



Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

December 2006 Bulletin

Rice Museum Fund-Raiser a Success!

The Rice Museum Summer Fest was held August 5-6 at the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks & Minerals in Hillsboro, Oregon. The Rice Museum is one of the premier mineral museums in the U.S. and hosts a spectacular collection of world-wide and northwest minerals. The event is primarily a general fund-raiser for the museum to help with operating expenses, capital improvements, and specimen acquisition. PNWFM participated in the event by setting up and manning a dealer table with stock provided primarily by FM members.

Sales from the PNWFM table resulted in a direct donation of \$1,161 to the museum. Since a large portion of the material sold at the table was from the Wietings' collection, sales of minerals were tracked. Approximately \$700 of the sales were from the Wietings' collection and a donation for the same amount was made in Jade Wieting's name in order to take advantage of Jade's employer's (Stockamp & Associates) charitable contribution matching program. Subsequently, the PNWFM benefit table resulted in a total donation of \$1,861 to the NW Gallery. At the June 2006 meeting, members voted to have the donation go to the NW Gallery specimen acquisition fund.

The FM table also served as a superb outreach opportunity. Many of the attendees were children with their parents and the \$5 and under specimens were very popular with the kids. The kids and parents were equally intrigued that most of the specimens for sale at the table were field collected by those that donated them. PNWFM and the 32nd Annual Symposium were promoted, and hopefully a few new members will be joining.

The PNWFM table was a success due to contributions of specimens & mineral-related items from FM members Bill & Diana Dameron, Karen & Gary Hinderman, Wes Gannaway, John Lindell, Rudy Tschernich, Terry Thomas, John Li, and Jade & Aaron Wieting, and from NW field collector Kris Dennis. Aaron and Jade Wieting again coordinated the FM table, and assistance staffing the table was provided by PNWFM members Bill & Diana, Karen and Gary, and Dexter Leonard. Of course, thanks also go to all those who purchased specimens, including various FM members, dealers, Rice Museum family members and volunteers, and the numerous youthful future rock scientists and parents. We have a lot of stock left over for next year but we always need more, so look forward to solicitations from the Wietings so we can continue supporting the Rice museum and conducting outreach for FM!

Submitted by: Aaron B. Wieting

Pacific Northwest Chapter

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Current NW Chapter of FM Schedule for 2007

January 13th: business meeting
Rice Museum at Hillsboro, OR,
11 AM.

August 10, 11, 12: annual outing
at Washington Pass.

October 19, 20, 21: the symposium
at Kelso, WA.

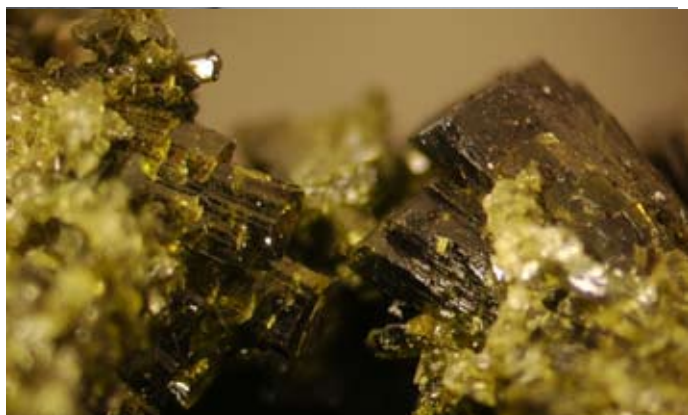
President's Message

Another symposium has passed. Eighty members and guests attended, with everyone saying that they enjoyed the symposium. Our speakers did a great job. I know that I learned a lot about Brazil and Peru. It is always nice to see the pictures of the actual localities where my specimens are from. The Sunday talks were a treat, and the discussion on specimen labels was quite spirited. Karen Hinderman has the minutes of the business meeting elsewhere in the bulletin but I will comment on the main topic that was covered. Our attendance has been steady for several years. This is good in one aspect but not so good in another. We need to continue efforts to bring in new members that can also partake of our knowledge and the great speakers we offer. We also need to attract the general public to our "show" so that the dealers can sell their specimens, and there may be the occasional visitor that is inspired to join us after seeing the great displays in our cases and on the dealer tables. With this in mind I am including an early copy of the announcement of our 2007 symposium so that all of you can make copies to place at any of the rock and mineral related events and activities that you may attend. I will update the announcement as we learn who the speakers and room dealers will be. We will also be making another effort to let the educational institutions know of our existence. We do have a student discount available to anyone that attends the symposium. It is our duty to spread the joy and knowledge that we have for our minerals and mineral collecting. For those who may not understand our enthusiasm, remind them that if they can't grow it then it must be a mineral.

I would also like to thank Jim Etzwiler for volunteering to be the liaison for the FM display case at the Rice Museum. Rudy Tschernich has said that we now have enough volunteers to fill the case for this next year.

Wes Gannaway

Epidote, micro, Salt Chuck Mine, P.o.W. Island, Alaska.



PNWFM Minutes

October 22, 2006

President, Wes Gannaway, called the meeting to order. Thirty-eight members were present. Special thanks were expressed to Showchair, George Gerhold; and Master of Ceremonies, Bill Dameron.

Old Business: ABC Project Coordinator Lorna Goebel discussed the progress of this educational outreach program. George Gerhold has provided a mineral CD to the project. The Everett Rookies Rockhounds have been instrumental in streamlining the Bingo game. Laurence Huestis has contributed a large number of thumb-nail specimens to the project. Arlene Handley and Jerry Kline have contributed as well. Lorna is able to attend many of the local shows to set up a display and have mineral Bingo available at the kid's corner. Also, schools are using the materials as well. For those with specimens to donate to this worthy project, please contact Lorna or leave them at Arlene's store. Lorna is doing an absolutely fabulous job of coordinating this project.

New Business: 2007 Show Theme—SW USA Minerals

First a list of ideas was generated: Australian Minerals, Major American Minerals, NW & BC Minerals, San Diego Pegmatites, SW USA Minerals, SE USA Minerals, Canadian Minerals. Next a discussion and finally a vote with the winner: SW USA Minerals. Also, there was a discussion on theme for Sunday morning's symposium talks. This year Bill Dameron provided information and led a discussion on insuring correct labels for your specimens. After discussion and input it was decided to continue in this area with more on labeling, specimen care and maintenance, specimen acquisition and disposition.

Continued on page 4

Pyrite on calcite, micro, Klawock Quarry, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.



**The Northwest Chapter of the
Friends of Mineralogy**

33rd Annual Show and Symposium

Minerals of the American Southwest

October 19–21, 2007

Red Lion Inn in Kelso, Washington

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Northwest's finest mineral museum:
The Rice Museum in Hillsboro, Oregon**

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Minutes continued from page 2

Dates for the 2007 and 2008 symposiums were discussed and voted on: October 19 – 21, 2007; and October 17 – 19, 2008. We will continue holding the symposiums at the Red Lion Inn in Kelso.

Reports: 2006 live auction brought in \$983.00 and the silent auction brought in \$316.00. Winner of best display case: Art Soregaroli, minerals of Peru. Treasurer's report was handed out to members. Discussion and vote to continue with group membership at the Rice Museum for \$500.00.

2007 Show Chair, Al Liebetrau, led a discussion on outreach:

Improve communication with area professors and high school earth science teachers, offer them regional specimens

Provide registration material much earlier to be given to dealers, and made available at the museum, Arlene's store, and area shows.

Contact "old" participants to encourage them to return

Make it "fun"

Organizational meetings spread throughout the year and held at a variety of localities

Organize collecting trips as friends "getting together"

Get the speakers, topics of presentations and costs out sooner

Personal contact is #1 means of making an impact. Talk to people at local shows about our organization.

Rudy Tschernich provided information on how to donate to the museum. Also, Rudy discussed the NW Case at the museum. He needs volunteers to provide specimens on loan for a month at a time to put in this showcase. Please contact Rudy to volunteer.

Good of the Order: A tentative meeting is scheduled for December at the Rice Museum.

Secretary,
Karen Hinderman

Exploring for Minerals on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Most readers know Prince of Wales Island because of its world famous mineral locality: Green Monster Mountain; a locality that produces some of the finest epidote specimens known. Outside of this location, the island is little known to the mineral collecting community. This is because it is remote, sitting west of Ketchikan, Alaska, accessible only by boat or plane. Daily ferry access to the island has only begun in recent years, and of course it is hundreds to thousands of miles away from most mineral collectors.

The author was fortunate in spending a week on the island in May-June 2006. Being driven by the desire to explore for minerals wherever there are rocks, this was a great opportunity to learn a little more about this remote chunk of mineral laden rock. My explorations did not include a trip to the famous Green Monster Mountain, but that is not the only potential mineral location on the island.

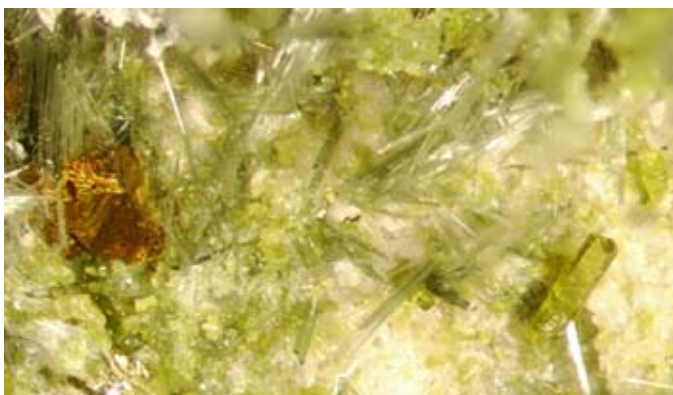
Before leaving for Alaska, US Geological Survey and Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys publications were consulted to learn about the geology and mines on the island. This is always a prerequisite to planning a mineral exploration project. This study provided information on several old, abandoned mines of potential interest, and knowledge of the geology. Green Monster Mountain is not the only skarn deposit with potential for epidote, garnet and other skarn minerals, and there are other potential mineral occurrences of interest.

Road access is fairly good; Prince of Wales Island has been heavily logged. Many of these roads have been closed, but many miles of drivable forest roads are open. After arriving on the island and driving around, one other fact was quickly learned. Because of the fairly recent glaciation, there is very little gravel and very little unconsolidated rock that can be used to build roads. Thus, there are many rock quarries, and due to the mountainous/rugged topography, there also are many roadcuts that expose the bedrock of the island. Even though the island is heavily forested and thus the vegetation cover is dense and green, there actually are many rock exposures due to man's activities.

On my recent trip, I was on vacation with my wife, and thus had limited time to stare at rocks (but who would want to with all that incredible scenery and



Andradite/grossular with quartz, micro, Klawock Quarry, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.



Chalcopyrite, byssolite and epidote, micro, Salt Chuck Mine, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.

streams and salt water to fish?), but did find time to explore some mines and quarries. This exploration was rewarded, especially with micro minerals.

My first mineral excursion occurred the day we arrived at Craig, a town on the western shore of the island. We paid a visit to our friend Gary McWilliams, long time Alaska resident, mineral collector and sculptor. We visited him at his sculpting studio on the water north of Craig, and was invited to make a trip that afternoon to visit the rock quarry at Klawock, a small town a few miles to the north. He hadn't been to the quarry for a few years, but showed me some epidote, garnet and quartz from a contact zone in the quarry.

We drove on up, were granted permission to do some collecting, and drove into the quarry. Unfortunately, there had been no operations for several months in the part of the quarry where the contact zone is located, so there were no fresh exposures of the potentially good material. Most likely there won't be again, the good zone may be mined out. We spent about two hours walking around looking at the exposures in the wall and at the pile of rock on the floor of that part of the quarry.

This did prove to be worthwhile. I was able to find pink and white calcite veins with tiny to small crystals. Some of these had scattered singles and groups of cubic pyrite crystals perched on the calcite. One piece of rock had green garnet crystals up to about 2 mm coating one surface. Many of these crystals were etched and skeletal and they had crude quartz crystals perched on them. There also were micro arsenopyrite crystals and rough pyrrhotite crystals on other specimens collected.

The best find of the day was a piece of a vein that was comprised of a layer of sharp, lustrous, black actinolite(?) crystals covered with calcite. Careful etching with hydrochloric acid removed the calcite leaving

a fine cluster of lustrous black crystals mostly around 2 x 3 x 10 mm with a cluster of white quartz crystals perched on the top of the specimen.

Over the rest of the time on the island, I was able to visit two mines, some quarries and several roadcuts, many of which produced specimens. Most common, were micro crystals of epidote, quartz and byssolite. In many areas, the rock is a greenstone and various contact rocks with abundant fine grained epidote and diopside. Many of these have veins with tiny crystals of the minerals listed above.

Two quarries on the Kasaan Peninsula near Power Lake gave up specimens with epidote, actinolite (var. byssolite), chalcopyrite and albite. Finding the tiny chalcopyrite crystals with the other minerals was a treat. Both of these two quarries were fairly clean with only a few pieces of rock lying around, but still produced specimens.

In this same area, I was able to visit the Salt Chuck Mine which was quite an experience. This mine is located on a mountain top above the Salt Chuck (upper reaches of Kasaan Bay) on the eastern side of the island. The mine is a deep glory hole that was ultimately mined from below via an ore haulage tunnel at the end of about 1/4 mile of tracks that run to the mill which was on the saltwater at the Salt Chuck.

This was an interesting site (and sight) with the remains of the mill, tracks and an open deep pit or glory hole exposed at the top of the mountain. Hiking across country through the forest, then up the steep sides of the mountain only to come to not what one expects as the top of a mountain, but a narrow rock ledge looking down into a deep hole is rather surprising. It was an interesting hike rewarding in several ways, including mineral specimens.

The host rock is pyroxenite and gabbro; copper and palladium was produced from bornite and pyrrhotite ore. There is some oxidation, and brochantite and epidote as microcrystals were found, along with some micro botryoidal chrysocolla. The rock contained small cavities with micro to small macro epidote, diopside, titanite and uralite (diopside(?) replaced by byssolite needles).

Two other quarries and two roadcuts were examined along the several roads and highways we drove, and these also yielded tiny treasures of epidote, albite, quartz and calcite. I only looked at a few mines, quarries and roadcuts on the island; there is a lot more waiting to be visited.

Lanny R. Ream

Dues

Our Chapter's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Dues are \$15 annually, of which \$6 goes to the National FM. Those members who paid dues between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 (shown as 2006 on your mailing label) will continue to receive a newsletter through December, at least, but need to renew. Otherwise, please pay dues anytime before June 30 2007; our membership is more accurately reported at Tucson in February if you pay before December 31.

We save even more money, and you get better, color newsletters, if you sign up to receive the 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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