

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

May 2008

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes May 20, 2008

Johnie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. We were happy to be introduced to visitors who wanted to observe the meeting. They were: Larry Tedrick, Bob Ranniger, Daniel Lundy and Jim Hornaday.

Our guest speaker was Dean Yongue of North Country Surveys. He gave a talk on his experiences in Alaska while working in several mines. Dean gave a CD presentation with many pictures. He also answered questions about using a GPS and Alaska mining. Thanks, Dean for a great presentation.

Tom Howe talked about a first aid kit for the club. Bill Allen made a motion to discontinue our search for a club kit saying that most of us carried our own first aid kits. It was seconded by Steve White and the motion carried. Thank you, Tom, for taking the time to research this idea.

Cookies for next meeting: Bill Allen and Bob Adams.

Two of the scholarships were decided upon. From Kettle Falls – Marie Smith, and from Colville – Neil Michaelson. Luci will pick up the one from the High School in Chewelah.

Joe Barreca announced that he had submitted an article called “Rocks in a Box” to the AMFS newsletter. He also stated that our club banner will be picked up at Don’s Printery soon. The banner is 3’ x 5’.

Field Trips were discussed.

May 24 – Field Trip to Stone Rose – Meet at Barney’s Junction at 9:00 AM.

May 31 – Field to Flagstaff Mountain. Meet at Harvest Food’s in Kettle Falls at 9:00 AM.

June 14 - Tunk Creek - Omak - for Thulite.

June 14 – Sierra Mine on Aladdin Road – Colville – Meet at Safeway 9:00 AM.

Shows/Meetings

May 23 – 26 - Tri-State Federation - Texas Springs – Jackpot, Nevada

June 7 and 8 - Coeur d’Alene Show

There were two field trips one to Evans Quarry that had approximately 12 of us attending. Rocks found were: Dolomite, bladed calcite and barite. A good time was had by all who attended. (*More on page 4*)

Evans Campground Quarry

By Stephen Fox



[Jaroslav Novak collecting crystals]

May 30, 2008 about 12 intrepid rockhounds met in Kettle Falls at Harvest Foods to get organized for a trip to an old quarry across the highway from the Evans Campground entrance. By 9:15 AM it was apparent that no one else was coming and so I gave what I thought was a real great talk about safety, ie: the remote possibility of rattlesnakes, the real chance of ticks, and the very real inherent dangers of an old quarry face. Most comments were sort of on the order: “Let the snakes beware”, and “Stuff the ticks, just get us to the rocks dude.” The general feeling was that if the quarry face fell in, it would just expose more and better specimens. To everyone’s credit, they did listen and were very aware of their own safety, so nobody was hurt. Of course, me being the safety-conscience of the group, I forgot my hard hat.

This quarry is right on Highway 25 North just a few miles north of Marcus. Just go until you see the sign pointing to the Evans Campground and you are right there. Parking is somewhat iffy, but if you don’t mind parking in a wide ditch you can find plenty of space, which we did. A couple of folks did have to park close to the railroad tracks. It is a very short walk into the quarry proper. You will have to go around the old gate that is there to prevent cars from going in, but unless you trip over a rock going around it, you will

have no problems. There are a lot of small trees and shrubs taking over this quarry and so it is going to be getting hrader to get around in it in the future.



[The crystals were often dirty but in big clusters]

We were after bladed calcite (which is the more abundant mineral here), dolomite crystals (which looks somewhat like milky calcite but is more rectangular than calcite), and barite crystals. We found many specimens of calcite, very few calcite, but a lot more barite than I had hoped to find. I was excited about the barite not by the size of the crystals (very small), but that they seemed to be on a form of serpentine. This was mostly green but had blue veins in some of it and the barite created a very nice brown, velvety sheen (almost like a velvet stain) on it.

As I was exploring the barite and one of the faces of the quarry, others were imitating mountain goats and going up where no one else was likely to climb. Coming down seemed to be just a matter of sliding down on one's rump. Thick pants and a large leather wallet probably came in handy to help prevent scrapes in embarrassing places. I don't know if they found anything of interest, but they seemed to be having a good time. As I was getting properly sized minerals that could fit into my buckets some of us noticed that three women with us were on the side of a hill and were digging out what seemed to be 200 to 300 pound boulders of calcite. The ladies were strangely dismayed when a few of the crystals chipped as the boulders were bounding down the hill. The boulders actually were 50 to 70 pounds and are really nice additions to a rock garden.

Everyone seemed to enjoy this great day of rock collecting and was looking forward to the next trip which was to be down by Fruitland looking for epidote and quartz crystals. Me, I cooked and sold hamburgers that Saturday at the concession stand at Kettle Falls High School for the softball tournament. Nuts!

The Big One that got Away

By Joe Barreca

(I'm slipping this article in here because it happened in the parking lot of Harvest Foods just before we all took off to Evans in the preceeding Story.)



[Quartz Crystal – Lines drawn digitally to show facets]

It all started a couple nights before the Evans trip. Out of the blue, a lady, Donna Fortune, called me for help identifying a rock her son found while hunting. It sounded like she had a pretty good grip on the situation already. She had taken refractive readings of the stone, thought it must be quartz and wanted to talk to a gemologist. We do have some contacts with bona-fide gemologists, but the best thing I could think of at the time was to invite her to come to the pre-field trip gathering at Kettle Falls.

When I got there, everyone was looking at this thing. It is not just a 7 pound chunk of quartz. It is the tip of a quartz crystal that was about a foot wide and probably several feet long before it broke up. There were only four faces on the tip and they were incomplete. It was fairly fractured but even the fractures had nice rainbows reflecting from them.

Donna's whole family are rock hounds. They realize that where this came from, there are bound to be more, and even her son won't tell her exactly where he found it. So for now, it's a big mystery.

Remember that article last month about the "Lost River of Gold". This has got to be pretty close to our own lost river of gold. Giant clear quartz crystals, somewhere in Northeast Washington. We know they are out there. We have the proof right here in this picture. But will we every find out where this came from and if there are more?

Northwest Federation Meeting in Kenniwick

By Bev and Bob Bockman

Trust the Lakeside Club to host a good meeting and a great show as usual. At the rock show, which we were able to attend on Saturday afternoon, I feasted my eyes on a new find by West Coast Mining – Opal Butte orbicular jasper. Wish I could have brought back a really huge slab, but I had to content myself with a small one. Also caught a couple of other stones that were not to be passed by. James Finckbone, who accompanied us to the show, got some great buys at the silent auction. There were some absolutely beautiful cases and many displays by their junior members. I wish we had more juniors in our clubs, but it takes someone dedicated to that particular project to make it successful.



[Opal Butte Orbicular Jasper on Ebay]

The meeting was short. The Federation Show and Convention in Ontario, Oregon, June 20-22 at the Ontario Fairgrounds Convention Center will be big. There will be many fossil displays, dinosaurs and dino eggs, an Indian Village, 20 Black light displays, demonstrations of mining-especially gold, many competition displays, field trips go out before and after the show each day-morning ones go out about 7 AM and come back about 11 AM. 75 dealers inside and out., 120 display cases....

The 2009 NFMS/AFMS combined meeting and show will be hosted by the Billings, Montana Club and chaired by Doug True, and will feature Dinosaurs, gold and sapphires. The dates will be July 30,31, August 1 & 2, 2009. This should be a really terrific show!! Make plans now.

Lyle Vogelpohl (NFMS treasurer) reported that NFMS membership has increased during the last year by 350 adults and 40 juniors.

Rocky McCall suggested that people buy tickets for the great prizes given away at the AMFS meeting this year. The Northwest has been bringing home the most prizes, 8 out of 14 last year.

Bryan Schroeder says that the mailing list is now complete. New members should be getting their newsletters the month after they have been registered as new members by their clubs. As editor of the newsletter, he really appreciates new ideas from the readers. As a challenge, try downloading the newsletter from the website: <http://www.amfed.org/nfms/>.

Silent and Oral Auction rock is needed for the Federation show in June. The income from this auction adds several thousand dollars to the Federation Treasury each year. Much of the money goes to scholarship awards, and many thousands of dollars have been awarded to deserving applicants over the years. The material should be clean and of good quality – call 503-558-8500 if you have material to donate.

Juniors need to have their membership dues paid prior to January 1 in order to qualify for junior achievement awards. This can be big, so check on it.

Meanwhile: The Coeur d' Alene show is coming up June 7th. You can still buy tickets for a chance to win this \$300 Amethyst Cathedral for \$1 from Bev Bockman. (208) 773- 5384 or email her bockbb@aol.com.



(Minutes continued from page 1)

The trip to McGrath Quarry and Adams Mountain was attended by approximately 25 and 8 people, respectively. At the McGrath they found actinolite and serpentine. At Adams they found some crystals, malachite and azurite. Deer Trail Monitor yielded some great specimens of molybdenum as well as some copper minerals.

It was reported that Ray Stoddard was ill and Luci will send card.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

By Luci Bristow

(Thanks Luci for filling in for Ginger Pitman, our regular secretary.)

Adams Mt. Field Trip



[Rex Barrans and Leslie King finding Crystals]

There are lots of pretty nice rocks up at the crystal prospect and the Deer Trail Monitor Molybdenum Mine. Getting there however is not so much fun and to get good stuff, you need to work at it. The timber company that owns it has had a lot of trouble with timber thieves and has blocked off every entrance we looked at so log trucks can't get through. The route we take goes through BLM property, but even there we have to use a cross-county four-wheel drive trail to connect between real roads. The "real roads" barely qualify and had water running over them in several places.

Rock Field Trips for June:

June , 7 and 8-- Coeur d' Alene show CDA Fairgrounds.

June-Sat 14--Sierra Mine (Goldfield sign on Aladdin Rd) , Galena , Zinc , Pyrite , Sphalerite , any car , tools- hammer and chisel. Meet at Safeway parking in Colville at 9 AM.

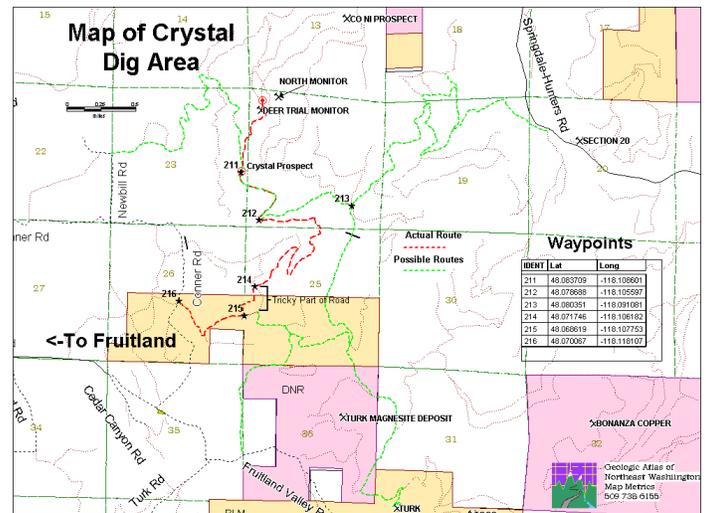
Also June-Sat 14, Tunk Creek - Omak - for Thulite. (This is a CDA club trip. Contact Bev Bockman, (208) 773-5384 for info. There is a fee.

June ,20 through23--NW Federation meet and show at Ontario , Oregon .

June-Sat 28--Metaline , Fossils, any car , tools- hammer , chisel, small bar. Meet at Jeff's Rock shop in Metaline at 10 AM.

July, 3 through 6 Pow Wow Club meeting and field trips at Madras , Oregon .

July-Sunday 13 , Solo Creek , Quartz Crystals ,any car , tools - shovel, pick , bar , lots of digging in mixed kinds of soils . Meet at Chewelah Safeway parking at 8:30 AM , or at Priest River by the Highway 57 turn off at 10 AM.

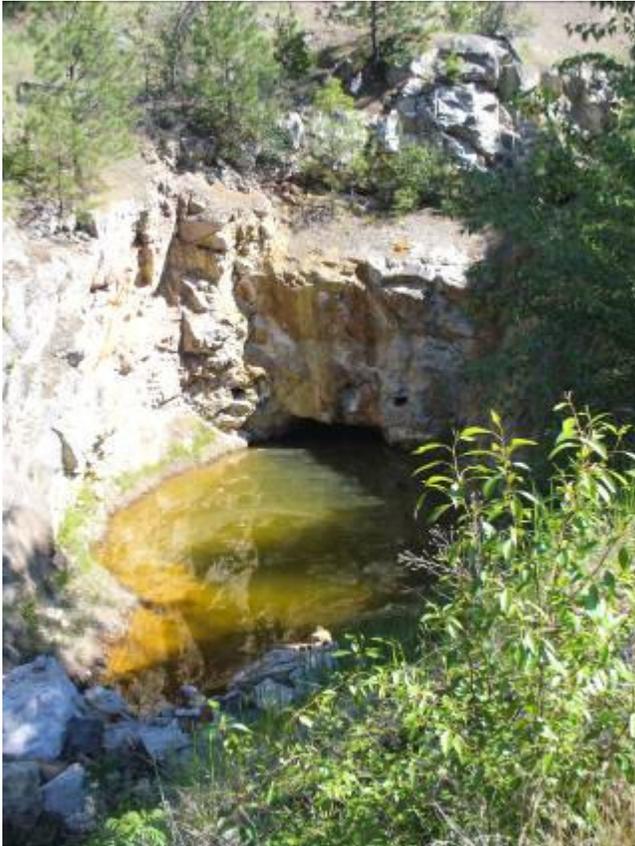


I realize that this is a pretty small map. It should be 8.5x11 inches to be very readable, but there is not that much room in this newsletter. I'll post it on the website (www.mapmet.com/rocks) If you have a GPS unit, the point readings will be helpful. There is one alternative route that we couldn't try because of snow.

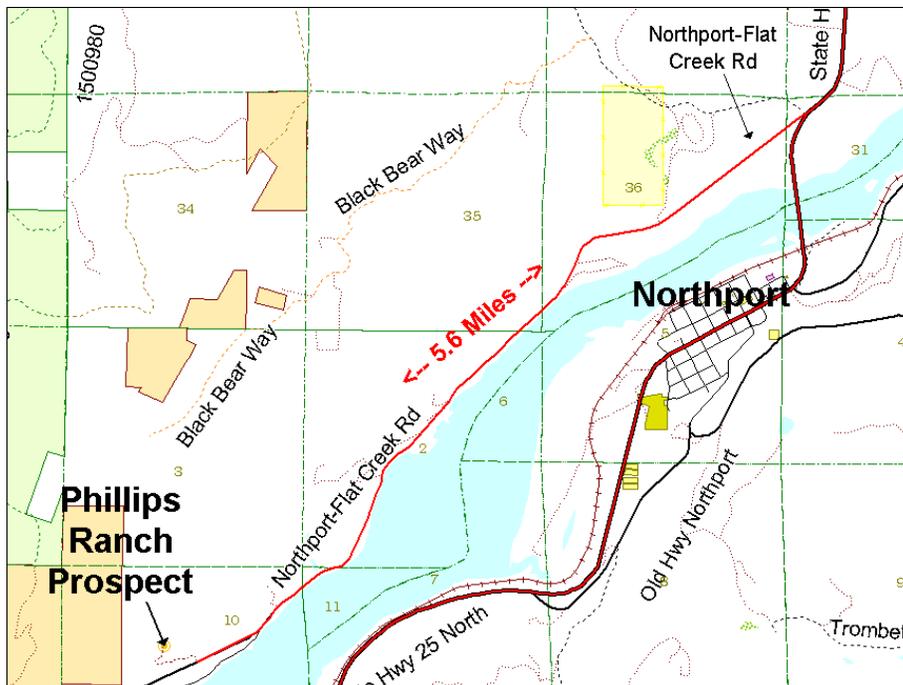
Above the road at the crystal prospect there are pits you can dig out for epidote and smokey quartz. The molybdenum near by is often fluorescent under UV.

Phillips Ranch Prospect

By Joe Barreca



In late May, I was up by Northport exploring some old mines and decided to check out the Phillips Ranch Prospect. The water going into this old adit is just as funky as it appears to be. The good news is



that it is easy to drive to and there is a lot of pretty nice pyrite lying around. Some of it is even “peacock” pyrite with several colors. The view of the Columbia River was great and there were plenty of places around it that looked to be worth exploring. It was a lead and zinc mine at one time and there is some interesting geology including what smells and looks like a seep of sulfur.

There were no signs or gates along the old road leading up to it. You will have to put up with some bottles and cans. It looks like the local teenagers come here on occasion. We should contact the owner and do a field trip up there.

The Banner is Here

Joe Barreca

In case you were wondering what the new Rock Club Banner looks like, here is a picture of it. We’ll need to get a stand together for parking lots on rock trips. It would probably hang easily from a canopy at a show. (I apologize in advance for the white legs.)



The Rocks-in-a-Box Challenge

by Joe Barreca

In case you missed it in the June issue of the Northwest Federation of Mineral Societies newsletter, the article in our last month’s PGMC newsletter challenging other clubs to come up with a rock collection, similar to ours, to trade was published prominently on the third page. We haven’t had any bites yet, but it only arrived last week. So here’s hoping that we get some trades going.

Meanwhile, maybe while folks are out collecting this summer, they can pick up a few spare specimens to contribute to these boxes. If this idea catches on, we’ll need a lot more samples.