

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

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## The Panorama Prospector

### February 2014

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#### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

*By Ginger Pitman*

After the first show meeting of the year conducted by Bill Allen, our meeting started with an interesting presentation on bats. Our guest speaker was Ella Rowan, wildlife biologist from WDFW. The 15 kinds of bats in this area are of course not dangerous and really most helpful. The white-nose disease that is killing millions of bats is not this far west yet. We can help the bats by not disturbing them in their natural hibernation sites or when they are sleeping. There are bat houses designed just for bats that you can build, having bats near your property will keep the insect population down. A very informative and enjoyable guest; thanks Ella.

Set- up for the show is 8 am on Mar 6<sup>th</sup> show dates are Mar 7 and 8 at the Ag Trade Center. The main events all have people assigned to oversee them and you are welcome, needed to hop in and help in your favorite place. The theme for this year's show was voted on and will be "What's in a rock".

The club has 25 display cases which are a big part of the show and we of course need volunteers to fill the cases. Please contact Johnie if you want to sign up for a case.

The club received a good report on Luci's health, seems with more wires to her heart she is gaining strength. We wish her the strength she needs to return to the club. Also Anni Sebright our new secretary was not in attendance as Bill took a nasty fall on the ice breaking a leg/hip. We wish him a full recovery; field trips are just around the corner!

The treasurer's report was given, with a request to pay the insurance, Scribe and AALU bills, all approved.

*continued on page 2*

#### Field Trip without the Field *By Johnie Pitman*



[Gene Fisher, Johnie Pitman, Scott Jackson]

February 6th the Rock Rollers had a field trip to Mario and Son's shop and warehouse at Liberty Lake where they make countertops and other items out of large slabs of rocks. Mario and Son's shop is a world class operation and has slabs from all over the world including Italy, Germany, France and Australia and others that I don't remember. The slabs vary in size but most are about 6' by 9' and 1" thick and are polished on one side. They are cut from a lot of different types of rocks including granite, marble, quartz, quartzite, soapstone, serpentine, slate, limestone, onyx, travertine, sandstone, and one called semi- precious. The colors are fabulous.

We met at the Rock Rollers club house and caravanned to Liberty Lake. When you enter the office area everything is spectacular the floors are indescribable,

Bob presented the list of field trips that are day trips around our area; 6 are scheduled so everyone should be able to get out and enjoy this summer. The committee will be presenting another list next meeting which will be trips that take a couple of days or more, places we have to go for agates and other rocks. Also a number of members are planning on going to the Multi-Federation Field Trip in MT July 31-Aug 4.

So we are getting ready for the show, with lots of help it will be great. Refreshments for next meeting will be Becky, Gene, Bev. *end*  
*End Minutes*

on the walls are large slabs that are framed and backlit to show their colors. WOW!!



The tour of their facilities started with a 30 minute presentation by Mario's son Joey in the conference room which has a huge table (18'-20' long, 4'-6' wide and 3" thick ) made of "blue pearl" granite. His video showed many of the old quarries where the stone is taken out in huge blocks then reduced in size so it can be hauled by truck to a factory where it is slabbed and polished. He also included some pictures of places he visited when he was on trips to buy the slabs. Then there was a short video of him carving a beautiful sculpture from white marble.

After the presentation we spent some more time looking around the show room, while eating donuts and coffee. (Now

how many field trips have you been on that served coffee and donuts?)

We then went to a large area where they have the slabs displayed for the customers to select the ones for their counter tops.

In the shop we saw where they cut the stones to the right size for the job, round and polish the edges.

All the cutting is computer controlled but some of the final polishing is done by hand.

There are too many details to explain here. Then we were allowed to pick through their scrap pile and take anything we wanted because it was just going to the dump.



[Tour members looking over the scrap pile]

Thanks to Mario and Joey Marcella for allowing us to tour their facility!!!



These are the Rainbow Mountains in Zhangye Danxia Landform Geological Park, China. There is a link to pictures on our website. Please visit.

## Lake Kanim

By Bob Bristow



[Image of Lake Kanim from NWHikers.net]

*Editor's note: This is a story submitted by Bob Bristow. There are a lot of rocks involved, but they were not collectable. Basically it once again makes you want to think twice about going on field trips with Bob.*

I felt sudden panic when the hammer dropped. I was standing on a little two-inch diameter hemlock with exposed roots that was growing horizontally out of a cliff 400 feet above the floor of the cirque. Above me was a smooth slab of vertical granite and below was mostly void. I was carrying pitons, but I had just dropped the only means I had of driving them into the granite. The following story is about how I was dumb enough to get into this situation and lucky enough to get out.

This adventure has more to do with rock climbing than rock collecting; however, there were plenty of beautiful rocks involved and I had previously been to a number of mines in the area. I had been going climbing with a friend of mine from work. We had agreed that we would take turns deciding where to go. For his selection, he wanted to go to a mountain called McClain Peak that he could see from his apartment in North Seattle. This was up the North Fork of the Snoqualmie River and about even with the end of the road. I didn't like his choice because the North Fork is overrun with Seattleites and I wanted to go where it was wild. But, it was his choice. However, I found out when we went there that, like most places, after you get a few hundred yards from a road, everyone from the city disappears. We pored over maps and decided to try for Kanim Lake, the source of the North Fork of the Snoqualmie River. We could see on the

map that Kanim Lake was in a small cirque above a much larger cirque. I looked in the Lakes of Washington book and found that Kanim Lake had been planted with Montana Black Spots. (The fish are a cross between a rainbow and a cutthroat and they had been dropped from the air.)

We met in North Bend about 4:00 AM and arrived at the end of the road just before daylight. We headed across a logged-over area as soon as we could see. It was easy going until we reached the end of the clear-cut. The logging had been performed the summer before and during the winter, fierce winds going through the clear-cut had knocked down about a hundred yards of trees. These were old-growth firs, some reaching nearly six-feet in diameter. We picked a down tree pointing in the right direction and climbed over the roots. (This was no easy task; the root ball was nearly 20-feet in diameter.) We were then in the old growth forest and had good going except for having to climb over big logs. We followed game trails that led us around most of the larger logs. Then came the first avalanche chute. It was about 50 yards wide with a deep gash in the center and with vine maples making a thick jungle on each side. By going about 100 feet down-slope, we found a tree that had fallen across most of the jungle and we could walk on it to within about 30 feet of the clear timber beyond. This 30 feet was bad enough. It was very steep and the vine maples all pointed downhill due to the winter snow. After that, we only had one more avalanche chute to



[Tiny line at top left is the "closest" road. They needed to cross the cirque (amphitheatre-shaped basin with precipitous walls, at the head of a glacial valley.) and scale the cliffs (shadows) to reach the lake at the bottom right.]

cross and we were almost to the lower cirque. We were climbing into huckleberries that were about

15 feet high and, like the vine maples, all pointed downhill. My partner had been plodding along behind me when he was suddenly jerked short. It seems his fishing reel was tied to the outside of his pack and the line had caught on a bush. He didn't notice it until all 200 feet had unreeled. I waited while he climbed back down to retrieve his line, but at about 100 feet decided to cut it off and buy some more line later. (After that first trip, every time I climbed up to Kanim, I ran into some of that line that snaked through the huckleberries.)

When we reached the lower cirque, we stopped to see which way to proceed. This cirque was about a quarter mile in diameter and had two major streams of water flowing in. One came down a steep, but climbable, slope on the NE that was a major avalanche chute. The other came from Kanim Lake to the SE and included a high waterfall. The part of the cirque between Kanim Lake and us appeared to be vertical, but to climb where it was non-vertical, we would have a long hike across the cirque and a very steep slope on that side. We decided to try to work our way up past the waterfall. From the base of the cliffs, we could see that the water had cut back into the granite some distance and we could probably climb to within about 150 feet of the top of the falls. I had some climbing gear, but only about a half dozen pitons, not nearly enough to climb 150 feet of vertical rock. We gave up going past the falls and tried the cliff to the right of the falls. The rocks weren't completely vertical, only about 80 degrees, and goats had been going up. We climbed up about 50 feet, but could see that we would need pitons up that route, too. The only way left was to cross the cirque and climb up the far side. We discovered that the bottom of the cirque was forested with very sharp-needled spruce. Also, the limbs grew right to the ground because the trees were all sheared off neatly at about 15 feet. Any tree that grew higher than the 15 feet could not resist the avalanches that had come down and slid across 15 feet of snow. However, the tops of the trees were flat with good-sized horizontal branches. I climbed up one of the spruce trees to look around, and found that I could jump to the next treetop. (They were growing that close!) This was great and we were half way across the cirque in no time. However, at that point, the spruce trees thinned out and I could not jump to the next one. We tried again to make headway on the ground, but it was like trying to

go through a series of barbed wire fences only inches apart. At that point, we gave up deciding we would come back and try again later...

Future articles will include such adventures as taking my 10-year old son into Kanim and trying a new way out only to find that we had to jump off one small ledge nine feet down to even smaller ledge where a miss would mean a fall of four or five stories onto rocks. In another adventure, I wanted Luci to see this beautiful lake. However, she fell on the rock slide above the lake injuring her knee, and we didn't make it back to the car that day. Instead, we spent the night in a devil's club thicket trying to keep hypothermia at bay. Another adventure was when the pine martin came to dinner. Then there was the time I returned to the car to find another car beside it and two young women, one of which had removed all of her clothes. (The dropped hammer will be in the next installment.)

### **“Gold Mine” for Sale**



*Elite Sand and Gravel Mill Site*

If you are getting tired of winter and want a new business, we have word that Elite Sand and Gravel, which owns mining claims on 8 square miles of ground about 8 miles east of Yuma Arizona near borders with California and Mexico is for sale, \$250,000. If you want to look over the property, you are welcome to visit. There are some colorful deposits of ignibrite, colorful volcanic tuff being mined as well as sand and gravel that technically does have some gold in it. Contact Joe Allison, 509.385.1375 in Deer Park.

**Wonderstone**  
From Jim Sperber



Jim Sperber and Larry Engle sent back these pictures of a wonderstone quarry they visited in Nevada.



Here is what Jim had to say about the trip:



Thought maybe you could share with the club.. On the way down to Arizona Larry

wondered if I could take him to the Wonderstone out of Tonopah NV. I had been there last year on the way home. There are many many tons of the stuff there from half dollar size to chunks as big as a pickup. This was a claim for years and the guy got too old to mine it anymore and it went back to the BLM. There is a cliff about 50 feet high at the back of the quarry and about 300 yards long for the whole area where he mined. Larry and his pup and I went there in a 4x4 the last 1/4 mile and brought out maybe 150 lbs between us. Here are some pics of the area. Sure would like to have taken the club there. Jim



**What's In a Rock**  
**Gem and Mineral Show**

**Free**  
**14th Annual**

**THE PANORAMA GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

**March 7th and 8th**  
**Colville Ag and Trade Center**

8:30 AM - 6:00 PM Friday March 7th  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday March 8th  
Colville Fair Grounds 317 West Astor, Colville, WA

**Wheel of Fortune** **Jewelry** **Fossils**  
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**Membership Dues:**

\$15.00 per household per year is due to the club Treasurer Johnie Pitman (address below) on the third Tuesday of November for regular members.

Webpage: [www.panoramagem.com](http://www.panoramagem.com)

Contact: Bruce Hurley, President, 509-413-2768.

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).

**Get Ready for the Show**

Before the regular meeting, Bill Allen will hold a rock show meeting at 6:00. The rock show will set up on March 6<sup>th</sup> and run March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be "What's in a Rock". As usual we will need all the help we can get. Posters will be ready.

Gene Fisher will show a video "Platinum Dreams" about platinum mining in Alaska.

**Martell's Rock Shop**

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Kettle Falls, WA 99141  
509-738-3041  
509-675-0390  
[bkmartell@hotmail.com](mailto:bkmartell@hotmail.com)



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Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:15-5:30  
Closed Monday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday

Phone 509-935-4388  
Toll Free 877-935-2633  
110 E. Main, Chewelah, WA 99109



**Mineral Identification**  
Mineral/Mine Locations

Bristow Enterprises  
PO Box 1165  
Chewelah, WA 99109  
[Bristow@theofficenet.com](mailto:Bristow@theofficenet.com)

[mineralsoftware.com](http://mineralsoftware.com)

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

**Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart**

<b>Officers:</b>			
President:	Bruce Hurley	10617 W. Lakeside Lane, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026	509-413-2768
Vice-President:	Bob Bristow	PO Box 1165; 2567 Mud Lake Rd. Chewelah WA 99109	935-4375
Secretary:	Anni Sebright	POB 293, Clayton, WA 99110	509-276-2693
Treasurer:	Johnie Pitman	701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-8887
Trustee 1:	Scott Jackson	1028 Old Hwy 12 Mile Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-6371
Trustee 2:	Bill Lupton	2530 Six Mile Rd	509-935-6198
Trustee 3:	Becky Dobbs	968 Phillpott Rd, Colville, WA 99114	
<b>Committee Chairs</b>			
Program Coordinator:	Bev Bockman	1750 N Havichur Loop, Post Falls, ID 83854	208-773-5384
Hospitality:	Luci Bristow	PO Box 1165; 2567 Mudd Lake Rd. Chewelah WA 99109	509-935-4375
Club Shop:	Scott Jackson	1028 Old Hwy 12 Mile Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-6371
Historian:	Carol Price	PO Box 77, Laurier, WA 99146	684-2857
Newsletter:	Joseph Barreca	2109 Hwy 25 South, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	738-6155
Show Chair	Bill Allen	2633 Highline Rd, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-8779, 936-2446