

Northwest
Micro Mineral
Study Group



MICRO PROBE

FALL, 2023

VOLUME XIII, Number 8

FALL MEETING

November 11, 2023 9 AM to 4 PM

Sons of Norway Columbia Lodge
2400 Grant St,
Vancouver, WA 98660

We have been pleased with our new meeting place. Please remember that there is no designated parking spot. We will be unloading at the door and then parking on the street in the neighborhood. Please unload and then move on so others can have a turn to unload their things. There are a couple of steps up once inside. We are anticipating that you will again be bringing lots of interesting stuff for the free table. We will try to have people helping with the unloading process.

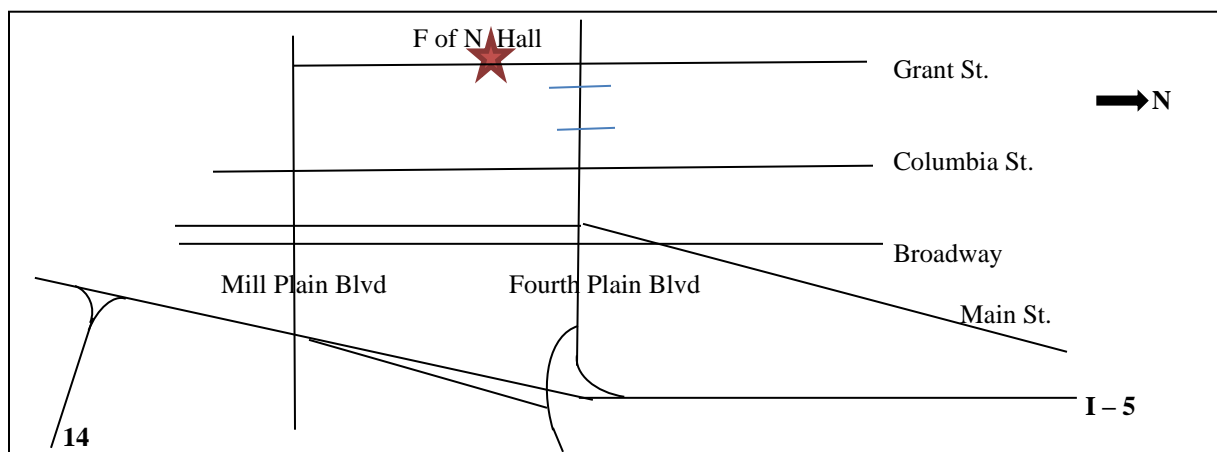
There should be lots of good mineral pictures since numerous members attended the NCMA meeting and have interesting material that they discovered. Bring yours to share with the group.

As usual, we will have sandwich makings provided. Bring salads, chips and desserts to round out our midday feast.

Directions:

FROM WASH. HWY 14: Continue west to Interstate 5, keep right and take I-5 North. Then keep right and continue to Exit #1D -Fourth Plain Blvd

FROM INTERSTATE 5: In Vancouver, take Exit #1D to Fourth Plain Blvd. Head west on Fourth Plain Blvd. to Grant St. and turn left. Go two blocks to 24th St.



IN MEMORY OF
Bill Tompkins



It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Bill Tompkins in February. Bill has been an active member of our group for many years. He has always been there at meetings to lend a helping hand and deliver a smile and an encouraging word.

Bill really loved the out-of-doors. He was an avid hiker and explorer of our Northwest. He was always ready to check out another prospective collecting spot, generally bringing back abundant material that he was ready to share with others, often in big pieces. Most of the material from Starvation Creek that I went through came in a bucket that he had filled to the brim.

He was also an avid photographer, but he specialized in the collecting sites rather than in the minerals themselves. I have numerous discs filled with beautiful views documenting many of our collecting trips as well as various scenic spots from all over Oregon and Washington. I value those views. They remind me of the positive person who took them, always positive even when the going got tough at times. He always found a way to overcome the difficulties, and gave promise to all others that they could, too.

Bill, you will be missed. Our meetings will not be the same without you!

Don Howard

Blue Hematite from Bonneville Second Powerhouse construction site, Washington State.

Clarence Keech

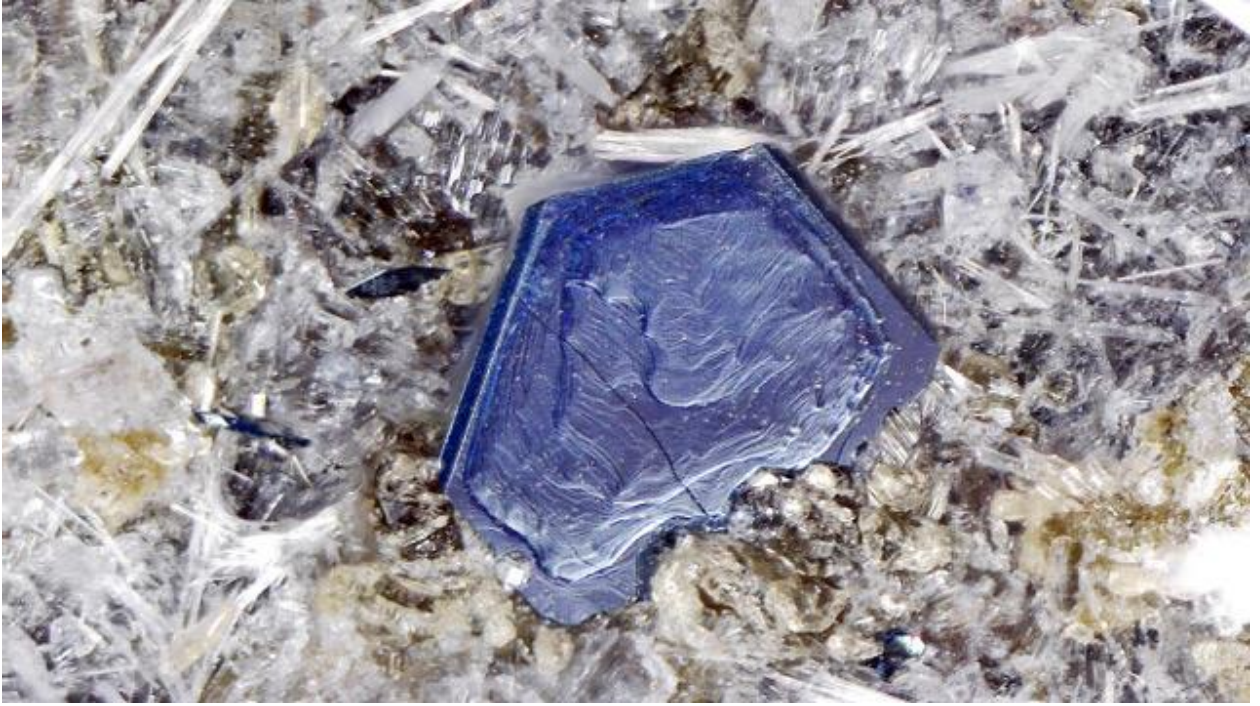
In 1977, during the excavation work for the Bonneville second powerhouse, I recovered remarkable blue colored hematite micro crystals from an olivine basalt rock block. The crystals were part of a primary cavity mineral suite of minerals within Cenozoic Olivine Basalt of Wise, 1970. Only one such block was noted. The size of the rock block was 8 feet, too large to be transported by the river, The source of this material is therefore believed to be within the Bonneville Landslide area.

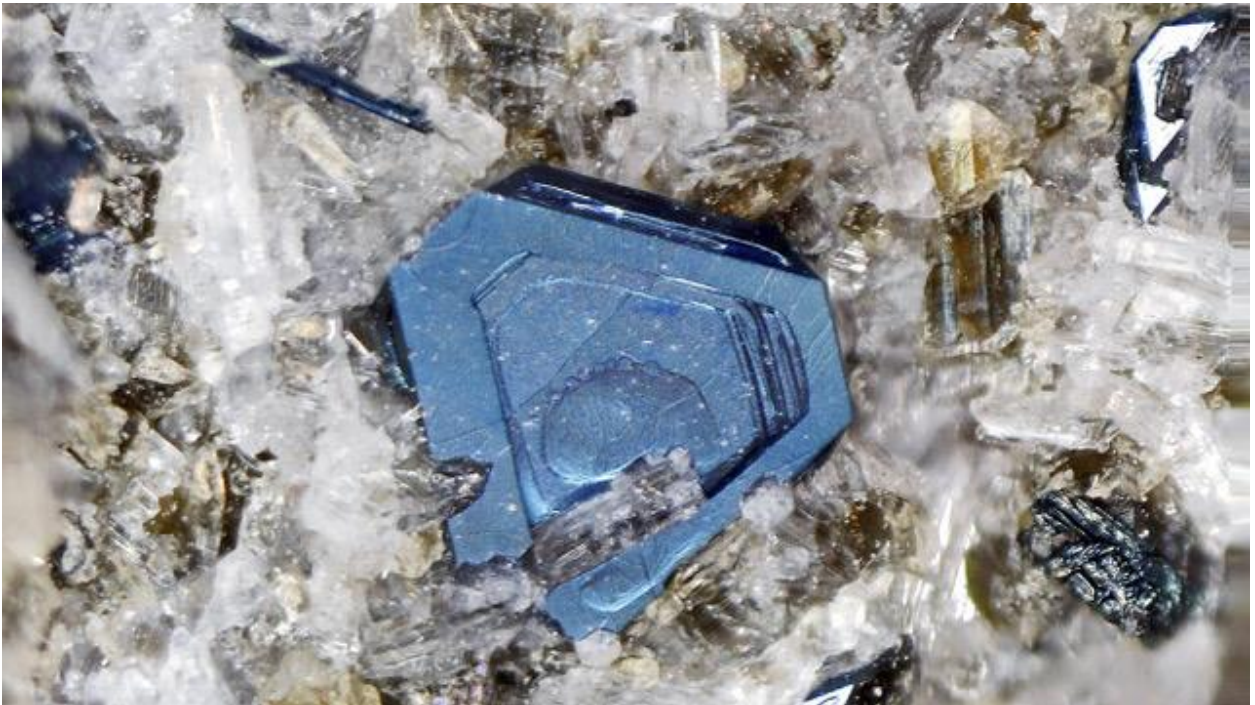
Blue is not a typical color for hematite. The mindat photo collection includes a number of blue hematite specimens. Most attribute the color to tarnish which I would interpret as a thin oxidized coating similar to that produced in heat treating metals in the presence of oxygen. However, many of the crystals I collected have a mirror-like luster and I recall that freshly broken surfaces had a violet color that turned blue over time. Crystal size is about 1mm. Associated minerals include: plagioclase, pyroxene, olivine, apatite, and probably others. The crystals are thin and brittle and tend to crack during trimming.

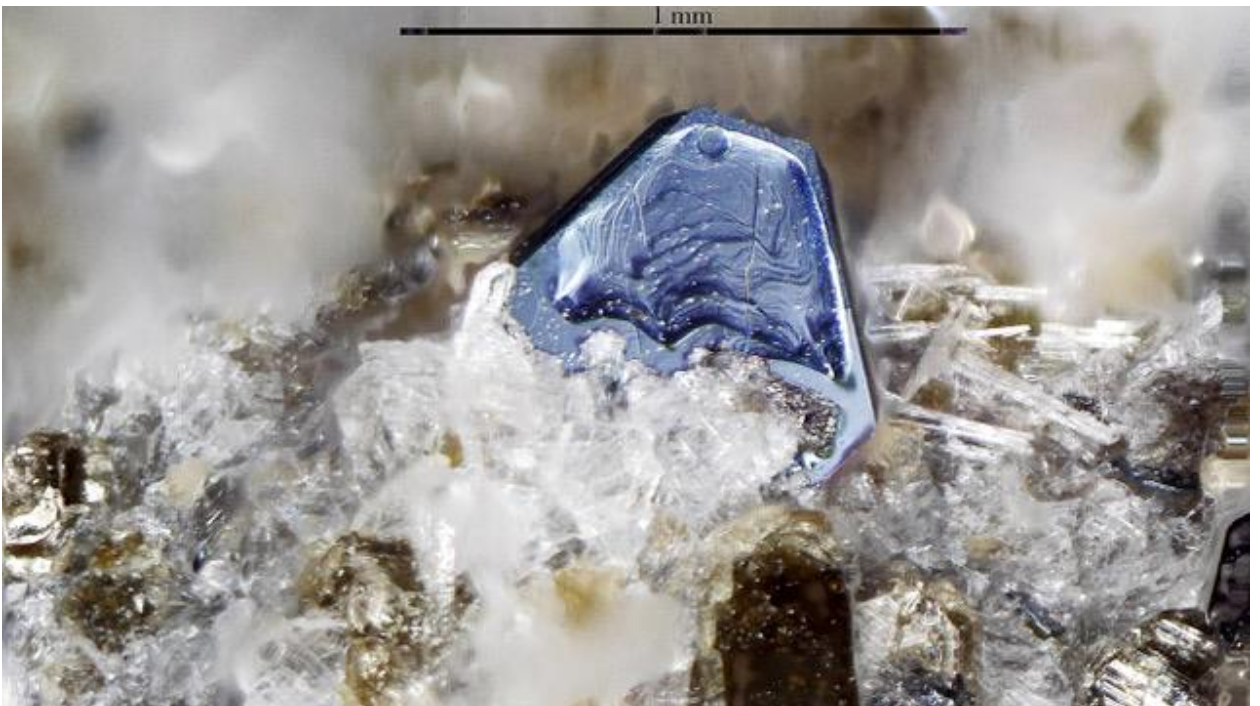
An interesting feature is a spherical shell-like growth of plagioclase within some of these specimens with the preferential growth of olivine on the concave side. Moreover, some of the hematite crystals show distinct circular impressions. Do these features reflect a phase change during crystal growth? Perhaps a single fluid phase transitioning into a 2 phase liquid and gas phase? Something interesting is going on.



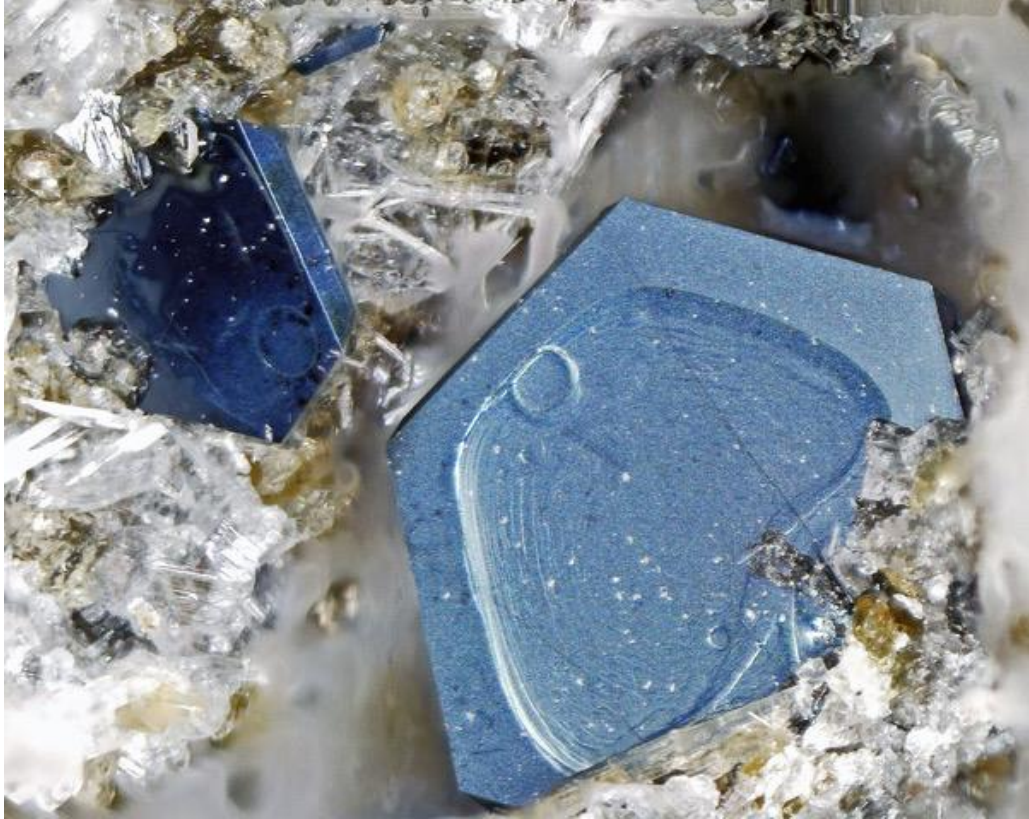
Blue hematite. Note the mirror-like reflection in the rear crystal of the front crystal.



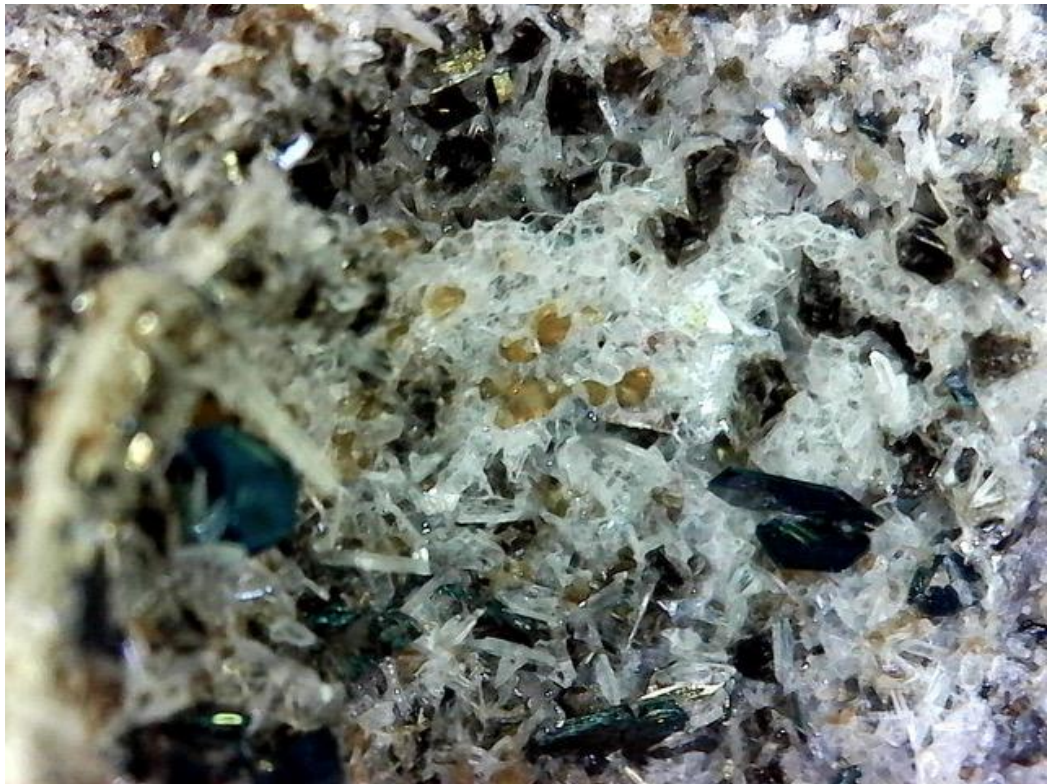








Blue hematite. Note the round impressions on both crystals.



Blue hematite with partial crystal shell of plagioclase with olivine on concave side.
Poor lighting on this one.

THE MICROPROBE

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