

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 2009**

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club **Minutes for August 18, 2009**

By Johnie Pitman

From comments of the people who attended it seems like we should make the picnic in Aug an annual event. The weather was perfect and the food excellent. Bill Allen did a ton of work getting the grill and tables set up plus cooking our burgers and hot dogs. Luci provided all the extras and so our table was full.

Business conducted was minimal, Sylvia gave the treasurer's report; our 3 scholarships have been paid to the students.

Bev gave a short talk on meetings at Billings, asking that we contact our state and national representatives and congressmen about The Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009; Clean Water Restoration Act; Antiquities Act of 1906 (an up date of this act) all legislation which would drastically impact our access to public lands.

Steve and Harold gave reports on the last field trips with many good pictures. There were some nice show and tell rocks.

Harold counted 46 people at the picnic.



Flagstaff Mountain

By Steve Fox



[The view of the Columbia from Flagstaff]

We were ten hardy souls out to explore and put our stamp on a mighty mountain full of mystery and minerals. We knew there would be barite, but what else remained to be found we had yet to discover. And so we met in the parking lot of Harvest Foods in Kettle Falls. Scott Jackson had drawn the lead for this expedition. We listened as he told us what we might expect. In seven vehicles we were off to Northport and then up to Flagstaff Mountain.

We turned off onto Sheep Creek road and traveled about 4 miles until we came to a branching road off to the left. I did not see a road marker but it is well-used as there is a lot of logging going on in the area. I did not note the mileage (about 7 miles, ed.), but we climbed about 2000 feet above the Columbia River, and with spectacular views that just kept getting better. At the end of this road we were at the quarry. Scott led us into what was about the fifth level of the quarry where there was plenty of parking. I counted 6 levels where rock had been taken out.

Just as Harold and I were getting out of my pickup, Nancy Ross (a friend of Joe's) calmly walked over near my truck and picked up a rock with malachite in it. Naturally I couldn't see any on the ground near me. Her husband, Jim, also picked up some malachite a minute later. I soon discovered that these good folk were copper magnets. It seemed that if there were any copper minerals in the area it just naturally moved toward these two. So after talking a bit, and admiring their finds, it was time to go exploring with my bucket and sledge hammer. (I did come back later and found a small piece of malachite near my truck.)



[Rockhounds hard at work]

The first thing I noticed was the large amount of metamorphics in this quarry. Most seemed to be marble (a metamorphic limestone) or argillite (a metamorphic clay). As I began to work my way to the upper levels, I broke open a couple of rocks, and one had a nice cavity filled with crystals (I will bring this to the next meeting). The level above the parking area was full of really nice stone that had tan to cream colored layers. There was also quite a bit of iron pyrite that is very unusual. It's unusual because it is massive with iron staining all around the pyrite. I hesitate to say crystals because there weren't any. This is a mineral you just have to see, especially the layered bands of this pyrite with the rust all along the layer.

The next level up seems to be the most recently worked area. Again, a lot of interesting rock formations but very much

like the layers above and below. The next level up became a dump for the top level. Here is where Joe, Nancy and Jim were finding some really nice barite crystals. I found a couple of small ones, but nothing as nice as Joe's. About this time we got what was considered a very nice light rain. So I decided to go back to the lowest level and see what was there.



[Joe's barite crystal cluster]

Here was some nice rock with green layers and swirls in it (this type of rock is in keeping with metamorphic clay). When wet, the green has the color of malachite, but dry it is a paler green which is more like a manganese green. Until proven otherwise, I will hold out for the malachite, because of the copper we found in this area. It's still very pretty.



After helping Pat and Becky load a few massive rocks (I still maintain gravity is getting stronger), Harold and I decided to call it a day. Taking one last look at one of the prettiest views of the Columbia River, we said goodbye to Scott, who was bound and determined to be the last one out, and headed to Sandy's for an ice cream.

The Soon-to-be Annual Barbeque

By Joseph Barreca

There is no doubt about it. This was a good idea for a meeting on a hot August day. Many thanks to Jerry and Vanita Novak for donating the hamburger and especially to Bill Allen for taking his huge homemade grill down to the Chewelah Park and cooking what looked like a hundred hamburgers for the club.



[Bill and Sylvia Allen at the Grill, *pix by Pitman*]



[Johnie Pitman in action]

A couple more good things about this affair were that there was plenty of room for little rock hounds to run around in the park. We don't see much of that at the Tuesday night meetings. Also the meeting part was mercifully short. Everyone chipped in and brought something wonderful to eat. (We lose enough weight on the field trips, you have to gain it back somewhere.) And as a kind of bonus for that part, we didn't organize it as to who would bring salads, desserts, rolls etc. The club already had all the silverware and plates we needed. We all had plenty to eat and a chance to talk to each other that doesn't seem to last very long at a regular meeting. More eating and less meeting! That seems like a good motto to me, at least once a year.

Upcoming Field Trips

*Sept. Sunday 9--13 Red Marble - Red Crystalline Magnesite , Meet at safeway parking in Chewelah at 10 AM . (<>) Be ready to sign a release of liability in case of any injury or accident. Anyone under 18 will have to have a responsible adult to sign for them.

*Sat. 9--26 -South Fork Sherman Creek - Diopside Crystals , meet at Harvest Foods parking at 10 AM. (<>)

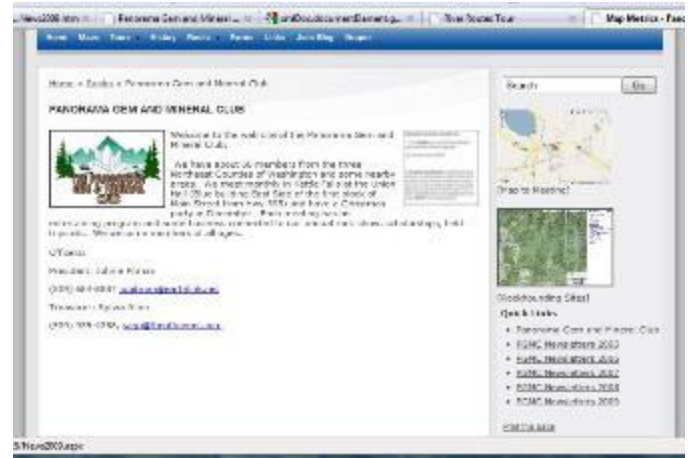
The (<>) means that you should have both loose dirt and hard rock digging tools with you. These are drive-up sites so put what you need for clothes, food and drink in the car.



Rocksite to Website

By Joseph Barreca

As most of you know, my day job is mapping. I also manage the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club website, which is really just a part of my website, www.mapmet.com. You may not know that some creative hacker destroyed the server that hosted my site/your site and many others in early July and two years worth of work went into a black hole in cyberspace. I have spent a great deal of time since then rebuilding it and in the last few weeks have been adding some new features that will make for some good reading and exploring this winter. So here is a little tutorial on getting around our website and specifically on using the new mapping features.



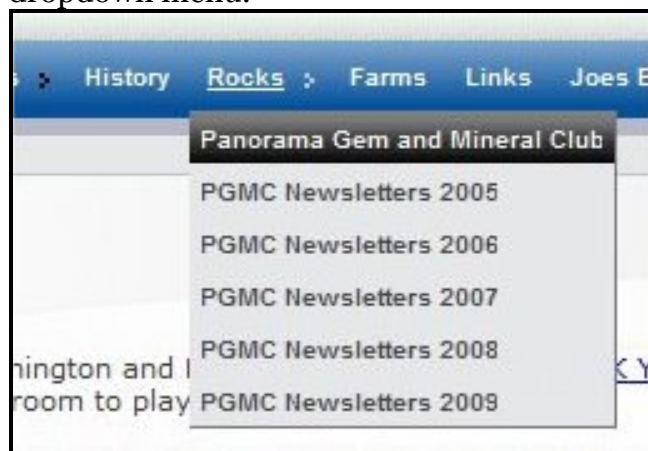
There are several directions you can go from this page. If you click on the rather fuzzy white box in the middle, you get information about our dues and motto. There are also email links to our president and treasurer. In the top right hand corner is a small map that opens to a much larger map to our club meeting hall in Kettle Falls. You can use buttons on the top and side of that map to zoom in or out, or see the satellite image or the satellite with road lines.

In the bottom right corner of the page are links to all of our newsletters for the past 5 years. A typical page looks like this.

Nov2008 PDF	Jan-09	Mix & Diane Rose in Arizona	Club Web Page Very Busy	Map to Mine Now Online	Woodie Cold Wash Yukon Territory 2007
Nov2008 PDF	Feb-09		Field Trip Schedule		
Nov2008 PDF	Mar-09	Burns Creek and Beyond	Solo Creek Quartz	Biggs Picnic Jasper	
Nov2008 PDF	Apr-09	Rack show a Success	Rock Field Trips		
Nov2008 PDF	May-09	The Jim McCall Quartz	Hot Springs, Sandstone and Cold Springs		
Nov2008 PDF	Jun-09	Evans Gallery (Caliche)	Hard Work at Adirack Mt		
Nov2008 PDF	Jul-09	Field Trip to Solo Creek	Joyce Dawson	New Club Rock Shop	A Time Saw of My Day
Nov2008 PDF	Aug-09	Scaphis Site	Bingus Stone	World of Jasper	
Nov2008 PDF	Sep-09	Hightop Mountain	Carb Serpents	Rock Vess in Victoria	



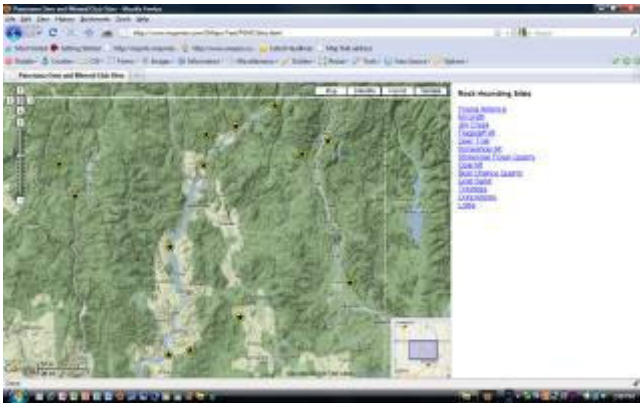
This is what the first page of the website looks like. Let's close in on the dropdown menu.



From the main menu, you can go to the Club Page or any of the newsletters. Let's take a look at the club page first.

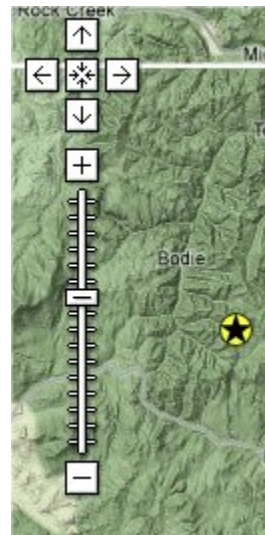
On the left are the names of the files for each newsletter. You can click on them to download a copy in Adobe PDF format. On the right is an index of the articles in each newsletter. For brevity's sake, the last page is left off of most issues and the images have been reduced for easy opening on the Internet. If you have a vague idea that there was an article that you wanted to look back at, you can look it up in these indexes. I do it all the time. If you don't get any response clicking on the newsletter link, you may need to download a free copy of Adobe Reader, but that is rare.

The new feature, and one that I hope to expand on every month, is an interactive map to the rockhounding sites we have visited. Right now it is pretty elemental and does not have all of the sites. But it already has some very big advantages over the static maps that I have been including in these newsletters. Instead of putting maps in the articles, now I can put articles in the map. Not only that, but you can figure the best route from wherever you are to the site, get a close look at the terrain and even find the elevation, besides linking directly to the newsletter article and getting a latitude and longitude in case you want to put them in your GPS. I don't recommend having your GPS or this map figure out the best route and make a list of driving directions. They are usually either completely wrong or just plain bad.



When it opens, the map page looks like this. Names of the rock sites are listed on the right. The map shows them on the left. The default view is a terrain model that clearly shows the mountains and valleys. If you click on the name of a rock site at the right, you get an information window.

The information windows (when they are completely ready), will have an image of the kind of minerals you can find at the site and if you click on the picture, you will open the issue about that site from our newsletters. You can also poke around on the map by clicking on the points to see what they are. There are some other controls on the map and we should talk about them so that if you are not familiar with these Google Maps, you can find your way around.



These controls let you pan by clicking on the arrows. Click on the star in the middle and it will bring you back to the last view. That might be handy if you click on the site names on the right and go some place that you didn't intend to go. The part of this you will need most often is the slider for zooming in and out. You can click on the + or - to do that too.



Use these buttons to switch to satellite and hybrid views. In this terrain view, you can zoom in to see elevations. You can also see some road lines in the terrain view, but they are often incomplete. For instance on Flagstaff Mt. they don't show the road reaching the mine, but in the satellite view, it shows up clearly.