

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

July 2009

Our meeting room was full as we had 44 members, one guest and two new members: Gregory Surles and NeNa Wright.

Refreshments next meeting will be provided by Sebrights and Bristows, Thank You.

The treasure's report was given and remember the raffle tickets for the "field" black light are \$1.00 each.

Bev Bockman brought tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund and we sold all the tickets assigned to us, I hope one of our members wins, they have some great prizes.

All three scholarships were awarded this year: from Chewelah- Chris Wright from Kettle Falls- Jessica Coats; from Colville- Kirthlyn Sjodal.

The last field trip to Franson Peak had 18 people. Rex told us about two newly discovered minerals that are harder than diamonds. One 18% harder and the other 57% harder, wonder what that does to the hardness table.

Rex gave some information on our next field trip to Solo Creek. Some new regulations and common sense; do not dig in the creek, do not tunnel, if water comes in the hole stop digging, refill the hole and move on.

Bev gave us a report on the North Idaho Club Show where they used our black light display and thanked Bill Allen for putting it together. They had a good show and 21 vendors. Glad to see some of our members attended.

Johnie lead a discussion on our field trips pertaining to using restraint as regards to the amount of material removed from a site. It is not a contest to remove the most material it is a field trip to discover and add some nice pieces to our collections, moderation please.

Harold told of losing his very pricy camera on a field trip, if anyone knows where he might have misplaced it, please help. He also had some great and funny definitions for rock hounding words.

It was decided that the Aug. meeting on the 18th will be a potluck at the covered picnic area in the Chewelah Park. Bring your own chairs and drinks.

Steve Fox would like to put together some kind of kid's summer program and will be asking the club for input and help, hopefully for next summer.

Continued on Page 2

Field Trip to Solo Creek



Here is the crew that met at the Safeway Parking Lot at 8 AM on Sunday July 12 to go hunting for Quartz Crystals at Solo Creek. The picture was taken by Rex Barrans and a couple more cars joined the caravan in Priest River, so the picture is not complete. 8 AM is pretty early and Sunday is an odd day for one of our trips, but Solo Creek is a two hour drive and a little hard to find. When you get there, it's also a little hard to find the quartz. There are good-sized crystals embedded in layers of sand and clay that take some digging to get to. But they can be bigger and better than any other sites we go to, except Lolo Pass, which is in Montana.



[A bonus is that some of it is Smokey Quartz]

Minutes from Page 1

Johnie reported the club's equipment is running well, don't forget to bring small bills to pay for your time, or IOU's; the guys will find you. Be sure you have signed the waiver sheets. (See article on page 4 about the Club Shop)

by Ginger Pitman

Rock Field Trips for June-July:

Key: (+) - cars with good clearance
(++) 4wd vehicles only
(>) - hard rock tools (<) - loose rock tools (<>) both loose and hard (#) - digging tools (&) a long day expected

- *Sat. 7--25 Horse Shoe Mt.- Quartz Crystal, Others -Meet at Harvest Foods parking at 9 AM (<> &)
- *Aug. Sat 8--1 - Slate with pyrite at No Name Lk. And Oriole or Gold Hill mine . Meet at Chewelah , Safeway parking at 10 AM (<>)
- *Sat, 8--15 Solo Creek See article this issue. 8AM Chewelah Safeway parking lot .(#&)
- *Sat. 8--29 Flagstaff Mt. Barite, Fluorite - Meet at Harvest Foods parking at 9 AM (<> &).

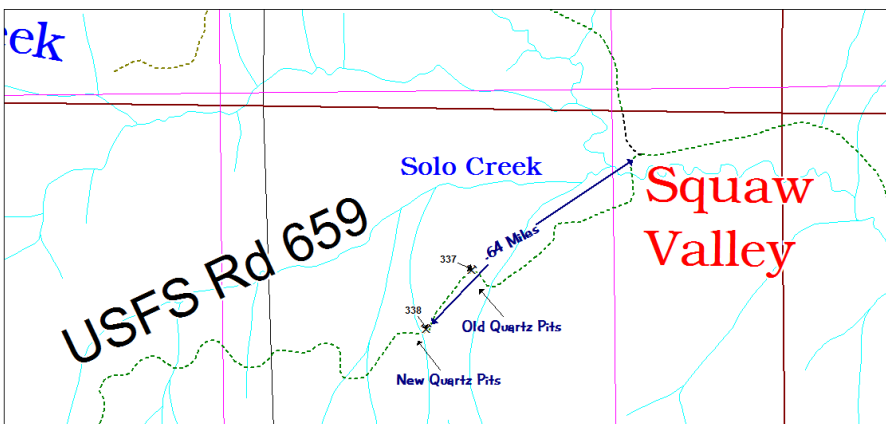


[Harold Ingram sends a link to this Spokesman Review picture of a huge boulder that slid onto Colville National Forest Road 2220, the main access to the Salmo-Priest wilderness trailheads and Gypsy Meadows northeast of Sullivan Lake. It blocked vehicle traffic for several weeks.]

(Solo Creek continued from page 1)



[Barb and Ron Twardowski at the lower dig]



Here is a map from the trip last year. Squaw Valley Rd meets Hwy 57 in Idaho north of Priest River about 21.5 miles. Travel West on Squaw Valley and it becomes Forest Service Rd 658. Solo Creek (Rd 659) goes West from Rd 658 nine or 10 miles west of Hwy 57. There are old digs in the forest just after the road crosses the creek about 1/2 mile up. At .64 miles up the most popular digs are above the road on the left. The new higher dig is further up the road, also on the left. Or you could just wait

until our next trip out there on Saturday August 15th. (I really think we should consider sending a contingent the night before. Digging is coolest in the morning.) Thanks to Rex Barrans and Bill Seabright for these pictures.

Joyce Dawson 1932-2009



[Picture from the Stateman Examiner.]

Long-time club member, Sara Joyce Dawson, 77, of Kettle Falls, passed peacefully at her Peachcrest home on the evening of June 27, 2009. She was born April 14, 1932 in Sycamore, Turner County, Georgia. She contributed regularly to the snacks we enjoy at our meetings. She combined two of her favorite things, quilting and rocks by sewing hundreds of bags that we use for the annual rock show to give away tumbled rocks for prizes. We will still be using those bags for years to come.

In an effort to commemorate Joyce's contribution to the club, we will set aside a portion of the next meeting, (Tuesday – July 21st – which may be today for most of you reading this) to create a memorial collection of rocks for Joyce. We encourage you to bring a rock or some other memento that reminds you of Joyce for whatever reason and bring it to the meeting. We can use that as a way to share stories about her and we may end up with a display box that we can bring to shows in the future.

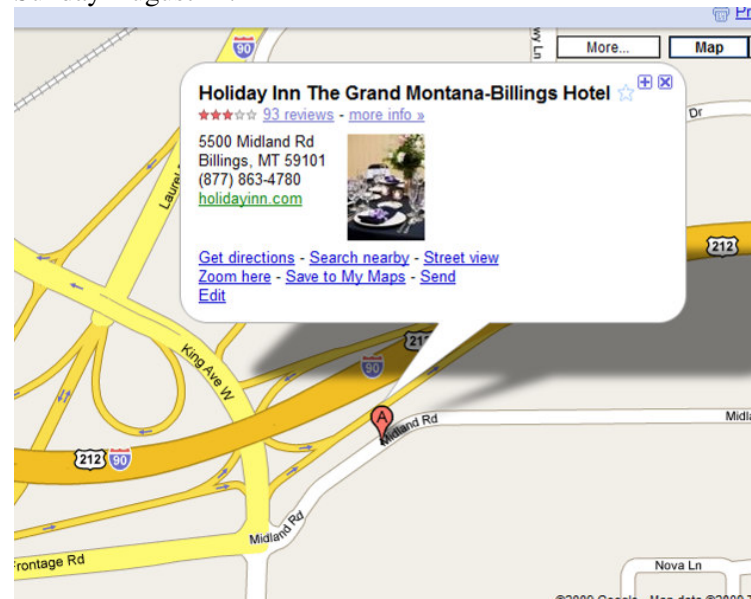
As a relative newcomer to the club (5 years), I did not realize how long Joyce had been a member. Johnie Pitman contributed the next picture.



Joyce is standing to the far right.

Northwest Federation Annual Meeting

The Northwest Federation of Mineral Societies will be holding its annual meeting at the Holiday Inn Grand in Billings Montana from Tuesday July 28th to Sunday August 1st.



You can register online at the NFMS site:
<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/nfmsshow.htm>

Field trips are scheduled for the whole week following the show. Show admission is \$5/day or \$15 for a 4 day pass. There is an awards banquet Saturday nite (\$29.00) and an editor's breakfast Sunday morning (\$13.00). NFMS has reserved a block of rooms.

Field trips include Monday – Black and White Fortification Agate with calcite and quartz nodules. Tuesday: Geological Tour of the Pryor Mountains and tours of the world's largest Platinum and Palladium mines...

The New Club Rock Shop



Panorama Gem and Mineral Club now has it's own rock shop for members. There is a small fee, for use, \$2/hr for members, \$5/hr for non-members. We have some great equipment and Mike Latapie, who has donated this small barn for the shop, has all the equipment up and running. The location is 823 Old Highway 12 Road, Colville, WA. (1st house on left on that road)

If you have questions, call Mike at: 684-1701



Inside you will find an 18" rock saw shown above. It is great for cutting big slabs or cutting the corners off big specimens to make book ends.

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The shop will be open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday and Thursday of each month. Please give Mike a call if you are planning on using the equipment so that someone will be there to help you. Mike is sometimes away, especially during gold panning (dredging) season. Other members with keys who can help you are: Scott Jackson: 684-6371, Johnie Pitman, 684-8887 and Steve Fox, 684-2136.

There is also a 10" saw donated by Diane Lenz.



This 10" saw has finer controls and a weight to feed it. If you have some exact cutting to do on very hard rocks, this might be just the ticket. There is a smaller, 8" trim saw on the right in the picture below. On the left is a combination of grinding wheels and a small trim saw. If you are cutting cabs from slabs, this is



all you need.

All of the equipment is already set up with watering systems that drip water down on the rocks while you are cutting

or grinding them.

There is one more major piece of equipment, another set of grinding wheels with a big motor.



This one might take some help getting started. The motor does not have a capacitor to boost the speed at the start, consequently, you need to lift the mounting shelf (not shown but below the table I am working at in the above picture). That releases the tension on the drive belt. With the shelf lifted, you need to plug the cord in to start the motor (this really works better with two people). After the motor gets up to speed, you can gently lower the shelf to engage the belt and pulley. Once it is going, there is plenty of power. The wheels go from 60 to 600 grit – industrial diamonds I think. You switch on the water to drip on the wheel you are working on right above the grinder. There are also a couple of sponges to spread the moisture around below the wheels. Excess water drains into a bucket below the table. I can testify that this setup really works its way through the rock. If you have your slabs marked before you take them to the shop, you should be able to get a lot of work done in a short amount of time.

For the winter, there is a wood stove in the shop. A couple of things that the shop does not have are a faceting machine or any rock tumbling or vibrating equipment. This is just as well. It takes a lot of time to tumble rock and is best done at home. Scott Jackson (the guy in most of these pictures) showed me his tumbling setup. It uses six-sided tumblers that he created for himself and a set of rotating axles on pillow blocks that he sets his tumblers on. The major purchases were the rubber liners for the tumblers. They cost \$30 each. There are also a series of grits and diatomaceous earth involved. It takes 30 days to tumble rough rocks.

Remember to bring some small bills to pay for your time and be sure to sign the waiver sheets so the club and Mike Latapie are not in jeopardy for

letting us use these facilities. Having this shop is like a dream come true for our club. We have been talking about it for a long time. Now we can enjoy our hobby year-round and still be cheap-skates on purchasing equipment. With a little work, you can turn those rough rocks that have been piling in your back yard from field trips into pretty gifts that you can pass on to your family, friends and neighbors. This might relieve a little pressure at home – or at least create room for more rocks.

A Trim Saw of My Own



I can't drop this discussion of saws, grinders etc with acknowledging a wonderful gift from Scott Jackson on behalf of the club. He found a couple of tile saws at a pawn shop for \$50 each. They are perfect for trimming slabs. (Scott suggests that I look for a "hot dog" blade at a building supply store if I need to replace this one.) Scott gave it to me so I can continue to make the little collections of local rocks that we trade to other clubs along with a guide to where to find rocks in the area.

It comes with a tray underneath that holds water. The water tends to spray off the top of the saw in the direction that it is turning. So the first thing Scott taught me about using it, is to hold the rock from behind so that the muddy water mostly shoots away from me.

For a test, I brought some fossils from Stone Rose and some trilobites from Metaline Falls. You don't want to destroy the value in these by just whacking them with a hammer. Sure enough, as soon as I got home, I had an email from a club in Orange California wanting to exchange collections. So today I got it set up in my shop and cranked out a fresh box. **Thanks Scott!**