



# Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

July 2008 Bulletin

## The Annual Washington Pass Cleanup and Collecting Trip

The 2008 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](mailto:debnwes@comcast.net) for more details. Hope to see you there.

Wes Gannaway

## Time to Think About the Auction

Once again, it's time to start thinking about what you can pull out of a box or a drawer and bring along to the symposium to donate to the auction. All donations will be auctioned at the silent auctions Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning; or the live auction Saturday night. Specimens with a value of \$1.00 to approximately \$15.00 will be used at the silent auction and all others will be used for the live auction.

I am amazed annually at the quantity and quality of material that you bring in to donate. Many of you have been extremely generous with your donations, or at the other end, with your purchases. Either way, it is always appreciated.

So, once again, I will be looking forward to seeing you and your donations at the annual symposium.

Karen Hinderman, Auctioneer

### Pacific Northwest Chapter

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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

# Tiny Quartz Crystals at Craig, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

## False Island boat launch quartz

One can spend days looking for minerals in areas that are difficult to get to, or sometimes one can be “handed” a locality that is right next to where he is standing, day after day! The latter is how I learned of an occurrence of tiny quartz crystals that were essentially right next to where I was working each day while at Craig in May and June, 2007 and 2008.

One day, when I was taking a break after washing the rock dust off protective clothing, a woman walked up to me and asked if I was a geologist “like Gary.” (“like Gary” was a reference to Gary McWilliams, mineral collector and stone sculptor who is known to many PNW FM members, and on this occasion, was my “boss” at Stone Arts of Alaska) I answered her affirmatively, and asked her what I could help with. She asked again, this time expressing that what she meant, was could I identify minerals. I assured her that I could, usually.

She opened her hand and showed me a dozen or so tiny, lustrous, doubly terminated, beautiful quartz crystals. I told her what they were and asked if she would tell me where she found them. She pointed down at the beach, just 60 feet from where we stood and said, “in a boulder at the boat launch.”

We walked down to the boat launch and over the side and she pointed out a boulder about four feet cross that was part of the rip rap that protected the side of the fill of the launch ramp. The rock is a black low grade metamorphic, basically a massive and boring looking “plain old rock.” However, on the exposed side of the boulder there was a six inch wide area of black massive material with calcite.

In this same type of rock, I’d seen these patches of this black mineral before. One occurrence was up towards the northern part of the island on the western side. I didn’t see any quartz at that location, or at a similar occurrence in a small quarry to the east. On this boulder, the tiny quartz crystals were in the central part with cleavage rhombs of calcite. It appeared the calcite was coarsely crystalline and had cleaved so that the exposed calcite had rhombic shapes. The quartz crystals were 1-8 mm long. These weren’t anything major, but very nice tiny quartz crystals make very micro specimens. I thanked her for sharing and



Quartz, 3 mm, on calcite, with black inclusions, False Island boat launch, Craig, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.

asked if I may collect some. She said they weren’t hers, she had all she wanted. I had to get back to work, but they were there waiting for me later. Somehow that didn’t happen; I managed to neglect to get back to the rock and collect any of the tiny crystals in 2007.

The rock probably came from a quarry that is about a mile away to the northeast. It is a large quarry next to the Craig city dump. Unfortunately, the road to the quarry is gated and posted. No chance to check it out for more pockets of quartz crystals or any other minerals.

In May, 2008, I was back at Craig finishing my large stone sculpture, and this time, I didn’t neglect my collecting duties. One sunny day, I took a break from carefully removing unwanted marble from a polar bear’s nose and grabbed my tools and walked the short distance down to the beach.

The rocks around the boat ramp were essentially the same as they were in 2007, unaffected by the winter storms, and the pod of calcite and quartz was unchanged. At first, I thought it was going to be difficult to remove anything of significance from this small mineralized zone in the center of the nearly flat face of hard rock about 4 feet across.

After studying it while holding a hammer and

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## 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](http://www.baritespecimenlocalities.org)

**The Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy**  
**34th Annual Show and Symposium**

# **Minerals of Canada**

**October 17-19, 2008**  
**Red Lion Inn, Kelso, Washington**

## **Featured Speakers**

**Brad Wilson** will speak on “Pegmatites of the Canadian Cordillera”  
and “Canadian Gemstones”

**Mark Mauthner** will speak on “Minerals of the Silver Trail, Mayo Mining District, Yukon Territory” and  
“Crystallized Gold of the Canadian Cordillera”

**Bob Jackson** will provide an update on the Rock Candy Mine

## **Main Floor Dealers**

**EARTHS 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**  
**will be 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 Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals**

**Free Admission to the Mineral Show and Dealers**

**Visit our web page at [www.pnwm.org](http://www.pnwm.org) for more information**

## A Few Notes on the First Mineral Mart

The first Mineral Mart was held at the Lake City Community Center on June 28, 2008. Lake City is a suburb of Seattle located near the north end of Lake Washington. Bart Cannon set up the show and did most of the notification by email. The show was open to the general public. Most of the advertising was by email and word of mouth. Dealer tables and display cases were furnished.

By opening time on the morning of the 28th, there were no empty tables. About 31 dealers had sales tables and displays. Most of the dealers were mineral collectors selling part of their collections and extra self collected specimens.

Rudy Tschernich, the Rice Museum, Wes Gannaway, John Sobolewski, Bob Meyer, John Lindell, John Dagenais, Ed Godsey, Bart Cannon, Ray Hill, Rob Woodside, John Cornish, the Scepterguy, Galaxy Gems Brazil, UV Systems, Mel Judy, Tom Payne, Bradley Kornish, Gary Buhr, Danny Steward, John Meek, Christy Callens, the Wholesale Nest, Peter Boyd, and Lew Landers all had sales tables.

Yours truly had two six-foot tables and most of the morning was very busy with customers. After noon the crowd thinned out and allowed me to do some visiting and buying those specimens that I couldn't live without. Most of the collectors in the NW visited the show.

The displays were very nice. Many of the collector dealers had some very nice specimens. Bart Cannon had several pieces of lab equipment on view as well as some great maps, posters, and photographs on the walls.

One item of interest that Bart set up was a Kid Buck. Each kid that came into the show was given 6 kid bucks that they would use to spend on selected specimens put out by many of the dealers. I think that John Dagenais collected over 35 Kid Bucks for specimens.

The show started to wind down around 5PM and by 6:30 most of the dealers were packing up. Bart said that he wouldn't be able to set the show up next year but there was interest by others to take over.

Everyone I talked to was eager to do the Mineral Mart next year. A contact name and more info will be published in the newsletter when and if this event is to continue.

Wes Gannaway



John Sobolewski and Bob Meyer at the Mineral Mart.



Tad Dilhoff and John Lindell at the Mineral Mart.



Bob Meyer at his mineral sales table at the Mineral Mart.

## Another Collecting Trip to Utah

In April, John Dagenais and I traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to visit with Joe Marty. Joe has collected enough micromounts to be voted into the Micromounters Hall of Fame, so we were excited to be able to visit with Joe and view his collection. In the few days that we were there we looked at about 300 specimens, or less than 5% of his collection. We also went collecting.

On the second day of our visit we all went to Eureka, Utah and collected on the dumps of the Gold Coin Mine. The Gold Coin sits just southeast of the Mammoth Mine. The Sioux Ajax Mine is one of the main adits of the Gold Chain property, and members of the NW FM got to collect at the Sioux Ajax dump on our group tour there in 1997. The Gold Chain is under ownership by the Grand Central Mining Company and permission must be given for any collection on the Grand Central properties. Some of the minerals collected at the Gold Coin include tyrolite, malachite, azurite, clinoclase, arseniosiderite, pharmacosiderite, cornwallite, and gilmartinite.

The next day we received permission to collect on the upper dump of the Centennial Eureka Mine. We were joined by Brent Thorne, another noted micromount collector. This is also a Grand Central property and we had to get a worker to open the gate for us. This allowed us to drive up to the main shaft headframe and collect just below the headframe. The Tintic Mining District includes all of the mines in and around Eureka and at one time the district was nationally famous for the number of intact headframes. However, age has taken its toll and many of these frames have collapsed. The Centennial Eureka frame has partially collapsed and is now very dangerous to be around. We collected on the slopes and found malachite, azurite (some of the finest ever found there), enargite, conichalcite, carminite, tellurides and arsenates, and some micro gold.

Our last collecting trip was at the Ophir Hill Mine at Ophir, Utah, a very large mine situated right in downtown. Again, we had to get permission from the owner to enter the property. In all cases these are secured properties and a key is needed for any access.

The Ophir Hill Mine is a different mine than the first two we visited. The Eureka properties were both typical metal hydrothermally enriched vein deposits in vertical fracture fillings in horizontal limestone layers. The Ophir Hill is also a hydrothermal deposit but the deposition took place parallel to the limestone layers,

in a mostly horizontal aspect. This type of replacement created a series of horizontal lenses of ore, resulting in a single layer of limestone being replaced. The result is that the mining followed the layering and so the tunnel had to follow the partly folded and faulted layers, resulting in many areas where the tunnel pinched and swelled. Our goal was a tunnel section seemingly many miles from the entrance (probably about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile) that meandered back and forth and up and down. John and I had to play catchup with Joe most of the way to the specimen location. We collected in a layer with decent calcite crystals covering and covered by scheelite and fluorite crystals. Joe also (because he is taller and could reach the seam) got some tungstite from the ceiling of the tunnel.

The trip was a success in every way. Lots of time spent looking at some superb specimens, both under the scope and underground.

Wes Gannaway

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### Tiny Quartz Crystals, continued from page 2

chisel, I could see that there were cracks that I might be able to extend to the pod. A half hour was spent working on this, and after going back for more tools, this time two long, thin spitting wedges. I was able to remove the best part of the minerals, including the better parts in large pieces.

The black mineral has not been identified. It is brilliant shiny black, occurs as masses of grains and isolated grains of varying shapes, some equant and some elongated. It is a brittle mineral, easily scratched and it breaks up into irregular tiny bits. It seems to be more of a mineralloid than a true mineral. The calcite is a colorless mass of large rhombic grains. The black unknown and the quartz crystals occur as inclusions in the calcite. The black mineral also surrounds the calcite mass.

The quartz crystals are colorless, and many are lustrous; others have a coating or inclusions of the black mineral and are often pitted. The crystals are all doubly terminated and most are equant; the longest seen was measured at 8 mm in length and 4 mm across. Most are under 3 mm in length.

The quartz crystals make fine micro minerals, and look very nice partially projecting from the calcite cleavage rhombs. This wasn't a major mineral find, but I enjoy every unusual mineral occurrence.

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. If your mailing label indicates you have paid dues for 2009 you should not pay again until after June 30, 2009. However, as of July 12 only ONE member has paid for 2009. You can send your dues to me at any time before June 30, 2009, but it saves me much time and the chapter money if you pay in connection with your Symposium registration; please do so if possible. If not, please pay before the end of the calendar year so our large membership is better reflected in national FM data. We save even more 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:

Bill Dameron, Treasurer, PNWFM  
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Send Newsletters via e-mail Yes  No

## Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

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