

Place: **Arden**
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



Time: 7:00 PM
Third Tuesday
Each Month
(Jan.-Dec.)

The Panorama Prospector

November 2010

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

Minutes for September, 2010

By *Ginger Pitman*

There were 38 members and 7 visitors at this meeting, a great turnout. Next meeting refreshments will be brought by Sherry, Peggy and Steve.

Bob reported that his saw oil still had not arrived but Chuck Prentice has some he will give to club members.

A copy of our by-laws was sent to Pasco, WA where a club is revising theirs and was comparing.

Sylvia gave the treasure's report. Things are looking up. We have ordered new hats. We acknowledged Gloria for the article published in the Kettle Fall Focus reporting her skills and accomplishments.

Our show dates are: set up March 31; show Fri – Sat April 1-2. The fee for the hall will be the same so we don't have to increase the dealer fees. The letters will go out the end of this month. There are some big holes to be filled as Rex and Mable will be unable to be in charge of our wheel of fortune, front door and door prices. We are asking for new people and some have already stepped forward. Thank you and Bill Allen will be in touch. Bill announced that the Rockroller's show will be April 8-9 which is the first time it will be after ours.

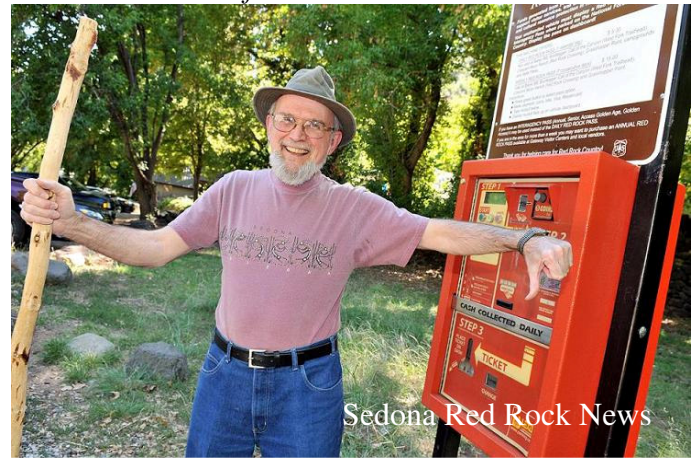
Steve Fox gave the club shop report. The scheduled times are the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 12-6 pm. But if you call any one of the shop committee another time might be arranged. The club equipment is in pretty good shape.

Steve reported on our booth at the fair. It was great to get our name and purpose out there. He also has found a couple of new field trips: to a quarry and a place to find garnets.

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Hiker Beats Forest Service in Court

By *Joseph Barreca, Kitty Benzar and Christopher Fox Graham of the Sedona Red Rock News*



Jim Smith says "Thumbs Down" to Fees

An article written by Kitty Benzar of the Western Slopes No Fee Coalition (whose website is here: <http://www.westernslopenofee.org/>) caught the eye of alert member Ann Berger in this last months Northwest Newsletter. With a little sleuthing on the Internet, I found this pictures and a little more about the story.

Here are the basics. On Nov. 2, Sedona hiker James T. Smith parked his vehicle near the Vultee Arch Trailhead off Dry Creek Road northwest of Sedona without buying a \$5 Red Rock Pass from the Forest Service. He hiked into the wilderness and camped overnight. Finding a citation on his vehicle the next day, Smith chose to fight the \$55 fine. Similar fines had been challenged before in civil court, but Smith's refusal to pay made the citation criminal and the U.S. Forest Service fined him \$100.

"After I got the citation, I went online and read the exact legislation again. I was surprised that the language didn't square with the legislation," Smith said. He chose to fight the fine because without several amenities, he said he felt a judge would not rule that he was in violation of the law.

Bev brought a beautiful book on agates and we can get it at a discount if she can get 6 or more orders. She also brought Joe's 3rd place award from the NFMS Federation for the club's web site. I hope you look at our web site at PanoramaGem.com it is great.

We received a notice from an individual selling his collection of Wyoming Blue Forest petrified wood, for more info:

Landman8@allwest.net

Peggy gave us her report on the Popcorn rock she took and started, it had a very impressive white crystal, but she said it changes. One of our younger visitors took it home to experiment with until next meeting.

Next meeting is our rock auction we will be selling the Johnson donation and if you have something special you have been wanting to give please bring it; we want a great auction. Rex's 16" rock saw will also be up for sale.

Nominations for next year's officers were held:

- President: Johnie Pitman and Bob Bristow
- Vice president: Scott Jackson and Johnie Pitman
- Secretary: Gloria Squires
- Treasurer: Bill and Sylvia Allen
- Field trip coordinator: Steve Fox, Scott Jackson and Harold Ingram
- Hospitality: Diane Lentz
- Trustees: Joe Barreca and Suzan Andrews

Nominations can still be made before elections so come prepared to vote.

See you at our scholarship auction!

Hiker continued from Page 1

U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark E. Aspey issued a 33-page ruling Sept. 14 which drastically limits where a Red Rock Pass is needed. These passes were established by the Forest Service to recoup costs associated with signs, toilet facilities, trash receptacles etc. The trouble is that none of those things existed in the the area where Smith was hiking. "The trash receptacle closest to the Vultee Arch Trailhead parking area is approximately 10 miles away and the closest toilet

facility is approximately seven miles away," Aspey wrote.

Aspey ruled the pass is not needed at undeveloped locations — those lacking six key elements: designated developed parking; a permanent toilet facility; a permanent trash receptacle; an interpretive sign, exhibit or kiosk; picnic tables and security.

The USFS could not arbitrarily define an "area" as vast as the Red Rock Ranger District, Aspey wrote. By making Smith's citation criminal, which is only the court's right to determine, Aspey wrote, the USFS' definition of "area" was open to examination.

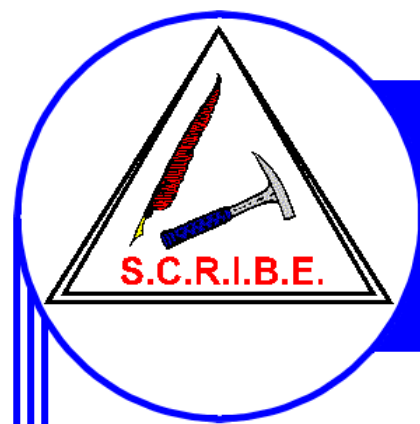
"Over five years, there is no evidence in the record that a Resource Advisory Committee was consulted or that public input was otherwise sought in the implementation of the plan to charge visitors the recreation amenity fee," Aspey wrote.

There are 90 such High-Impact Recreation Areas (HIRAs) in the country. This ruling will impact many of them. So it is a case of "David vs. Goliath".

Thanks to Jim Smith, Mark Aspey and the Western Slope No Fee Coalition for keeping something free in the "land of the free."

We Subscribe to Scribe

By Joseph Barreca



At the September Meeting Ginger Pitman handed me an envelope with a check from the club to S.C.R.I.B.E., Special Congress Representing

Involved Bulletin Editors. For \$6 per year, with this subscription, you can share newsletters with hundreds of other rock clubs. After I sent in an application I got back two DVDs. The first one had almost 6000 newsletters on it! The following article is from the Scribe newsletter that also comes with the subscription. If anyone wants to look at these, (you'll need a PC) I could use some help.

Dispensing the Collection What to Do When You Inherit a Collection

By Bruce Siegfried for *The Mountain Gem*

Often times, people contact our club members or the museum we sponsor, wondering just what to do with a collection they have inherited. How can they dispose of a collection that they know little, if anything, about?

They are concerned with knowing:

1. How does one *identify* 'boxes of rocks,' perhaps even a profusion of them dumped together?
2. How do you assign *monetary value* to rocks, minerals, and gems?
3. Who would *buy* this collection, and how do I *find* that person?

Even a surviving spouse who belongs to a club—and has been left with lots of stones wonders: "What will I do now?" For sure, these issues are not easily addressed. Here is what we can say; these are some suggestions to help you find that illusive place to start. Adjust the plan to your situation, one that fits you best.



When a long-time collector dies, with an extensive collection, it presents a difficult problem for the family. At first, just dealing with the loss of the loved one is enough. Eventually though, the time comes to "do something" with the collection. Now as a collector myself, I realize that most collectors have the same goal. They reason: "Having put much time, effort, thought, and money into my collection, (not to mention love), I would like to leave it ALL to ONE close family member, good friend, or worthy organization. Someone who not only appreciates it, but will keep it intact."

If you find someone like that, good, case closed, end of matter. Often, however, this proves to be a fantasy. Ideally we all would like to have that child who loves the hobby as much as we do, and would be happy to receive the collection. Seldom are such events so ideal. As you know by now, the real and ideal are usually not the same thing.

Let's face reality. Most who inherit a collection view the collection as someone else's hobby. It is not their hobby. Their interest in it may be minimal at best. Thus, their feelings toward the collection are rarely the same as the person who put it together over many years, with much care and effort. Hence, they are not prepared to give it the room in their lives it would demand of them. (Not to mention the space it would claim in their homes.)

Two easy choices first present themselves. And they come about from lack of action, from procrastination, more so than any conscious thought and decision-making effort. **Choice # 1.** Don't do anything! Let the collection languish in storage. Maybe out in the garage, or down in the basement, or worse—in some rental storage unit, possibly for many years. This will usually result in losing the labels. As the boxes fall apart, leaves, dirt and dead bugs will pile up, till you end up with one big mess! A mess that someone eventually dumps outside, they throw it away, or give it away. I have seen several of these conclusions for nice collections. Some are put into a dumpster.

Choice #2. This one also takes place naturally enough. Dispense the collection among family and friends, and their children. Let them take what they want. They might want to keep a few as reminders of him or her; it may have been the collector's favorite, or they may have dug the specimens themselves, or they cut and polished the stone. You can do this over some several months until the collection just naturally wanders off. Somehow, somewhere, it is gone, and that takes care of that. Would a grandchild be able to handle the collection and appreciate it? Perhaps you will be satisfied with choice #1 or choice #2. But I feel there is a viable third option. You may consider something better. Far better is the day this idea presents itself—to dispose of the collection in an *orderly manner*.

But HOW?

Soon after making that decision, the challenge becomes evident. How will you do it? Some ideas follow; pick and choose, adjusting them to your circumstances. Ultimately you must decide what is best for you and for the collection. The problem

so often starts with the fact that the collection and hobby was known by just that one person. The collection proved to be his or hers alone. This person knew all the details; what it is, where it came from, and the value as well. BUT ALL TOO OFTEN, THE PERSON DOESN'T RECORD ALL THESE IMPORTANT DETAILS!

In my personal collection, I list all the names and locations of each stone in triplicate. Great, you say. On the other hand, I abhor values. To me, if it is pretty and I like it, I don't care whether it is worth fifty cents or twenty dollars. So no one knows the value of my thousands of specimens.

Others do the same, omitting details, whether carelessly or purposely, they often leave scant information behind. As a consequence, surviving family members are left in the dark while trying to understand the collection. It is hard for them to relate to the fact the one 'pretty rock' is worth only \$1.00, while another, not near as nice, is worth perhaps \$50.00. Plain, dirty rocks may be very beautiful inside, and quite valuable. My first recommendation, (if you don't want to sell it all quick and cheap), is to divide it into three easy and practical parts. Simply put, here they are: 1. Keep some to remember the person by 2. Sell the best 3. Dispose of the rest; give away to interested person, or children, or throw in the woods, or line the driveway What follows is a more detailed explanation of this plan.

1. KEEP SOME—for yourself and other family members. You can do this in connection with having "something to remember him (her) by." To remind you of him and his treasured hobby.

A. One mineral that each person views as their favorite.

B. Something the collector person was especially fond of.

C Something he or she personally collected on a favorite field trip or vacation.

D. Something that person thought of as their favorite or special piece.

2. Now sell the best, those that have exceptional value or beauty. I will discuss several options for this in the rest of the article.

3. Dispose of the rest, the leftovers. Here are some good possibilities.

A. Sell it cheap and quick. OR

B. Even better, my personal favorite: donate it to your local club or museum.

It's a tax deduction. They will be happy to get it and gladly put it to good use. Perhaps they will put a few specimens on display. Or in the gift shop to raise funds. Or use it as door prizes at the club

meetings. At times they give some to young ones who are 'pebble pups', leading them into a lifelong hobby, all from the gift of a few nice specimens. Also, they occasionally auction items off to raise funds for their club. At times, generous souls donate an entire collection to a club or museum. But lets us now assume you desire to sell the entire collection yourself. This is the final avenue we will discuss. You will have two problems to deal with.

1. How do you find a buyer?

2. Just as important, how do you attach a dollar figure to the collection?

I have seen people selling such a collection at the local flea market, or at a gem and mineral show. However, the problem arises that the prices of many of the specimens are either too low, or too high. This results in the 'good stuff' that is priced too low rapidly disappearing. Now the best part is gone without much money in return. The rest may now be hard to sell.

To avert such a disastrous outcome, could you invite one or two longtime club members/ experienced collectors, to help out; a neutral third party to aid in pricing. Remember though, prices are not arbitrary for rocks and minerals. They are not set, at fixed rates or standardized prices. Proof of this is soon seen at shows. You often see a mineral or gem for sale at one price, but a few tables later you will see the same stone for a much different price. The price a mineral brings today often is not the price it will sell for tomorrow.



Ten different collectors would value a stone at ten different prices. Values are subjective. To make matters more complex, it is likely that twenty different varieties of amethyst, from twenty different countries, in twenty different grades will fetch twenty different prices. So get those suggested prices from someone knowledgeable to begin with, then you can adjust them up or down according to what you think.

Selling at a show may not be your ideal or practical solution. Here are some alternatives, along with their strong and weak points for consideration.

1. A dealer—He has an idea about what price specimens are currently bringing. However, because he deals in minerals and gems to make a profit, he may only offer you a fraction of their worth. To cover his expenses and make a profit, at most he might offer you a third of their worth. Probably less.

2. A collector—He might not know the exact worth of rocks, but he will usually pay a bit more because he usually buys at the retail level, and he wants the collection for his own enjoyment. You likely know several collectors in your area.

3. The Internet—sell it on eBay® if you want to, if you can do all the work. You must measure, describe and picture each item, and then post it. It's good to tell what it is and where it is from, and you should have an idea of its value. You must know exactly what you have and post it properly. You should get good prices for the really good specimens. The more common material may be harder to sell. You can sell miscellaneous boxes, but the Internet is probably not practical for large collections.

4. Ads placed in one of our hobby magazines or club bulletins—here you will find those interested in the very thing you have. You must prepare mailing information describing the material you have, and list it in accurate detail. You will deal with distant people over a period of many weeks to several months.

5. Estate Sale—try inviting hobbyists through several clubs, those within a few hours travel distance from your home. Invite them to come over for a 'special day'. You must be ready for them. Price the material and put it out in the open. Select a day when the weather might be nice, and there are no local shows or field trips in progress. It must be advertised sufficiently, so let the clubs announce it at a couple of their meetings and put it in their newsletters. Give good descriptions and accurate directions to your place. The material must be clearly labeled and presented in an orderly fashion.

6. An auction—similar to last one, invite most clubs and collectors in your area and get a decent auctioneer. You must live in an area that has favorable numbers in the hobby. You must reach them with the news. Flyers sent to clubs for their meetings and at region shows work well for this purpose.

7. I am thinking of making up a series of Riker Mount Boxes that are several inches high. While

still alive I can choose attractive specimens as gifts for my close friends and relatives.

Any way you choose, be sure to properly promote what you have; specimens and equipment need clear and complete descriptions, or at least as much as you know, so buyers can be confident in what they are buying. Let people know way ahead of the planned event.

I know of an older couple from Canada that sells minerals every year in Quartzite and a few other shows. They are steadily disposing of their huge Canadian collection. The children did not want it. To empty their backyard will take a while, they have already been selling for more than twelve years. They figured it would take twenty years to sell out their entire collection. My wish is for shows to allow collections to be sold on a "Consignment Table." Maybe even a rock shop or dealer would be willing to do this, splitting the revenue with the collector's family.

Remember, it is good to team up with someone who knows rocks and minerals and the hobby. Make sure specimens are clean and orderly, displayed in boxes or trays. If only there was a book to look up how many were made, in what year, and the value, like so many other



hobbies. So, whether you are disposing of a collection due to old age, ill health, financial need, quitting the hobby, or inheriting it through the death of a family member, HOW are you going to do it? For many, the best course will be one of those mentioned or a mixture of these approaches.

Remember that old rock hounds are sharp and limit their spending. Remember the simple plan: keep a few, give family members a few, sell the best, donate some, and get rid of the rest cheaply and quickly. Parts of this formula should work well for you. My wife always says that she'll have jewelry made out of her favorite gemstones when she inherits my collection. I personally hope my two daughters will take something that is special to them. I brought them up around rocks and they know a good deal about them. Maybe one will want the amethyst crystals, and the other will take the azurite and malachite specimens she has always admired. May you live long and keep your collection for many more years. At this moment you at least have the beginning of a plan, as I have endeavored to answer the question: How to dispense of a collection?