

Place: **Union Hall**
Meyers Street
Next to Campus Life
In Kettle Falls



Time: 7:00 PM
Third Tuesday
Each Month
(Jan.-Nov.)

The Panorama Prospector

September 2005

Minutes for August 16, 2005

By Luci Bristow

Johnie opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Mabel greeted everyone and introduced two guests: Arla DeField and Kevin Ridley. We welcomed them. Steve talked about the field trip to Flagstaff Mountain. They were hunting for fluorite, barite, and quartz. We have had excellent turnout. 20 people were on the outing. Several members brought samples of what they found and displayed them at the meeting. The notable incident on this whole trip was that Steve found the mine on the very first try. Way to go, Steve!

Luci talked about their trip to Lolo Pass. Johnie, Diane and Mike Rose, Vanita and Jaroslav (Jerry) Novak were also there. What a fun group! They had a great time and found some wonderful smoky quartz. Johnie talked about the fires that were started along I-90 and the difficulty the Roses had in getting to the hunting spot. Bob Bristow showed a smoky quartz crystal that he had found. Diane and Mike showed Johnie and Bob some other sites where smoky quartz has been found. We will try them next time.

Rex said that no field trips were scheduled for the near future due to fire danger. There are several areas that have been closed because of the danger. Rex talked about perhaps going to Trout Creek and Solo Creek. It was noted that Solo Creek is pretty well dug out.

Sylvia Petty talked about going to the Lucky Stone mine for iron pyrite. When the weather is better we will explore going there. Johnie asked several of us how we got started in rocks and what our main focus is. The following people talked about their fun times with rocks: Dale, Les and Juanita, Rex and Mabel, Diane Lentz, Suzan Andrew, Luci, and Bob. We were happy that our guest, Arla, was comfortable

enough to tell us how she got started in rocks. She is a faceter and has been since she was very young.

Joe demonstrated our newly purchased short/long wave ultraviolet light and accessories. Johnie suggested that we think about the rules for its use. Carol suggested a "hood" for outdoor use. Warren suggested that we have some time to think about rules and discuss them at our next meeting. It was agreed that the light should be brought to every meeting. Joe will be responsible for checkout of the light for the month of September.

Johnie suggested a "theme" for each meeting. The month of September will be "ugly rock" month. Mariah will be one of the judges.

See you at the next meeting, and **remember your "ugly" rock.**

Going for the Glow

By Joe Barreca



It all started with that Way-Too-Cool (brand) UV light mentioned in the minutes. There was a long afternoon spent in search of the lost Matsen Creek uranium prospect that might have

glowing walls along a 40 foot tunnel. But not much came of it except for being late for dinner. (The Renner Lake Mine is up there somewhere, has anyone seen it?)

Then there were another few hours spent wandering around looking for the Nancy Creek mine. It sounded perfect: gold, smoky quartz, autunite, uraninite and uranophane, the last three being uranium ores. We were sure to get a glow out of those. But after talking my family into this adventure and trudging around a clearcut in the midday sun for an hour or so, we found no evidence of a mine. We did find gold, but it was of the Acapulco variety. After a few words from my daughter, the former park ranger, about trip wires etc. we decided to move our search elsewhere.



“Acapulco Gold”

Then one day having a glass (well maybe more than just a glass) of wine with friends, we got to talking about fluorescent rocks, and looking at them with the UV light. Apparently the reaction to UV light is triggered by small amounts of rare earth minerals. (By this time I could agree with the rare part.) And a likely mineral is calcite from a mine that is highly mineralized. Just such a mine is the Young America. It is between mile markers 94 and 95 on State Hwy 25 North. It produced ore in 1890 and off and on through 1954. Minerals include: Anglesite, Calcite, Cerussite, Cervantite, Galena, Geocronite, Pyrite, Quartz, Siderite, Smithsonite, Sphalerite and Stannite.. Metals include: Copper, Gold, Lead, Silver and Zinc. By 1914 it had shipped over \$100,000 worth of ore.

I had always wanted to see what this mine was like and in spite of frequent rain showers, off I went last weekend to check it out. What appeared to be the main adit didn't look too

promising. It had been dammed up as a water source (Am I the only one who thinks that an abandoned lead and silver mine is not really a good source of water?). And even that was not being maintained. The water was too deep to wade in so no exploring there. There are several old buildings that you really wouldn't want to be in either.



Lower Adit to the Young America

But further on was a steep slope of tailings, clearly visible on the aerial and from the road, with an old cable stretching up to the top. This was not going to be easy. My backpack was crammed with the UV Light, 12 volt battery, camera, water... and I was carrying a bucket of tools. I took it slow with several stops, picking up a few (light) rocks on the way up. The “path” was strewn with timbers, pipe, rails and the usual mine debris. At the top was a shelf of rock with several openings that looked like perfect dens for cougars or coyotes. At least they were dry and appeared to be solid rock without timbers. The view from the shelf was spectacular, looking right across the Columbia toward the White Rock Quarry.



Mineral Identification
Mineral/Mine Locations

Bristow Enterprises

PO Box 1165

Chewelah, WA 99109

Bristow@theofficenet.com

www.minrls.com



View toward White Rock Quarry

I checked out the tunnels as best I could with a small headlamp. They had been mined out leaving stopes half-filled with rubble but connecting the different openings on the inside. It was obvious that the mineralized layer ran parallel to the shelf and back into the cliff. I spotted some azurite between the openings and chipped out a piece. Down to one side, I found a short tunnel that had less rubble than the rest and was long enough to be dark at the far end. I decided to try out the UV Light.



Right away the wall in front of me turned green. I realized that a little hole that had been recently worked was full of especially bright green pieces of rock and I collected a few.

Looking deeper into the stope between this tunnel and the next I found that where the green glowing wall met the rubble, a rock glowed red. I broke off a few pieces of that too and they were much brighter. I noticed that the end of my chisel glowed with a streak of light blue. But there were no other signs of blue rocks around.

On the way out, I picked up a few of the very twisted and mineralized rocks that probably made up the main ore from the mine. The bucket was getting heavy and it was time to go home. There were no blue-glowing rocks in the ones I brought home. But they are out there somewhere. Still it was a pretty good haul after those dry runs. Now I'm looking for a really good flashlight and a dark night...

SAGO

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Rockhounding: Portrait of a Passion

This report was mentioned in the AFMS Newsletter for September 2005 and is available from <http://tomaszewski.net/kreigh/minerals/rockhoundreport.v.4.pdf>. It was compiled from responses to an online survey completed by 640 participants in the online discussion group rockhounds@drizzel.com.

Genesis: Most rockhounds pick up an interest in rocks when they are young, usually through someone in their family, but often through schools, museums etc. Many lose interest as young adults but regain it again after 40.

Interests: Minerals were the most frequent focus of interest (391), followed by rocks (331), lapidary (305) and fossils (207). Fluorescent mineral collectors (97), micromounters (79) and meteorite collectors (61) made up the rest.

Habits: Lapidaries are more likely to go to shows than on field trips, but the others all enjoyed field trips going on 1 to 10 per year in the lowest category and up to 51 trips per year for the top 3.7%. 36% are willing to travel over 1000 miles to go collecting.

Shows: 79% of these rock hounds go to from 1 to 5 rock shows each year and many are willing to go more than 300 miles to attend and spend more than \$50/year on specimens. Almost all collectors had issues with where to display and how to store their collections.

Backgrounds: Rock collectors come from all walks of life and incomes. Men outnumbered women 3 to 1. A lot of families enjoy the hobby but the population generally seems to be older. Imparting the interest to a younger generation is an issue.

Conclusions: Some notes on the implications are

1. Involving Girl and Boy Scouts and other youth groups could revive the hobby.
2. Clubs that support a prolific collection site find it easier to involve youth.
3. Clubs that have an active web site are more accessible to their members.

Jade Cove By Bob Bristow

The coast mountains of central California are interesting because they are composed of ancient sea floor scrapings that have been compressed and heated into new (and sometimes rare) minerals. At some time in the past, the Pacific plate or an extension of the Juan de Fuca plate slid under the continental plate. The

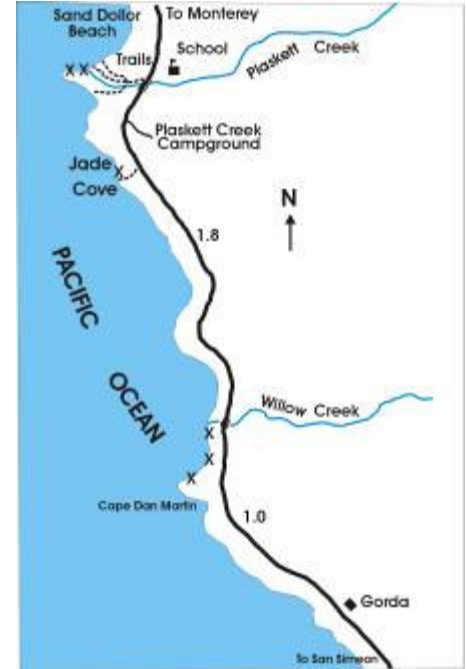


Figure 1. Map to Jade Cove

lighter material on top of the oceanic plate was scraped off forming a large ridge along the trench where the plate was being subducted. Eventually, the subduction stopped and the ridge was raised up forming a mountain chain. The core of this range is what we now see when we drive down Highway 101 south of Monterey. Rocks exposed are common here but rare elsewhere. There are numerous serpentine outcrops. A few of these outcrops contain nodules of nephrite jade. Several locations are shown on the Figure 1 map.

Along the beach, the nephrite jade weathers out of serpentine cliffs. The jade is in the form of nodules and looks exactly like the enclosing serpentine. When the serpentine and jade fall into the surf at the base of the cliffs, the pounding surf breaks up the serpentine leaving the jade nodules intact. These nodules have the typical green jade look. (I separate the jade from the serpentine using a pocketknife. The jade can't be scratched by the blade while the serpentine can. This also applies to jade in other areas.)

One fall day I attended a meeting at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. The weather was warm but there was a wind coming in off the Pacific due to a storm. As soon as the meeting ended, I jumped in the rental car and

headed south on Highway 101 for Jade Cove. Jade Cove is one of the few places where you can almost always find real jade. (Don't confuse "California jade" with real jade. California jade is actually vesuvianite.) The road is narrow and winding but the scenery is superb. It passes the resort area of Big Sur and past one fantastic vista of the ocean after another. I made it to Jade Cove before dark and climbed down to the beach. The wind was driving enormous waves onto the shore. I would follow the outgoing water down the beach looking for jade while keeping one eye on the next incoming wave. As the wave neared, it towered two stories above me and was awesome. I would wait until the last minute and then run up the beach and scamper up onto the rocks. I was successful in finding a number of jade nodules, but most were only one or two inches long. I also found large crystalline masses of tremolite that were so long and slender they reminded me of swords. Unfortunately, the best ones were too large to carry home on the airplane.

The next time I visited Jade Cove was with my wife on a vacation. The waves were much more subdued but there were fewer jade nodules on the beach. My wife took Figure 2 from part way down the cliff trail at Jade Cove. It shows me on the beach where most of the jade is found.

A friend of mine, Bill Scherer, had also visited Jade Cove and had then driven on down the coast to Willow Creek where a small dirt road leads down to the water. There he met a biker who had found a 30 pound jade boulder and offered to give it to Bill. However, Bill felt it was too heavy to carry back on the plane and declined. My wife and I went to the same spot to see if we could find more jade. There were serpentine cliffs just north of the stream. I jumped from rock to rock across the stream so I could go up the beach and see if any jade was weathering out of those cliffs. There were house-sized rocks along the beach and I rounded one of these to come face-to-face with an elephant seal. He was about 15-foot



Figure 2: Jade Cove

long and had a small female with him. They were both sunning themselves and the big bull had his eyes closed. The female was watching me and I was afraid she would waken that big brute. I had read that elephant seals are not aggressive, but this

guy was so big he could kill you just by playing. I tiptoed away and went back for my wife and the video camera. When we got back and the camera started, the big bull opened his eyes but didn't move a muscle. I moved around him and tried to get

some action but he would only move his eyes. I thought about

flipping a rock at him, but decided to heed the old adage, "Let a sleeping dog lie." In this case, it was "Let sleeping elephant seals lie!"

On my last visit to Jade Cove, a young couple climbed down to the beach and the young man began picking up small green rocks. After a bit, he came over and asked if they were jade. I explained about using the knife blade to separate the jade from the serpentine. He immediately pulled out a penknife and proceeded to scratch all of his green rocks. He was very disappointed to go through his whole collection and find only serpentine. However, he soon let out a whoop and I know he had found his first jade. He found several more before he departed and let out a yell each time.

I wasn't satisfied with the small nodules and went looking for something bigger. I looked up and down the beach and couldn't find even a little piece. Then, crawling under one of the large rocks shown on the right side of Figure 2, I found it. A good, solid, translucent nodule of jade about seven inches long.

Soon after my last visit, I heard that Jade Cove had been made a California state park to preserve it for rockhounds. I then read that the state parks people had posted signs saying it was unlawful to pick up any rocks. All California state parks are off limits to rock hunting. So much for saving the jade for rockhounds!