

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## The Panorama Prospector May 2011

### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes

4/19/2011

We had 6 visitors at this meeting. Refreshments for May will be provided by Fran, Vinta, Luci, and Brian.

We are in need of a hostess, to welcome newcomers and oversee the kitchen, if you would like to undertake this job please let us know. Sylvia gave our treasure's report which included the accounts from our show. The club did very well. That keeps our scholarship program going. We thank Sylvia/ Bill for all the long hours doing bookkeeping and the show. Seeing a need for another black light John/Gloria donated a nice one to be used at next year's show. A bag of lost/found items will have to be decided on what we want to do with them; raffle or silent auction.

Sherry continues to generate scholarship monies from her ebay accounts by selling club rocks.

A complete show run down was given by Bill Allen; feel free to give any pros/cons you feel we need to act on for next year. Bill could also use co-chairmen to train.

The club bought some raffle tickets from the American Federation Endowment Fund. You can buy some tickets or the club will keep them, we may get lucky.

We will be using some "No Harm Release" forms on our field trips and other events. Signing once will last a year. They will be available at the events.

Be sure to ask about the cabbing classes headed by Chuck Prentice on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday starting at 12:00.

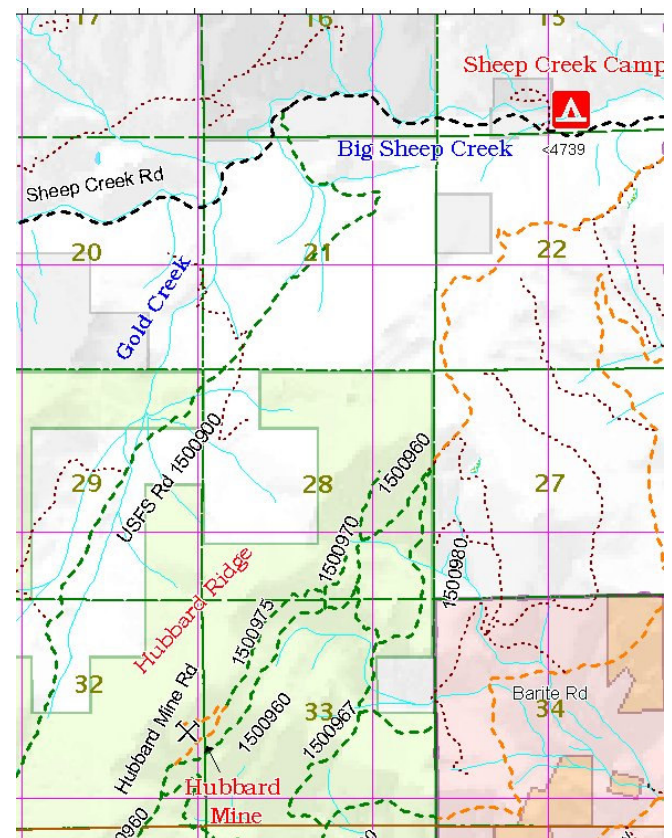
Pamoramagem.com is our web site and is where the coming field trips will be listed.

*Continued on page 2*

### The Lost Doukhobor Ledge

*Adapted from a story by N.L. Barlee*

*(Editor's note: This month we have three stories of fortune and rocks. This first one came by way of a request for more information about this strike. The original story is at <http://www.doukhobor.org/Barlee.htm>)*



The story begins in 1929, the year of the Dollar Mt. Fire, the largest single blaze to ever burn on the Colville National Forest. It started August 4<sup>th</sup> from a berry picker's campfire near Dollar Mt, south of Sherman Pass Highway not far from Old Kettle Falls. In Old Kettle folks remember needing to hose down their roofs at night to keep the embers from starting the roof on fire. Fields burned as far away as Chewelah from

*Minutes Continued from page 1*

The last one was Marcus for calcite and other minerals and coming up is one to Ellensburg for Ellensburg blue agate. We hope to hear a report of both at the meeting.

Our program was give by Bruce/Jan Hurley; they used to live in CA. This program was about Seales Lake near Trona, CA. His program included a long list of minerals found there and he gave each one a sample of Hanksite; beautiful pictures and an amusing story of the mud trips. Thank You Bruce and Jan !!!

*End*

the falling ash. Doukhobors fire fighters came down from Canada and the fire burned all the way to Canada and was not put out until September.

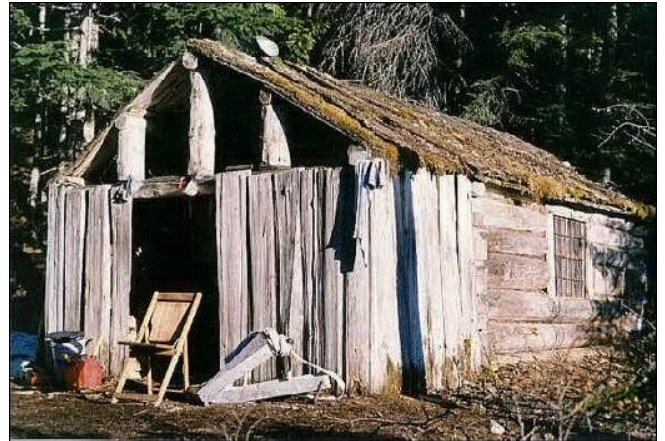
Up on Gold Creek – just over the hill from the Hubbard Mine and flowing into Sheep Creek, a crew of 25 Doukhobors and 4 Americans set a fire break hoping to stop the fire from spreading east. But the fire quickly jumped the break and the men ran for their lives. When they re-grouped, they only counted 27 men. Two Doukhobors were missing. It was late and the crew assumed the worst.

But the next morning the two missing men appeared in camp just as a fresh supply of water was being hauled in by Ray Wiley, coming from the opposite direction. A knot of Doukhobors formed around the missing men speaking rapidly in Russian. When Wiley got closer, he saw that everyone was examining two 7 lb rocks. "It was fine grained argentite - high grade silver ore," remembers Wiley. It was spectacular looking ore and elicited gasps of admiration from the fire-fighters, most of whom had at least a passing knowledge of geology.

The two Doukhobors told the story of their escape from the fire. Exhausted and barely ahead of the flames, they spotted an open slide area with no vegetation. They climbed to the middle and hunkered down for the night as the fire raged around them.

As they picked their way down to the bottom of the slide the next morning, they spotted a vein of high-grade galena. They broke off two big pieces with their fire axe and took it with them for further assay back in Trail B.C. After the fire they disappeared from the area.

In the Spring of 1930, the two returned with a couple of geologists in tow. The rocks they found on the rock slide that saved their life turned out to assay at over 1,000 ounces of silver a ton - bonanza ore! Confident that they could easily locate the rock slide and the rich ledge of galena, the ecstatic discoverers, accompanied by the geologists, headed north into the valley of Big Sheep Creek.



[Old Miners cabin in the Sheep Creek Area]

They picked their way through the charred remains of the Dollar Mt fire looking for the ledge of silver ore. But they failed to find it on that trip and on 4 more trips after that.

So the legend of the Lost Doukhobors Ledge began. Many a crew has combed those hills looking for the treasure since those days, but none have found it. Good luck, great luck and in the end, no luck at all. So if you feel like you might be a bit luckier, or have a super metal detector, that strike is still out there, waiting to be found.

## **Apophyllite Crystals**



This Apophyllite Crystal cluster from Pune India has highly acclaimed healing power.



This is one that Dave Paquette brought in to the April Rock Show. The color in the pictures is not right. It is a mixture of clear and yellow crystals.

The chemical makeup of the most common variety is  $(K, Na)Ca_4Si_8O_{20}(F, OH) \cdot 8H_2O$ . It can be white, yellow or green.



[Picture from Wiki-Pedia]

According to kacha-stones.com it stimulates the third-eye, but primarily acts on the crown chakra facilitating "tuning in" in accordance with ones consciousness and intention. It can help one recognize the truth in all situations, encouraging accurate analysis, most profitably used in self analysis where it encourages truthfulness in examining deficiencies. The natural pyramids formed by this mineral are energizing and preserving. A wonderful gazing stone for seeing".

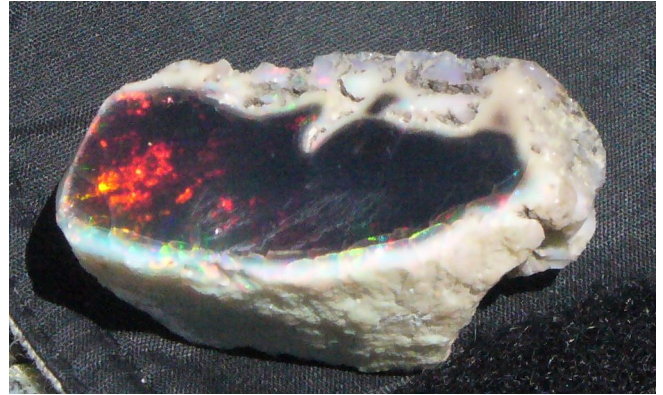
"Apophyllite facilitates attunement to one's body as well as to the higher dimensional life forms. It has been used to facilitate astral travel."

"Apophyllite can be used to maintain the energy necessary to assist in the actions required for preservation and rejuvenation. It can further clear and refresh the eyes via the utilization of two apophyllite pyramids, placed with the base section of each placed upon each eyelid."

So there you have it. Dave has the only Apophyllite crystals I know of. Come to think of it, he does seem to have more energy and see stones better than the rest of us. Now you know why.

## The Big Score

By Joe Barreca



[The Latapie Opal showing some red fire]

A lot of us who have been to the club rock show and the last meeting have seen this opal first hand, or Mike's hand to be more exact. Its about 2 1/2" by 1". It comes from the Virgin Valley, high in the Sierras on the Oregon/Nevada border off of Highway 140 by Denio Junction. The opal mines up there are only open from late in May to the middle of October. But Mike didn't find this opal at a mine. He found a miner, Eric Juhala, from the Bonanza Opal Mine at a knappers gathering near Glass Butte. Eric had a few sample opals at the gathering and showed them to Mike saying this one was worth \$1500.

Mike liked it and asked how much Eric would sell it for. He got it for \$300. As you can see there is a very solid clear core and a white rind that fractures easily. When you have a solid core like this, you don't need to worry about the opal crumbling when it is out of water. A guy offered Mike \$500 for it at our Rock Show.

Thinking that he should get a handle on the value, Mike had it appraised. It came back \$31.75 per carat and 167.5 carats = \$5,318.13. Pretty good for a \$300 purchase.

There are three main mines in the Virgin Valley. Rainbow Ridge opens May 27<sup>th</sup> (775-941-0270 or 541-548-4810) For a load of virgin rock there it costs \$500 for two people, or \$70/day to go through the tailings. The Royal Peacock (775-941-0374) opens May 15<sup>th</sup> and is \$180/person per day. The Bonanza (775-941-0111 or 775-375-5955) is \$60/day with a \$10 discount for club members. Reno is not too far away, but I'd say you would be better off betting on the Bonanza. It sure worked out for Mike.

## Ellensburg Blues

By Johnie Pitman



On May 7th Arden and Kathy Fritz, Ginger and I headed to Ellensburg, WA to meet up with some of the Rock Rollers from Spokane to go to the Rock'n' Tomahawk Ranch and look for Ellensburg blue agate. The Rock Rollers were to meet at the Sprague rest area at 8:00 in the morning which was a little out of our comfort zone, so we left Colville about 7:00 for the 4 ½ hr trip. It was about 11:30 when we took exit 106 off I-90, from there our directions were a little vague. We did find Reecer Creek road and followed it until it got steep and narrow with no signs of civilization, so we turned around and found Upper Green Canyon Road. Which was the right road and in a few minutes there was a car parked alongside the road and we noticed it was our daughter Gail and her roommate Katie from Seattle. Yes we knew they would meet us there but we hadn't found the ranch yet, so they pointed out that we had just passed it. We went to the ranch yard to get signed up, the lady was very nice and showed us samples of what we were looking for plus some other thing that were found on the ranch (petrified wood and arrowheads). Not everything blue that's found around Ellensburg is the good Ellensburg blue agate. After lunch we got started looking where she had said, of course the Rock Rollers and many others in years past had already cleaned the area. The wind was cold and sucking water out of my eyes

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and nose so the ground was blurry most of the time. We did find a few small pieces of agate and if your imagination was working overtime a few of them might be slightly blue. Gail did find one piece that is about 1/4inch by 3/8 inch and 1/8 inch thick that might be the good stuff. I haven't tried to polish it yet.

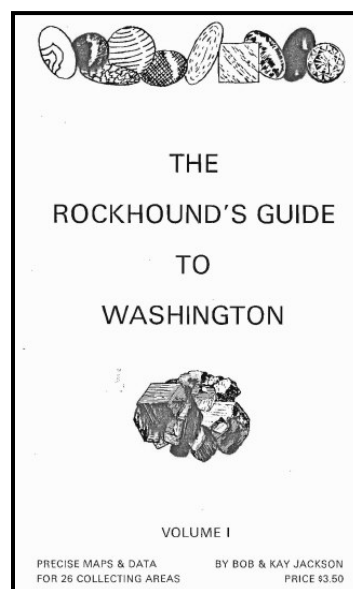


I think the next time that we go there we try farther up the ridge where maybe it hasn't been picked over as much. It was a good day and well worth the \$5.00 fee just to finally get to do some rock hounding even if we didn't find a bucket full or even our pockets full.

## Rockhound Field Guides

Bruce Hurley sent us a couple of old rockhound field guides for Washington State last month. They are up on our website at <http://panoramagem.com/?p=485> Or look in the posts for April and you will get to them.

They are less than 10 megabytes each to download (big but not huge.) The maps and information are from the 1970's. But they are out of print so if you want to look at some historic rock hounding locations in Washington, they are pretty interesting. Some of the local sites are well known to us, but a couple are not. They are worth exploring.





## Field Trip to Evans Quarry

By Joe Barreca

Pictures from Bruce Hurley



[Sherry Bamberger and Nena Wright]

It was the first rock field trip of the year, sunny but not all that warm as the clothing indicates. By way of full disclosure, I didn't go on this trip and don't have any crib notes, but I did talk to a couple of people who were on the trip. So this is all second hand hearsay.

The group met up at Harvest Foods in Kettle Falls and went out looking for the Evans Quarry, which is up a winding road just north of the turn on the river side of Highway 25 to the Evans Campground but on the hill side of the highway. I'm not clear whether they actually got up to the quarry, but I think they did and didn't find much.

But on the way out going along the highway, Mike Latapie (yes the same Mike Latapie with all the opal luck) spotted a vein of calcite crystals in a crack in the rocks. It was not the kind of place your average rockhound would like to work in. But then Mike is not your average rockhound. Pretty soon he was up on the cliff breaking off big chunks of calcite crystals and slickensides, (places where the calcite built up from water passing over the rock face and drying out there) and tossing them down to an eager bunch of rockhounds down below. Sherry and Nena were filling up their buckets and weighting down their truck.

You can see their haul in the following pictures.



[Here's Mike tossing down the good stuff]



[Here's the rest of the crew, hauling it away.]



This is piece of the slickenside. The north end of Stevens County has a lot of limestone. Much of it was quarried to make the cement that holds Grand Coulee Dam together. The hard water from the limestone makes these formations.