



PNWFM NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Greetings, mineral lovers!

One of my main goals as president of PNWFM is to increase our membership. One obvious way to do that is to find ways to appeal to students (especially high school and college) with an interest in science or rocks and minerals. They are out there! I've asked before for suggestions on reaching these people and for ways that we can make the symposium more "newbie friendly," but I've only heard from a couple of you. I need more ideas and would love to hear what you think. Brainstorm with me!



Symposium – October 13-17, 2017 "Minerals of the Pacific Northwest"

Since we finalized the symposium theme a few months back, show chair John Lindell and speaker liaison Allan Young have been busy planning and recruiting. We have a full slate of eight speakers, all local to the Pacific Northwest, so there will be great variety in the talks by some familiar faces:

John Cornish – *Rat's Nest, Summer Storm and New Beginnings, Custer County, Idaho: High Desert Treasure Chests!*

Rick Dillhoff – *The Purple Hope Claims, Green Ridge, King County, Washington*

Julian Gray – *Pacific Northwest Treasures at the Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals*

Bob Jackson – *Big Amethyst at Little Gem*

Tony Potucek – *Two Intertwined Owyhee County Idaho Mining Districts: Silver City and De Lamar*

Doug Toland – *Green Monster Mountain: A Long-lived and Storied Locale That Still Has Promise*

Allan Young – *Belshazzar's Gold*

And, a special talk by Ray Lasmanis introducing the geology of the Pacific Northwest!

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. If any group can really put together a spectacular show on this theme, it should be PNWFM!

PNWFM Contacts

Bruce Kelley
President
bruce.kelley@gmail.com

Gary Hinderman
Vice President
gkmhind@comcast.net

Karen Hinderman
Secretary
gkmhind@comcast.net

Scott Ankenbrand
Treasurer
scottankenbrand@gmail.com

Bruce Kelley
Symposium Chairman
bruce.kelley@gmail.com

Bruce Kelley
Webmaster
bruce.kelley@gmail.com

Beth Heesacker
Newsletter Editor
heesacker@coho.net

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 at 3 pm. Meet up at John Lindell's table.

May 20-21, 2017: 10 am – 6 pm

Lake City Community Center

12531 28th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

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

Washington Pass Cleanup 2017

This is just a "heads-up" to add the Washington Pass Cleanup and collecting trip to your schedule: August 11-13, 2017. There will be more details in the next newsletter. I hope to see you there!

Member Participation: Even more ways to get involved!

Write an article or send in a few photos for the newsletter. Going to a 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

Show Report:
BC Gem Show—April 7-9, 2017
Abbotsford, BC
By Bob Meyer



The BC Gem show had its 60th annual show early in April this year. The show is well-attended, and is larger than most club shows, representing as it does the entire province. There are a large number of dealers at the show, including a few mineral dealers and some mineralogy oriented displays. Additionally, the show featured the third annual Rocklovers-Round-Up Tailgate Sale on Saturday in an adjacent room. The tailgaters included some that were selling mineral specimens.



A large specimen of quartz, 30 cm across, from Patty's Prize, Jones Lake Power Station, New Westminster Mining District, BC.



Alex Homenuke's display of Nephrite.

Alex Homenuke's second case, featuring minerals and artifacts.



John Prychon's display of Mineral Specimens from Colombia



Blue Dolomite Crystals from Muzo, Colombia, 6 cm across. Displayed by John Prychon.

Rob and Snooky Belcher of Aesthetics Underground at the BC Gem Show. See them at the Seattle Mineral Market on May 20-21.



Rock "Hounds"

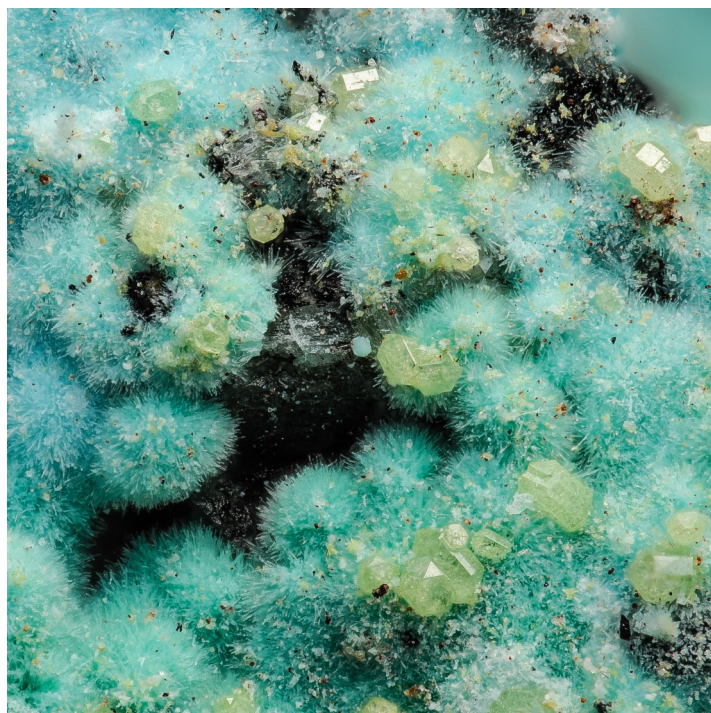
Mineralogical Record Pacific Northwest Collectors' Supplement By Allan Young

A while back, Don Newsome asked me about the possibility of the Mineralogical Record doing a supplement on Pacific Northwest collectors (and collections), as they have in the past for Arizona, Colorado, Eastern U.S., etc. Here is what I have found out:

The cost to the collector is \$450 per page, with a two page minimum. The supplement would need to be a minimum of 60 pages, so at least 30 collectors would need to participate. Participants would also be responsible for providing the photography.

There are currently 227 Mineralogical Record subscribers in the Pacific Northwest. As such, it seems possible that there would be sufficient interest to make such a supplement feasible.

If you are interested please contact me, Allan Young ALLANYOUNG@msn.com



Hedyphane with Chrysocolla ps. Malachite,
FOV: 1.9 mm. Singer Mine, Goodsprings Dist.,
Clark Co., NV . Photo by Bruce Kelley

Mimetite and Chrysocolla, FOV: 1.8 mm.
Singer Mine, Goodsprings Dist., Clark
Co., NV . Photo by Bruce Kelley



Friends of Mineralogy

Minerals of the Pacific Northwest

October 13-15, 2017 Kelso, Washington

Featuring Talks by:

John Cornish, Rick Dillhoff,
Julian Gray, Bob Jackson,
Ray Lasmanis, Tony Potucek,
Doug Toland & Allan Young

Main Floor Dealers:

Earth's Treasures, Lehigh Minerals,
Pacific Rim Gem & Mineral, & XTAL

And More:

World-class displays
Dozens of room dealers
Micro-mineral room
Banquet
Auctions

www.pnwfm.org



Greetings From the Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals

I see that plans are coming together for the 2017 PNWFM Symposium and I am looking forward to being part of this great event. We have a tradition at the Rice Museum and I want to spread the word a little better going forward.

Realizing that mineral enthusiasts from all over the US are attending the symposium and perhaps traveling through the Portland area that weekend, we open the museum the Monday morning following the symposium. We are normally closed on Mondays.

All symposium participants are PNWFM Members and by extension, Rice Museum members, admission is therefore free. We have had a few people take advantage of this in the last few years and I would love to see the museum filled with mineral collectors on Monday following the symposium.

Cheers! Julian Gray, Executive Director

<https://ricenorthwestmuseum.org/>

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## The Micro-Mineral Room is Back!

The Northwest Micro Mineral Study Group is sponsoring a micromineral room at the PNWFM Symposium. Details are still being worked out but we will be setting up on Friday afternoon with microscopes, freebie tables and a presentation on taking mineral photos by Bruce Kelley. We are hoping to also be set up on Saturday with ongoing demos of stacking mineral photography by Barry Murphy.

We hope to acquaint mineral collectors, both young and older, with the wonderful world of micro-minerals. These mineral crystals are usually the most perfectly formed crystals and do not take up as much room so can even be collected by someone who lives in an apartment.

All are welcome to come and join us, look through our microscopes and take a free mineral home with you.



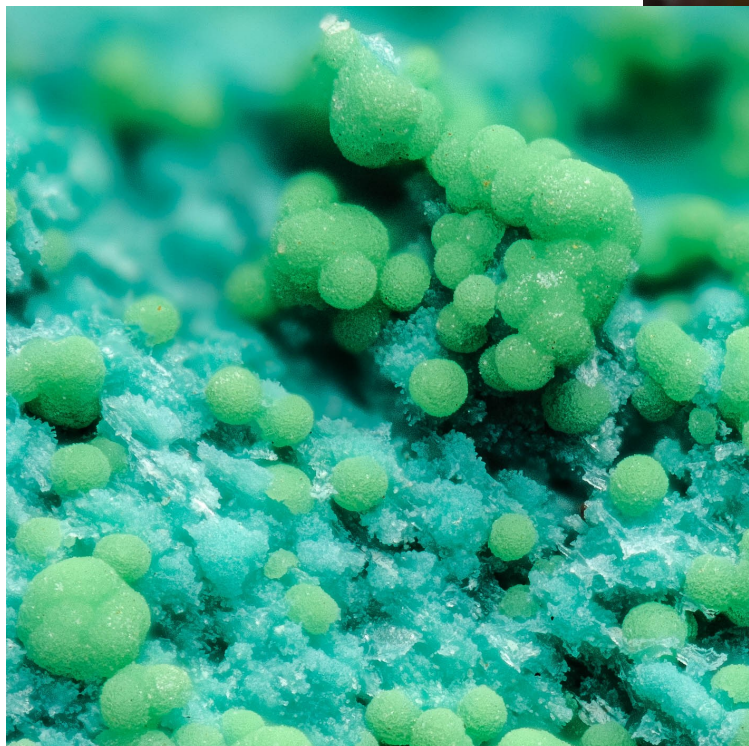
Blanchard Mine fluorite





A cute little "whale" from Lovelock Mine, Table Mtn. Dist., Churchill Co., NV. Gypsum (?), FOV: 0.89 mm

Mimetite and Chrysocolla, FOV: 0.90 mm  
Singer Mine, Goodsprings Dist., Clark Co., NV . Photo by Bruce Kelley



Conicalchalcite on Chrysocolla, FOV: 1.2 mm. Singer Mine, Goodsprings Dist., Clark Co., NV . Photo by Bruce Kelley



### Cannonite – first UK occurrence

I have been keeping my head down during the summer while working on a very small “finger tip” close to Fowey Consols for the last couple of



*Cannonite from near Fowey Consols  
FOV 8 mm      Photo Peter Trebilcock*

months. It provided all the usual stuff – cassiterite and chalcopyrite – but it was interesting because there were also the occasional small pieces of bismuth, bismuthinite  $\{\text{Bi}_2\text{S}_3\}$  and bismutite  $\{(\text{BiO})_2\text{CO}_3\}$ . In some of the matrix I had noticed small translucent to white bladed radiating sprays of crystals growing on bismuthinite crystals and passed them off as perhaps gypsum or similar type of dump growth. Indeed this was the comment made by several other collectors when they saw it.

However when I showed them to Mike Merry, things got interesting for he wasn't so sure and offered to send a sample over to Stefan Weiss for Energy-Dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) testing and that provided me with some quite exciting news. It seems that I have found the UK's first occurrence of an unusual bismuth oxy sulphate mineral called cannonite  $\{\text{Bi}_2\text{O}(\text{SO}_4)(\text{OH})_2\}$  and indeed it turns out that it is pretty uncommon at other locations worldwide.

Stefan is going to write it up as a technical article in the Lapis magazine in the near future.

I have also recently made another find at the same location. It consists of stacked spheres of a yellow bladed mineral closely resembling cacoxenite and this will also require some analytical attention. I will keep you posted!

*Contributor – Peter Trebilcock*



## The discovery of värynenite from Chitral, Pakistan.

Richard S.W. Braithwaite

Colleen Thomson's recent article in the Newsletter on the pegmatites of Pakistan (Thomson, 2016) prompted me to recall the curious story of the first discovery of the värynenite found there.

Professor Werner Paar of the University of Salzburg paid a short visit to Chitral in the early 1970's. Looking at specimens of rocks and minerals on tables in the bazaar he noticed a few small pink crystals which he could not identify by sight. On being asked what they were and where they came from the seller merely shrugged his shoulders and indicated that they came from somewhere up in the mountains. Werner purchased all 13 of the crystals he could find and took them back to Salzburg to investigate them.

*Richard returns to värynenite and gives us a glimpse of one of the original crystals*

Chemical analyses, crystallographic, optical and specific gravity measurements and X-ray diffraction (Meixner and Paar, 1976) showed them to be värynenite,



*Värynenite crystal, 10 mm long Chitral, Pakistan.  
RSWB collection 80-192 Photo Richard Braithwaite*

$\text{BeMn}(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})$ , which at that time had only been known since 1954 as small pink patches and very poorly developed crystals, with few distinct faces, embedded in a pegmatite at Viitaniemi in Finland. In contrast Werner's crystals vary from 4 to 17 mm in length, most being less than 10 mm, and the majority being singly terminated. The largest two crystals are rather flawed, the others being gem-clear.

After detailed studies were completed, the largest crystal went to the École des Mines in Paris, and the second, pictured in Colleen's article in the last BMS Newsletter, went to the National History Museum in London. The third largest, 10 mm long and clear, but not well terminated is in the present author's collection and is shown here.

### References.

- Meixner, H. and Paar, W. (1976). Ein Vorkommen von Värynenite-Kristallen aus "Pakistan". *Zeitschrift für Kristallographie*, **143**, 300-318.
- Thomson, C. (2016). Pesky Pegmatites of Pakistan. *British Micromount Society Newsletter*, **98**, 8-11.





Brookite - Hansen Creek Crystal area, Hansen Creek, North Bend, King Co., Washington, USA. Photo by Doug Merson



Diaphorite - Silver tunnel, Van Silver Mine, Van Silver Property, Brandywine Creek, Vancouver Mining Division, British Columbia, Canada. Photo by Doug Merson



**PACIFIC NORTHWEST  
CHAPTER  
FRIENDS OF  
MINERALOGY**

[www.PNWFM.org](http://www.PNWFM.org)

Editor, Beth Heesacker

4145 NW Heesacker Rd.

Forest Grove, OR 97116

[heesacker@coho.net](mailto:heesacker@coho.net)

## **MINERAL MEETING CALENDAR**

### **2017:**

**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**

**Washington Pass Cleanup, August 11-13, 2017**

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