the membership and gauge interest in these localities. If interest is low then, then we may be able to stay under the radar; otherwise it may be worthwhile pursuing an official acknowledgment/validation of our activities. At this point, I am unprepared to make the argument for a group authorization, though I personally believe our activities are authorized. The question currently hinges on whether or not the FS can restrict mineral collecting in areas that have been withdrawn from mineral entry. It will take more research on my part to determine legality and regulatory framework prior to preparing a formal argument. In the meantime, members who wish to weigh in on the issue of mineral collecting in the Columbia Gorge NSA may contact me at the locations listed.

In the end, this issue highlights the increasing need to research our favorite collecting localities and understand the local land use regulations prior to collecting, even at localities we've been to for years without incident. Land ownership in the Columbia Gorge NSA varies considerably and the irony of the situation is that there is potential that Mickey was within the WashDOT right-of-way. Subsequently, that means that the FS would have had no authority to regulate Mickey's activities at that specific location anyway.

July 2003 Montana Field Trip Report (cont'd from page 4)

a five-mile hike was required to reach the mine. Subsequently, a few collectors continued to collect on Saturday while others began the long drive home.

Overall, the trip was a great success and collectors enjoyed seeing the Montana backcountry, collecting at some new-old localities, and enjoying the company of other collectors. Voluminous thanks are due to Lanny Ream for contributing significant time and resources in making the trip a success, and for handling much of the organizational duties. Thanks also to Jonathan Ream for helping make campgrounds feel like five-star accommodations. It's time to start planning another trip!



Huebnerite with drusy quartz coating x35, Black Pine Mine



Symposium Registration Form

Complete and Return

General Registration

Includes Saturday's banquet dinner.

Before September 15th,

\$45 x ____ registrants = \$ _____

After September 15th,

\$54 x ____ registrants = \$ _____

Students under 25

\$20 x ____ registrants = \$ _____

Meals (include tax and gratuity):

Saturday Banquet:

Additional banquet meals for guests not attending symposium meetings:

\$22 x ____ attendees = \$ _____

Saturday Deli-Lunch Buffet:

Not included in general registration.

\$12.50 x ____ attendees = \$ _____

Room Dealer

Yes, I will be a room dealer (please see section on Satellite Dealers).

Room Dealer Fee \$15 = \$ _____

Payment of 2004 Dues

\$15 for 2004 dues \$ _____

The deadline for 2003 dues was June 30, 2003.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

() _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Mail your registration form and check to: _____

Pacific Northwest Chapter FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

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