

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## The Panorama Prospector November 2011

### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

*Minutes* September 19, 2011

Our October meeting is when we nominate officers, we had 40 members and one visitor. Next meeting's refreshments will be furnished by Luci B., Ginger P., Arden/Kathy Fritz and Pat Scales. Thank you.

Johnie read the treasure's report, and in the absence of Sylvia, Daniel will do our silent auction monies.

Our show dates have been confirmed as: set-up Mar 29, show the 30-31<sup>st</sup>. The Rock-rollers show will be the first weekend in May. As we have had the show at the Grange a number of years it was suggested we form a committee to look into the possibility of finding a new/different facility. Johnie plus Bill Allen, as show chairmen, Scott J., Arden F., Matt H. and Bruce H. will be on that committee.

Nov is our rock auction (things associated with rock hounding) where all the funds collected go to our scholarship fund. We have been able to give 3, \$500 scholarships to the 3 local high schools for a number of years now, so hopefully we can continue this very worthy cause.

October is nominations, November is voting, December new officers take office. Nominations can still be made from the floor at the Nov meeting if you know someone who you think would do a good job and you have asked them if they are interested/willing please feel free to add them to the list of nominees.

**For President:** Johnie Pitman

**For Vice President:** Bob Bistow, Rita Cordrey declined.

**For Sectary:** Luci Bristow, Ginger Pitman

**Treasurer:** Sylvia and Bill Allen

**Trustee:** David Martell, Steve Fox, Bruce Hurley

**Field trips:** Steve Fox, Bruce Hurley, Joe Barreca, Bob Bristow



### Back to the Barter Fair

It has become an annual theme in this newsletter that I report on the great rock finds at the Okanogan Family Fair, AKA the Barter Fair, <http://www.okanoganfamilyfaire.net/>. This year we were pressed for time and money, so we just went for one day. The best day is probably Friday, before too many people get there. It was good weather. My wife, Cheryl and I had great luck finding what we were looking for which didn't really include many rocks

We could have easily spent the whole day just looking at the rock displays. There were  
[This display had some very nice trilobites]



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A reminder that any thing you do on state land needs a \$30 Discovery Pass.

**Door Prize Chairman:** Vanita Novak.

No door prizes for Nov & Dec. Members who volunteered to supply a door prize are: Bruce, Suzan, Brian, Luci, Ginger, Nena, Bev, Scott.

Steve Fox gave a report on his booth at the Marcus Cider-fest. He declined our reimbursement for the booth fee; reported things went great and was busy the whole day. He also has a date to present his rock hounding program to the Inchelium School in Jan.

Scott gave the shop report, things are good, same hours 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat each month, or it can be opened by appointment. Contact Scott, Steve, Johnie. Be sure your waiver is signed and pay for the time that you work.

All club members participating in our club events need to sign our new “release, hold harmless” forms. The forms will be available at the meetings and events, just one will do ya.

Bruce Hurley has been working on access to the trilobites at Metaline Falls.

Kay Lupton presented a community service opportunity to the club, which resulted in the club members voting to donate \$250 to the Chewelah Arts Guild for construction costs on the Art Pavilion in the Chewelah City Park.

**DUES ARE DUE IN NOV-DEC. \$15 PER YEAR,** the mailing list will be compiled from those paid by Dec.

Joe gave a most informative program about the geography of this area. The oldest land forms in the area, how later events changed our region, and what minerals/fossils are found in/at each level and why. Our area had a busy and unique geographic history, accounting for the most varied, mineralized region in the US, but most were not found in great quantities. Joe is a wealth of information on geography and history of this area. He needs some volunteer help compiling data if you are interested (509-738-6155).

*End of Minutes*

dozens of them covering a wide range of offerings. I had never seen such large trilobites as these that were selling at \$65 each. This table was just one of several that wrapped around a corner.

The variety ranged from the simple:



like this blanket full of crystals at a buck each, to the huge, like this display on both side of the isle.



There were some really nice calcite crystals at a variety of prices and every other kind



Of rock or mineral that you can think of. Some were pretty tacky, like pieces of glass a dyed rocks. Others were high class and pretty-much for display only, like the large hand-polished pieces done by our very own member, Steve Lecture.



This is one of Steve's tables. He also had bags of tumbled geodes that he brought back from the Southwest. Actually, he is back down there now collecting more of them in the warm weather.

I only bought one rock, but it was just too good to pass up, one of those giant trilobites from Madagascar. I found one priced at \$25 instead of \$65 and figured I could afford that. It is 7 inches



long and there are pieces of a few more on the slab, not bad for something from the height of the Cambrian Era, 520 million years ago.

So really, think about it, an hour or so drive from here, \$10 admission and enough rocks to keep you busy all day. Check out the Barter Fair when it comes around next year.



## Johnie's Jabber

By President Johnie Pitman

The holiday season is almost here, what a joyous time of the year, well that is after the fall chores are done and everything is ready for winter. When the ground is frozen or covered with snow it makes rock hounding a little more difficult, so it must be time to work on those rocks and minerals that we collected last summer.

This month is our annual auction to raise money for the scholarship fund, its always a fun meeting. We have some very nice and interesting things donated.

This month is also officer election. I have not been following the BY-LAWS very closely concerning officer nominations and election, I apologize.

The BY-LAWS say in Article IV, Section 3: The president shall appoint a committee of three (3) at the September meeting to act as a nominating committee. Any member in good standing may nominate any other active member in good standing for office, providing the nominee has given prior consent. The nominating committee will report to the Club at the November meeting and publish the nominees in the December bulletin. Article IV, Section 4: Election of officers shall be at the December meeting and all voting shall be by secret ballot unless there is only one nominee for an office, in which case the Secretary may be instructed to cast a unanimous elective ballot for that office. A majority of votes cast shall constitute an election. Article IV, Section 6: Installation of officers shall be at the December meeting. Article IV, Section 2: No member shall be elected for more than one office at a time.

I have been informed that "open" nominating and voting results in the same officers over and over. I agree this is probably true.

I like to keep the December Christmas meeting as clear of business as possible so I nudged these activities up a month in years past.

Remember after the Christmas pot luck there will be a time for you to share stories or writings that you have done or any other thing that's interesting and fun, so get your stuff together and be prepared to entertain us. Also remember the gift exchange.

*Happy Rocks - Johnie*

## Lead Mines of Northport

By Joseph Barreca

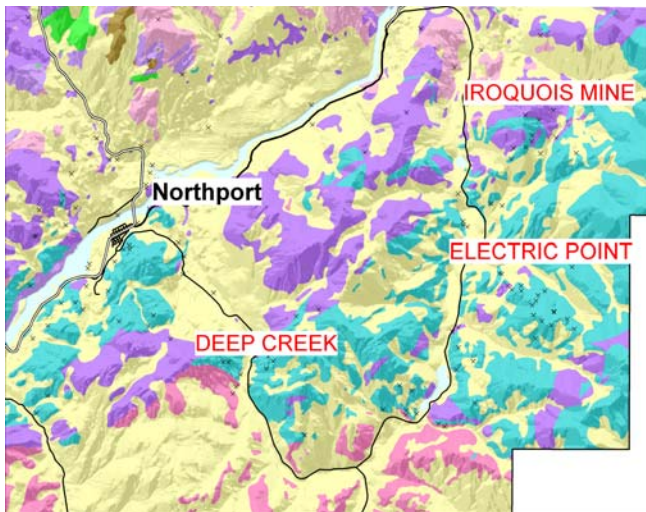
Northport Washington was perhaps the largest city in Eastern Washington around 1914. The reason for its boom was the discovery of large deposits of lead, zinc, silver, copper and gold in the vicinity and the development of the Le Roi Smelter, which smelted ore from them.



Northport Smelter and the town of Northport. Note the light colored exposures of the Northport limestone on the opposite side of Columbia River.

The smelter burned in 1925 and was not rebuilt, but ore continued to be shipped through Boundary near the Waneta bridge to Trail. Tek Cominco in Trail B.C. is now the world's largest lead smelter.

Much of the ore for the Northport Smelter came from three nearby lead-rich mining areas: The Electric Point, Iroquois and Deep Creek Mining groups. These areas are still of interest today because they contain huge ore reserves. Several kinds of rocks of interest to rockhounds, are associated with them.



Pyrite and Chalcopyrite (Iron Pyrite with Copper in it) are usually found up to 100 ft around the outside of lead or bodies in this district. Cerussite and aragonite crystals can be found in the iron-colored dirt around these mines. Mountain Leather, a flexible mineral sheet has

also been associated with these formations. I would not recommend trying to enter any of the tunnels left from mining, but the waste piles are fair game.

Perhaps the first mine of this group was the Iroquois, discovered in 1893. It has an adit that is 780 ft long leading to a network of drifts and crosscuts amounting to about ½ mile. There are estimated to be over 1 million tons of ore left in this mine running at about 3.3% zinc and 1% lead with almost an ounce of silver per ton.



Figure 3. Mine office with main haulage adit to the left of center.

The Sierra Zinc mine discovered in 1889, was not fully developed until 1941. The club checked it out and there is an article in the June 2008 newsletter on our website. Its mill processed 500 tons of ore per day and was used by other mines in the area, principally the Deep Creek Mine. It was relatively rich in zinc, at 6.5%.

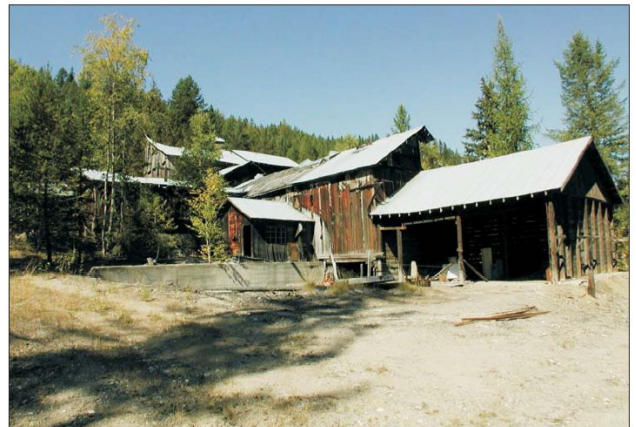


Figure 4. Mill building complex. View to the northwest.

It resides on private land, but the owner, Ron Nixon will let you explore for pyrite if you ask. He also has a small museum.

A group of mines that were some of the most important in Northport History were discovered on Electric Point in 1915 by Josh Yoder. Yoder, then grubstaked by Art Young, visited the cabin of Chris Johnson and saw that

the foundation rocks he used for his cabin contained galena (lead ore). On inquiry he learned that they came from an area of the mountain that repeatedly drew down lightning strikes, hence the name, Electric Point. The lightning was attracted to what turned out to be huge “Chimneys” of lead ore running up to 69% pure, 25 to 30 feet around and over 100 feet deep. They later learned that local Indians had used the ore to make bullets.



[Electric Point Mining camp circa 1916]

The work at Electric Point took off like a rocket. Soon they had a 1400 ft tramway bringing ore down to Leadpoint on the valley floor. They hauled 1.3 million dollars worth of ore to Boundary in 1915. They had shafts 800 feet deep. Over the next few years they shipped over 30 million tons of ore running 25% lead. In 1918 they were the biggest producer in the State of Washington making \$2,289,289 in historic value. In with the lead were almost 7000 oz. of silver. Not far away, a copper vein 2 ½ feet wide was discovered that ran for 2 miles. 60 to 100 people worked at the mine. Nearby mines, the Gladstone and the Lead Trust were also big producers.

All of this was not without its tragedy. Several men were killed in mining accidents. One of the original claim holders, J.E. Yoder, who went on to discover the Red Iron mine, became a rich man. He owned a large ranch at the north end of Deep Lake. He was killed by O.J. Bigler, who rented that ranch in 1931.

On the road from Electric Point back to Northport lies the Marble Mine. Just North of it in 1914 a band of Sphalerite, a zinc sulfide, was discovered and mistaken for marble. When it turned out to not be marble, the claim was abandoned until 1941 when Western Knapp Engineering took another look at the deposit and developed a 700ft shaft. Through 1944 it was producing 400 tons a day. The ore was shipped down Aladdin Road to the Sierra Mill for processing. Although they took 763,000 tons of ore from the mine, up to 2 million tons of ore remain in the ground. The main characteristics of

the mine are very solid rock, which allows walls of the stopes to be up to 600 feet high, and an excessive amount of water infiltration. Waddell (1963) reported that “At one point water pressure forced the drill steel out of the hole, folded it like a string, and knocked down the drill”.



This is a view of the Deep Creek Mine from the Last Chance Mine which is across the Aladdin Rd. There is a “pond” on the property that is 20 feet wide and 700 feet deep. Again the ore bodies are in chimneys which when mined out, can reach the surface. This mine earned from 8.5 to 12 million dollars in its first run and could earn that again. It runs 4.84% zinc and 1% lead. There are more prospects on the hill above the mine. The rocks are Metaline Cambrian, the same age as the trilobites near Metaline Falls.

The Sphalerite ore is yellow to brown in a Dolomite formation. Other minerals in the ore body include copper, silver and gold. There is a ring of pyrite around the ore bodies. At last report the Deep Creek Mine is owned by Washington Resources LLC out of Spokane.

The website winners for the American Association of Mineral Societies have been announced. They include the following:

- 1) Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
[www.oxnardgem.com](http://www.oxnardgem.com)
- 2) Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, [www.gemandmineral.cc](http://www.gemandmineral.cc)
- 3) West Seattle Rock Club,  
[www.westseattlerockclub.org](http://www.westseattlerockclub.org)
- 4) Society of Austin,  
[www.texaspaleo.com/psa/](http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/)
- 5) Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club, [www.tcrockhounds.com](http://www.tcrockhounds.com)
- 6) Mobile Rock and Gem Society,  
[www.mobilerockandgem.com](http://www.mobilerockandgem.com)