

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

### August 2006

---

#### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

Minutes for July 18, 1006

*By Luci Bristow*

The meeting began with Johnie greeting everyone. Steve White talked about Kennecott Copper in Alaska. Luci said that she and Bob had been rock hunting and had found a very nice specimen of plumose muscovite. Sylvia gave the Treasurer's Report.

General Fund: \$4,524.86, Scholarship \$1,036.16 for a total of \$5,860.42. We took in \$45.00 in dues and \$9.35 from the silent auction.

The Kettle River Mineralogical Society is having a show in Republic on July 22, 2006. It will be at the Fairgrounds from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Mike Latapie spoke about the field trip to Horseshoe Mountain/Trout Creek area. They found many small deposits of quartz crystals and some amethyst. 12 – 14 members and friends were in attendance. Other possible field trips were mentioned: Mine Tour at Pend Oreille; Spencer for pink opal; Denny Creek on Snoqualmie Pass; and finally one that everyone was in accord with – a trip to Lolo Pass. September 1, 2, 3 & 4 were suggested dates. We will discuss further at next meeting.

Diane Rose reported that the North Idaho Club would be making a field trip to Lolo Pass on Labor Day weekend. Please see her if you are interested in attending.

Johnie, Ginger and Mike Latapie visited the POW WOW Club's rendezvous in Madras, Oregon. They enjoyed field trips and reported that they were excellent this year. There were some 30 dealers at the Fairgrounds.

Johnie reported that the POW WOW Club will be having a field trip to Teanaway near Ellensburg, Cle Elum area on September 9 and 10. They will be staying at the Teanaway Campground. Tailgating and swapping rocks is being encouraged.

We have a new raffle going. This one is for a bag of sapphire gravel. Everyone was delighted that Diane Lentz won the tumbler. Congrats and Happy Tumbling, Diane. (continued on Page 3)

#### Rex's Rambles

*By Rex Barrans & Joe Barreca*

This is the first installment of a three part series on a trip Rex and Mable Barrans took with fellow club member Scot Jackson and for a while, Club President Johnnie Pitman and his wife Ginger.



This picture may be out of order, but it shows Mable Barrans with the Dodge Motor Home and Sidekick 4 wheel drive.

They started out at 4:30 AM on June 10<sup>th</sup> and drove all the way to Crystal Park. (4:30 AM – talk about enthusiastic). That's where they joined up with Scot, who would caravan with them for most of the trip. They also met up with Fran Davis and our club president, Johnie Pitman and his wife Ginger, who were starting their own adventure. (Johnie promises to write more about that himself.)

Crystal Park is known for amethyst and quartz crystal scepters. They did find some small crystals there during a couple days of digging occasionally interrupted by rain. For some diversity, they took a short trip to the Calvert Hill Mine. It had been an open pit tungsten mine off and on for years. The pit is now filled with water. But the hillsides are worth exploring. During the last phase of mining, miners worked at night using UV lights because the tungsten ore, scheelite, is fluorescent. Using this same technique, Rex brought home a very nice sample that was a dull gray in normal light and a light green in

ultraviolet light. (This is a merged picture of Calvert



Lake showing the terraces of the former mine.)

They went back to digging for crystals for a couple of days with limited luck. Everyone left on June 16<sup>th</sup> for further explorations. After stocking up, Rex, Mable and Scot found a nice meadow to camp in north of the freeway in the Homestake area outside of Butte.

The next day was the annual Butte Gem and Mineral Show. Rock picking was good there. They met some old friends and heard about some new places to find rocks. Rex was particularly taken by samples of corundum, a very hard (9) gem that Robert and Sharon Bennette found in the area. They also picked up a couple of grab bags from the show from Betty Luke, whose husband was formerly the president of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NWFMS). The grab bags had some unpolished stones and fossils as well as the usual tumbled rock. Expect more variety in our show's grab bags next year.



Later that day they were off to Delmoe Lake, and stopped at a smokey quartz dig along the way. Who should they run into but the Bennetts from the

gem show the day before. Robert and Sharon offered to show them to the corundum dig, but it was many miles so they declined.

They camped and tried their hand at digging smokey quartz just up the ridge from where they met the Bennetts. They ended up doing a little more digging than they planned on. Not being able to squeeze through the overgrown ORV trail with the Sidekick, they decided to cut through some old digs



and ended up digging themselves out.

They explored the crystal digs on the way to Lake Delmo for two days, stopping to dig where it looked promising. They found plenty of broken crystals and felt like there should be some good large specimens around, but all that they found were smaller.



Here is Mable with smokey quartz.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> they woke up to the sound of a giant thunderclap as lightning struck very close to their camp. It was about time to move on. We'll catch up with them in Wyoming next month.

**(Minutes continued from Page 1)**

Vanita Novak has graciously accepted the Hospitality chairmanship taking over for our Mabel Barrans who has done an outstanding job. Thank you, Vanita. Mabel: Thanks for your years of service!

Rex talked about the trip he and Mabel took to Crystal Park where they met t Jackson and Fran Davis. They had some interesting adventures and as with most rock hound trips, some misadventures as well. They left Crystal Park and *then* to Wyoming and Nebraska. They were happy to go on the trip, but also happy to get home.

Joyce and Luci will provide cookies for the August 15, 2006 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

## **Frisco Standard Road**

*By Joe Barreca*

It was July 9<sup>th</sup> and promised to be another hot weekend day. Mike Latapie and I headed out early in his open-cab Jeep. We were headed up Cedar Creek and back on the Frisco Standard Road almost to Pend Orielle County to see what this road was all about... the Frisco Standard Mine. The mine is located on Jubilee Creek, just south of the International Boundary. it produced ore between 1914 and 1944. It is located in the Kootenay Arc, a large band of rocks of oceanic origins. (Metal Mines of Washington-Preliminary Report; Derkey, Joseph, Lasmanis) The metals found in it include zinc and lead – probably the main ores, but also copper, silver, fluorine and tin.



**Frisco Standard building and ore dump.**

In looking to find out more about this mine on the Internet, I found a long story about trying to find a Sasquatch on this same road. Here is a snippet from the story. *“The hunters' predicament was perhaps best summarized by the one who said: "You couldn't step behind a tree to take a leak without feeling a dozen pairs of eyes on you." The opposing camps*

*followed each other snorting across the hills on snowmobiles, criss-crossing Frisco Standard and the surrounding region.”*

Mike and I felt pretty safe, he found some nice samples of galena, lead ore, in a dump right by the mine. There were some flakes of green copper in there too, but nothing great. The original entrance had caved in but we could climb down into a fairly large opening anyway.



It was nice and cool inside. (Actually it was dripping wet. We should have brought rubber boots, hats, more flashlight batteries and the UV light. (Next time!) The adit went back about 300 feet. We walked along the sides because water ran down the middle, not too deep for rubber boots but too deep for tennis shoes. The miners didn't seem to leave any obvious veins untapped. The ceiling was high and held up by bolts and metal plates at the far end. The most interesting features were the red stalactites and pools left by 60 years of dripping water.



When we got out we walked the road a bit and even went down the steep slope across the road looking at the tailings. It was grown over and full of debris, so the picking was not good there. We also looked for the Myeerah Mine that contained many of the same minerals and history, but only found a sign above the road that said Myeerah.

We did however find this old outhouse hanging in mid-air over the steep slope and down the road from the Frisco Standard. Someone had written "Ladies Room" on the front but we doubt it got any use in that capacity.



Our next quest was to backtrack on Frisco Standard Rd and find the United Treasure Mine. This was a deposit of metals within a quartz vein in the Ledbetter Slate that had been worked off and on in 1917, 1933 and 1953. We knew we were on the right road when a sign at the top warned about exploring old mines, gases etc. As it turned out, there is very little chance of gases building up in this mine. It did have a very active colony of packrats however.

The road down was somewhat overgrown and very steep. Definitely a 4 wheel drive road and good clearance wouldn't hurt. It was no trouble discovering the mine because the road goes right by it on its way down to Fish Creek.

Mike found some azurite and malachite stains to collect right away in the hole to the right in the picture on the bottom of the page. It was only 10 feet deep or so. The other two went back a couple hundred feet each. We ended up picking rock in them. Some pieces had fallen from the walls and were easier to take samples from. Others were more work.



Here is Mike going for the good stuff. I preferred taking a few big whacks with the sledgehammer at pieces on the floor of the tunnel. The miners seemed to have been following some muddy veins back through the rock. They may have had high values in them but didn't offer much to rock hounds. The quartz had not only the copper colors we were looking for, but streaks of galena and perhaps other ores in them. The white quartz veins were a big bonus because they brought out the other colors well. Not only that, but the temperature was very comfortable inside the mines compared to the heat outside.



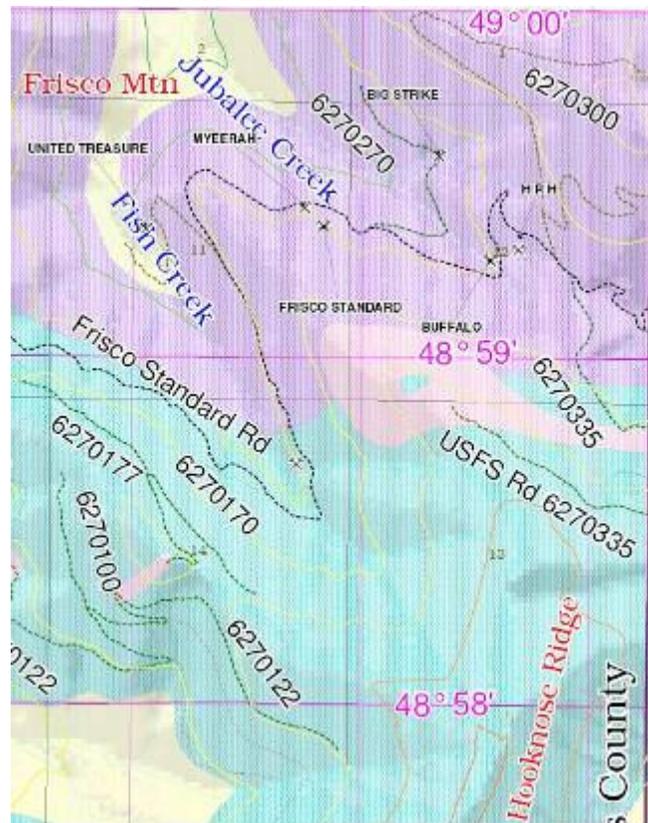
We were so busy collecting specimens that it took awhile for us to get out and poke around the area. When we did, we discovered that there were several more adits going back into the rock every hundred feet or so along the road. Some had caved in and would have been dangerous to explore. Others were shallow. But there had obviously been a lot of activity here with some big squared-off drifts that had track in them and others that branched off inside the mountain.



This collection made pretty nice garden rocks. (Bob Bristow warns that acid in the rain will eventually bleach out the colors if they are left outside.) We didn't find any native copper, I don't know where you would find it in Stevens County, but this was better than the Blue Bird or any other site that I know of for blue and green copper colors.

With our buckets full we headed back down Frisco Standard Road, but not without stopping to look at rocks in the creeks and along the rock cut. In the lower middle part of this map, the base rock turns from the purple of the metamorphic Ledbetter Slate (300 Million years ago, (Ma)) to a wall of very stratified sedimentary rock in light blue known as Maitlen Phyllite that dates back to 515 Ma. Both have their origins at the bottom of an ancient sea that started as the narrow Windermere Rift when the ancient continent of Rodinia began to break apart. These rocks remained underwater on a shallow continental shelf when the super continent Pangaea reformed millions of years later. Notice the light pink area on top of the ridge above the Frisco Standard (near 48° 59' in the map). It is a small pluton, an intrusion of molten rock that forced its way up into the older sedimentary rocks as lands further to the west collided with the North American continent. The heat of the pluton may have

contributed to the mineralization evident in the Frisco Standard and other mines in the area.



So essentially, on our trip out we were traveling through an ancient ocean floor. Ferns and moss thrived on the moisture seeping through cracks between the layers of rock.



I have the piece Mike is picking up in this picture. It has a grain to it that looks almost like petrified wood. It is dense and heavier than you would expect. Some samples have a distinct shine to them in the sunlight.

This was a great little trip. It might merit another visit with better equipment. Some of the galena was fluorescent under UV and so were some pieces of the quartz from the United Treasure Mine.