



# Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

August 2009 Bulletin

## Washington Pass Field Trip Report

Wes Gannaway

A great time was had by all. This surely rang true for the August 7-9 field trip to Washington Pass. The weather was great all three days with the temperature peaking in the mid 70s and a nice afternoon breeze; perfect collecting weather.

I left my Ferndale home at 8:30 AM and pulled off Highway 20 at the milepost 166 collecting site around 11:45 AM. I didn't have to go through all of the crappy traffic south of Marysville like Ray and Linda did. Ray said that Seattle was a mess and took over an hour. Some of the other members had slowdowns but overall we were all able to sit around the Friday evening campfire and visit.

Most of us camped on the inner loop in spaces 42-46 except Paul Later who stayed at spot 23.

Other collectors that showed up were Mike Croxell, Markus and Eva Ra-schke and their two boys, Bob and Sue Campbell, Lorna Goebel, Ray Lasmanis and Linda, and Randy and Betsy Becker.

Some of us collected Friday at milepost 164, 165, and 166. Milepost 165 is at the large pull-out that has a pile of snow in it most years. I did find a boulder with crystals in it at MP 165 but it might have come from the same area of the cliff as the material at 166.

We all turned out on Saturday morning for the work with the Forest Service. We worked on cutting stairs into the bank of Early Winters Creek which runs through the campground. This is the fourth time we have worked on the trail to the creek and this time we really did ourselves proud with a great effort by all. We built the steps and cleared the trail from the camp sites down to the creek and for a considerable distance along the creek, putting in about 2½ hours along with the campground host. For these efforts we are allowed to stay in the campground for free for the two nights.

After a lunch break we all headed up to the milepost 166 area and pounded lots of rock into smaller bits. Every once in a while we could hear someone give a yell as they found some nice crystal filled vug. Ray and Linda and Betsy went hiking at Cutthroat Lake and also had a good time. Later in the day my friend Pam Birge and her friend arrived to collect some minerals from the 166 site. Pam and her friend are from the Southern California Mineralogy Association and had taken a side trip on their way from Sea-Tac to Anacortes. Pam collected for a couple of hours, then left for their vacation home.

As we sat around the fire Saturday night, Randy suggested that we go up

### Pacific Northwest Chapter

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### NW Chapter of FM Schedule

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

Washington Pass trip  
August 13-15, 2010

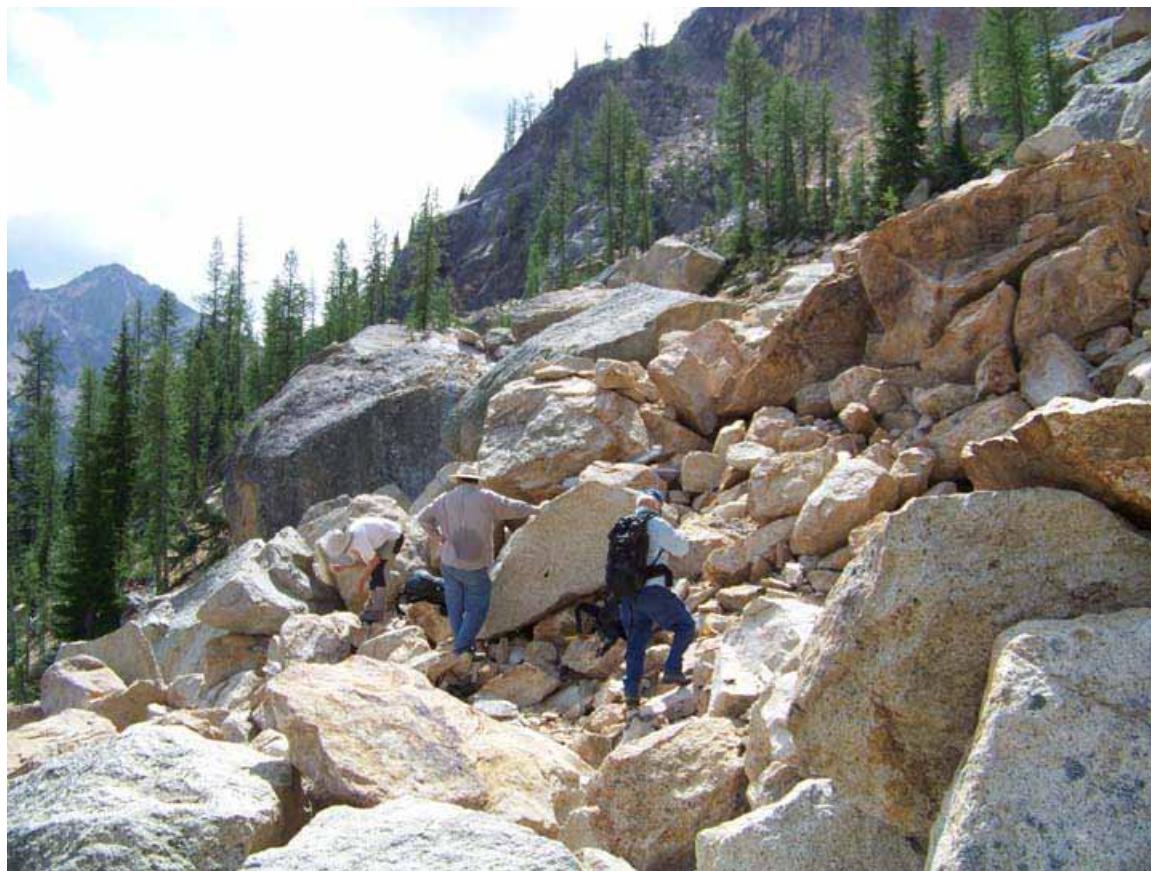
to the talus slope on Liberty Bell Peak, so on Sunday morning five of us met in the campground and headed up to the summit of the pass to start our trek up the slope. Our first stop on the trip was to poke around the type locality boulder (A. K. A. the Bob Boggs Boulder) for calciohilarite. We then went the rest of the way up to the face of the spire at Liberty Bell and looked in the talus for mineral-filled vugs. After collecting for about four hours, we headed back down and left for our prospective homes, tired but thrilled to be able to still get up the mountain.

Markus was really thrilled to collect at the pass as he had heard of the site while growing up and living in Germany. Markus stated that the Washington Pass area is known in Europe as one of the primo collecting sites in the world. I will be hosting the trip again next year at the same time so if you also want to collect at this world-famous site mark your calendar for the second weekend in August (13, 14, and 15th ) in 2010.

Thanks to Sue Campbell for the photos on page 5.



Markus Raschke (center) and Randy Becker (right center) in the talus at the bottom of Liberty Bell peak.



More photos on pages 4 & 5.

Members of the August Washington Pass field trip group at the "Bob Boggs calciohilarite boulder" below Liberty Bell peak: Markus Raschke, Randy Becker and Sue Campbell.

**The Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy  
35th Annual Show and Symposium  
October 16-18, 2009  
Red Lion Inn, Kelso, Washington**

## **Minerals of Africa**

**Featured Speakers:**

**Rock Currier:**

**A Mineral tour of the Congo and Morocco**

**A Mineral tour of Mali and Ethiopia**

**John Schneider: Minerals of Tsumeb I, II**

**George Gerhold: Namibian Diamonds**

**Steve Onderkirk: The Joys of Cataloging**

**Main Floor Dealers:**

**EARTH'S TREASURES: Richard Kennedy**

**LEHIGH MINERALS: Jim and Yolanda McEwen**

**MULTI-FRACTURED GEMS: Bruce and Pat Bennett**

**PACIFIC RIM MINERALS: John Meek**

**Room Dealers in the North Hallway**

**will be selling minerals from**

**Pacific Northwest and worldwide locations**

**Featuring sixteen world class mineral displays, including  
a display 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 webpage: [www.pnwm.org](http://www.pnwm.org) for more information**

## Newsletter Editor takes a hike

This is the fourth year that I have been the editor of the PNW Chapter newsletter, and will only reluctantly continue in this roll for a short time (if needed). Each year, I find myself busier and busier and it has become difficult to keep focused on the newsletter. The April newsletter this year started out as the March newsletter, but I was too busy with other things after getting the newsletter started and I forgot about it for nearly a month after that. The chapter deserves a newsletter editor who can pay more attention to it then that.

Most likely there is not someone just “bursting at the seams” ready to wrest control of the newsletter from my hands. If there is, give me a call, flood my email box or yell really loudly and I’ll send the reins immediately. Considering the probability of finding another newsletter editor quickly is low, I will continue to edit it (edit, write and publish actually) the newsletter for a while, a short while.

Also, it is time that the printed edition be killed, buried, eliminated. This is the modern age and wasting paper when electronic versions can do the job is not a good way to go. Presently, out of the 119 names on the latest member roster I have, 90 have indicated that they want the newsletter by email, to which a pdf copy is sent. That leaves 29 who have indicated that they want a printed copy.

I know that some of these people have slow, dial-up connections and do not want email with a pdf attachment. I understand the problem. There may also be a few of those 29 who do not have an internet connection or might not even have a computer. For them, a solution is difficult.

I’m not crazy about doing another paper edition. If no one takes over the newsletter before the next issue, I’m not sure I’ll get around to making a paper edition.

The bottom line here is that the chapter needs a new newsletter editor. It’s been fun, see you at the next symposium.

Lanny

## Barite Reference Web Site

Visit Bill Dameron’s locality reference website for barite. The site has more than 400 photographs of barite specimens from worldwide locations that produce macro specimens of barite.

Visit: [www.baritespecimenlocalities.org](http://www.baritespecimenlocalities.org)

## President's Message

Another symposium is coming along, number 35 this year. I attended my first one at the Doric Inn in Tacoma in 1986. What a time that was. Peter Romero gave a talk on the founding of his museum. People were afraid of getting mugged while going to the parking garage across the street. Many of us have stories to tell of our experiences with the symposiums. I haven’t heard any “good” stories about the other chapter symposiums, so we must be having more fun.

One of the highlights has been listening to our great guest speakers. We have a full schedule this year with Rock Currier, John Schneider, Steve Onderkirk, and our own George Gerhold.

You should have received your registration form by now. If not, please contact myself or Bill Dameron for a form. Ray Lasmanis is the person to contact for putting in a display.

I have decided to take another trip around the west next year to collect at various localities, mostly micro mounts. I will post my itinerary in a future bulletin. I will be stopping at Gold Hill, Utah and the Silver Coin near Valmy, Nevada for sure. I know that the underground is closed at Gold Hill but the pit and the dumps are still producing. Another potential locality could be the holfertite site at Topaz Mountain. I will be doing a quick “research” trip to check out some other sites along the way earlier in the year. How many of you are interested in collecting some mopungite?

John Lindell is doing a fine job of getting volunteers for our next slate of officers. If you are interested in any of the jobs in our organization, please contact John or me.

Wes Gannaway



Zektzerite with arfvedsonite and microcline, Washington Pass, Okanogan County, Washington.

## Symposium Themes and Speakers

The December 2007 issue of the newsletter contained a listing of the themes and speakers of the symposiums from the first one in 1975 through 2008, prepared by Bill Dameron who did not have access to complete information. In the May 2008 issue, Ray Lasmanis supplied some missing information. Recently Bob Meyer looked over this list and provided the information that was still missing and corrected an error in the listing for 2000.

10. 1984 Magic of Mineralogy--Speakers: John Sinkankas, Dr. D. Vincent Manson, Dr. Peter J. Modreski, Bob Jackson, Richard M. Dillhoff, Gary Abben, Chris van Lehr.

12. 1986 Minerals of Mexico--Speakers: Miguel Romero, Bill Panczner, Bart Cannon, Robert Smith, Lorna Goebel, Bob Jackson, Ray Lasmanis, Bob Jackson, David Shannon.

13. 1987 Gem Pegmatites of the World--Speakers: Keith Proctor, Bart Cannon, Joseph Peters, Laurence Huestis, Steven Benham, Rick Dillhoff, Rob Woodside, Bob Jackson.

14. 1988 Carbonates--Speakers: Dave Shannon, Marshall Koval, Gary McWilliams, Ray Lasmanis, Bob Jackson.

15. 1989 Zeolites--Speakers: Rudy Tscherlich, Al McGuiness, Russ Boggs, Milton Speckles, John Lindell, Bill Butkowski, Frank Koterba, Don Howard, Dudley Blauwet, Rick Dilhoff.

18. 1992 Accessible Mineral Localities--Speakers: Lanny Ream, Quintin Wight, Bruce Wood, Jeff Scovil, Randy Becker, Bob Boggs, Rudy Tscherlich, Jon Gladwell, John Holfort, Rob Woodside, Norm Radford, Bob Jackson.

19. 1993 Pyrite and Friends--Speakers: Robert Gait, Lester Zeihen, John Medici, Rob Woodside, Bob Jackson

21. 1995 Classic Mineral Localities (II)--Speakers: George Godas, Ray Lasmanis, Richard Graeme, Anthony de Goutière, Randy Becker, Lanny Ream.

22. 1996 Classic Northwest Localities--Speakers: Randy Becker, Bart Cannon, Doug Toland, Lew Landers, Mark Mauthner, Rod Tyson, Rudy Tscherlich, Dr. Mike Menzies, Mark Mauthner, Bart Cannon.

24 1/2. Spring 1999 Finding Minerals--Speakers: Rock Currier, Patrick Haynes, Jeffery Patterson,

D. Mike Menzies, Rudy Tscherlich, John Cornish, Randy Becker, Lanny Ream.

25. 2000 Mines and Minerals of Nevada--Speakers: Walt Lombardo, Casey and Jane Jones, Art Soregaroli.

33. 2007 Minerals of the Southwest US--Speakers: Virgil Lueth, Joe Marty, Allan Young, Rudy Tscherlich.

Bob Meyer

## ABC Case Ready for Distribution

News: I will be going to Billings, MT for the Northwest Federation and the National Federation of rock clubs the end of July, beginning of Aug. This will be the introduction of the ABC case for distribution. I have 4 sets ready for shipping. The CD is finished with color photographs of mineral on the top. Many have contributed to this endeavor. The set consists of the returnable 26 mineral samples for the alphabet, a copy of the CD, a hands-on set of 18 thumbnails or small miniature minerals that the teacher or club can keep and about 30 mineral chips or small crystals that are used for game prizes. Two games have been developed "Mineral Bingo" and "Name that Mineral" (a rummy type game). Instructions for each are on the CD.

Lorna Goebel

## More Washington Pass Trip photos

Members of the August Washington Pass field trip group building stairs for the creek-side trail in Klipchuck Forest Service campground. From left to right: Bob Campbell, Mike Croxell, Wes Gannaway, Randy Becker, Markus Ra-schke, and Ray Lasmanis.



Randy Becker on the talus slope below the summit of Liberty Bell Mountain.

## 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:

Bill Dameron, Treasurer, PNWFM  
1609 NW 79th Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98665 (baritebill@aol.com)

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Last Name

First Name

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Street Address

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City, State, Zip

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Phone

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E-mail address

Send Newsletters via e-mail Yes  No

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## Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

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