

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



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

The Panorama Prospector

February 2011

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

Minutes for January, 2011

Bill Allen ran our show meeting which started at 6 for anyone who wants to be involved in our show. The regular meeting started at 7 with 45 members; many having to pay dues to keep the newsletter coming.

Refreshments next meeting will be brought by Suzanne and Gloria with Mike and Scott doing drinks.

Sylvia gave the treasurer's report; the scholarship fund is doing well. Sherry; with her magic from e-bay keeps adding funds.

Bill gave his report on the show and people who have offered to head up different departments. Those all need volunteers so we can all get in on the fun of the show.

The show is Mar 31 set up; show days April 1-2.

Bill asked for a theme for the show and after suggestions/voting here is the theme for 2011 - --- What on Earth Do We Have Here? I like it!!

Joe was asked if he would contact Stone Rose if they have a display for us and make up the flyers for advertising the show.

Steve gave a shop report, a new 18" blade is needed. Brian Martell said that he has a new 18" blade for our saw. He got it at Quartzsite, AZ. Thanks Brian.

The rest of the saws and etc. are all working.

Steve talked about field trips, if you have any place you would like checked out or heard about, suggestions are welcome. New places are welcome and there are lots out there if we keep looking. The Tri-Federation dig in Oregon over Memorial Day weekend sounds good and some of us will be going there, any kind of camping is fun.

Rex and Mabel are doing as good as Mabel can, while they learn how to do her treatments at home. Send some emails they just can't have many visitors because of germs brought in, same reason they can't get out much.

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Rock Sales on eBay

By Joe Barreca



[Sherry Bamberger at her home office.]

Like most of us, Sherry Bamberger would rather be out in the field collecting rocks or working on cabs in the back room. But life doesn't always work out the way you planned. After an unexpected divorce a couple of years ago, she found herself renting a house in the country, trying to find a way to support herself and still wanting to work with rocks. In an effort to raise some money from the resources at hand, she put some rocks for sale on eBay, the Internet auction site. They sold! Actually they sold for more than she expected to get.

That started an odyssey that has kept her going for a couple of years now and is proving to be a huge benefit to the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club's scholarship fund. A while back, she contributed almost \$300 to the fund. She is selling rocks that have been donated to the club by Chuck Prentice and others, including 27 buckets of obsidian.

Before you get the idea that this is easy and the money just rolls in, we need to take a hard look at the real economics of the situation. Selling rocks on eBay does bring in more per rock

Luci had her surgery and according to Bob, the doctors were proud of their work; she is going to be fine as she gets time to recover.

Johnie refreshed our memory of the hall rules, we have such a neat place to meet we want to do our part of keeping it nice.

The program on florescent minerals especially from Franklin, NJ was given by Bob Bristow.

[Notes from Johnie,

What is the mineral that's most readily available in our area right now? It comes in two basic forms one of which is solid and crystal clear and can be cut, the other forms small crystals that are all different, no two alike!!!! The answer is later in this report.]

Sherry Bamberger is still doing a great job of selling the club rocks on eBay, she also has some that did not sell so she will bring them to the next meeting. We can either sell them at the meeting or save them for the silent auction at the show, or some of both. Thanks Sherry for a great job.

Chuck Prentice has agreed to lead a class on making cabs, we'll discuss when and where at the next meeting.

Remember the show meeting starts at 6:00PM before our regular meeting this month, Bill has everything on schedule, think about where you would most like to help and let him know. We still have several display cases available for showing your collection or handy work, we need to fill 24.

Silvia and Bill Allen will have this months program. I think it is on collecting in South Dakota, should be interesting.

[Answer to the question above: ice and snow.]

Wear pants with big pockets, they hold more rocks!

end

Selling Rocks on eBay continued...

than we get at our annual auction, but it is a lot more work for each rock. Sherry spends 30 to 40 minutes on each one. She gets the rock wet and takes pictures from several angles. She weighs each one, numbers it and then posts it on eBay over a fairly slow satellite connection. She describes the rock, attaches several pictures and writes about her special offer for those purchasing more than one specimen. She keeps an "open box" where a particular buyer can have Sherry

accumulate rocks. Then Sherry ships them using the priority mailing boxes that hold as much weight as you can pile in there at just one price. This saves the customer a lot of money on shipping and saves Sherry a lot of time.



[A box of rock orders for one buyer]

On the other hand, she spends a lot of time and money watching each listing to see if it sells, contacting the purchasers, listing all of her sales in books and paying from \$.25 to \$1.00 for each listing. She will list an item up to 3 times. If it does not sell by then, she ads it to a collection to be sold at a bulk price. Rough rocks and slabs sell for from \$7 to \$8 on the average. eBay takes 9% or more from each sale. So working 7 to 8 hours a day, Sherry still makes less than minimum wage. This is truly a labor of love.



If she is selling material for someone else, she only gets 40% to 50% of the price. For sales from the club, she only takes 30% of the sales price. The only reason she can keep it together is that she has gotten incredible deals on a couple of big collections left in estates. One was for 4 ½ tons of rocks from a collector in Odessa. Another was a 6 ton collection from a guy in Portland that he sold for \$300. It cost her twice that to get it transported back home to Aladdin Rd. She keeps an advertisement going on Craig's List to buy whole rock collections usually from estates.

For those of you who are not familiar with eBay, a little bit of background might help. The site lists millions of items for sale, so knowing how to navigate is a big help. You can search for terms or look through categories. To find the

rocks and minerals that Sherry has for sale, you can go to “advanced” by clicking on the word “advanced” just to the right of the green “Search” button. On the right of the next screen, click on “By Seller” under Items in the left menu area. That gives you a box to type in the key seller ID number. For Sherry it is “1244Sherry”. That will give you a long list with pictures. Note that each one says “Top Rated Seller” next to it.

This member is a **Top-rated seller**

- ✓ Consistently receives highest buyers' ratings
- ✓ Ships items quickly
- ✓ Has earned a track record of excellent service

[Learn more](#)

Recent Feedback Ratings (last 12 months) ?

	1 month	6 months	12 months
+ Positive	113	622	1185
○ Neutral	0	0	0
- Negative	0	0	0

Detailed Seller Ratings (last 12 months) ?

Criteria	Average rating	Number of ratings
Item as described	★★★★★★	302
Communication	★★★★★★	300
Shipping time	★★★★★★	298
Shipping and handling charges	★★★★★★	297

[Sherry Bamberger is a Top-rated seller]

Here is where eBay proves its worth and Sherry’s worth too. She has almost 1200 positive comments for her sales over the last couple of years, and no negative or even neutral ones! So people trust her and are willing to enter their credit card information into the PayPal system that eventually gets money back to Sherry (after nicking her for another 3%). It took a lot of study to get the prices right and the methods down. (You can look at past sales in a category to see what the current market price is.) Carnelian and Montana agate are particularly hot sellers. Some buyers slab, cab and resell these rocks. Others seem to save them up as an investment like gold for the grandkids. And I think a lot of them just like rocks and dealing with Sherry on eBay.

Rock Storage

By Joe Barreca



I have been meaning to write this article for awhile. Of course I wanted to rectify the deplorable condition of my rock storage area, as seen above, first. I had some grand ideas, which on further thought did not make much financial or practical sense. In writing the previous article, about Sherry Bamberger’s eBay enterprise, we got to talk over what she had in mind for a similar problem storage area.




[Sherry’s current sheltered rock storage area.]

We were obviously thinking about a lot of rocks, tons in her case. And she wants to turn this area into her rock shop. Hoping for more clarity, I scanned 3500 newsletters for “Rock Storage” and came up with one really well-thought-out article by John Hill Betts. You can read it in the original by going to <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/> and looking in his blog for the date 1/6/09. It goes into particulars on labeling, mounting, cataloging and displaying especially nice specimens, the kind we usually fill up window sills with. But even if we were not

exactly on the same page concerning the value and size of our collections, Betts' article makes some good points, and I'll get into those in a minute.

Sherry and I were both thinking in terms of bins that would hold a good quantity of rocks, but could still be moved and examined when necessary. They would need to be stackable. She was thinking of 3/4 inch plywood. I was thinking of large chimney tiles because being made of concrete they would hold up outside. But tiles would need cement board ends glued on with construction adhesive and plywood would need some special connections to hold up while carrying rocks. After some strong suggestions from articles on the Internet, I found these puppies in my Uline catalog, (Uline.com)

Home > Boxes, Corrugated > Plastic Bins > Giant Stackable Bins



Giant Stackable Bins

Pack and stack. Holds large, heavy and bulky products, parts and tools.

- Wide cut-out front opening for easy picking.
- Large easy to grip handles.
- Stable stacking up to 6 high on floor or shelf.

GIANT STACKABLE BINS

MODEL NO.	DESCRIPTION	OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS L x W x H	QTY./ CTN.	LBS./ CTN.	PRICE EACH (SOLD IN CTN. QTYs.)		
					1	3+	
S-11335	Giant Stackable Bins	15 x 20 x 12 1/2"	3	13	\$13.25	\$12.65	S S S S
S-12550		17 1/2 x 10 7/8 x 12 1/2"	4	12	9.80	9.20	
S-12551		17 1/2 x 16 1/2 x 12 1/2"	2	8	14.40	13.80	

SPECIAL - UPS oversized

Giant Stackable Bins, you have got to love that and I bet you couldn't build anything as good for less. They had a bigger, stronger size that cost \$70 a pop and you probably would need a fork lift to move them when they were full. So this is my suggestion to replace those five gallon buckets. They even have a nice area for labels in front and can be sorted by color.

But Betts came up with lots of concerns, after sorting through hundreds of large rock collections, concerns that had not really crossed my mind. I'm going to go through them here because they really are worth thinking about. Here are his rules:

1. **Do nothing to a specimen that is not reversible.** This means no glue, ink, tape or nail polish that will leave a mark. He suggests that you print out label numbers with a computer and glue them on with something called, Mineral Tack. Baring that he suggests Elmer's glue (you can soak it off) or hot glue (you can heat it off).

2. **Never use a permanent glue to mount specimens.** He suggests moldable clay or again Mineral Tack, definitely not epoxy.



3. **Store minerals properly to protect them from damage.** By this he means separate them with paper or dividers so the storage doesn't act like a tumbler.
4. **Use a cataloging system that aids retrieval.** This is a pretty serious project. He suggests numbering each item but also indexing by kind of material, where it is stored and as much other information as you can organize about where it came from, when, how good it is... Sounds like a computer project to me.
5. **Separate your best specimens from your reference specimens.** By this he means you will want to display the best ones and show the others to people so they know what they can really expect to find.
6. **Invest in storage and display cabinets.** He makes a good point here that even if you found them yourself, you have time, gas and other expenses involved. Allocate 5% for storage is Betts' rule of thumb.
7. **Label field-collected materials immediately.** Don't kid yourself. A year from now you won't remember what rock came from where when. Clean them off. Trim the waste. Throw out the junk and put a substantial note in with them with all the pertinent facts.
8. **Clear out the junk periodically.** People change. Your early finds will lose their luster. Do triage. Keep the best. Sell the seconds and give away the rest.

Garnet

By Stephen Fox



[Uncut garnet crystal]

The birthstone for January comes in a variety of colors, including clear (it's most natural state and possibly it's rarest state), red, near purple, orange, brown, yellow, green, pink, and black. One of the more popular semi-precious stones it is found on



[Idaho Star Garnets]

every continent on the earth (well, I'm just assuming that Antarctica may also contain them, but really, it is hard to go rockhounding when it's 80 below). The most prized of the garnets is the uvarovite, or emerald green, garnet. Like an emerald it gets its green color from trace amounts of chromium. The next most sought after garnets are the 'star garnets'. These are found in India and Idaho. They usually are a purplish color to black with enough "junk" in them to scatter light creating a four, or more commonly a six ray star. Other garnets are highly prized for their color and brilliance, especially after cutting or cabbing

Garnets are a nesosilicate, which basically means that they are made up of three silicate atoms and twelve oxygen atoms. This combination makes garnets hard (six and a half to seven and a half), which is good enough to make great jewelry. The variety of color comes from trace atoms of different elements. These elements are aluminum and calcium, with lesser amounts of manganese, magnesium, iron, and rarely chromium. Garnets are found mostly in areas of contact metamorphism, but also have been found in igneous formations. Around here very small garnets have been found in the granite and pegmatite rocks up Sherman Creek, the streams of Deadman, Sherman, and Boulder just to name a few. They have also been found at Mt Adams, along with epidote, and quartz crystals. Trying to detail all the locations where garnets can be found (from sand to fist sized) would not be possible to do here. Trying to locate a new deposit of garnets of decent size, (i.e. visible without using a hand lens) is a major goal of mine. I might even do it before the second coming.

Source: Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals

Valentine Stone

Suggested by Sylvia Allen

I have found that over the years, rose quartz is a stone I generally have around or like to give as a gift. This stone can help in so many ways that are beneficial for the wearer of it, and the people surrounding it.



Rose quartz is often called the "love stone" because it is a stone that brings in all types of love; romantic love, self love, family love, etc.

This stone can lower stress and bring happiness into your life. It can help you with forgiveness, kindness, and tolerance while raising your self-esteem. It helps to balance the emotions and brings peace and calm. Rose quartz also helps with inner awareness, and removes fear, resentment and anger. You can also lessen guilt by wearing rose quartz.

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