

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector February 2012

Minutes January 2012

By Ginger Pitman

Attending our 6 PM show meeting were 24 people. Our regular meet at 7 had 46 adults plus two juniors.

Bringing refreshments for next meeting are Mary Hill, NeNa and Sharon, Thank you guys.

Bob mentioned that we need to be careful about fake gold/gems and etc.

Bill gave a warning about wolves, reminding us to be aware when we are in the field.

Sylvia gave the treasurer's report, and read the Thank You letter from Tyler's grandmother.

Bill gave a report on the progress of our show. The Grange will not be serving lunch this year. Steve and NeNa will ask service clubs and some business people if they would be interested in preparing and selling lunch. Bill asked for themes for the show and after voting, the theme for this year is "Treasures Far and Wide".

Johnie presented an insurance quote, it was motioned and seconded that the club purchase insurance for all its activities.

The Daisy Opal Mine in Nevada sent a group digging presentation which you can read if you are interested.

Steve Fox gave a report on the club shop and equipment. The large saw needs a new blade, which he recommends getting a good American made one. The money from shop use is \$134. He also says that the saw needs to be changed from gravity feed to screw feed to protect the blade. He would like to see some classes on cabbing being offered to use more of the machines.

Joe and Steve asked that if you have any suggestions or requests for field trips that you get them to them soon. We need to find some field trips with easy access.

Following the break a DVD on Thundereggs was shown.

End

Rockin Your Rocks

By Joseph Barreca



This is Bruce Hurley's display from our 2011 Rock Show. I thought it would be a good idea to write something about how to make a good rock display this month. Yeah, I know, very didactic and boring. But in the next picture I am going to show you my display from 2009.



You can see the difference right away. I made a lot of classical mistakes. So this is one of those "Do what I say, not what I do" articles. I had a lot of learning from mistakes to do and here is what I have discovered so far.

If you go to the AMFS website and look for rules about judging exhibits, be prepared to do a lot of reading. The rule book is 99 pages long! So see, we are better off already because this is going to be a lot shorter than that. For one thing, the AFMS judges exhibits in 29 divisions and they score points in 15 different areas. We are going to boil that down to 6 areas and one division. They also always make the total points available add up to 100. So I am going to steal a little advice from Betty M. James, who wrote an award winning article in the January 1994 issue of Rocky Echoes about micromounts.

There is a letter code for each area:

- L = Labeling 10 points
- S = Showmanship 15 points
- Q= Quality 50 points
- R= Rarity 5 points
- O= Orientation 5 points
- W= Workmanship 15 points

Quality: Right off the top, quality is worth as much as the rest of these criteria put together. So it is important to choose your best stuff. Notice that Bruce had incredibly great ammonites from all over the world. Joe had whatever people were willing to trade for “rocks in a box”. Notice also that they were all cleaned up and shiny in Bruce’s display and just piled together in Joe’s.

Labels: If you look closely, Bruce printed out his labels with a computer. Joe used a felt pen.



This display, (creator unknown), has very nice stuff and is probably pairing the base rock with the finished rocks in each piece of jewelry. But without labels, it is hard to tell that.

Showmanship: This seems like a fuzzy category, but for displays it really should get more points. For one thing, see how the big pieces in Bruce’s

display are in the back and the small pieces are in the front and the middle-sized pieces are in the middle. This is exactly the way it should be. In my case, the pieces are all about the same size and fill the whole bottom of the display. In fact, I have some hard-to-read material in the back of the case. My pieces are not particularly clean, and really, most of them are still in the plastic cases that they came in. This is not showmanship, it is just plain tacky.

Rarity: This is another fuzzy category, but an item can be rare for a lot of reasons, unusual size, shape or color, being found in a far-away place or just one where such things are rarely found. But even if an item is rare, having too many similar rocks in one case is seldom a great idea.



This is Johnie Pitman’s case of rock balls. Even though they are all similar, they are all distinct and contrast with each other. Notice size front to back and the labels. Johnie puts on a show!

Orientation: Put your best face forward. This seems like another obvious criterion, but it takes some study to get the best face and light is not always your friend in a typical display box.



Although not a display box, Sherry Bamberger’s table just pops with light and color.

Workmanship: This counts for a lot too, not just in the pieces but the whole display. I hope we can bring out the best for this year’s show.

Rockhound Legislation

By Joe Barreca

Washington's ground-breaking legislation (no pun intended) on rockhounding has passed several major hurdles. It has gotten out of the first committee, been read on the floor and has been passed to the Ways and Means Committee. The trouble ahead for the bill comes from government agencies in charge of Energy, Natural Resources, State Parks and Marine Waters. They argue that the bill is too broad and that to protect Native artifacts and fossils, they would need to do a complete survey of all their lands to flag critical areas. To do that they would need more money. So substitute bills on HB 2600 and SB 6057 contain language saying the new rules would only apply if funding was supplied. Here is the summary:

"Authorizes recreational rock, mineral, and petrified wood collecting on lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

Provides that the act is null and void if appropriations are not approved." So keep hounding your legislators. They are stuck between a rock and a hard place. Okay, a pun was intended there.

Explorers Wanted

By Joseph Barreca

As mentioned in the minutes on page one, (You did read the minutes didn't you?), the field trip team is looking for a few good places to go with the club. One of the criteria is that we can actually get there without walking too far. But let's face it, not all the good stuff is on a road, or at least an existing road. While driving to Spokane a few months ago, Johnie Pitman and I started talking about possible places to explore. This is the list we came up with. It shows what should be easy to get to and what is probably a little harder, (or if you read some of my articles from last year, maybe a lot harder). Bottom line, we need to know if anything worth finding is there at all and just exactly where it is. We need explorers, not just people who want to jump out of their car and come back in a couple of hours with a bucket full of great rocks.

Place	Minerals	Status
Bubble Mt	Geodes and blue agate	A tough climb walk-in access
Melrose	Copper, Pyrite, Galena	Could be a drive up unknown
Tower Rd	Beryl, mica...	Access is not bad, want to explore more
South Baldy	Beryl	Bob Bristow's find, hike in
Kelly Hill	Ammonites	Bruce Hurley find, unexplored, drive up
Chloride Queen	Copper, Lead and Iron	Four Wheel Drive probably
Horseshoe Mt	Quartz Crystals	Big area, more to find
Tom Thumb	Fossils	Same strata as Stone Rose, 4 Wheel only.
Belcher	Copper	Huge open pit, unexplored
Young America	Fluorescent Minerals, Calcite	Drive up but now has warnings
Germania Read	Tungsten Copper Tungsten, Chondrodite, Diopide, Fluorite, Spinel	Difficult Drive Unexplored, walk-in possibly private, very interesting
White Rock	Calcite	More to find but new owner
Marcus railroad	Bog Opal	Bog opal found along tracks
Adams Mt	Quartz Crystals	Possible new access

So if any of you hardy souls out there want to take your chances (currently estimated at about 4 to 1 against) on finding anything good, please contact Steve Fox (509-684-2136) or Joe Barreca (509-738-6155). We are talking about slogging through mud and downed trees as soon as we can get out in the country so that if we do come up with a new great place, the rest of the club will have a chance to get to it later in the nice weather when sane people go out rockhounding. As an added bonus, the trip will probably get written up in this newsletter one way or another. Hopefully we won't make the evening news.

TENTATIVE WSMC SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS 2012:

Date	Location	Minerals	Sponsor	Contact
Jan 28	Beaver Valley Qry	Chert, Zeolites, Geodes	Marysville	Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282
Feb 18	Cedar Ponds	Red & Yellow Jasper	Marysville	Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282
Mar 11	Saddle Mountain	Petrified Wood	Everett	Brad Johnson (206) 403-3073
Apr 14	Racehorse Creek	Fossils, Morel mushrooms	Mt Baker	Kris Menger (360) 927-0994
Apr 21-22	Saddle Mountain	Petrified Wood	Pow-Wow	Cliff Matteson (253) 475-8433
May 19-20	Wasco, OR	China Hollow Picture Jasp (\$)	Marysville	Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282
Jun 13-16	Idaho	TBD	Tri-Fed	Fed representative
Jun 23	Emerald Creek, ID	Star Garnets (\$)	Spokane	Mike Shaw (509) 244-8542
Jun 27-Jul 1	Madras, OR	Agate, Jasper, Thund eggs (\$)	Pow-Wow	Cliff Matteson (253) 475-8433
Jul 21	Darrington	Travertine & Spelunking	Marysville	Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282
Jul 28	Lake Wenatchee	Garnets, Actinolite, Talc	West Seattle	Brian Waters (206) 290-2312
Aug 4	Timberwolf Mtn	Quartz crystals	Yakima	Jerry Wichstrom (509) 653-2787
Aug 11	Lolo Pass, ID	Smoky Quartz crystals	Spokane	Mike Shaw (509) 244-8542
Aug 18-19	Greenwater	Agate, Jasper	NW Opal	Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238
Sep 8-9	Red Top	Geodes, Agate, Jade	Pow-Wow	Cliff Matteson (253) 475-8433
Sep 15	Little Naches	Thunder eggs, Rhyolite	NW Opal	Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238
Oct 6	Chewelah area	Magnesite, Var. Minerals	Spokane	Mike Shaw (509) 244-8542
Oct 27	Miller River	Picture Jasper	Marysville	Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282
Nov 10	Blanchard Hill	Stilpnomelane in Quartz	Mt Baker	Kris Menger (360) 927-0994

Trips are open to all. Most two-day trips include Sat potluck, Sun free breakfast, tailgating, swap and horse shoes. Small fee required for Pow-Wow and Madras trips. Always call to confirm trip dates and details!

More information on these field trips is in the WSMC newsletter, find it at www.mineralcouncil.org

More Field Trip Stuff

By Joseph Barreca

If you are not thrilled by the idea of scrambling through the brush all day in search of an unknown rock site, then the above list is just what you need. Steve Fox had me steal this list from the Spokane Rock Rollers newsletter. There are lots of good places, here, though somewhat far afield. The best part is that they have trip leaders with contact information and some experience with where they are going.

You will notice that a few of these trips are sponsored by the Pow-Wow Club, more formally known as The All Rockhounds Pow-Wow Club of America, Inc.. If you don't believe me or even if you do you can go to their website <http://www.allrockhoundspowwowclubofamerica.com> It is worth the work typing it out. Check out their schedule of events. For instance:

SPRING DIG: April 21 & 22, the Saddle Mountain dig is about 20 miles south of Vantage near Mattawa, WA. Camp will be at the Priests Rapids Boat Launch two miles south of Mattawa (west off highway 243) at the Columbia River. Washington Department of Wildlife requires an access permit for camping. It comes with a fishing license or can be obtained for about \$10 at any place that sells hunting-fishing licenses.

Camping is free. It is a dry camping site, no potable water or electricity. The Pow-Wow Club will furnish porta-potties. The public is invited to attend. Membership is required to participate in the activities. We will be digging for petrified wood, picture wood, limb sections and, possibly, common opal. Saturday evening at 5 p.m. a potluck dinner will be served with hot dogs and hamburgers furnished by the Pow-Wow Club. Dinner will be followed by a short general meeting and donated door prizes. Sunday morning at 8 a.m., a pancake and sausage breakfast is furnished by the Pow-Wow Club (weather permitting). Tailgating and rock swapping is highly encouraged.

Their biggest event is at Madras, Oregon: **SUMMER EXTRAVANGANZA:** June 27 — July 1, the Madras Pow-Wow Gem and Mineral Show is at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Madras, OR....



We'll have more on our own club's schedule in the months to come.

Treasures Far and Wide Gem and Mineral Show

Free
12th Annual



March 30th & 31st

Fort Colville Grange Hall

8:30 AM - 6:00 PM Friday March 30th

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday March 31st

1 mile East of Junction of US 395 and Hwy 20 Colville, WA

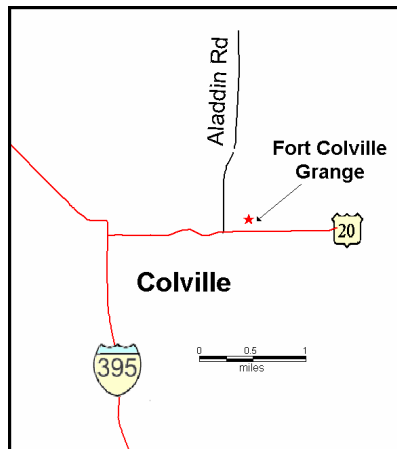
Wheel of Fortune

Gold Panning

Gems and Minerals
from Around the World

Silent Auction
Door Prizes

Jewelry



Fossils

Food

Black Light
Tunnel

(509) 936-2446

Membership Dues:

\$15.00 per **household** per year is due to the club Treasurer Sylvia Allen (see below) on the third Tuesday of November for regular members.

Webpage: www.panoramagem.com

Contact: Johnie Pitman, President, 509 684 8887.

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).

Martell's Rock Shop

2 Baxter Lane
Kettle Falls, WA 99141
509-738-3041
509-675-0390

bkmartell@hotmail.com



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**Mineral Identification
Mineral/Mine Locations**

Bristow Enterprises

PO Box 1165
Chewelah, WA 99109
Bristow@theofficenet.com

www.minrils.net
www.Mineral-Software.com

News and Notes

Farch (February+March) is the longest month. I've even heard the TV weather forecasters call the weather dreary. But Spring will come and with it, the Rock Show. So post the poster on the other side of this page - even if it's just on your refrigerator. It is time to start thinking about cleaning up your rock collection for Spring and picking out some nice specimens for a display box at the Rock Show.

Johnie and Ginger are coming back from New Mexico and should have some good stories for the next meeting.

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

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

Officers:			
President:	Johnie Pitman	701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-8887
Vice-President:	Bob Bristow	PO Box 1165; 2567 Mudd Lake Rd. Chewelah WA 99109	935-4375
Secretary:	Ginger Pitman	701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-8887
Treasurer:	Sylvia Allen	2633 Highline Rd, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-8779
Trustee 1:	Scott Jackson	1028 Old Hwy 12 Mile Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-6371
Trustee 2:	Bruce Hurley	10617 W. Lakeside Lane, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026	509-413-2768
Trustee 3:	Daniel Lundy	1035 Haller Creek Rd. Addy, WA	685-5870
Committee Chairs			
Program Coordinator:	Bev Bockman	1750 N Havichur Loop, Post Falls, ID 83854	208-773-5384
Hospitality:	Dianne Lenz	556 Douglas Falls Rd, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-4925
Field Trips:	Fox, Jackson, Ingram	PO Box 595, Marcus WA, 99151	684-2136
Librarian:	Ruth Ross	750 N Lincoln, # 6, Colville, WA 99114	684-4925
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