

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 October 2007

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes September , 2007

By Joe Barreca

The meeting began almost promptly at 7:00 PM. The first announcement was that our beloved Secretary, Luci Bristow is retiring from the position. The first ramification of this event is that you are getting a haphazard set of minutes from the meeting.

Our next decision was to have a "Pride Rock" contest for the next meeting. This means you should pick out a sure winner from your rock collection, put it in the strong box, hire some armed guards and bring it to the October meeting. There are no cash prizes, but we should have some good arguments.

Bev and Bob Bockman were present to be honored as the Northwest Federation's "Rockhounds of the Year". We knew they were good, but now everyone knows. Despite all the attention, Bev managed to write a couple of articles for this newsletter. See I told you they were great.

We collectively decided to cancel the raffle for the next rock show because it doesn't pay it's way. We will have drawings for small tools instead.

Bob Bristow and Rex Barrans scheduled a field trip to the Bella Mae Mine near Metaline Falls for Sunday September 23rd. We'll have to hear how that turned out.

Steve Fox offered the club a room in his rock shop at Marcus to put equipment in for members to use. He would need a small fee for electricity etc.

It was the 11th Anniversary of the founding of the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club in 1996. Marjorie Wilson brought us a cake to celebrate. Thanks!

We need to set a theme for next years rock show. The contenders are: metals, crystals, jasper, calcite and precious minerals. (Is it just me or don't we need to pump up those descriptions a little?) At any rate, come prepared to vote on that. And mark March 28th on you calendar for the next rock show.

While you are at the calendar, mark down December 18th as the date of this year's Christmas Party. We will arrange for the American West Bank , 106 S. 2nd in Chewelah again. Decorate at 5 PM, Eat at 6 PM.

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Broken Hill, New South Wales

By Joseph Barreca



The Visitor's Information Center in Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia was no help in finding places to "fossick", Australian for rockhounding. I did find a pamphlet for a place called Silver City Minerals, for "Rockhounds and Fossickers", open by appointment only. The specimen pictured above is only one of 4000 minerals displayed in the museum. It is devoted to mineral specimens from the incredibly rich and

diverse underground treasures in this remote part of Australia. No lapidary, jewelry or beads!

Silver City is the result of a life-long devotion of a man I know only as Milton. He was a miner in Broken Hill's "Line of the Load". Fellow miners brought him specimens they found that were not ore, but deserved to be seen. The museum is a collection of structures in his back yard. Still it was the most impressive display of minerals I saw in two months of traveling in Australia.



To understand Broken Hill, we need to go back to 1883, the year that Charles Rasp discovered and claimed what he thought to be tin on "Broken Hill" an outcrop on a sheep station where he worked. The ore contained traces of silver and lead. By 1885 contractors had struck silver chloride assaying at thousands of ounces per ton. The ore body was a continuous arch, 7.5 kilometers long and 250 meters wide, "the largest and richest of its kind in the world: a silver lead and zinc lode worth more than \$1.5 billion."



Soon, 27,000 people lived in Broken Hill in all manner of cobbled-together tin shanties. Like mining boom towns in many parts of the world, enmity arose between the wealthy mine owners and miners working in dangerous, unhealthy conditions for low wages. Unlike many places, the miners and their unions won the day in Broken Hill. It became the center of Australia's labor movement and although the housing is modest by modern standards, it is safe, clean and affordable. In testament to the great human tragedy involved with mining, a miner's memorial stands today overlooking the "line of the load" with inscriptions for the more than 800 miners who lost their lives.



Milton at Silver City Minerals said that there are plenty of places to look for interesting rocks around Broken Hill and gave me the name, Trevor Dart, and the internet address of the Broken Hill Mineral Club, bhminclub@inet.au.

In the Geo Centre you can see a much smaller set of minerals but with some real standouts. Check out the world's largest silver nugget, 42 Kilos or 92.6 pounds.



A couple more of my favorite specimens from the area include pyromorphite, $Pb_5[Cl(PO_4)_3]$, a compound of lead, and chlorine or phosphate) so named because it crystallizes after being melted,

and rhodonite, manganese silicon oxide, $MnSiO_3$, a clear reddish crystal.



Pyromorphite



Rhodonite and Lead

Another interesting legacy of the region is that before there were railroads, travel over the hot dry outback was extremely difficult. Carrying the heavy minerals to riverboats for shipment around the world, called for extraordinary animals, and camels fit the bill. They brought in camels from Afghanistan. A



few miles away in Silverton, you can still find a camel to ride and they are one of many species that have gone wild in Australia.

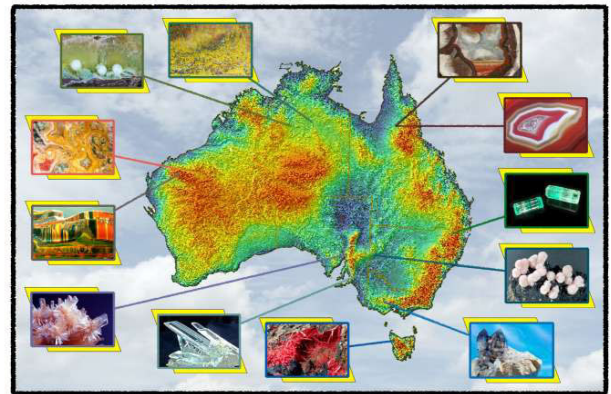
A Fossickers Calendar

Speaking of Australia, I got an email from Beverley Radke with the Toowomba Lapidary Club. They have these gemstone calendars ready for 2008. They cost \$10 each. If we can get an order of 4 or more together, the shipping is \$3.00 each. (There might be some savings on the exchange rate, but they are slipping away with the falling value of the dollar, so let's call it even for now.) I have an example of the 2007 calendar and it is pretty nice, even with just half the photos.

Just send your name, address and a check for \$13 to Joseph Barreca, 2109 Hwy 25 South, Kettle Falls, WA 99141 and I will do a group order for us.

2008 Gemstone Calendar

Twelve eye-catching A4 (letter size) photographs of Australian gemstone and lapidary specimens, from every Australian State. Inside the back cover are descriptive points of interest with some history. A map on the back cover shows the location each specimen was found.



Field Trips

by Joe Barreca

So here's the deal. I have been sending out newsletters right before the monthly meetings. They serve as a timely reminder of an upcoming meeting. But we have been scheduling field trips at each meeting before the next meeting, which doesn't leave any time to publish them in the newsletter.

Possible solutions: Print the newsletter right after the meetings; get an email announcement going again, (Rex Barrens is ready); schedule field trips further ahead; set up a field trip web site and keep it up to date, probably at <http://mapmet.com/PGMC/pgmc.htm>. Lets talk.



NFMS Meeting in Butte

(first weekend in August, 2007)

By Bev Bockman

This was the annual meeting of the NFMS which took place in Butte, MT., and there were 63 delegates representing 33 clubs, including Alaska. The financial statement was read, and the organization is in the black. Voting was held on four resolutions. Three passed. 1). No person may serve more than one term in sequence as president. (Till this time, one term was all that was allowed any person.) 2) Change of the registered address for the annual filing with the state of WA.. 3) The host society will determine the date of the annual meeting of the NFMS. The resolution that was not passed would have eliminated the position of second vice-president. Chuck Sonner announced the formation of the "UGLY HAMMER" award. Donations of \$1 per club member. (or as much as clubs can afford). The club donating the most toward the endowment fund will get their name on this award (which is really an ugly hammer!). Business card size advertisements can be put in the directory for \$20.00 per year.

The 2008 Federation show will be in Ontario, Oregon in June, 2008. Watch for dates in the NFMS newsletter or on the website. It will be an old time show with dealers outside and inside, an Indian village, flint knappers, a gold mining exhibit and a dinosaur egg display. There will probably be field trips as this area is rich in great places to hunt rocks. No host yet for 2009

The officers for 2008 are President, Patty Amos (of Mt Hood Club), Paul Heesacker (Tualatin) 1st VP, Evelyn Cataldo of Lakeside Club 2nd VP, Lyle Vogelpohl (West Seattle) Treasurer, Joan Day (of Golden Spike in Utah) is Secretary.

It was a good meeting, and was attended by several members of various clubs as well as the delegates, as is encouraged every year, so that more members of NFMS can get acquainted with the workings of the organization.

Bev Bockman
and Bob Bockman Federation Director and Delegate
for the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club.

Rocking the Internet

By Joseph barreca

With a little prompting from Bev Bockman, I have been surfing the Internet for Rockhound sites and stuff. A good place to start in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies site, www.amfed.org. The AFMS hosts sites for each of the seven regional societies. You can go to www.amfed.org/nfms/ to find information about our local Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. For instance, here is a calendar of shows,

October 2007	Marysville Rock & Gem Club	33TH <u>Rocktoberfest</u> Show	Marysville Jr. High School Cafeteria 7th Street & State Ave., Marysville, WA	Ricky McCall 360-629-2515
13th 10am - 5pm 14th 10am - 5pm				
October 2007	Hells Canyon Gem Club	41st Annual Show Wonders of Rocks & Fossils	New Perry Co., Fair Grounds 1229 Burrell Ave., Lewiston, ID 97033	Jacque Dabritz 208 843-5545 jdabritz@msa.com
20th 10am - 6pm 21st 10am - 5pm				
October 2007	Bellevue Rock Gem & Jewelry Club	Yasa Park Show	Yasa Park 3560 W. Lake Sammamish SE, Bellevue, WA (I-90 Exit 13)	Bruce Himlin, PO Box 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009-1851 Brucehimlins@comcast.com
27th 10am - 5pm 28th 10am - 5pm				
October 2007	Clackamas Mineral and Gem Club	Adventures in Stone 2007	Clackamas County Fairgrounds Pavilion 694 N. E. 4th Ave Canby, OR 97013	Rick Mauer 9878 SW Alsea Dr, Tualatin, Or 97062 (503) 691-6395 E-mail talerricardo@juno.com
27th 9am - 6pm 28th 10am - 5pm				

and here is a list of museums to see:

Snohomish Co. Museum & Historical Asso. 1913 Hewitt Ave. Everett, WA 1pm to 4pm Wednesday thro Saturday Minerals, Mining Memorabilia call 425-259-2022 www.snomuseum.org	East Benton Co., Historical Society Museum 205 Keenwaylin Dr. Kennewick, WA 99336-0602 Noon to 4pm Tuesday - Saturday Petrified wood, Arrowheads, Kennewick Man & Lewis & Clark 509-582-7704 www.emt.com/ebchs/	Maryhill Museum of Art 3 miles west of Hwy 97 on St. Hwy 14 Goldendale, Washington north of Biggs, Oregon mid-March to mid-Nov. 509-773-3733 Native American Collections rare prehistoric rock carvings, intricate baskets, beadwork and unique artifacts www.maryhillmuseum.org
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On a sour note, our club has the distinction of being the only club on the clubs page for Washington that says "**NO CONTACT INFORMATION**" in bold red letters. Interestingly, the full contact information is included on our Rock Show listing. I have an email in to the webmaster about this problem, but so far nothing has changed.

Rockhound Retreat

By Bev Bockman



I was able to attend the third NFMS Rockhound Retreat this year for the second time, and it was even better than last year. Of course, the weather and temperature combined to make it a more enjoyable experience, also. It was only hot on the first day, and after that it was delightful. None of us could take real advantage of that however, because classes started at nine and went till supper time, with a lunch break everyday.

My sister went with me to share a cabin, and she took classes in wirewrapping and beading (using cabs) and turned out some great pieces. I stuck with faceting for the whole week, with instructor Don Kendall, and finished two stones that were worth keeping. My fellow students were varied--one had never touched a faceting machine before, one was determined to do this one particular design and worked on it all week, and one was trying all kinds of new things...solving problems that he had run into on his own.



Carol Cimolino taught intarsia (mosaics), Chris Blockfeldt did silversmithing (and next year also will do lost wax casting and investment),

Lapidary was under the tutelage of Russell Snook and Lamar Tilgner (2 of the best in the Northwest), judging classes were taught by Barbara Jacobsen and Mr. Tilgner and Peggy Blickfeldt. Wirewrapping and beading were taught by Edna Nelson, Audrey Vogelpohl, Merlia Tilgner, and Dorothy Snook.

The mix of people learning and teaching was just great, and all --even the beginners --, turned out some amazing pieces for show and tell on Saturday evening, before the auction to raise money for the NFMS scholarship fund. Janet (my sis) and I went over to the museum of fossils at the Sheep Creek station of the John Day Fossil "preserve" one afternoon. Amazing place.

Also, good lectures by the resident geologist and other staff members from Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). Next year we may have astronomy classes some evenings as the stars are very bright there, and who wants to go to bed early?

Also a class is proposed on stone setting by a local goldsmith from Shaniko--Mr. James Smith. (If you want a book to read there is a nice library)

The food was prepared by a chef and was very good. We all helped with cleanup after meals. For a cost of \$240.00 for a week of lodging and food and \$45.00 for classes (not just one class) this is a first rate get away with education in all the things us rockhounds love--and no phones, TV or radio. One pay phone for emergencies but sometimes it doesn't work. There are hookups for RV's (electric), and showers and toilet facilities

Next year, get your reservations in early, as at the Hancock Field Station only 50 adults are allowed to enroll in this retreat. This year there were 32. I'll just bet 2008 will see a full house! I know Janet and I will be there, and I plan to kidnap my niece..

Good fun, good friends and lots to learn.

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The 2007 revised Geologic Atlas of Stevens County is being printed. New technology makes the maps easier to read. I have added a picture gallery of minerals available in Stevens County and added special symbols for mine sites the club has visited.

(Advertisement by Joseph Barreca)