

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

### November 2007

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#### **Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes October 16, 2007**

*By Joseph Barreca*

The bad news is: Luci Bristow has retired as secretary for the club. Most everything else is good news, or at least neutral, and there is lots of it.

Johnie Pitman started us out talking about what theme to use for next year's rock show. After some debate, we settled on "Rockhounder's Treasure Chest". That should be a good lead-in to an article in this newsletter about a rock sampler, and it might hang in there as a constant theme for several years.

Dianne Lentz told us about how we can each volunteer for community activities through Rural Resouces, 684-8421.

The November meeting will be our annual Rock Auction. The money goes to our scholarship program, so bring a rock to give and some cash for some fine collectables.

**Dues are Due** at the November Meeting.

Steve Fox narrated a story about the field trip to the Bella Mae mine near Metaline. Not many people showed up, but those that did collected cerussite, anglesite, galena and other minerals. Steve also recommends the Tiger Store for antiques and huckleberry jam.

Susan Andrew talked about a return to the Best Chance site (July Newsletter). Dave Paquette found amethyst and gave samples to everyone there. They also found citrine quartz.

Rex Barrans, our field trip coordinator, put out a sheet for suggested field trips. He also brought up the idea of the club investing in a digital microscope that can send a signal to a computer, camera or TV so that a whole group can see specimens at once. It would be handy at gem shows and would cost around \$1300. Steve Fox agreed to help with the shopping and we passed a motion to have them look into it. (see the Field Trip discussion and more on Page 2)

#### **Opal Mt**

*By Joseph Barreca*



Having been bitten by the opal bug in Australia, I had to see what could be found locally. So I talked Jim Batchelor (above) into going to see what we could find near Fruitland on a big rock overlooking Lake Roosevelt that I'm going to call "Opal Mountain". The first thing we saw was a big buck clamoring up the steep scree slope. (Sorry, I didn't have my camera out at the time.) It brings up some history though. Steve White found this site while looking for discarded deer antlers, which are evidently worth a lot of money.

We didn't expect to strike it rich here on opal. The opal here is mixed with agate and quartz. Geologically it is a lot like the Best Chance site. The biggest difference is that at Best Chance, if you slip, you slide 50 feet to the bottom of the hill, here you slip a couple hundred yards. The whole outcrop is slowly breaking down, much of it tumbling down to the beach in the National Recreation Area, where it is illegal to collect it.

The difference between basic opal and precious opal are tiny crystals of color that provide the fire. We didn't find any precious opal, though

*Field Trip Discussion continued from Page 1*

We used to at least get emails about upcoming field trips. Many members don't have functioning email right now. We decided the most secure way to inform people about upcoming field trips is to put announcements in this newsletter. To do that, we will change the timing of the newsletter. It has been coming out just before each meeting. From now on, we will try to get it mailed ASAP after the meeting. We have been deciding when and where to go on trips in the meetings and this has left out anyone not at the meeting.

Additionally we will try to schedule trips further ahead and have sign-up sheets so we can contact people if the trip is called off or delayed.

Then there is the Saturday vs Sunday issue. We decided to have field trips on the First Saturday and the Third Sunday of each month after the snow melts. So there won't be any field trips for awhile even though the newsletter is coming out later. Such is life.

I announced the availability of rock calendars from Australia featuring a special rock for each month. I have five of these on hand and they are all taken right now. I will bring some to the next meeting and show them around. These calendars cost \$15 each. That is my cost and I am just passing it on. They make great gifts.

Because of flooding in the Chewelah bank, we are moving the Christmas Party to The Deli, a pizza place next to Sylvia Allen's shop, Sago Naturals, on Chewelah's Main St. It will be the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. We won't have to decorate much and expect to eat our pot luck at 6 PM.

Nominated Officers for election at the November Meeting are:

Trustee: Bob Bristow or Steve Fox

Treasurer: Sylvia and Bill Allen

Vice President: Steve White or Steve Fox

Secretary: Harold Ingram

President: Johnie Pitman

Joe Barreca is authorized to subscribe to the Scribe, a newsletter for newsletter writers, 6\$.

Diane Lentz won the pride rock contest with "aragonite". Actually there is some debate about what the gorgeous orange crystals were but not that she won. [the end]

*Opal Mt continued from Page 1*

there may be some around. What we found were different colors of opal including white, blue, brown and black. Much of it was mixed with massive quartz and quartz crystals in small vugs. The best find may be a very hard green-white rock akin to jade. More about that in a bit.



Here is a map to the site. The terrain is steep and not really suitable for a club trip. There are outcrops of opal in several places around the mountain. Some are privately owned, but the access is through State land. The most-explored site is on the west side on a steep scree slope coming from an overhang (pretty much a cave) at the top. An opening on the north side of the cave leads to more exploration.



The jade-like rock was on the East side of the hill. It is so hard that we were barely able to bust off a few chards to bring back. Also – look out for burs that can stick all over your clothing. In short, a fun trip with good views and okay rocks.

## Mike Latapie Cancer Sale

We have not seen PGMC Member, Mike Latapie, at meetings for a while. This summer he was diagnosed with cancer. Although the tumor has been removed, he is still undergoing radiation treatments. It is a very curable type of cancer and we expect him to recover, but the medical costs are huge. 17 radiation treatments will cost \$25,000 on top of some \$8000 in costs for surgery and diagnosis. Mike is uninsured and although he is on disability for a prior injury, he does not qualify for assistance because he owns his owner-built home and 5 acres. To help defray expenses and hang on to his home, Mike is putting up many of his possessions for sale. Since many of them are of interest to rock hounds and because we want to help, this is a list of items for sale. If you are interested in them, call Mike at (509) 684-1701.

### Latapie for Sale

**Rock Rascal** \$100

Small rock trimming saw



**4' Side-mount tool box** \$100



**2 Ladders, jacks, 16' plank** \$500

Set of ladders and brackets to hold plank for work on high walls.



**4 Pole Building Jacks** \$300

Winches attach to tops of poles for lifting and adjusting.



**Concrete Mixer etc.** \$250

Set of equipment includes molds and shaker table to pour concrete and



aggregates into molds to make paving stones etc. and shake out air pockets.

**Diamond Brick Saw** \$250

Radial Arm saw cuts brick, rock and ceramic. Can be run dry or with optional water pump.



**Wood Planer** \$50

**Table Saw** \$100

**Antique Oak table** \$100

**Glass Float Balls** \$20ea

**New Grinder & Disks** \$50

**New Buffer & Pads** \$50

**Wood Stove** \$50



**Redi Heater (for drywall etc.)** \$75



**Contractor Air Compressor** \$400

**76' Dodge Motor Home** \$4800


20' Motor Home with new tires alternator and battery. All appliances work and equipment is clean and in good working order. Firm price. (Originally \$5400.)



**4000 Watt Generator** \$400





<b>Large Rock Tumbler Rack</b> Homemade rock tumbler uses tumblers made of pipe with rubber rims.	\$200	
<b>Lots of Rocks</b>		
<b>Motorcycle Lift</b>	\$100	
<b>Metal Form Roller</b> Includes rollers for many shapes and curves.	\$50	
<b>Gold Extracting Wheel</b> Put slurry in this wheel and a set of rotating groves extracts gold and delivers it to a jar behind the center hole.	\$100	
<b>Tumbler</b>	\$50	

**Field Trips**  
*by Rex Barrans*

Our club, like many others has had a continuing problem with field trip scheduling . One of the main complaints has been the lack of enough advance notice time. This is a problem that will require the help of all who wish to make these trips if we are to come to a reasonable compromise. Why do we need to compromise?? Well----with forty plus members we can not possibly please every one 100%, but if you don't make your wishes known , we probably will not please any one. Unless you plan to go south for the winter we have several months when we will not be able to make any field trips, so in that time perhaps we can get organized for next summer. As a member of the field trip committee, I have taken on the task of trying to organize some sort of a schedule for next year that can be published in our

newsletter so that you can schedule your activities. At the Oct. and Nov. Club Meetings I put out a sheet asking you to write in any field trips you wished the club to schedule and to list a time that you would prefer for that trip.

At the Dec. Meeting I will again have out sheets for you to enter your wishes, there will also be lists of possible locations, both near and far, as a guide for you to consider. Do not write your choices on these lists, but use the sign up sheets that are there for that purpose listing as many locations as you wish, but in order of your preference. I will also have these lists and sign up sheets out at Jan 08 meeting, but make your entries as early as possible, so that there will be time to consider all your wishes and to publish a finalized list. We will have a committee to make a schedule, hopefully that committee will include our officers and all of you who want to take part. This probably will be a long process, so will likely require a special committee meeting.

Keep in mind That some of these locations are on private property and will require permission, which may not be possible to get, also some of these will require a person knowing the location to act as leader in order to get there. I will be unable to act as a leader in most of these trips, so those of you who know the way (and can get permission if it's private) will have to take that on. Also keep in mind that any trips will have consider snow and other weather conditions in scheduling.

**Shankers Bend Dam**  
*Associated Press Story*

OROVILLE, Wash. -- The Okanogan County PUD wants to study building a dam west of Oroville to store water and generate electricity. The dam on the Similkameen River could be up to 260 feet tall, creating a lake that extends into Canada.

The state recently awarded \$300,000 for the study and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is deciding whether the utility can move ahead and look into the potential impacts of building a dam.

The utility's director of regulatory and environmental affairs, Dan Boettger, says it plans to involve Canada's federal government, after the study determines if the PUD will make the dam proposal. Such a dam would have a huge impact on gold-panning and other mineral-related recreation in the area. The valley would be inundated through Loomis on the Washington side and would flood B.C. parkland, an Indian reserve and a proposed national park along the banks of the Similkameen River.



## More Minutes – November 20<sup>th</sup>

By Joseph Barreca

*(Sorry about this, but this newsletter contains our official meeting minutes and with the new field-trip-friendly publishing schedule, we have two meeting's minutes in this issue.)*

First and foremost, the Christmas party is in Chewelah, December 18<sup>th</sup> at "The Deli", a pizza parlor next to Sago Naturals on Main Street in Chewelah. Setup at 5 PM, Dinner at 6 PM. Remember that it is a gift exchange. Please mark your packages "male", "female" or "either". Also try to bring something for the entertainment part of the party, a poem, a song, a game...

**Dues are Due** – Be prepared .

New Officers were elected:

Trustee: Scott Jackson, Treasurer: Bill and Sylvia Allen, Secretary: Ginger Pitman, Vice President: Steve White, President: Johnie Pitman.

Rex Barrans talked about the new field trip effort. (See related article on page 4). He also reports that he found the old Columbia Tungsten Mine.

Sylvia has a membership list and will pay our dues to the NW Federation. The club is still in the black financially.

Rex Barrans and Steve Fox are still deciding on a digital microscope for the club, costs estimated to be between \$1200 and \$2000.

Steve Fox's space below his Columbia River Rock and Mineral Shop in Marcus is ready for equipment if any can be donated.

Mike Latapie has cancer and is selling rock equipment to make ends meet. (See article page 3).

We have "his and her" rock hammers for a fund-raising raffle. We will sell \$.50 tickets until we have enough to make \$75 for the club.

This was our annual rock auction meeting. Bill Allen auctioned off rocks that members brought to support our scholarship fund. There were lots of rocks brought and sold. We'll get a more exact count next time. (End of Minutes.)

## Rocks in a Box

By Joe Barreca

*(This might more properly be included in the minutes portion since I talked about it at the meeting.)*

At its core, this is a pretty simple idea, exchange sample rock specimens between rock clubs in a standard format so we can see what little treasures are out there in each other's back yards. Having a standard is important so no one gets burned doing more or less than the next. Setting the standard is where it gets a bit dicey. I am setting my ideas out here for discussion because this idea really will work best as a group, at least in the beginning stages.

I see the package as having 4 main components:

1. A box with divisions to hold the samples.
2. A sample selection of the kinds of things rock hounds (Fossickers) could find within the local area or the whole region (more about that next time.)
3. A key to what is in the collection that includes the name of the mineral, a location where it can be found, GPS coordinates if possible, chemical formula where important, notes about its properties, value and abundance.
4. A guide with more about the area, the geology and history of the sites mentioned, stories, pictures and maps, notes about ownership, advice on getting there and finding your own specimens, and some contact and resource information.

\*My apologies to those who submitted poems for this newsletter. There was no room. Maybe at the Christmas Party?

### Membership Dues:

\$15.00 per household per year is due to the club Treasurer (Sylvia Allen see below) on the third Tuesday of November for regular members.

Webpage: [www.mapmet.com/rocks](http://www.mapmet.com/rocks)


Contact: Johnie Pitman, President, 509 684 8887.

We, **The Panorama Gem and Mineral Club**, are a multi-faceted group of mineral-minded people. Our proud members include some real gems, a few fossils, and even some diamonds in the rough. A few have lost some of their marbles, but they know where to get more! A few need to polish their coordination because they are always tumbling! And some are miners who use the "silver pick" as their tool of choice! It should be crystal clear, that we all enjoy this unique conglomeration and above all else we strive to **HAVE FUN**. And we never throw stones (away).

### Christmas Meeting

**Don't forget to come to the annual Christmas Meeting. It will be held at The Deli on the first block of Main Street in Chewelah, next to Sago Naturals. The Deli closes at 5 PM and we will start to set up soon after that. Be sure to make it by 6 PM when we start eating. Bring a gift for our gift exchange marked "Male", "Female", or "either". Try also to be prepared to help with the entertainment. Also, dues are due. (In true Christmas Spirit of course.)**

**Columbia River  
Rock and Mineral Shop**



**Marcus, WA    Stephen Fox - Owner**  
**(509) 684-2136    SFoxll@wildblue.net**



**Mineral Identification  
Mineral/Mine Locations**

**Bristow Enterprises**  
PO Box 1165  
Chewelah, WA 99109  
Bristow@theofficenet.com  
www.minrls.com

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### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

<b>Officers:</b>			
President:	Johnie Pitman	701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-8887
Vice-President:	Steve White	1337 Boise Rd, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	738-2195
Secretary:	Luci Bristow	PO Box 1165, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-4375
Treasurer:	Sylvia Allen	2633 Highline Rd, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-4388
Trustee 1:	Warren Buell	2782 Sand Canyon, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-8427
Trustee 2:	Joyce Dawson	1269 Peachcrest Rd, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	738-6413
Trustee 3:	Bob Bristow	PO Box 1165, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-4375
<b>Committee Chairs</b>			
Program Coordinator:	Bev Bockman	1750 N Havichur Loop, Post Falls, ID 83854	208-773-5384
Hospitality:	Juanita Novak	2621 Pleasant Valley Rd	738-4578
Field Trips:	Dianne Lentz	556 Douglas Falls Rd., Colville, WA 99114	684-4925
	rmbarrans@turboisp.com	PO Box 348, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-8461
Librarian:	Ruth Ross	750 N Lincoln, # 6, Colville, WA 99114	
Public Relations:	Angela Ward	193 Duboise Rd, Colville, WA 99114	
Historian:	Carol Price	PO Box 77, Laurier, WA 99146	684-2857
Newsletter:	Joseph Barreca	2109 Hwy 25 South, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	738-6155
Show Chair	Diane Lentz	556 Douglas Falls Rd., Colville, WA 99114	684-4925