

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

July 2006

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

Minutes for June 20, 1006

By Luci Bristow

The meeting began promptly 7:00PM. Johnie introduced a visitor, Juliet Barton, who is an archeologist.

Welcome, Juliet! Johnie asked for volunteers for cookies for the next meeting. Steve White and Vanita Novak graciously volunteered. Thanks!

Steve shared that he had a phone call from Mike and Debbie Turner of the Kettle River Mineralogical Society about their show on July 22, 9 – 5 PM. For further information call 779-4856.

It was announced that 134 tickets had been sold on the tumbler and that we should be able to have a drawing at our July meeting. Johnie gave the Treasurer's report in Sylvia's absence. We have a total of \$4,542.16 in the General Fund; \$1,314.56 in the Scholarship Fund for a Grand Total of \$5,856.72.

Johnie announced that the winner for the Kettle Falls \$500.00 scholarship was Tiffany Walker. Kyanna Fejes was the winner from Colville. It was suggested that perhaps a scholarship should be added for Chewelah since there are so many Chewelah people belonging to this club. A vote will be taken at a later date on this item. Johnie reminded us that our scholarship funds come from donations at the door of our Rock Shows, silent auctions, rock auctions and raffles.

Chuck Prentice of the POW WOW Club is in Madras preparing the their big event of the year. All rock hounds are to meet at the Madras Fairgrounds June 28 through July 2, 2006. Jasper, geodes, and other specimens will be for sale. You may dig also for a \$1.00 a pound.

Field Trips were discussed. Johnie reported that Fran Davis, Scott Jackson, Rex and Mabel Barrans and he and Ginger all went to Crystal Park. They brought back some spectacular crystals. A field trip to the Rock Candy Mine was mentioned but there was no interest at this time. Also, there was no interest in going to Emerald Creek. Mike Latapie will lead a field trip on June 25 to Trout Creek/Horseshoe (->P. 4)



Good Luck and Trouble

By Bev Bockman

After a late June 2006 field trip, eleven members of the North Idaho Mineral Club returned home around July 1. We were all bug bitten, hot, dusty, tired and in dire need of showers. We left around June 22 arriving in Virgin Valley, Nevada on Saturday, June 24. We set up our camps and later several of our group cooled off in the warm water pool at the camp and prepared to attend a potluck dinner hosted by Don and Nadine Carey. Don is President of the Bonanza Opal mine. The Carey's were wonderful hosts.

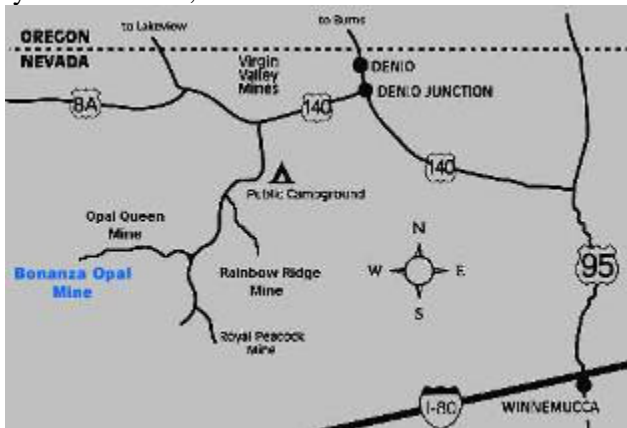
Following dinner we examined many of their opals, fire obsidian and other stones in their collection. As we were preparing to leave mother nature provided a taste of the weather we were to experience during the rest of our trip. A whirling wind loaded with dust and debris blew around the Carey home and carried some of the outdoor furniture several feet.

Worse when we returned to camp Will and Lisa Shuck found that a windblast had crushed their tent and curled the metal tent poles inward toward the center of the tent. The next day while we worked our way through mine tailings, with little success, Will and Lisa spent the better part of the day locating their camp stove, parts from the stove and other camp gear. Bill Johnson found his tent, with about 50 pounds of

camp gear inside, had blown several feet away and had been ripped while carried by the wind. The inside of our camper was covered with a gritty layer of dust.



Monday we went to Lakeview, OR to re-supply, fuel our vehicles and continue on to Davis Creek, CA We stayed at a wonderful campground highlighted by Ponderosa Pine trees. A cold stream ran along one side of the campground. We collected rainbow obsidian, obsidian needles, gray sheen, mahogany and pink obsidian. Every afternoon we were treated to thunder and lightning storms. Commercial claims, including sites previously visited by our members, have increased in numbers.



While in Davis Creek area, Valerie Hansen, developed a reaction to all the insect bites, which started with our camping in Virgin Valley. Consequently, Kelly had to take Val to Lakeview for medical care.

Erna and I left on Wednesday to travel to the sunstone mines near Plush, OR. Our first stop was in the desert to look for sunstone. Large numbers of sunstone were easily found. A few are of faceting quality. As the heat built up we decided to visit the Spectrum mine just before lunch. We were told that in ten minutes people mining the tailings would be allowed twenty minutes to pick stones off of the conveyer belt. A rain and windstorm hit, so Bill Johnson, who was already at the mine, ate lunch in our camper and proudly displayed the sunstones he had found. The storm stopped and we commenced our time on the conveyor belt. After seven minutes

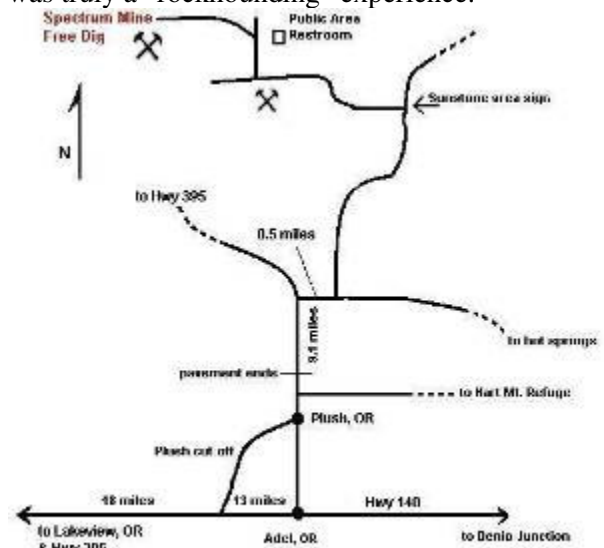
another storm blew in and following the storm we had another eight minutes on the belt until arrival of the next storm. In the fifteen minutes we had on the belt many excellent stones were obtained.



We camped at the BLM campground. An excellent site, but frequent showers blew through the area. Thursday morning we decided to leave and had to delay breaking camp because of a hailstorm, which turned the ground white. As we left the area we met Mike and Diane Rose and Bruce Schonebaum approaching the mine area. Donnie Moen had camped near us the night before and decided to stay at the mine and wait for the Rose's. They were nearly trapped by one part of the road covered with four feet of water.

Several members came on home following a visit to the sunstone area and others visited the show in Madras, OR. It was a good show but not equal to the show held there during our visit two years ago.

Everyone collected material, and despite adverse weather and heat had a good time. Success of the trip lay in the knowledge, support, and guidance of Mike and Diane Rose as leaders of the field trip. This was truly a "rockhounding" experience.



*Pictures and maps from web sites:
<http://www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com> and
<http://www.bonanzaopals.com/index.html>

Fluorescent Museum Specimens

By Bob Bristow

The plane circled around the historical birthplace of democracy and entered the line of other airliners gliding over the Walt Whitman Bridge and the dozens of mothballed navy ships in a bay of the Delaware River. I complained to Luci that we were probably on a wild goose chase. I hadn't been to our destination in years and my little private dig was probably covered by a shopping mall. When our time came, our plane touched down on the Philadelphia airport from the east. Luci and I were glad the trip was almost over. It had started at 4:00 AM in Chewelah and the sun was now setting. We had a motel bed waiting for us just north of town. Our plan was to take a series of freeways and exit onto a main road where the motel was located. Plans are what you make, experience is what you get.

Everything went smooth at first. Traffic was heavy on Highway 95 but our Chrysler convertible was fast and maneuverable. Our first freeway change was to turn east onto the Pennsylvania Turnpike. I was expecting a major cloverleaf but when we followed the signs we found ourselves on a secondary road in an industrial area. By now it was approaching 10:00 PM and most of the gas stations and stores were closed. When I spotted a tavern, I pulled up and went in for directions. The town we were heading for was over the line into New Jersey but it is about the size of Colville and we were within 10 miles of it. No one had even heard of it. Then a half-drunk at the bar said he knew how to get there. Go back to the last light, turn right and in about two miles there would be a shopping center with the freeway entrance just beyond.

Back to the light. Now there was a problem. There were TWO roads to the right. I took the one that headed in the direction of the freeway and in two miles there was the shopping center as described, but no freeway. I found a convenience store and again asked for directions. No one had heard of our town. Finally, someone came in that said she had been born there. She said I should have taken the other road near the tavern. It didn't go to the freeway but it went right to the town with the motel. We finally reached the town and a sign for going south on the motel road. We needed to go north. Back and forth through town. No northbound signs. Finally, we found someone to ask. He practically called me a dummy. The road with the motel had merged with our road. In the rain I had missed the sign and we were already on the road with the motel. We finally found our motel and the clock in the office read 12.00 midnight (9:00 PM Pacific time!).

The next morning started off bad until we discovered that the signs to the turnpike are little orange things beside the road with the turnpike's icon. After we reached the New Jersey Turnpike it was smooth sailing. Everyone was doing about 80 so I followed suit. We went north to the Garden State Parkway,



Figure 1. Franklin, NJ Mineral Museum

skirted New York and Newark, and exited onto Highway 280 West. In about an hour, we exited onto State Highway 15, and made our way to Franklin, our destination. I headed for Main Street and the old



Figure 2. Fluorescent Mine Tailings

smelter at the center of town where I had picked up excellent museum quality fluorescent specimens before. Alas, the smelter is being removed and the hole filled. However, through the fence we could see a man directing an excavator. I drove in through a opening and parked. It turned out that the property was owned by the man and he was preparing it for an open house for rockhounds the coming Saturday. He told me he was the president of the local rock club. I told him I only had that afternoon to look for specimens. He said not to worry. Go to the little museum on the other side of his property. After visiting the museum, go through the back door and down to the tailings pile that hasn't been cleaned up.

Figure 1 is a picture of the little museum. It is excellent! They have many minerals found no where else in the world, all from right there in Franklin. Their fluorescent mineral room has a display about 10 feet high and 30-feet long. When we flipped on the ultraviolet lights, the room lit up with a rainbow of bright colors. There was a large sphere that made me think of Johnie. It was about 12-inches in diameter and glowed a bright green and red. I had my own light and Luci and I went down into the tailings pile shown in Figure 2. Most of the rocks shown in the figure are about three-feet in diameter and most are brightly fluorescent. We piled up 57 pounds of fluorescent rocks. A number of them contained nice crystals of franklinite, a mineral found only at Franklin and five miles south at the Sterling Mine in Ogdensburg. Figure 3 shows crystals of franklinite with calcite and willemite. Figure 4 is the same specimen in short wave light. Franklinite doesn't fluoresce, but it's nice having such a rare mineral.

After leaving the museum, we headed to a UPS store to ship our specimens home before heading out to more adventures.



Figure 3. Specimen in Room Light

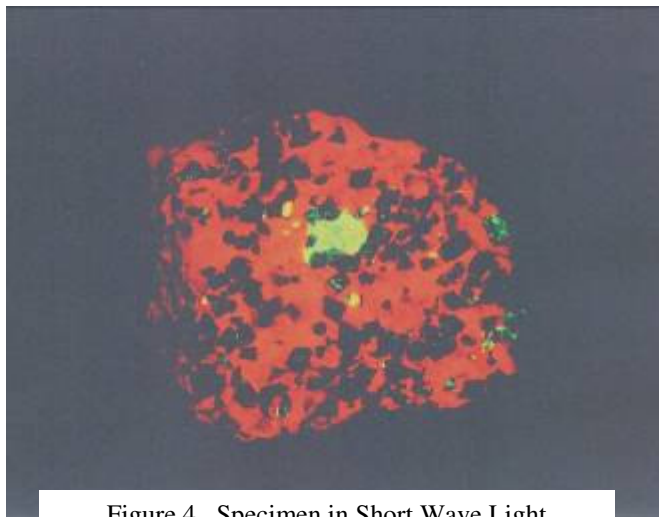


Figure 4. Specimen in Short Wave Light

(Meeting Notes continued from Page 1)
Mountain for crystals and fluorite. Meet him at Barney's Junction on Sunday June 25 at 9:00 am if you are interested in going. A show of hands indicated that we had 10 members interested.

Bob Adams suggested that we get some baseball caps with our logo to support our scholarship. We estimated that approximately 40 caps would be needed. Fran Davis will look into this. Luci will send her the logo via e-mail.

Joe Barreca talked about our web site. We could get a web site for 1/2 price (\$50.00 a year). We would have our own domain. The committee who will be looking into this possibility is: Leslie Ann Kind, Diane Lentz and Joe Barreca.

Following the break, Bob Bristow gave a presentation on Franklin minerals and his and Luci's New Mexico trip. Johnie talked about the trip to Crystal Park. Both showed specimens that were outstanding! There were also fossils from Gold Hill.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

SEE YOU AT THE JULY 18TH MEETING!

Horseshoe Mt Crystal Dig

By Joseph Barreca



On June 25th Mike Latapie led an early morning expedition to the Horseshoe Mt. Crystal dig. This is a popular site with club members and nearly impossible to find the first time without a guide. DNR records show that is it at the location of the Zalla M Mine. The minerals listed in the Geologic Atlas of Ferry County are Calcite, Flourite, Hessite, Sericite, Krennerite, Zoisite, Epidote, Galena and Chlorite Group plus many others. Chief among the others are quartz crystals. They can be very clear and Mike found some with a light purple cast that might be Amethyst or Fluorite. Vugs full of crystals can be

found everywhere at this site. The cliff drops off at a steep pitch but you can still find footing.



This picture shows a weathered open vug that is typical along the line of the cliff.

You can see the Silver Bell Mine to the West as you near the tiny back road to this Crystal site. We did not explore it. All the mines on that side of the road contain Fluorine. They might be worth a look at night with the UV light. A quick look at some crystals we brought home shows that several have that eerie violet glow of fluorite themselves when seen under UV light. There is more to this site than you can see with a first look.

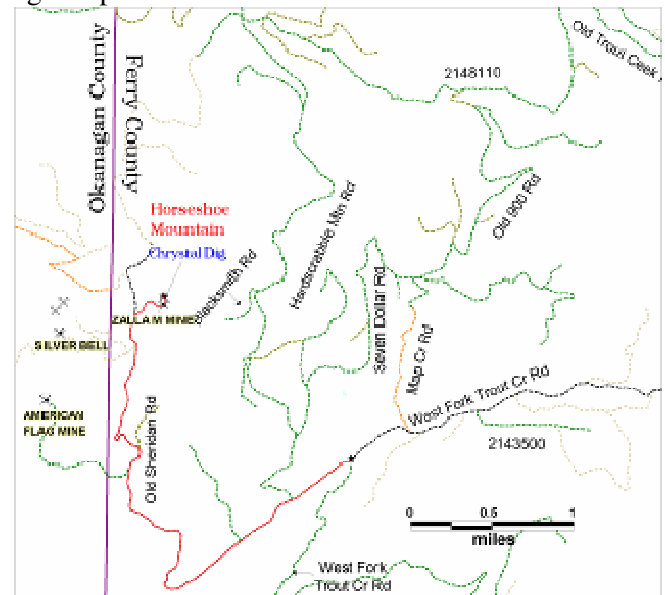
There is also plenty to see with that first look. For one thing, the view into the Storm King Mountain group just south of Horseshoe Mountain is inspiring. For another, the wildflowers including blue penstemmon, purple larkspur and orange paintbrush were enchanting.

We found an old mineshaft that went down 10 feet or so into solid rock. Water, logs and water-loving plants had collected in the bottom. Much of the site is very nice just the way it is. This hole was like that. It didn't make any sense to muck it up trying to figure out why they worked so hard drilling straight down to make this hole.

The parts that are already opened up are a good place to start. The mineralization is so widespread that almost any rock you turn over will have crystals on several sides. Many are so small that it is pretty much impossible to break them out of the rest of the rock. The best crystals the group found

were hidden on the underside of a rock that Mike was prying up. When he heard the crunch of crystals, it was already too late to save many of the rare purple cast specimens that turned out to be there. Hammers, chisels and pry bars are good tools for this site, but you need to be careful. There are also lots of little treasures to be found lying on the ground.

Getting there was part of the fun, maybe not the best part. It is a long drive on gravel roads even after you get out on the West Fork of Trout Creek Rd. Trout Creek road itself is a paved county road (mostly) going up from West Curlew Lake Rd West toward Rose Valley and then swinging back South toward the Knob Hill Mine. Just after it turns South, The West Fork road cuts back to the right and then heads West again up Trout Creek.



It is 8.5 miles from where West Fork Trout Creek Road cuts off Trout Creek to the crystal site. About 2 miles up you pass through Bowes Meadow, a natural open wetland that is home to a lot of wildlife. Keep going for 1/2 mile to where the road splits. Stay right to get on to Old Sheridan Rd. Another 1/2 mile along, the Horseshoe Mt. Rd takes off to the right. Go straight ahead. A mile or so further on the road swings North and starts to wind and climb. At about the 8th mile, there is a road to the left into the Silver Bell.



You can see the piles of rock from the main road. Just past that this little road goes right and winds 1/2 mile up one fairly steep part – though even the two-wheel drive vehicles made it – to the top of the cliff. Park anywhere. Go out to see the view and look down at

the dig just below you.