

NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A regional association of professionals, students & others interested in geology
Please browse www.nwgs.org for more about us

January, 2023 Newsletter

Volume 37, Number 1

January 10 Program Speaker

5:30pm: No-host social hour; 6:30pm: Dinner
7:30pm: Speaker program ([reservations here](#), see below for details)

Speaker: Bill Kombol, Palmer Coking Coal Company, LLP

Title: Coal Mine Hazards

Abstract: The While rarely in the news, coal mine hazards have reminded property owners that hidden underground dangers sometimes make their presence known. Though Washington's last underground coal mine closed in 1975, abandoned subsurface workings still remain.

King County has a rich history of coal mining in Newcastle, Issaquah, Renton, Black Diamond, Ravensdale, Cumberland, and dozens of disappeared towns and mining camps. Early residential development generally avoided areas prone to subsidence because developers were knowledgeable of prior mining and there were better lands. But time passed and development pressures grew, with new developers paying scant attention to long-ago mining.

In the 1970s several high-profile subsidence incidents north of Newcastle made front page news. King County and Bellevue both took steps to regulate coal mine hazards and others followed suit. Through use of historic mine maps, GIS layers showing potential coal mine hazards areas were prepared and underlain lands designated as sensitive areas. Prior to development in these areas a professional engineer or geologist must first prepare a Coal Mine Hazard Assessment report to determine whether dangers exist and classifies conditions as being severe, moderate, or declassified.

The Federal government acted in 1977 by passing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act including a tax on underground and surface coal mines to fund reclamation of abandoned coal mine hazards. That program is administered by the Office of Surface Mining's Abandoned Mine Lands program with over \$2 billion in its coffers.

IN-PERSON PROGRAM DINNER RESERVATIONS!

To register for attending in-person: please [make your reservation here](#) (nwgs.org/meeting-registration/) by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Catered menu: London broil or chicken marsala, three side dishes including rice pilaf and salad. Select beer & wine will be available for purchase at the venue.

Location: Fautleroy YMCA, West Seattle, 9260 California Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98136.

Directions: get [Google Maps driving directions here](#)

Cost:

- * NWGS member dinner: \$40
- * Non-member dinner: \$50
- * Student dinner: \$10
- * Talk-only: \$10
- * Student talk-only: Free

Upcoming Speakers and Field Trips

February 14: TBA.

March 14: David B. Williams, Author, Cairns: Messengers in Stone

April 11: TBA

May 9: TBA.

Spring Field Trip: TBA.

If you would like to volunteer to give a talk or lead a field trip for NWGS, please contact President [Matthew Porter](#).

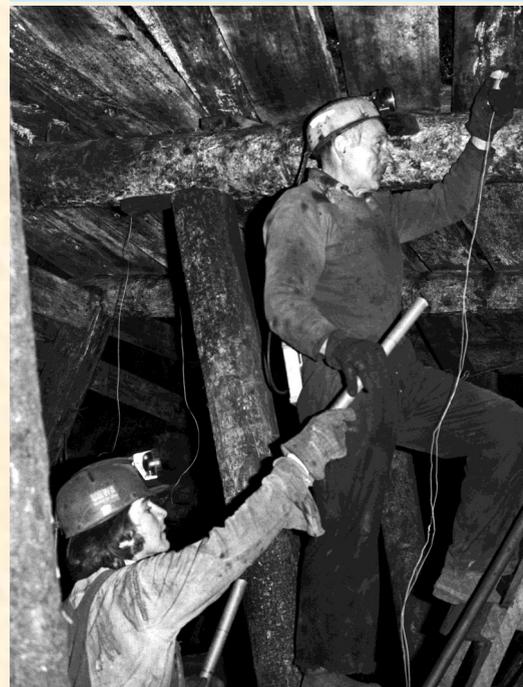
Please see the [NWGS website](#) for detailed announcements.
Contact webmaster [Matthew Porter](#) if you have any announcements to post on the website.

Announcements

- NWGS is still seeking a talented volunteer to fill the **President Elect** position. In reality, with the close of 2022 and no President Elect, **we also need a President.** Now Past President Matthew Porter will continue to serve as interim President until a replacement is found. The success and future of this fine organization depends on shared governance by its members. The time commitment is not enormous, and this is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the direction of our fine organization. Please contact President [Matthew Porter](#) for more information.
- We are currently working on filling in the talk and field trip schedules for 2023. Please let [Matthew Porter](#) know if you would like to volunteer or have any suggestions.
- **Next Board of Directors meeting: TBA.**

YOU would like to be involved!

Photo Spotlight



RBNK184 - Bill Kombol, left, hands a stick of dynamite to John Costanich in the Rogers No. 3 mine, April 1974. The Rogers coal seam stood nearly vertical and was mined through a process called booming.

About NWGS

The [Northwest Geological Society](#) is a non-profit educational organization which provides a forum for information and discussion on Northwest geology and related topics. The Society sponsors talks by leading academic and professional geologists at its monthly meetings, conducts field trips to locales of regional geologic interest, and publishes meeting summaries and field guides based on those activities. Membership is open to anyone interested in regional geoscience issues.

Program meetings are the 2nd Tuesdays, October through May. We are trying a new in-person venue this month at the [Fautleroy YMCA in West Seattle, 9260 California Ave SW, WA, 98136](#). Reservations are required to attend in-person (Member dinner: \$40; Non-member dinner: \$50; Student dinner: \$10; Talk-only: \$10; Student talk-only: free).

Field trips (members only): The Society sponsors two overnight field trips each year, one in the fall and one the spring, to locales of regional geologic interest.

Membership is open to anybody with an interest in geology. **Annual dues:** Professional: \$55; Student: \$10. **To join or pay annual dues:** go to the [NWGS website](#), or visit our website for more details. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Recommended Readings

“Rogers No. 3: The Last Underground Coal Mine in Washington State” HistoryLink.org - *Essay 5461*. <https://www.historylink.org/File/5461>

“Coal Miners’ Picnic” HistoryLink.org - *Essay 9076*. <https://www.historylink.org/File/9076>

“Elk Coal: A Forgotten King County Coal Mining Town” HistoryLink.org - *Essay 9419*. <https://www.historylink.org/File/9419>

“Danville: A King County Coal Mining Town” HistoryLink.org - *Essay 10626*. <https://www.historylink.org/File/10626>

Please send your reading recommendations to Newsletter Editor [Tom Bush](#).

To update your account information,, go to [NWGS.org/membership](#).
Questions or comments? Contact President [Matthew Porter](#).

NWGS Board

President **OPEN**

President Elect **OPEN**

Past President [Matthew Porter](#)
AESI

Secretary [Amy Knudson](#)

Treasurer [Pam Osterhout](#)
Floyd I Snider

At-Large Board Members [Maura OBrien](#)
Retired
[Carla Whittington](#)
Highline College
[Tom Bush](#)
Pierce College Puyallup

Other Personnel

Membership Chair [George Bennett](#)
Bennett Consulting

Field Trip Coordinator [Kathleen Goodman](#), Wood PLC

Newsletter Editor & Publications [Tom Bush](#)
Pierce College Puyallup

Poster Chair [Maura OBrien](#)
Retired

Webmaster [Matthew Porter](#)
AESI

Facebook PageMASTER [Eric Baer](#)
Highline CC