

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

August 2011

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes July 19, 2011

By Luci Bristow

Bob Bristow greeted everyone and opened the meeting. Johnie and Ginger are canoeing on the Andrews river in Idaho. Bob thanked everyone for their attendance and for being so willing to bring desserts. Sylvia gave the treasurer's report for two months. She also mentioned that she had gotten a "thank you" note from Kayla Kofmehl. Kayla is the senior from Jenkins High that received our scholarship. She enclosed some beautiful pictures and said that she is considering photography as a minor in school.

Our annual picnic is scheduled for our next meeting on August 16, 2011. Bill Allen will be doing the barbeque. Everyone else will be bringing "potluck" dishes. Bill provided a sign-up sheet on the back table for people to state the dish they were going to bring. The Club will be providing the meat. The picnic will begin at 6:00 pm. **Please bring chairs.** Bill will be here by 5:00 PM to get the grill started and things set up.

We were pleased that Peter Boyle from Calgary joined us for our meeting. He is camping on Christina Lake. We had two grandsons of club members present, Mike Latapie's and Ray Arquette's. NeNa's niece also visited us. We were also glad to see Jim and Rita Langevin back in the area. We were pleased to see Steve Fox back with us. The doctor's managed to save his foot. He is looking forward to a rock hunting trip about the end of August.

We had several people talk about the recent rock trips. Mike Latapie, Gloria Squires, and Jan Van Hoven talked about the adventures. What fun! The evening's talk was provided by Eve duBois. She had a goodly set of adventure's in locating what she believes are remains of a plesiosaurus, an underwater dinosaur. She was very interesting and pleasant.

Continued on Page 2

Gold Panning Fever

By Joe Barreca



[Panning on Sheep Creek – photo by Don Andrew]

As the summer heats up and the price of gold goes toward \$1700/Troy oz. gold panning and prospecting has become much more interesting and sometimes dangerous. The club had two gold-panning expeditions in July and August. Mike Latapie led the trip to Sheep Creek seen above. He was able to get permission from Northport Mayor, Mike Lamb to get into the property, which is a traditional gold panning spot above the falls on Sheep Creek. Mike Lamb had to close it to public access earlier this year after someone decided it would be a good idea to hydraulically mine a bank next to the creek and created a 15 deep hole that people could fall in as well as disturbing the ecology of the creek by washing tons of dirt downstream.

Luckily, hobby gold panning is not nearly as destructive. Unlike panning in the Columbia, which requires that gold pans full of dirt be initially washed in a tub away from the water, washing pans in Gold Creek can be done with the rushing water. This speeds up the process quite a bit. But don't think that gold panning is not work. You still need to move rocks and get down to the black sand where the gold typically is found. And even if the air is

We had a several ladies tell their sides of rock hunting trips. Bev Bockman, Suzan Andrew, Vanita Novak. Thanks ladies!

End of Minutes



hot, the water is still cold. Notice the wet suits on some of the panners in the picture on page 1.

25 people attended the Sheep Creek outing including some kids. (So is this family fun or child labor?) Evidently everyone had a great time and



found a little gold for their efforts. Mike made sure of that. There are also a couple other things to notice in the first picture. One is the "Clearview".



Seen here, the Clearview is a device invented by club member Dave Paquette to make it easier to see the bottom of a creek. It is a clear piece of plastic held in a ring that allows it to float on the moving water so you can see what you are doing.

Another is the long hose from Mike's Dredge.



Dredging is a serious next step in finding gold, but if you are willing to put in the time and effort, it can pay for itself. I think everyone went home with some black sand sucked up into Mike's dredge and with a little more panning, they will have a start on their own collection of gold flakes and nuggets.

Another gold panning expedition headed out for Sullivan Creek on August 6th. Sullivan Creek is a long-time traditional gold panning area. There is a



parking area near Hwy 31 just East of the town of Metaline Falls where Jan Van Horn led a small group of 5 gold panners to learn the art. But they also learned that some gold panners are not very friendly. A guy had started camping in the parking lot and decided that no one else should be down there panning but him. After going a round or two trying to talk sense into him, the group decided to head up the canyon for a little fun learning the basics of gold panning. Sometimes it takes a cool head as well as bare feet in an icy stream to deal with gold fever.

Speaking of expeditions, Flagstaff Mt is on hold.



Barite mining has begun in earnest on Flagstaff Mountain. Our field trip team is trying to establish some public relations with Kent Exploration and see if we can get a tour of the mine and pick up a few rocks. But for now, the August 21st trip is cancelled until something new can be set up.

Johnie's Jabber

By Johnie Pitman

We're back, well I should say I'm back, Ginger is off to Florida (driving) to help our grandson get to Saint Leo's College for his second year, about 3,000 miles, then she will fly home. I am very grateful for Bob and Luci as they did a great job of filling in for us while we were gone, THANKS. Our canoe trip got cut short by low water in the river, so we headed to Crystal Park to dig for quartz crystals. It was fun but didn't find anything but small stuff.

August is picnic time YEA!!! If someone could get there a little early to help Bill get set up it would be appreciated. We will have a short business meeting after the meal (pot luck). Scott Jackson has volunteered some door prizes so we will draw for those after the business meeting; then the rest of the evening will be for showing or trading whatever rock related stuff you bring. Please, NO SALES!!!



[In the winter Johnie glues rocks on bird houses]

Up coming programs:

Sept. Dean Young will have a program on mining, he always does a good job, should be interesting.

Oct. Joe Barreca will talk on some of the area's history. I think the title is "Stevens County Crossroads on the Columbia".

Nov. is the rock auction to raise money for the scholarships

Dec. is the Christmas party.

Wordsearch

Puzzle submitted by Ann Berger

Gemstones		
T	O	D
L	T	Q
X	N	U
T	Y	T
N	M	N
A	Z	H
I	B	T
L	F	O
E	C	P
N	R	A
R	L	L
A	V	Y
C	O	B
Q	M	N
C	J	B
C	Y	W
W	L	S
Q	P	T

AGATE	ONYX	SAPPHIRE
AMBER	OPAL	SARDONYX
AMETHYST	PEARL	TOPAZ
AZURITE	PERIDOT	TOURMALINE
BERYL	QUARTZ	TURQUOISE
CARNELIAN	RUBY	ZIRCON
CITRINE	GARNET	LAPIS LAZULI
CORAL	IOLITE	MALACHITE
DIAMOND	JADE	MELANITE
EMERALD	JASPER	MOONSTONE

If you are unfamiliar with this kind of puzzle, be warned. The words can appear in any straight line even across diagonals and can be spelled backwards. Solution is on page 5.

Sept	Oregon	Roseburg	beadpatch@c
10-11:	Really	OR	mspan.net
	Rocks		

Sept	Whitman	Walla Walla	warrenrood@
10-11:	Gem and	Fairgrounds	yahoo.com
	Mineral		

Sept	Southern	Castle Rock	jfuruli@yahoo
17-18	WA	Fairgrounds	.com

Sept	Hellgate	Missoula Mt	Bob Riggs
24-25	Mineral		406-543-3667
			14

There are no scheduled field trips here but these rock shows are happening in September.

Good Company on Solo Creek

By Joe Barreca



While some folks are sitting back, polishing their rocks or going on effective field trips to well-known rock sites, others, myself in particular, are striking out into the unknown looking for that next big find and coming back with not much really except a long story to suck up space in the monthly rock club newsletter. There is always something to learn the hard way and we are out there making it as hard as possible. Case in point, Galena Point.



[Galena Point clearcut seen from Solo Creek]

This was not even firsthand information. This was an overheard piece of second-hand information about something said at Solo Creek about a new digging area with good prospects on a clearcut on "Galena Knob" within sight of the well-worked quartz crystal digs at Solo Creek. Putting deductive reasoning and my overpriced Geographic Information System (GIS) to work, there was only one place to go, the huge clearcut in the shape of an arrowhead (or even a crystal point) on the side of Galena Point. (Galena Knob is in Stevens County nowhere near the Solo Creek Panorama Gem and Mineral Club News August 2011- 4 -

crystal dig.) It may look flat when you zero in on it in Google Earth, but there is nothing flat about it. If you make your way to the top the view to



Solo Creek is clear. It is the light green spot near the top of the snag in the center of this picture. What is also clear is that this is not a new logging show. The trees and bushes are 15 feet high and so thick that if there was a moose or an elk 15 feet away, you would not be able to see it behind the brush. I mention the ungulates because the few paths we found into this tangle were made by huge creatures eating their way through the jungle and leaving plenty of droppings to prove it.

The rocks themselves, when you could get down to them, did not look promising either. Mostly granite and some highly mylonized rust-colored rocks. Perhaps it was just as embarrassing that I had invited some friends from the coast along for the adventure. It was a good idea to camp out together at Browns Lake coming out of Usk. It is



a quiet Forest Service campground (14\$/night). But of course getting to the site is half the fun and only light-weights take paved roads thru Idaho.



In our case, getting there was half a road, at least where it washed out in this picture. But we drove in the ditch on the far side and made it through. One lesson learned is that even though the campground was only 7 miles away as the crow flies, it was many more than that driving on Forest Service roads. And even on Forest Service maps, not all of the road numbers are shown. Then there was the spring runoff and logging along the roads. Bottom line, it took almost an hour and a half to drive those miles between the camp and the Solo Creek Crystal Dig. So exploring a new place, having the old dig as a backup plan and getting back to camp early for the drive home, was too much for one day, and not enough of anything fun during that day.

Luckily, my friends Jim and Nancy had scheduled another whole day and were able to go back to the crystal dig the next day.



Unluckily, the old crystal dig looks like a war zone. Here is Nancy picking through the leftovers in one of the many many holes on the site. A well

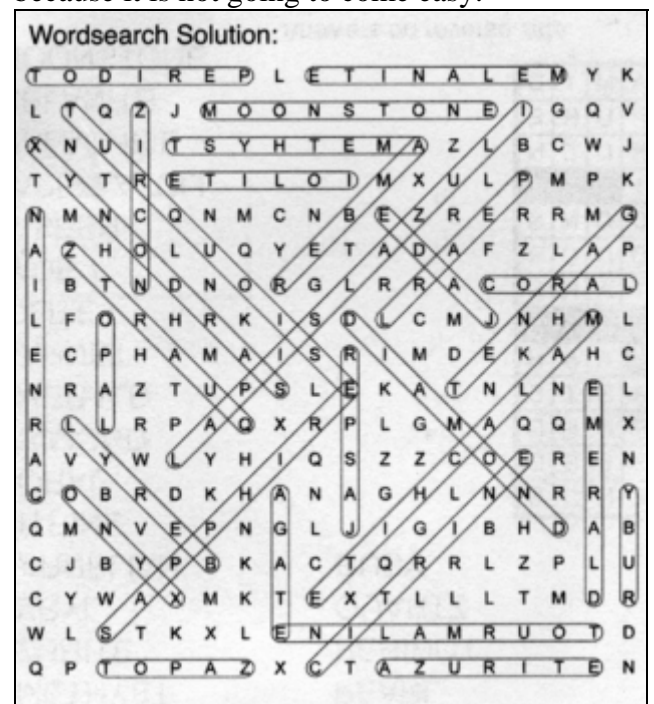


worked hole can have a large overhanging bank and the waste from one hole covers unworked ground making it twice as hard to come up with anything new. On the 2nd day at the dig, Jim and Nancy were happy to come up with a tiny crystal.



It is invisible on this bigger chunk of quartz. We can find hundreds of them that size any day on Horseshoe Mountain.

So maybe looking for new digs is a worthwhile adventure. After all there were 10 lb crystals in the Solo Creek dig. But it takes time and true grit to find a new place. Of note is that walking through the old forest around the Galena Peak clearcut is a piece of cake. But the hillside is steep. It would be much better to get some firsthand information on where this supposed new dig is up there before trying that again. And if you do go, set aside some extra time to explore because it is not going to come easy.



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.panoramagem.com

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).

News and Notes

The next meeting is our annual **BBQ** thanks to the initiative and equipment of **Bill Allen**. **Bill** would like to know how many people are coming and what you want to bring. So call him a **509-935-8779** if you plan to attend.

In a new twist on this event, we are having a **"ROCK SWAP"** along with the potluck. So bring your extra rocks, extra buckets and extra chairs. This will be a swap-only event, **NO SALES**. I am willing to bet that most of us come away with a lot more rocks than we could get on field trips.

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This newsletter is published by the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club. Editor: Joe Barreca, 509-738-6255, joe.barreca@gmail.com.

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

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Trustee 2:	Steve Fox	PO Box 595, Marcus WA, 99151	684-2136
Trustee 3:	Daniel Lundy	1035 Haller Creek Rd. Addy, WA	685-5870
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Program Coordinator:	Bev Bockman	1750 N Havichur Loop, Post Falls, ID 83854	208-773-5384
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Librarian:	Ruth Ross	750 N Lincoln, # 6, Colville, WA 99114	684-4925
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Newsletter:	Joseph Barreca	2109 Hwy 25 South, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	738-6155
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