



PNWFM NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Greetings, mineral lovers!

I hope your mineral explorations have been as enjoyable as mine this winter.

Symposium – October 13-15, 2017

“Minerals of the Pacific Northwest”

Some of you may be doing a little double-take here, “Wasn’t our theme for 2017 supposed to be Morocco?” Yes, that was the original plan, but fortunately we voted for a backup just in case speakers for the original topic were not available, and that is exactly what happened. Since our symposium is very close to the time of the Munich show, the best speakers for that part of the world cannot make it to Washington. We may revisit the Morocco topic in the future.

John Lindell has been busy planning the show and organizing volunteers and Allan Young is rounding up speakers and we expect to be able to announce the full program in early May.

Meanwhile, please consider bringing a display. One of the best aspects of our symposium is that PNWFM members share parts of their fantastic collections, and this year should be exceptional. I’m looking forward to seeing some amazing local rocks!

Seattle Mineral Market 2017

Organized by Bart Cannon, the Seattle Mineral Market is in its tenth year. The Mineral Market was originally conceived as a simple opportunity for local collectors to trade and sell, but grew rapidly into much more. In addition to a couple of dozen non-commercial collectors, you will find a number of mineral dealers from the region and even a few from farther afield – all focused on minerals!

PNWFM will hold our semi-annual business meeting on Saturday afternoon (time will be announced in the May newsletter.)

May 20-21, 2017: 10 am – 6 pm
Lake City Community Center
12531 28th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125



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For more information, visit their web site: www.seattlesmineralmarket.com (note that the web address has changed for this year and says "Seattles" with another "s") or Facebook event page: www.facebook.com/events/1724619924494486

Member Participation: Even more ways to get involved!

Write an article or send in a few photos for the newsletter. Went to Tucson? Send us a trip report! Find a weird fuzzy green mineral you'd like to share? Send us a photo whether you can positively identify it or not; I think mysteries are as fun as scholarly certainty. Thanks to Wes Gannaway, Beth Heesacker, Karen Hinderman, Chuck Hobart, Al Liebetrau, Bob Meyer, Don Newsome, Lanny Ream, Alexander Schauss, and myself for providing newsletter content so far this year.

Buy and sell, meet and socialize with other collectors at the Seattle Mineral Market: **May 20-21, 2017** at Lake City Community Center, 12531 - 28th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125. See seattlesmineralmarket.com for details.

Plan to attend our 2017 symposium:

October 13-15, 2017 *Minerals of the Pacific Northwest*

Washington Pass Cleanup: August 11-13, 2017

"Like" our official Facebook page: facebook.com/PNWFM

Visit the Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro, OR. PNWFM members get free admission and store discounts. ricenorthwestmuseum.org

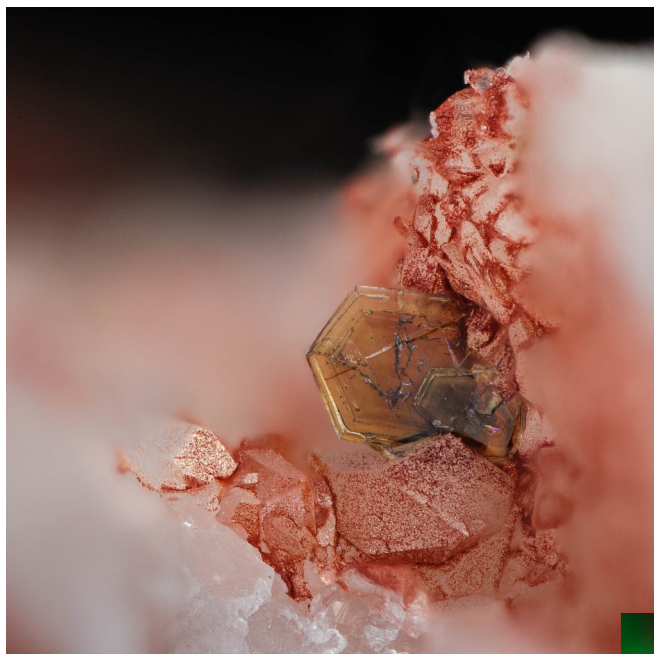
Send me ideas for how PNWFM can better serve you and the mineral collecting community.

Until next time,

-- Bruce Kelley, President, PNWFM

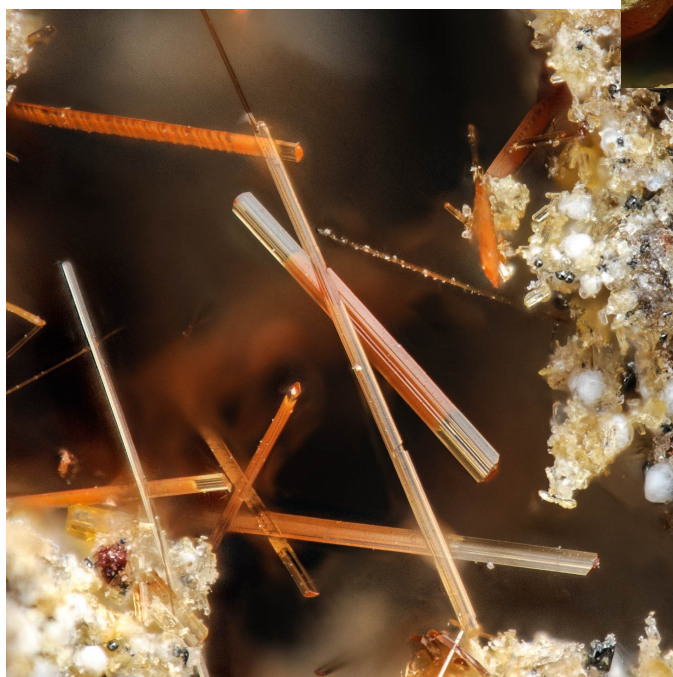


Paravauxite on Vauxite from San Jose Level, Siglo Veinte Mine, Llallagua, Rafael Bustillo Province, Potosí Department, Bolivia, FOV: 2.38 x 2.38 mm
By Bruce Kelly



Jarosite & Hematite (?) stained quartz from
Phosphate Stope, Silver Coin Mine, Iron
Point Dist., Humboldt Co., NV
FOV: 1.36 mm
By Bruce Kelly

Conichalcite on Japan-Law
Twin Quartz from Truckee
District, Churchill Co., NV
FOV: 3.38 x 2.32 mm
By Bruce Kelly



Amphibole Supergroup from Nickenicher
Weinberg, Eifel, Germany
FOV: 1.22 mm
By Bruce Kelly

PNWFM Symposium Update 2017

By John Lindell, Symposium Co-Chair

The theme for this year's symposium will be "Minerals of the Pacific Northwest". The original plan was to feature "Morocco" but it was difficult to secure good speakers on that theme. The new theme will allow us to tap some of the best speakers in the area and should provide a great program. The show is scheduled for October 13th through October 15th at the Red Lion in Kelso, Washington.

Some outstanding speakers have already been secured for the event. The symposium committee has been formed and a budget is being developed. Program and dealer information will be available by late April. Registration information will go out in early July. Any questions at this time should be directed through the committee co-chairs, John Lindell, lindell4@aol.com or Bruce Kelley, bruce.kelley@gmail.com.

PNWFM Symposium Committee 2017

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Budget and Registration – Scott Ankenbrand, 503-539-1399, scottankenbrand@gmail.com

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Escaping from the Pacific Northwest Cold, Snow and Ice By Beth Heesacker

After weeks of cold, snow and ice my husband Paul and I were finally able to get out of the driveway between storms and head south. Our plans were to take in the Quartzsite, AZ events, the MSSC Micromounters' Annual Symposium in Redlands, CA, over to Bisbee, AZ to check out a few mines, then back to Tucson, AZ for the "Big Event" and the Tucson Gem and Mineral

micromineral meeting. We accomplished all of this and had some wonderful times. Now, no trip is without it's problems and this was no exception, but more about this later.

The trip down was uneventful and we were really surprised by the lack of snow and ice once we left our corner of Oregon. The Siskiyoues were even clear. As a amateur geologist I was happy to see that the mountains were fairly clear of snow so I could see the rocks.

We arrived at Quartzsite and settled into our site on BLM land with the Ye Old Timers Mineral Club. They are mostly rockhounds, not really mineral collectors, but they have fun activities such as bingo, potlucks, etc., each evening and one of the members brings wonderful oranges from his tree to share. Also the sunsets can be beautiful!



I had 2 goals to meet while in Quartzsite. One was to find some more microminerals for my collection and the other was to find door prizes and display case trophies for our rockhound club, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club. I was successful on both counts. BUT, finding micros was not easy. I only found one dealer with micros and due to the unstable weather, he was not open the whole time. I finally caught him on one of the only sunny days and bought some really nice Canadian micros.

I did find some dealers with rough rock from some mines, zinc and fluorite, and they had some interesting pieces that I brought home to break up and add to my collection.



Our class B motorhome.



A rare sunny day in Quartzsite



MSSC Meeting and
giveaway table

We were only in Quartzsite during the QIA show and left shortly after it to head over to Redlands, CA for the Micromounters' Annual Symposium. This was my first time to attend this meeting but I renewed friendships with some people I had met at the NCMA meeting last year. The presentations were top-notch. They also had wonderful give-away tables and lots of micros for sale for only \$1. I kept Paul busy taking flats out to the motorhome which I had to find places to pack away each evening. If you know anything about class B motorhomes you know that this is not easy to do. There is not much space to live in nor to pack flats and flats of minerals. And this was not going to get easier as the trip went on.

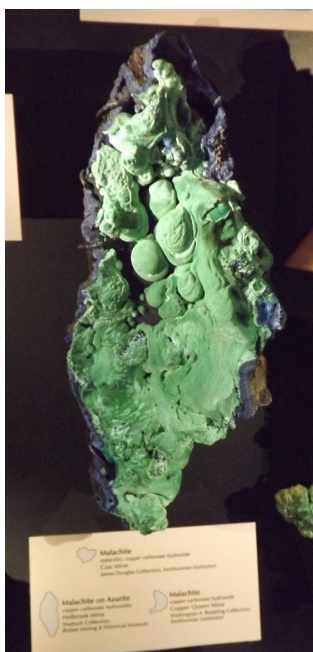
Heading back to Quartzsite on our way to Bisbee, AZ., we were beginning to feel the cramped nature of the motorhome. We looked through the "swap meet" portions of the show and found a carrier that we could put on the back of the motorhome. I was not willing to put my micros out there but we had some chairs, etc. that we could tie down on the back without fear of spreading little perky boxes across the Arizona state highways.

We arrived in Bisbee and stayed at the Copper Queen Mine's RV park. This was the only time we stayed at a park. We like the Walmart parking lots. No cost and usually fairly quiet. We also took the Copper Queen Mine tour and met a miner who gave me some rough from his family's flux mine to take home and I have found some really nice micros in there. I went to the Bisbee Museum and really enjoyed

Copper Queen Tour



their mineral
habit.



ex-



Minerals from the Bisbee Museum





Lavender Pit in Bisbee and
its mine dumps at Warren.



We also drove around and found the mine dumps from the Lavender Pit Mine at Warren but they were not accessible from what we could see. Bisbee is becoming quite a tourist trap with little boutique shops but it is an interesting place nestled in a tight canyon.

Now it was on to Tucson. I went to the Arizona Mineral Museum at the University of Arizona and I highly recommend it. Though a bit smaller than I expected, it had some wonderful specimens from all over the world. The large thumbnail collection was not on exhibit though which was a disappointment.



Calcite and Quartz



Just a few of the mineral specimens
from the Arizona Mineral Museum



79 Mine,
AZ



Rowley
Mine, AZ



Mammoth St.
Anthony Mine,
AZ



From the Alpine Mineral Company. I did not note the content.



Ammonite



Fossils



Large, beautiful
Tiger Iron

A TASTE OF THE RANGE OF ITEMS AVAILABLE IN TUCSON



Rock art from
Head Lands

The Tucson show is quite an experience. Again, I was looking for micro's. They were few and far between at the many shows. We only took in about 5 of the many venues so may have missed some. I did find 2 vendors at one venue. One was Michael Shannon's booth and hit the "mother-lode". He was selling one person's collection and since we arrived on the last day of their sale he had lots of flats of specimens 60% off. We also attended the Tucson micromineral symposium which had wonder presentations, micro's for sale and a great give-away table. Now remember that we had already had to move some items onto the carrier on the back of our motorhome. Now what was I to do?



We ended up making a webbing of bungee cords along both sides inside the motorhome holding the flats in place with just a narrow walkway down the center. We bought 2 large tubs at a Walmart and put them on the carrier placing my 5,000 empty micro boxes (later to be used to mount what I was bringing home) and some other non-essentials into them. There still was not room for everything so every night we moved some things off the beds to the driving area and then each morning back to the beds.

Besides all the micro's, my husband bought me a wonderful 50th Anniversary present of Zeiss microscope. Yes, we celebrated 50 years of marriage during the trip. The Zeiss has beautiful optics with a larger field of view than my home microscope and the best part is the stereo zoom. Wonderful !

After being able to find places to stash all of the 150+ flats, microscope, rock club treasures, and closeouts of other items we had purchased in our tiny motorhome we finally gave it a name. We are calling it the "Tardis". Those of you who are familiar with the *Dr. Who* series know that the Tardis

is "bigger on the inside and on the outside". We were beginning to feel that way about our home-away-from-home.

There is no room in this edition to place all the photos of all the things we saw (over 1,800 photos) including those of the many, many display cases of Midwest and other minerals at the Tucson show. Maybe I will write another article for the next edition and include some of the pictures of the displays.

It was time to head home. We left one day before the presentations in Tucson since Paul was tired of sitting. He is not interested in the minerals so he had been a saint sitting with me through all of this and carrying my purchases back and forth. So we had an extra day for travel. The last time we had been to Death Valley we had a large pickup and trailer so we had not traveled the "Artist's Drive" of wonderful colored rocks so we decided to try again with our smaller vehicle.



Death Valley erosion

The weather was not in our favor. All the rain that had dumped on California had also hit Death Valley. That particular road was washed out and they had closed it for repairs. We also noted that the alluvial fans had been deeply gouged out by the rainfall washing down out the mountains. Oh, well. We drove up the valley and then over 2 mountain ranges to a different valley that we had not visited on the past trip and headed south in order to get around the snow in the Sierras.

That is when we had our first major problem. We lost a cam shaft on our motorhome (turned out to be a manufacturer's defect) and had to sit for 4 days in Ridgecrest, CA waiting for the repair. We were essentially inside our class B for 4 days, without leaving it and did not kill each other. See what 50 years together can do? Spent a lot of time reading since I could not unpack the minerals to play with them. I probably could not have gotten them all packed in as well if I had tried.

We finally got on the road again and when we started back north on I-5 we again saw the effect of the rain that had deluged California. Things were not too bad until we reach Sacramento. The river was huge. All the irrigation ditched and creeks were running so full that the water was up to the bottoms of the bridges. Approaching Williams we were caught in a huge traffic backup. We had no options to continuing since I had been checking on the internet and all other roads were either flooded, washed out and had slides blocking them.



It took us 3 hours to go 2 1/2 miles. I-5 was flooded and they were putting not only our two lanes of traffic but also an on-ramp into one lane and maneuvering us all slowly single file through the flooded area. The backup going south on I-5 was 12 miles of trucks, rvs and cars. Orchards and fields were flooded with up to 3 feet of water. We heard about Oroville being evacuated because of the fears of the dam breaking, of levees in danger and that a spillway on another dam was opened for the first time in 20 years. Quite a drive.



The rest of the trip was fairly uneventful and we were happy to see that the mountain passes were clear but we drove too many hours each day in order to get through since we heard snow was predicted. Arriving home we were faced with the daunting task of safely unloading the motorhome. Our front room ended up being very, very full and it took a full day to finish the task. We did not drop a single flat.

I have spent the last 2 weeks sorting and finding places to store the minerals in preparation for cataloging them in my database. I hope also to picture some of them as I process them. This final step is going to take a very long time due to the quantity.

We had a wonderful time with a few exceptions. If you are looking for micros I recommend both of the symposia (MSSC in Redlands and the Tucson one). The members are very generous and helpful. If you are interested in larger minerals, Tucson is quite an experience. Although we did not get to very many of the venues there was a lot to choose from and great variety. Many thanks to my husband for his driving, carrying and patience with my hobby. Our thanks to all the vendors, collectors and the auto repair shop for an enjoyable trip. Our biggest disappointment is that due to the vehicle repair we are not planning on going to the Virginia and New York Symposia. I hope someone who will attend them will write a report for the next issue. My thanks in advance.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

www.PNWFM.org

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MINERAL MEETING CALENDAR

2017:

Atlantic Micromounters Conference, March 31 - April 1
SpringHill Suites Alexandria Marriott
6065 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA

Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, April 20-23
Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport
175 Jefferson Road
Rochester, NY

Micro Mineral Study Group, May 6
9:30 am to 4:30 pm
Camas-Washougal Fire Station #42
4321 NW Parker Street
Camas, WA

Seattle Mineral Market, May 20-21
Lake City Community Center
12531 28th Ave NE,
Seattle, WA

NCMA, June 2-4
El Dorado Community Hall
6139 Pleasant Valley Rd.
El Dorado, CA

43rd Annual PNWFM Symposium, October 13-15
Minerals of the Pacific Northwest
Red Lion Inn
Kelso, WA