

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 2007

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes August 21, 2007

By Luci Bristow

The meeting began almost promptly at 7:00 PM. Vanita introduced a guest, Gerald Vincent, who in turn signed up his son, also Gerald Vincent (known as Vinnie) for membership in our club. Joyce Dawson and Jerry Hill volunteered cookies for our next meeting, September 18, 2007.

President Johnie presented a special award to Joe Barreca for placing 3rd Place in the NW Federation's mini-bulletin newsletters. Congratulations, Joe!

Steve Fox reported on the Marcus Music Fest. It went very well. It has been suggested that we may want a table or booth in the Marcus Cider Festival, which is October 6, 2007. Further discussion of this will take place at our September meeting.

President Johnie reported that he and Ginger went to the NW Federation Show, August 3, 4 and 5. Bob and Bev Bockman were in attendance also. It was a fun-filled time.

Diane Rose, and 10 guests of the North Idaho Mineral Club, made a trip to North Dakota. They collected petrified wood. Johnie and Ginger were also in attendance.

The gold-panning trip to the Columbia River was interesting. People, who did not know how to pan, learned very quickly. The people who went reported that it was interesting and exciting!

The next field trip will be to the Flat Creek area for chalcopyrite. Please meet at Barney's Junction at 9:00 AM on Sunday August 26, 2007.

Leslie King suggested that we all might benefit from a Safety course. She was asked to organize this course for a future meeting. She will also research the best avenue of obtaining this information. Thanks, Leslie!

Joe and Cheryl Barreca presented the second half of their trip to Australia. What great pictures! Thanks, Joe and Cheryl.

Butte Rock Show

By Johnie Pitman

Our trip was first to Butte, MT to attend our first NW Federation Show, held at the Civic Center, Aug 3-4-5. We picked up the awards for Johnie's poetry, Joe's newsletter and heard of Bev and Bob's "Rockhounds of the Year" award. The show is bigger than ours (by a bunch) but not as big as the Spokane show.

The show had 9 speakers over 3 days: Placer Gold, Sapphire Deposits of the Missouri River, Minerals of the Elk Horn Mine, Japan Law Twins from the PC Mine, Montana Sapphire, Corundum from Alder Gulch, Burmese Painite The Mineral and the Story, History of Gem Mountain, Pegmatites of the Boulder Batholith, and Crystal Park. We attended the first four of those on Friday and saw all of the display cases some of them were very different than we had seen before. We joined



the daily field trips, meeting at 8 AM for caravanning. Sat. we went North of Butte to Whitehouse Campground for barite crystals. The crystals are easy to find but hard to chisel off the walls, without breaking them. They are more cubic than those from our area of eastern Washington. Sunday morning we were off to find fluorite at the I-15 and I-90 inter-change. It is found in botryoidal form, layers on a host rock. The thicker the band, the better, colors were yellow, green and purple but not very florescent. The rocks with a layer of fluorite were easy to find but finding the thick stuff was more difficult. By thick I mean more than a quarter inch.

The Butte Mineral and Gem Club had another week of rock hounding planned lead by Tim Huff. We



met at a campground about 40 miles from Butte on the Big Hole River, west of the town of Wise River. Monday night was a trip after dark to the Calvert Mine with black lights for florescent minerals. Not a lot of good stuff was found, and it was hard to get around in the dark because the piles of rocks were steep sided with lots of holes and some large rock.



Tuesday morning was back to the Calvert Mine for epidote and other minerals. The forest service and fire bosses wanted everyone out by noon



as they were shutting off that road. After lunch it was

up north on highway 1 to Anaconda Pass for jasper. It was yellow, red and brown, some had holes that were lined with quartz crystals. Some of the jasper was very large and plentiful, but the quality was only medium because it has lots of fractures and holes. From there we continued to Gem Mt. and bought 2 buckets of sapphire gravel at \$12/2 gal bucket. We found about 15 sapphires in each bucket, mostly small and quality unknown, there were 4 small pink ones. We didn't have them evaluated because we needed to catch the group going to the Black Pine mine which is 2 mi north and 9 mi west of Phillipsburg on Black Pine



oad. It took awhile to find the group but we found other lost people like us. This mine is famous for micro-mounts, 45 different minerals have been found. You have to know what you are looking for to be successful. Beautiful drive and interesting area but we didn't find anything special, some quartz, pyrite and copper trace minerals. We'd liked to have had more time but it got dark so we headed back to camp.

Wednesday the group went to Crystal Park for an all day dig. We have had better holes but did get a pint of crystals and a couple of small scepters and one three/quarter inch amethyst crystal.

The group still had Gem Mt and Spencer Opal on the tour but we left Thursday to go to Terry, MT looking for Montana Agates. Thursday evening we visited with Edna Rogerson who is an artist with MT agates, her work is beautiful. She was very helpful, getting us down to the Yellowstone River. The weather for two days was **hot**, 101. We were there 3 days trying to stay cool in the river and moving the camper every couple of hours to the shade of an old railroad bridge and only hunting for agates early in the morning and late in the evening. But Friday night it turned stormy and we rode out some furious winds, not much rain, but it did cool off. We ended up with about 90 pounds of agate.



Sunday night we met some members of the North Idaho Club at Medora, ND. Monday morning was a drive 35 mi north to a ranch on the Little Missouri River. Our host was a rancher by the name of Larry and his wife Sandy, they let us camp in a cottonwood grove right on the river. Monday the river was low and the petrified wood in the river was easy to find. The hunt was on for the biggest and most colorful pieces. Just walking the gravel bars was interesting for the odd and wide variety of stuff (bones, antlers, conglomerates, agates and odd rocks). Everyone found plenty of interesting rocks and some good cutting material. I got the feeling, and others mentioned it too, that it was possible that no rock collecting had ever been done here before, it was great. . Our host Larry and wif Sandy and their family fed us a wonderful supper on Monday evening and each night was great company and relaxing story time with a chance to compare finds.



Tuesday morning was a surprise as the river was up 8- 10 inches and the gravel bars were covered, but we had not seen any rain. So it was off to explore the ranch and to The Elk Horn National Park, which is a tiny little park with nothing there except signs

explaining it was Theodore Roosevelt's ranch headquarters Thanks to those who let us join this trip. We saw some leaf fossils from the ranch but didn't get a chance to look for them this time.

We left the ranch about noon on Wednesday; that night we were north of Glendive at Intake at a state park on the Yellowstone River looking for MT agates again and they are easy to spot if the sun is shining. We worked from the park down river and got about 50 lbs of medium to small agates.

Then we were on our way home, through the smoke from the wild fires, getting home with 510 lbs of rock and stuff.

Next year the NW Federation show is at Ontario, OR. They have some goods things planned and lots of camping so hope all of you can make it, we plan on being there.



Beverly Bockman at our April 2006 Rock Show

Bev and Bob Bockman
Rockhounds of the Year
From AMFS Newsletter

All-purpose rockhounds, Bev and Bob Bockman, who belong to our PGMC also contribute their talents to the North Idaho Mineral Club. Here is an excerpt from the July Northwest Federation newsletter.

Robert and Beverly Bockman are Nominated rockhounds of the year for the North Idaho Mineral Club. They bring different skills and abilities contributing to successes of our club.

Bob has served as President and in other club offices; he has served as field trip chairman; he provides many pounds of tumbled rock for use during our annual show and he is able and willing to help members repair and rebuild their equipment.

Berverly (Bev) edits our club newsletter, arranges programs for club meetings and served as club secretary. She is a tremendous resource in identification of gems, stones and minerals. Bev is outstanding in helping others especially in showcase layout, and her ability to find new advertising resources contributes to the success of our annual gem and mineral show. Bev also served several successful years as editor of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Newsletter. She has served as show chairman and accepts and quickly accomplishes all tasks responsibly.

Both Bob and Bev are active in two other rock and mineral clubs in which they hold offices. Both are interested and active in all facets of rockhounding and building enthusiasm for rockhounding activities. Given their knowledge, enthusiasm, personalities and overall love of people, their participation in our club provides support and friendship for all members.

(Submitted by Everett Headrick, President, North Idaho Mineral Club)

Stomping Around Our Backyard

By Stephen Fox

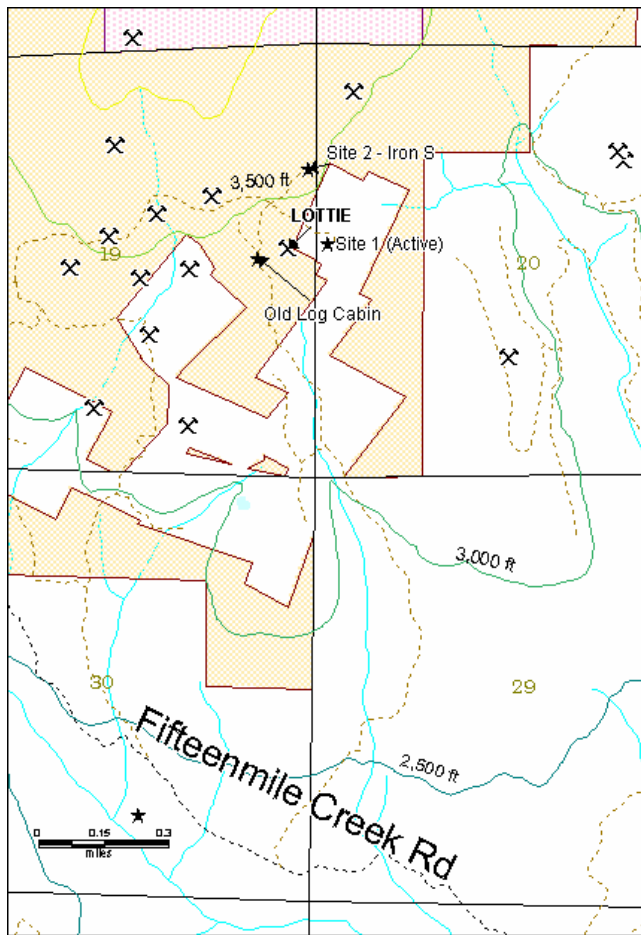
A couple of Sunday's ago, on a somewhat rainy day, Joe Barreca called me to see if I was still going to go into my mine and fluoresce it. As I sat looking out my window watching the rain pour down I was trying to decide if I wanted to go crawling through mud to explore about a hundred feet of rock. Being of somewhat sound mind I said let's wait awhile and see what happens. After I hung up it quit raining. I then went outside and checked to see how wet the ground was. It wasn't!!?? How can it rain and the ground stay relatively dry? I took this as a sign and called Joe back and told him to come on, we were going spelunking! About twenty minutes later Joe showed up and we were off to explore an old Chinese gold mine. We parked about ten yards from the mine on highway 25 and walked to the entrance, which was just up this small embankment of loose shale and dirt. After about the fifth try I made it up to the entrance, which was nearly closed off by dirt. After about ten minutes of shoveling I had a space that we could crawl through. Before we did I checked for snakes, rats, bats, and any other creepy crawlies that might be

lurking inside. (Just a note here: When the old mine you are about to enter does not show any signs of creepy crawlies, even spiders, going in or out, this is NOT a good sign.)

Donning our hard hats and dragging our equipment into the mine we wriggled our way in. As soon as we had our equipment out and set up I turned on the club's portable UV lamp. And not much was to be seen. Some calcite did fluoresce and we did get some interesting bright red spots once in a while. We did go all the way back to where the Chinese quit mining and basically did not see anything real exciting. I did decide to get some samples while we were there and took my rock hammer to some quartz-like material that had the bright red



fluorescent spots (Rubies??? No such luck). I also decided to get a larger sample of the rock wall, and was just about to give it good whack when it just sort of came out of the wall in my hand. This is a good place to mention that every time my head hit the ceiling, rock came down around my head and shoulders. It was time to go. We decided that my old Chinese gold mine did not have any gold, was not very safe, and that this might very well be my last visit inside. Later we found on the large chunk of rock I pulled out what may very well be a form of asbestos. Great, not only do I not have a gold mine but it may be toxic. At least the dirt was dry going in.



A Look at the Lottie

By Joe Barreca

Most of the usual suspects were there. Ray Stoddard and Bob Adams led us straight up a side road off Fifteenmile Creek on the West side of Lake Roosevelt 15 miles south of Northport. We climbed a 1000 feet in a couple of miles and arrived at an old



log cabin at a fork in the road. The cabin was relatively good shape. The nails used were round so it was not built until the 1920's or later. The road forked from the cabin northeast and northwest. We went on to explore two areas northeast of the cabin,

Greg Van reported that another dig northwest of the cabin was not as interesting as the first two, so most of us did not visit it.

Our first stop was at Site 1 on the map. It is still an active mine of sorts, A rickety wooden ladder went down the shaft, but none of us dared test it out. It looked to be dry but crumbly. We would have needed climbing ropes and generally younger bodies.



We found rocks with azurite stains around massive crystalline calcite. It glows a pinkish red under UV light, though Ray and Greg Van will probably not forgive me for forgetting to bring the UV light and seeing that right on the site. There was also rusty evidence of a lot of iron in the area.

The second site on the road northeast of the cabin, had massive iron and lots of sulphur. From the location and the description of the ore as including Chalcopyrite, Pyrite and Pyrrhotite, I think this must be the Lottie Mine. There are a dozen mines in the area. Their most valuable ores were gold, copper and silver. The Lottie also has iron-bearing minerals in some descriptions so that's what I'm calling it. The rocks from the site we visited are probably chalcopyrite. It is a compound of Copper, Iron and Sulphur (CuFeS_2). They are rusty on the outside, slightly magnetic, very heavy and shiny on a broken surface. The ground in this picture is yellow and smells of sulfur. A few folks will try tumbling them and report on that.

