



# PNWFM NEWSLETTER



## *Liberty Gold!*

Picture compliments of Nick  
Zentner

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## President's Message

### Jessica Robertson

Hello everyone!

There's a nip in the air in the mornings and the leaves are starting to turn – time to register for the symposium, if you haven't already! You likely already know this year's theme is "Precious Metals and Golden Memories" scheduled for October 18-20, 2024. The symposium team has been putting in quite a bit of work to make our 50th year really something special. Just in the last few days:

- A few of us visited CWU again and conducted some initial testing of the audio-visual and streaming systems in Discovery Hall with the help of Nick Zentner, CWU professor with a popular YouTube channel and host of PBS' "Nick on the Rocks."

Dan with Mineral Nation was along on this visit and will be helping us to stream our daytime talks to YouTube, as well as evening livestreams and a Saturday noon live sale on the popular Covid Home Gem Show page on Facebook. Watch our social media for more updates on these events.

- The schedule for Saturday and Sunday talks is all set, and very exciting, with a great mix of dynamic speaker talks on precious metals and round table discussions on the past and future of PNWFM and mineral collecting in the PNW.

- One thing we really wanted to do to mark our 50th symposium was to publish a commemorative magazine of memories and archives for the history of the club. The process involved extensive research in both the PNWFM and national FM archives, and collecting memories and photos from club long-timers. I'm really pleased with how it turned out. See the announcement later in the newsletter.

(Continued on page 3)

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(Presidents Message continued)

- Would you like to tour a working gold mine in Liberty, only 30 minutes from Ellensburg? Rob Repin would be happy to have our folks visit his mine on Sunday afternoon after symposium events complete. Thea, Karen, Gary and I visited with Rob and it was a great visit that we think many of you will enjoy.

Spaces are limited—reach out to Thea to confirm your spot. Be aware that this is not a collecting trip, but you will still want good shoes and either bring or be prepared to wear a hard hat. Footing can be uneven, wet and slippery and it is inside a small working mine with the usual associated hazards.

Also to be found in this newsletter are some calls for help. We have been conducting more outreach events, including Seattle Mineral Market back in May, Whatcom Museum’s Free Friday earlier this month (thank you John Lindell and Wes Gannaway), and we are planning to participate in Seattle Mineral Market’s new Fall Showcase event in November.

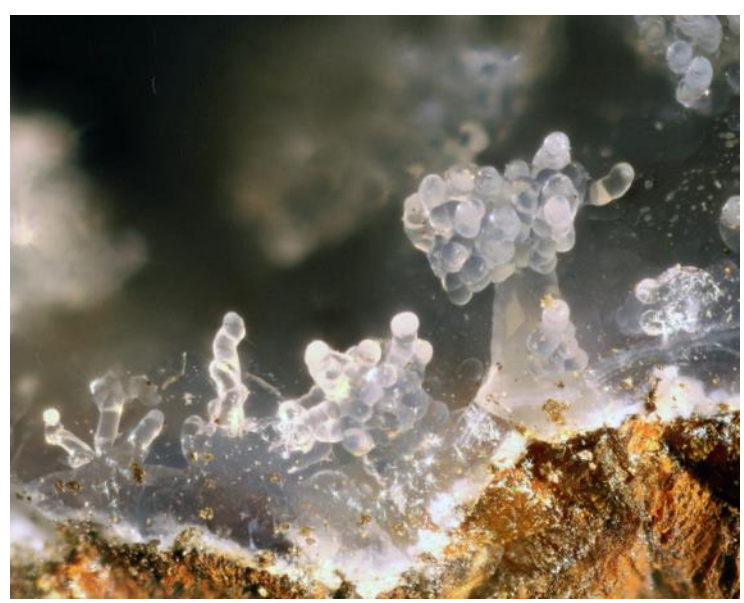
Not only do we really need assistance in setup/takedown and attending to the tables at these events, we really, really need more donations for the silent auctions. All types of donations are welcome! In many cases, more common, less expensive material that an intermediate to advanced collector may ignore is EXACTLY what we need for the events that are targeted at a broad public audience.

If you have some old dusty flats of shorl or quartz points, halite, some lesser garnets, tumbled agates, etc., please consider uncovering them from the big stack in the garage and donating them to PNWFM. And if you’re available to help us with setup/takedown, auction and sales, and other help at this year’s symposium, please connect as well!

Back to planning for me. Please bring your patience when we inevitably run into rough spots in new venues and new plans, but we’re confident this is going to be one of our most exciting events in years. See you next month!

~~~~~

Opal. Big Cliff, Clackamas Co, Oregon. FOV 3.5mm. Specimen and photo Beth Heesacker





## PACIFIC NORTHWEST FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY 2024 SYMPOSIUM PRECIOUS METALS AND GOLDEN MEMORIES



ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON  
CWU DISCOVERY HALL  
ELLENSBURG RED LION  
OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

50th  
Anniversary

At CWU Discovery Hall:  
Saturday and Sunday Symposium Talks  
World-Class Mineral Displays

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

9:00 am *Welcome* – Jessica Robertson and Julian Gray  
9:10 am *Gold – A Cosmic Journey* – Terry Wallace  
10:15 am *The Motherlode Reawakens, New Gold Productions at the Eagle's Nest Mine, California* – Ian Merkel  
11:20 am *Mining Gold in Oregon* – Clark Niewendorp  
2:00 pm *Liberty Gold and the Challis Magmas* – Nick Zentner  
3:05 pm *Collectors' Round Table – Historical Perspectives*  
6:00 pm *BANQUET AND LIVE AUCTION (Red Lion Ellensburg)*

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

9:00 am *Silver: The Magical Mineral Maker* – Terry Wallace  
10:05 am *Collectors Round Table – The Present and Future of Collecting in the PNW*


At Ellensburg Red Lion:  
Friday and Saturday Evening Vendors – FREE ADMISSION  
Saturday Evening Banquet and Live Benefit Auction

*Talks are Free for Full-Time Students with Registration*  
*Can't attend in person? Watch live stream on YouTube*

**Register now at [pnwfm.org](http://pnwfm.org)**



Map by Google Maps




**8 min (2.4 miles)**  
via N Main St and Canyon Rd  
Fastest route, lighter traffic than usual

**Discovery Hall and Lydig Planetarium**  
Unnamed Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926




Head west toward N Wildcat Way

453 ft




Turn right toward N Wildcat Way

184 ft




Turn left onto N Wildcat Way

0.2 mi




Turn right onto E University Way

0.3 mi




Turn left onto N Main St

1.0 mi



Continue onto Canyon Rd

0.7 mi



Turn left

Destination will be on the right

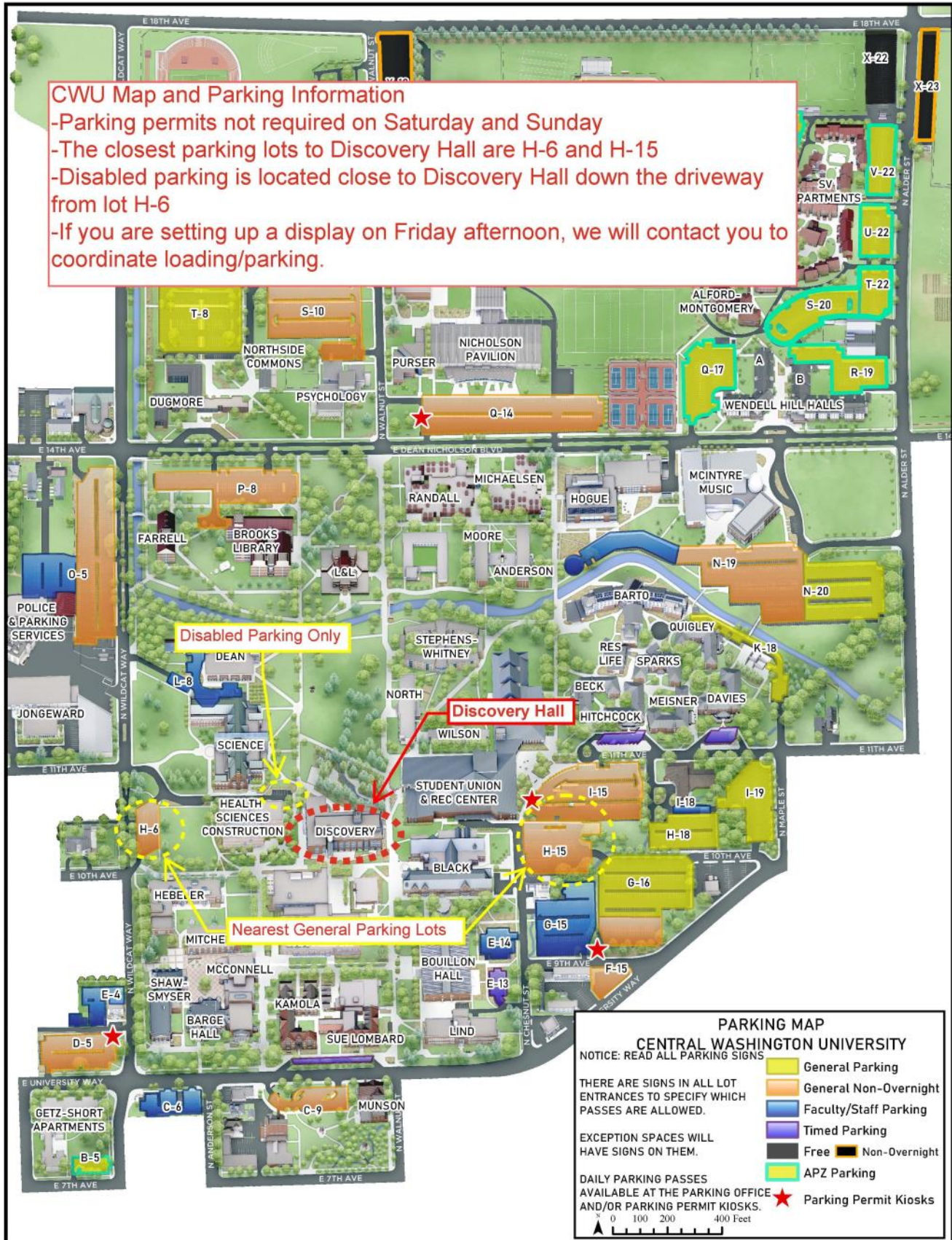
226 ft

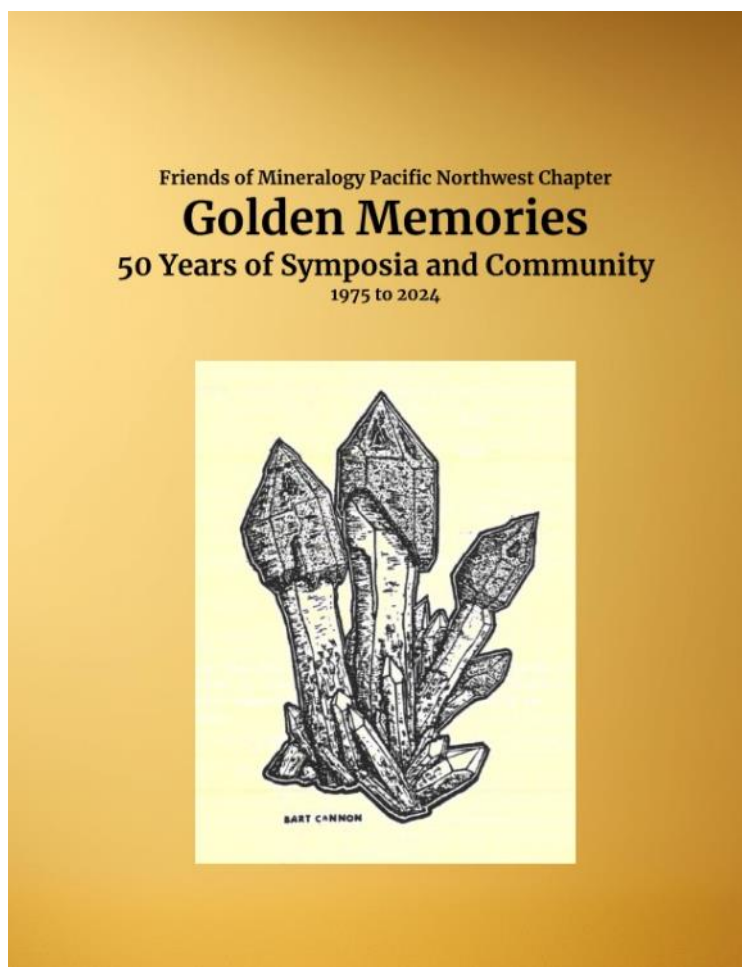
**Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center Ellensburg**



**CWU Map and Parking Information**

- Parking permits not required on Saturday and Sunday
- The closest parking lots to Discovery Hall are H-6 and H-15
- Disabled parking is located close to Discovery Hall down the driveway from lot H-6
- If you are setting up a display on Friday afternoon, we will contact you to coordinate loading/parking.





**\*\*Now Available!\*\***

## **Golden Memories: 50 Years of PNWFM**

This magazine-format publication was prepared by PNWFM to help commemorate and celebrate the history of Friends of Mineralogy mineral symposia in the Pacific Northwest.

Golden Memories contains approximately 100 pages of archive documents, memories and photographs for all 50 years of PNWFM symposia and club events, 1975-2024.

We will have a limited number of these magazines for sale at our October symposium, October 18-20, 2024--but if you can't wait or can't attend, you can order online now.

Click here to preview the contents and order today:

<https://www.blurb.com/bookstore/invited/10366240/2a45f09b616c1277c7857198c69b4d2150744f36>





**PNWFM 2024 SYMPOSIUM  
FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY  
2:00 PM SUNDAY OCTOBER 19TH**

**After the symposium ends, visit Rob Repin's working gold mine in Liberty, WA. Rob will show you the mine tunnels and explain his process. The mine is just down the road from the historic Liberty townsite, which is also worth a visit. Only 30 minutes from CWU!**

***Space is limited!***

***To reserve your spot, contact Thea Stender:  
[theasmineralworld@hotmail.com](mailto:theasmineralworld@hotmail.com)***

Opal. Big Cliff, Clackamas Co, Oregon.  
FOV 1.25mm. Specimen and photo  
Beth Heesacker





## It's Time To Commit!

Are you coming to our 50th Anniversary, Golden Memories Symposium? If not, why? We would really like to know what we need to do to get you there. The hotel costs are lower, the symposium fees are lower, and we believe the collaboration with the university is going to be very successful. So, if you are on the fence, jump over and join us!

We still need lots of support. Our silent auction supplies have dwindled to almost nothing, and we also need awesome specimens donated for our live auction. And, we need help with setting up cases and taking cases down after the symposium. We especially need a few pickup trucks for this activity. Please contact me or another board member and let us know that you are willing to assist. It would be very much appreciated.

For those of you who live within a 50 mile radius of Longview (where I live), let me know if you are not able to attend but would like to donate a specimen. I'll arrange to pick it up. My number is 360-920-7221 or you can email me at [khinderman79@gmail.com](mailto:khinderman79@gmail.com). If you live within 50 miles of Tacoma, Jessica can also arrange to pick up any donations (253-514-2300 or [jar7709@hotmail.com](mailto:jar7709@hotmail.com)).



Our dinner will be catered by The Ellensburg Pasta Co. We were able to sit down and taste several different dishes before choosing our menu. We loved everything they offered and think that you'll be happy with the dinner. There will be a pasta dish with chicken, one without meat, salad, and garlic bread. There will be water on the tables. All other drinks will be byob. We have a liquor permit for the evening, so feel free to bring your wine, beer, or other alcohol preferences with you.

After dinner we will have our annual live auction. If you choose not to attend the dinner, you are still welcome to join us for the live auction. Please come prepared to bid, the higher the better! Our auction is what pays for our speaker's travel, so it is important that it is successful.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you soon.



*Special Fall Showcase*  
**Seattle Mineral Market**

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**NOVEMBER 2ND & 3RD 2024**

minerals fossils gems jewelry mineral art & more  
OVER 20+ DEALERS

*Get a jump on  
the Holidays!*

**FREE ADMISSION  
FREE PARKING**

**Saturday & Sunday  
11am-8pm**

**Everett Mall  
1402 SE Everett Mall Way  
Everett, WA 98208**

[elementalendeavors.com](http://elementalendeavors.com)







## Silent Auction at the 2024 Seattle Mineral Market

### Thank You!!

The PNW Friends of Mineralogy would like to thank all donors to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Silent Auction held on Saturday at the 2024 Seattle Mineral Market- What a Great Group of People You Are!

A special shout out to Sean Stimac at Stimac Engineering ([perkyboxes.com](http://perkyboxes.com)) for donating the great three light (LW, MW, SW) UV kit- it drew a lot of attention and brisk bidding.

Proceeds will go towards operating expenses and symposium costs. Hope to see you in Ellensburg!

~~~~~

Opal, Thomsonite. Big Cliff, Clackamas Co, Oregon. FOV 4mm. Specimen and photo Beth Heesacker





News from the  
Rice Museum  
26385 NW Groveland Dr,  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

## MYSTERY MINERAL DAY!

SAT, SEP 21ST  
10AM-2PM

Is it a rock? A fossil? A meteorite? Bring it by, and one of our experts will tell you.

Limit 5 rocks/specimens per person.

Included with general admission. Free for members.



## DINO PLAY DAY

SAT, SEP 28TH  
10AM-2PM

Join us for **DINO PLAY DAY!**



- **Fossil Digs** – you get to be the paleontologist!
- **Hands-on Fossil Table** – touch real dino bones!
- **Dino Crafts** – let your imagination run wild!



This event is in conjunction with **Worldwide Day of Play**, an event sponsored by the **Association of Children Museums** and **Nickelodeon**. As a day dedicated to experiencing joyful learning through play, it focuses on getting children and their families active!

Included with general admission. Free for members.

## UPCOMING EVENT DATE CHANGES

**Autumn Garage Sale** - now Oct. 19th

**Diamonds and Diorite: A Minecraft Day** - now Nov. 9th

We apologize for the inconvenience!

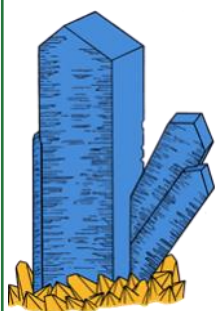




Please email articles and  
photos to  
[heesacker@coho.net](mailto:heesacker@coho.net)

The next deadline will be December 11, 2024

Interested in a  
wonderful resource for teaching  
children about  
minerals?



Check out the books  
and  
other resources at  
**Diamond Dan  
Publications.**

<http://www.diamonddanpublications.net/>

## Swarf Systems

Makers of tools for mineral collectors,  
including:

- Rock splitters/trimmers in two sizes
- Microscope lights
- Photography lights 
- Spare parts of all kinds and repairs
- Custom equipment – inquire
- Affordable prices, quality products and service

On the web at:

[www.SwarfSystems.com](http://www.SwarfSystems.com)

**BREAKING  
NEWS**

## from Swarf Systems

Hi All,

I am writing to tell you about a cool little attachment I made for my microscope. As you all know, I make microscope illuminators. Well, Jon Gladwell gave me a box of carpathite micros from Cook, WA, and they are a pain to find and see with a microscope because they are tiny. So, I made a dual light illuminator: There are two sets of LEDs: white light and long-wave UV, each with its own power switch. Now, when I put one of the samples from Jon under the microscope, I can zoom in on the fluorescing area, turn on the white light LEDs and see what I am looking at.

If you are interested, I can make illuminators for each of you to fit your microscope (provided it is a microscope model I can fit to). If you go to [SwarfSystems.com](http://SwarfSystems.com) you can see what microscopes I can fit to. If your microscope is not listed, I might still be able to help so don't give up if you want one. Since I have to buy lots of extra components, the cost of the illuminator will be 1.5x that listed on [SwarfSystems.com](http://SwarfSystems.com). If you already have a Swarf Systems illuminator, you will get a discount since I will only make a new circuit board and you will reuse your microscope mount. "Some assembly required."

One limitation is that there is no UV filter for the LW UV LEDs. I have found this not to be a problem since fluorescing minerals will advertise their presence brightly anyway.

If you know anyone else who might be interested, let them know.

Cheers, Ted, Swarf Systems



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## **MINERAL MEETING CALENDAR**

### **2024:**

**PNWFM Symposium - Oct. 18-20**

**New Location :**

**Central Washington University and The Red Lion  
Ellensburg, WA**

**Seattle Mineral Market (Special Fall Showcase) - Nov. 2-3, 11am-8pm**

**Everett Mall**

**1402 SW Everett Mall Way**

**Everett, Washington 98208**

**NW Micro Mineral Study Group - Nov 9**

**Sons of Norway Columbia Lodge**

**2400 Grant St,**

**Vancouver, WA 98660**

### **2025:**

**Pacific Micromineral Conference (MSSC) - TBD**

**Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum**

**123 W. Alvarado St.,**

**Fallbrook, California**

**NW Micro Mineral Study Group - May 10**

**Sons of Norway Columbia Lodge**

**2400 Grant St,**

**Vancouver, WA 98660**

**Seattle Mineral Market - May 17-18**

**SATURDAY 10:00AM-6:00PM**

**SUNDAY 11:00AM-5:00PM**

**The Hangar 30 building at Magnuson Park**

**7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115**

**Northern Mineralogical Association (NCMA) - May 23-25**

**Eldorado Community Hall**

**6139 Pleasant Valley Rd.**

**Eldorado, CA**