

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



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

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## The Panorama Prospector

### February 2007

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#### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

Minutes for January 16, 2007

*By Luci Bristow*

The Show meeting began at 6:00 PM. The theme for our Show this year is "Obsidian". Sylvia has graciously offered to contact The Monthly as well as other newspapers for our advertising of the Show. Joe Barreca will make flyers to be given out at the Spokane Show. Schools will be contacted by Diane Lentz. She will also contact the radio stations for advertising purposes.

Johnie is working on the floor plan. Rex will work the Wheel of Fortune. He is so good at it! He will ask for rocks and prizes at the next meeting. Grab Bags – Rex and Joyce. Joyce has made approximately 700 bags for us. WOW! Most of the Dealers have responded – one is still in abeyance. Bob Adams has offered to do the Silent Auction. We need new forms for bids. Johnie will supply.

Door Prizes – We have some leftover from last year. Sylvia will look for Grand Prizes. Display Cases – Johnie and others will load display cases after the Spokane show and bring up to our Show. Hospitality – Mable and Margie. Name Tags for workers and vendors – Luci. Snacks are needed for set-up only. The Grange ladies will have lunch available for us at a nominal price. Tickets - We need tickets for the Raffle. We have tickets for the hourly drawing as well as the other door prizes. Set-up and Take Down - Johnie will contact the High School for student help.

Regular Meeting began at 7:00 PM. Johnie reviewed the Show planning. A discussion was held on the status of the scholarships. Kettle Falls and Colville will be handled by Johnie. No one has been selected as yet to handle Chewelah.

Diane brought in an article on "What You Learn From Your Mother". It was read by Bob Bristow. Joe Barreca talked about his upcoming trip to Australia. The club caps were available for purchase at \$10 each. Many thanks to Fran Davis! The caps are great.

Our program was given by Dave Paquette.  
(Continued on Page 4)

#### Marvelous Marbles

*By Joseph Barreca*

I didn't know what to expect when I visited Keith and Ann Berger to see how to make marbles. You think of marbles as toys and trinkets for kids. The reality is a lot richer. On the visual side, marbles (actually made out of almost any stone that will hold still long enough) give you a polished clarity that allows you to see into them but in a size and shape that allows more light than is available to bigger round rocks, slabs or cabs. Planes cutting through a crystal become round sections or streaks of color and light. They mimic the planets. If you love the feel and fascination of little gems, making marbles can become a satisfying hobby. For the Berbers, it's a family tradition.



Here is a picture of Ann Berger's father and mother, Red and Ann Wilson, from the back cover of a book they published in 1977, Marble Making and Lapidary Hints. For years they went to rock shows and

demonstrated techniques for making marbles. This book fills the need for a detailed reference at the request of many followers.



Here are Ann and Keith with that book and some of the thousands of marbles in their inventory.

They sat me down to watch a video of Keith making marbles. It is a fairly fast process with basic lapidary tools, not nearly as elaborate as the triple rotating grinders Johnie Pitman uses to make spheres (PGMC January 2005). You need to start by cutting slabs the thickness of the desired marble, preferably from hard rocks that will take a polish, (agate, jasper, obsidian etc.) You cut these into strips and finally cubes with a trim saw and sit down at the grinder.



Start working off the corners on a flat sides wheel of a 100 grit carborundum grinding wheel. When the cube has been rounded down, he moves to the middle of a wheel that has a round channel worn into the middle. (Keith used hard agate and metal to wear the round groove into the wheel.) Pushing the emerging marble into the groove, rotate it to eliminate all the high spots. Check for them with a round

template. (Be sure to have water pumping onto the wheel. This process can generate a lot of dust.)

When the marble gets to be very round and hard to hold with bare hands, it's time to move it to a flat lap machine with a rotating spindle that can turn various sized cups with abrasive to remove scratches. Using 200 grit abrasive in a piece of pipe, you apply pressure and rotate the marble against the spindle. Move to finer and finer grits to about 600 grit. Rinse as you go.

Then you can move the marbles to a series of tumblers with grit and other rocks starting at 600 grit for two days. Wash well between polish changes. Finish them with felt lath and a fine polish like "Pretty Polish". "Egg crate" foam rubber matting lining drawers or boxes protects the finished marbles.



At this point you might be thinking. "Well there you have it." Actually making marbles is just the beginning as Ann and Keith found out when they started bringing marbles to rock shows to support their habit. For starters, you need to display them. This can become



very creative, candle holders, napkin rings, washers, even coral can be come a mount for marbles.

Customers need to

display their marbles too, so stands for marbles became a sale item. Soon display cases and frames with niches for marbles joined the show. Following her mother's lead and using some of her mountings, Ann began to make jewelry with cabs, beads and other stones. Then she



started making her own mountings with wire-wrapping, and that became an occupation and another commodity for their rock show display, which is always popular at our rock shows and others the Bergers attend nearby.



Customers started talking to Ann about the metaphysical qualities of gemstones and other rocks. There is an extensive literature on this subject, which also joined the show along with a wider variety of marbles, crystals and decorative curios the Bergers found at the rock shows. You might find carved figures, shells or soapstone dishes hand-painted in Kenya. Their five main lines of merchandise include: marbles, beads, tumbled rocks, metaphysical rocks and jewelry.

With such a large inventory, almost any purchase can be considered an operating expense. We didn't say this was necessarily a profit-making venture. The Bergers are enthusiastic collectors. Ann had to buy a prize collection of her father's marbles to keep them in the family. She started noticing that there are some incredibly beautiful glass marbles to be had and other treasures such as these.



Their house is a veritable museum. Collections of little wonders line every window sill, wall, counter top and lamp stand, not to mention the many cabinets and display cases. As if that was not enough, in the shop out back, they have bins of uncut rock and rough slabs of incredible variety. A family favorite is Canadian River Plume Agate from Borger, Texas.



Petrified wood, fossilized fish eggs, jasper from Biggs, Oregon and some incredibly clear quartz crystal, formerly used to make bombsights during WWII, await the marble wheel. But Keith is suffering ailments that severely limit his ability to get around and to hold rocks steady against the grinding wheel. So the Bergers are looking to their daughter and her husband to eventually inherit the family rock collection.

Along with all the small wonders, are a few major trophies. Ann has some delicate skeletons of gastropods, sea creatures from 4000 feet down in the ocean.

One has accumulated small conch shells to form the base of its invertebrate skeleton. Another is a magnificent amethyst castle from Brazil. Unlike any others I've seen, instead of being hollowed out in the center, it bulges with crystals.



Not to be completely left behind in the arena of rock show masterpieces, Keith

found one made by J. D. Quin in Clayton, WA that he needed to have.



This magnificent lamp with a shade made of cut and polished agate and a base made from a refurbished brass blowtorch was a steal at \$1,500.

They also had some pointers on where to see great rocks in unexpected places. One is the Geology building on the University of Washington campus in Pullman. Another is the D.J. & H. Museum in Rufus, Oregon. *“Rock hounds and antique lovers will find this museum full of fascinating displays.”*

*“Curator and collector Howard Dolph has been collecting rocks for over 80 years. His rock and mineral collection includes thundereggs, fossils, petrified wood, agate, black jade, jasper, and some of the world renowned Biggs Picture Jasper collected from the local area. (Rufus is about 5 miles east of Biggs, Oregon.) Dolph also has an interesting collection of stone tools used by Native Americans. Stone pestles, mortars, fishing weights and a few petroglyphs rescued from destruction when the local train tracks were being constructed. An eclectic collection of antique guns and other items round out the museum.”*

Meeting minutes continued from page 1

He demonstrated his custom designed placer mining equipment. The talk was informative and interesting. He also brought in pictures that he had taken in the Olympics when hiking into them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P

### The February 20th Meeting

President Johnie Pitman wants everyone to remember to bring any tumbled rocks that they want to donate for grab bags to the meeting. The show planning meeting starts at 6:00.

We will need all of the help that we can get on March 29 for setting up the show and on the 31 for take down at the Fort Colville Grange Hall.

I have a video for the program, if we have a TV. (This means you Steve White) It's called "Sugar, Quartz, Diamonds: Crystalline Perfection". Remember also that the club hats will be there for purchase at \$10.00 per hat. There were 23 sold at the Jan. meeting.

**Free**  
**7th Annual Rock Show**

**Theme:**  
**Obsidian**

**March 30th and 31st**  
**Fort Colville Grange Hall**

8:30 AM - 6:00 PM Friday March 30th  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday March 31st  
1 mile East of Junction of US 395 and Hwy 20 Colville, WA

**Wheel of Fortune**

**Gold Panning**

**Gems and Minerals from Around the World**

**Silent Auction**

**Door Prizes**

**Jewelry**

**Fossils**

**Field Maps**

**Food**

(509) 684-8887



## Motorized Travel in Colville National Forest

The Colville National Forest is working to determine the most acceptable routes for Off Road Vehicle (ORV) travel in the forest. The carrot side of this for ORV and other back county travelers is that they want to establish connections between trail systems and with county roads that are designated for ORV use. They also want to have more loop routes and connectivity to parking and campsites. The stick side is that once these routes have been established, ORV use will be prohibited except on designated routes. With this in mind, Johnie Pitman urged any of us who could to attend an orientation meeting at the Community College of Spokane, Colville Branch on January 30<sup>th</sup>.



As you can see, we were well-represented. From the Forest Services point of view, the main objective was to find people who are willing to attend 4 hour meetings of working groups who will make suggestions for travel plans in specific trail areas. Some of the 11 project areas include Addy Mountain, Chewelah Mountain, Bead Lake, Calispell Mountain, The Little Pend Oreille Lakes and Sullivan Lake.

Currently there are 650 miles of open use roads in the Forest. Additionally, there are 50 miles of Jeep trails, (mostly in the Deadman Creek area), 10 miles of ATV trails and 175 miles of motorcycle trails. Jeeps, motorcycles and ATV's can also use the other 650 miles or open use roads. Goals include both attracting recreational tourism and protecting the environment. The recreation team wants to have a motor vehicle use map published this summer.

Carmen Nielsen of the Three Rivers Ranger District gave a Power Point presentation on the situation. She is probably the best person to contact if you have something to say about how this all comes down. Her number is (509) 738-7761

The Forest service has a series of meetings set up for this first phase. They are as follows:

### Wednesday, February 21, 2007 Tacoma

**Project Area 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.**  
Cusick Community Center  
107 1st Ave  
Cusick, WA

### Thursday, February 22, 2007 Swan Lake & Hall Creek Project Areas 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Republic Ranger Station  
650 East Delaware Ave  
Republic, WA

### Saturday, March 3, 2007 North Fork Chewelah Creek & 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Middle Fork Calispell Creek Project Areas  
Chewelah Peak Learning Center

### Thursday, March 8, 2007 Vulcan Mt. Project Area 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

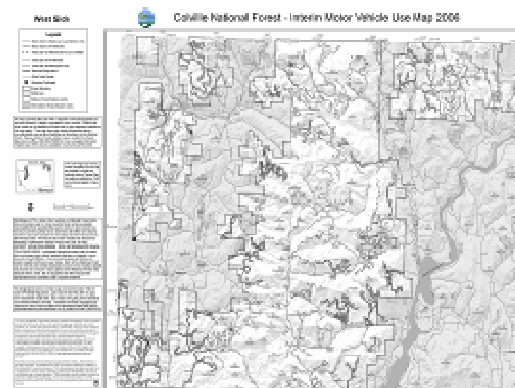
Republic Ranger Station  
650 East Delaware Ave  
Republic, WA

### Saturday, March 17, 2007 Paupac, Snyder Hill, and 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Little Pend Oreille Project Areas  
lone Community Center  
210 Lockwell St  
lone, WA

You can also visit their web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville/forest/recreation/ohv/index.html>. This site has downloadable maps, but you



would be better off getting the printed ones directly: They are 17" by 21".