

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 February 2010

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for January 10, 2010

Show Meeting Minutes

Bill Allen opened the Show Meeting. The following items were discussed:

- Advertising - Diane Lentz and Sylvia Allen
- Building – Everything is in place – Bill Allen
- Floor Plan – Bill Allen
- Wheel of Fortune - Rex Barrans, Scott Jackson, Ray Stoddard
- Ring Toss – Rex Barrans, Scott Jackson and Ray Stoddard
- Grab Bags – Rex and Mabel Barrans
- Dealers – Bill Allen
- Silent Auction - Ray Stoddard, Steve Fox, Greg Van. Ray has timer and forms.
- Door Prizes – Sylvia - We have several left from last year. Sylvia will look into others.
- Grand Prize – Sylvia
- Display Cases – Rex 1, Joe 1, Chuck 1, Bev 1, Leslie 1, Johnie 1, Roger Clark 1, Steve Fox 2, Bob and Luci – 1
- Sign Up People to fill cases – Bill Allen, Johnie Pitman, Bob Bristow
- Special Case – Petrified Wood Theme
- Demonstrators – Bob, Rex, Joe, Chuck
- Hospitality – Mabel, Luci, and Pat
- Name Tags – Ginger and Luci
- Snacks – Vanita
- Tickets – Johnie and Luci (Mabel and Luci at Door with tickets)
- Set-up\Take-down: Hopefully get High School students to help – Otherwise it's US.
- Black Light – Rita Cordrey
- Flyers – Joe
- Signs – Scott Jackson
- Security – TO BE ADDRESSED

Continued on Page 2

A Visit with Fred Rossman, Part II

Pictures and Story by Joseph Barreca



[Scrimshaw Eagle by Fred Rossman]

As you may remember from last month, I introduced Fred Rossman, local jeweler and dwelt in the article on two themes, provenance and beads. We pick up again here with a little more about provenance and a lot about scrimshaw.

Unlike most stonework, scrimshaw does not just bring out the inner beauty of the stone, it also adds an artistic dimension beyond what is typically found in lapidary. Beyond that, it is unique in that it uses ivory not stone. All scrimshaw was once part of a living animal. The combined life of the animal, place and time where it lived, story of how it got to the artist, the engineering and artistry of the craftsman and the personality and care of the customer all combine to make the story, the provenance of a piece of scrimshaw. That might be a big load to take on for a tiny piece of work, but it is part and parcel of the nature of ivory.

Most people think of ivory as coming from Elephants, which has long been the case. As with

Set-Up –Thursday, March 25, 2010 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Snacks provided by Vanita. Grange Ladies will provide lunch for club.

March 26 – Doors will open at 7:00 AM for late vendors and/or cases. Open to public at 8:30 AM – Closes at 6:00 PM.

March 27 – Opens at 9:00 AM and Closes at 5:00 PM.

We will need people at the Spokane Show , March 14, to help load borrowed cases and tables. We will also need many hands for take down on the 27th at 5:00 PM. Please plan on giving us a hand.

A theme for the show will be discussed and voted on at the regular meeting.

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Regular Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2010

Vice President Bob Bristow opened the meeting in the absence of President Johnie. A re-iteration of the Show Meeting was given by Bill Allen. (See Show Minutes.)

The theme was voted on. Some of the ideas were:

- The Magic of Stones
- Stories in Stone
- Rocks and Things
- Natural Wonders
- Road to Many a Treasure
- Natural Wonders of Minerals
- Minerals Really Rock

A vote was taken and **Stories in Stone** is our theme for the Show. Thanks Leslie.

Steve Fox talked about finding Jasper at Fort Sumter and Portales.

Our Shop, at Scott Jackson's home, was discussed. Steve Fox and Luci mentioned that they would like to see some classes for making cabs, wire-wrapping, knapping. We have many talented people who could perhaps lead those classes.

The club needs to come up with new sites for our rock trips. Rex said that he would probably not be leading any more trips and asked for help in putting together field trips and leaders for them.

Scott Jackson, Brian Martell, Bob Bristow, as well as Rex and Johnie, are to find sites for our club to go.

We ended the meeting with a demonstration on panning for sapphires. Bob Bristow presented the panning techniques and we were supposed to solve a mystery, but the mystery is still out there!

(Fred Rossman continued from Page 1.)

so many other animals, elephants are endangered and ivory has a lot to do with that. Luckily, ivory can come from many different places that are, as it turns out, even stranger than elephant tusks.

Last month I mentioned Orca teeth. Fred has a string of these. Someone salvaged them from an Orca found dead presumably on the beach and drilled holes in them to make a necklace. The holes ruined the teeth for some purposes and the necklace must have weighted 10 pounds! At any rate, Fred took one of the teeth, cleaned it up and made a setting for it where it could stand straight up. He carved an image of a dolphin into the tooth. So a tooth that doubtlessly feasted on many a dolphin, will be holding the image of one for many years to come.



[Walrus Tusk]

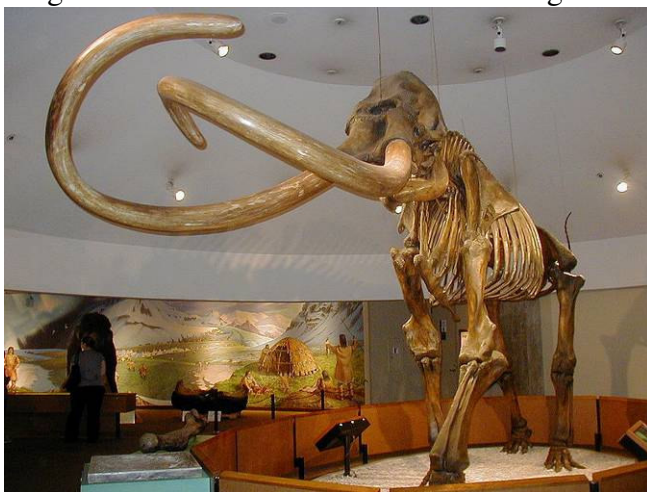
If you thought the Orca teeth odd, check out this Walrus tusk. I did, and besides being really white and hard, it is really heavy. Although they may be used to rake a sandy ocean bottom for the Walrus's favorite food, clams, the tusks, which can be 3 feet long, are primarily used for chipping out holes in the ice and fighting among males. Walrus actually suck the contents from clam shells. I'm not sure where Fred got this, but weighing in at over a ton and hanging out in colonies of several thousand, I'm sure someone

went through a lot of dangerous work to come up with it. I'm already impressed and Fred hasn't carved anything on this one yet.



[Mammoth Tusk]

Beyond even the Walrus tusk, this next piece of ivory goes beyond endangered. It comes from the tooth of a Woolly Mammoth, which has been extinct for thousands of years. I have heard that many became trapped in ice as they died and occasionally they are found melting out of the ice in Russia, where people even eat them. They are part of a whole host of species called Pleistocene Megafauna that died off after the last ice age.



[Mammoth in the George C. Page Museum. L.A.]

If you look closely at the Mammoth tusk in the top picture, you will see faint lines through it. There is a natural grain to Mammoth tusks caused by the way they grow enamel layer on layer. Something similar happens in the teeth of today's Elephants. It makes for an extremely hard white surface which is also very rare and who knows the stories that could be told about it?

Along with these exotic sources of ivory, there are some more prosaic ones that none-the-less have their own stories. How about the tusk from a wild bore for starters? The antlers of Elk

and parts of the skull that hold them can be used. Fresh deer antlers can be used if sealed. Fossilized Walrus tusks can be yellow or blue. Even dinosaur bones can be used for scrimshaw. Cow horn and soapstone have also been used.



[Scrimshaw bird design by Fred Rossman]

So let's say you have some of this precious ivory and want to enhance it even further, how do you do scrimshaw? It starts like a lot of lapidary by cutting, grinding and polishing the ivory into the shape of the piece you want with a smooth finished surface. Then you are ready to begin with the drawing.

To start with, you cover the whole surface with black ink. After the ink dries, you draw the image you want to carve on the ink with a pencil. Don't worry, the shiny graphite in the pencil will show up on the black ink. Then you can take a stylus with a very sharp and evenly rounded point and trace those lines into the ivory, leaving a white line in the black ink. Fred advises that you can get a couple of good stylus points with an X-Acto knife kit at Radio Shack. You may need to sharpen the point from time to time. With the X-Acto handle, you can also insert a heavy needle to use as a stylus.

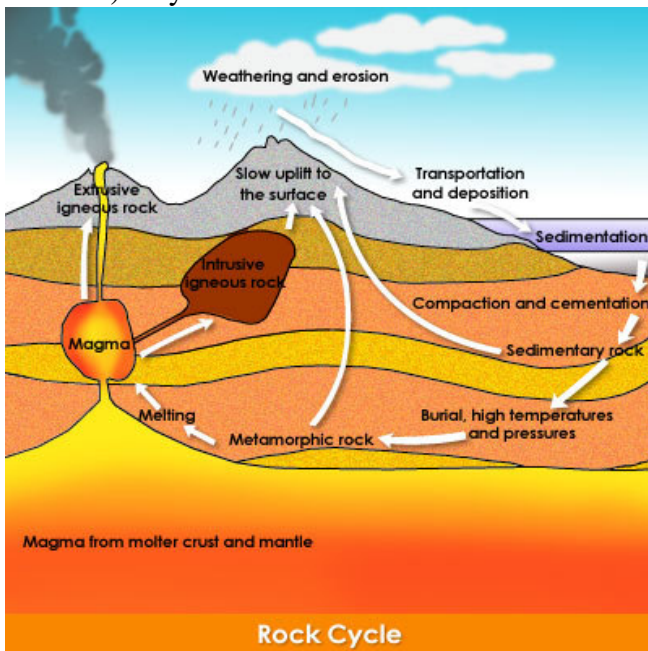
After you have traced the picture you need to get a piece of smooth cotton cloth like a bed sheet, but not flannel. Wrap it on your finger and wet it down. Then wipe off the ink. Re-ink the surface and wipe it off again. That will leave the image etched in black in the grooves you have scratched in the surface. Seal it with clear fingernail polish.

You can also seal scrimshaw with optically clear epoxy. It also works on opals. Less dense materials can dry and crack. It is a good idea to practice your scrimshaw technique on lower quality material when you start out.

Rocks

(a series by Stephen Fox)

Rocks! We are rockhounds/mineral collectors/mudchuckers/gophercousins. We hit them, break them, toss and chuck them, and occasionally we haul them home. Some have even been known to lick them and then look at them intently with small hand lenses as though they will give up their ancient secrets willingly. On rare occasions we even know what in the heck we are looking at. So really, what am I talking about? The beautiful quartz we get on Horseshoe Mt., or Fruitland? How about the copper, galena, lead or gold? Generally we know the crystals and the metal ores we pick up because of their unique characteristics. But what about the rocks (host material) they are found in? That's a rock.



Many is the time we have gone out and somebody will say, "What is this?" Then here come the walking encyclopedias of arcane geologic knowledge. "Well I think it is gannydiorite!" "No it's a alky feldspar granite." "It could be a schist." The person who uttered the former question usually walks away muttering something about the pretty rocks on the ground. The truth is, it is hard to tell the difference between a diorite, granite, granite diorite, feldspar granite, or a pegmatite schist in the field, much less the many variations one will find of other types of rock. Professional geologists have labs and chemists to help them out. We have good

people who try to keep up on this stuff and file it away between their ears.

When you start discussing rocks it always helps to start with the easy stuff: The Rock Cycle. The rock cycle consists of the three main types of rock: igneous (fire rock), sedimentary (weathered and glued back together), and metamorphic (squeezed, heated, and chemically abused).



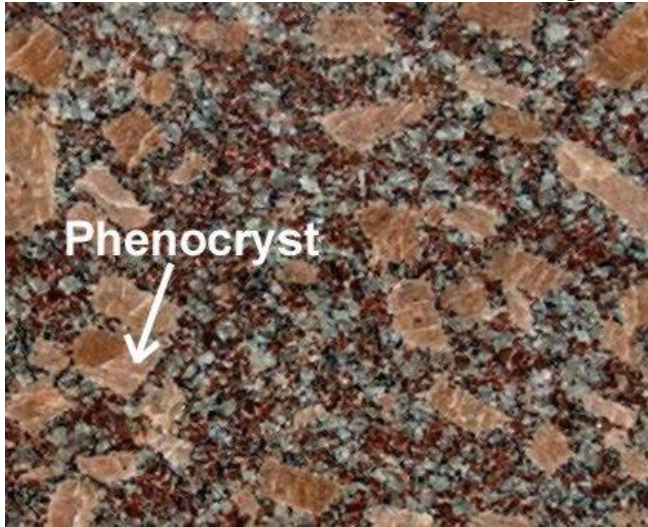
[Igneous rocks]

Igneous is the real easy stuff, right?

Igneous is the stuff that comes up out of the ground and burns up everything as it covers up what is already there. It's hot, smelly, and basically liquid fire. It cools fast and so there are no crystals, and sometimes it even forms glass if it cools fast enough and has enough silica in it. Mostly it is black rock, unless it has a lot of iron in it and then it will turn a brownish red, or a lot of olivine and then it will be a greenish black. Add an element and watch the color change a little. There are even blocks of lava that float, such as pumice (which is also somewhat white). Some lava has been blown into the air but retains its heat enough to glue itself back to other ash-like particles. We call this welded tuft (kind of a gray color). It is somewhat similar to pumice, except that it doesn't float, usually. It is a lot more powdery than pumice, except when it isn't.

Igneous rock is a very hard, impervious rock (water will not go through it). Although Rhyolites happen to be somewhat porous. And water will eat away at cracks and form lava caves, not to be confused with lava tubes which are formed by flowing lava. I did mention that cooled lava does not form crystals, but sometimes olivine (Peridot) will come to the surface with a lava flow (Mauna Kea, Eastern Washington, Arizona, are a few such places). These are usually green, yellow, brown, reddish brown, and clear, depending on the elements that give the Peridot its

color. Also Phenocrysts of Feldspars, which are glasslike structures (yellowish usually) can be found in lava formations in Eastern Washington.



[Phenocryst in Porphyrite (an igneous rock)]

Lava can make an excellent building stone, if you like the Paleolithic look. Lava fireplaces will not fall apart in your lifetime. They are easy to maintain, and will never be removed. Several houses can burn down around them and the lava stone fireplace will still be there, unchanged, immovable and ready for a fire.

Now that I have made igneous rocks perfectly clear, next time I will tackle igneous that cools really slowly, along with metamorphic, and sandstone. Metamorphic gets weird (I think it's all those chemicals).

A Special Request

Jere Dickinson (680-6342) works with leaded glass. She would like to have some serpentine slabs, ¼ inch thick to use in some of her work. This is the green rock that comes out of the McGraff Quarry. There are other sources that may have fewer cracks. If you have some, give her a call.

From Pres. Johnie (and Ginger)

In case you were wondering, the cool, windy, sometimes rainy, sometimes sunny southwest is doing fine and should have a beautiful spring as a result of the January storms. Except for the saguaro cactus that the wind blew over, the rest of the desert cacti and wild flowers should bloom profusely.

Thanks to Bob and Luci Bristow for filling in for Ginger and I while we were chasing the sun.

It's time to get our scholarship applications out to the schools so they have time to distribute them to the seniors.

We also need more ideas on how to raise more money for the scholarships so that we don't have to pay them from the general fund.

The club web site is outstanding, thanks Joe. I don't know much about using it but am learning, you should check it out.

The show planning is progressing well, remember to mark your calendar for March 25 to help set up for the show, we'll need all the help you can provide. There are always things to do at the show and then there is teardown at 5:00 on the 27th. Thanks Bill for all your work in getting ready.

(From Ginger)

The Pitman's took their trip to AZ in Jan. this year but seems like the weather here was just about as good as there. We did get to do some rock hounding with Mike and Diane Rose out of Sierra Vista. We went to a beautiful canyon for some fossils, to a ghost town named Gleason near the only public dig for turquoise. This mine once owned by Tiffany's had lots of soft, light green turquoise, not good material but we did find it. One day was spent at Bisbee looking at the big open pits and going through the museum. We thank the Roses for a great time.

But that was the end of our rock hounding as you might have heard about the great amounts of rain AZ got. We did get caught in the mud one day and that is a story too but with all the low spots standing with water and the amount of washing out of gravel roads that accrued because of the rains we were not able to get "off road". We did visit club member Brian Martell as he had a booth at Desert Gardens in Quartzsite. He too has stories to tell of the wind and rain there. We enjoyed our time with him and the town is always an adventure to see.

We spent some time around Lake Havasu City as the weather got warmer and sunny, but then it was time to come back. The temperatures are good here but the sun isn't shining!

(Rumor has it that now they are in Canada watching the Olympics.)