

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

June 2012

Minutes June 2012

By Ginger Pitman

Our meeting started with 40 members and 4 visitors present. Volunteers for refreshments next meeting are Pattie, Diane and Gene. Thank you. Bob talked about Red Top Mt. and he has maps available to his favorite spots. If you want him to bring some more, connect with him and they will be brought to the July meeting.

If you are interested in learning how to sculpture there is a camp for that, all you need is provided; in Mount Vernon from July 15-21.

Sylvia gave the treasurer's report. We have a thank you from Mariah Lentz and Colyn Lindback for scholarships.

Jim S. had some items for sale and conveniently for us, one was a dop pot needed in the shop. Gene made a motion to buy the equipment for \$10 and the motion passed. Jim also has some rocks to sell.

Gene and Scott have made a great tri-fold display about the equipment in the shop, which will be used for our booth at Rendezvous.

Next meeting will be for all members to show what they have been doing and collecting this winter/spring. So bring your stuff and stories, we will all have fun.

The August meeting will be our annual potluck picnic, Bill will bring the grill, and cook. The club will furnish the meat and plates/etc.

June 24 will be our next field trip going to Jim Creek. Meet at the Tiger store at 10 am. Expecting to find Galena, Pyrite and Marble, you will need a hammer and gloves.

Bruce will be setting up an end-of-July trip to the trilobite dig.

It was voted to go to the Livingstones Rock Ranch on July 23rd, a Monday. We need about 10-12 to go. It is in the Spokane Valley. We can car pool. It is interesting and the museum is excellent.

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Galena, Pyrite and Marble

By Bob Bristow



[This article was inspired by a trip to the Jim Creek Mine June 24th. It included all the usual suspects. The author, Bob Bristow is on the left.]

As I started out for the day's adventure, my mind drifted back to the time 36 years before that had set up the events that led to today's outing. I had taken two weeks vacation and had spent the first week with my wife, Luci, and son, Dale, at Luci's sister's home in Boise. (At least Luci spent the week with her sister. I took the opportunity to go out in the Succor Creek area and rock hunt with my brother-in-law, John.) Luci could only get a one-week vacation, so at the end of the week, I put her on a plane home to Seattle and my son and I headed for a week's prospecting in NE Washington. We met my brother, John, and his wife at South Skukum Lake and proceeded to have a number of adventures (mostly good). The part that set today's activities in motion was when we went up Jim Creek above Ione to a mine that was primarily for lead, but also had some very interesting minerals.

The road to the new mine was well-used and the chain across the road said, "Private mine."

Bill/Sylvia will be working on our trip to some mines over by Waitts Lake for August. Arden gave some dates on a wire wrapping and beading work shop by Bev. Ask if you are interested.

Kay Lupton invited everyone to the Chewelah park for a free concert on July 1.

Dave displayed some large calcite crystals from Evans quarry but warned everyone to be careful. The rains have loosened the rocks. Some of it is dangerous. He also invited everyone to visit prospectorman.com, his new website.

It was good to have Steve Fox home for a visit, sharing some of his travels, one important bit of news was that the Spencer Opal mines will be shut down July 6 for good.

The Prineville and Madras shows in OR will be coming up at the end of June.

Our program for the night was given by Bruce Hurley about his favorite fossils the Trilobite. Now you might think that a subject hard to make interesting but Bruce pulled it off. With vast knowledge of world wide digs/ types and pictures it was interesting but the most fascinating part was listening to someone who can pronounce all those scientific words without a hesitation or stumbling. It was great. Thanks Bruce.

Galena, Pyrite and Marble continued

Keep out!” The mine with the interesting minerals was the last one up Jim Creek and consisted of a 100-foot shaft with workings at 50 feet and at the bottom. We hoped to find good mineral samples in the tails, but if we didn’t, we had climbing gear to go down the shaft. When we found the shaft, it was not only full of water, but a good stream was flowing out into Jim Creek. The tailings were spread out over a swampy area and had sunk down below water level. We kissed this location off and headed down toward the mine we had passed on the way in.

About halfway between the two mines, we came to a water-filled shallow pit with interesting rocks that had just been dug up by a dozer. The rocks were all marble with some having hundreds of small, bright crystals of pyrite in perfect pyritohedron habit. While pyrite and marble are not exactly rare or exciting, these made exceptionally nice specimens and we were very pleased.



Figure 2. Pyrite on Marble

Not only had the pit been recently dug up, but both sides of the road from the pit to the first mine had been dozed (Jim Creek 2). This was about a mile and a half. John’s wife drove the car down to the first mine while John, Dale and I explored the dug up real estate. This was near the contact of marble and granite, but there wasn’t sign of skarn minerals until we reached the first mine. (*skarn, in geology, metamorphic zone developed in the contact area around igneous rock intrusions when carbonate sedimentary rocks are invaded by large amounts of silicon, aluminum, iron, and magnesium.*) We picked up some specimens of galena at the Jim Creek 2 mine but missed the interesting part that would have to wait about 30 years to become known to rockhounds.



Old Ore Bin, Jim Creek #2, 30 Years ago

Thirty years later, after Luci and I had retired and moved to Chewelah, I went back up Jim Creek to see what the third mine (Jim Creek 3) looked like. It was also a shaft and was filled with water. However, when I explored the first mine you come to (Jim Creek 2), I climbed up the

cut behind the shaft and found a lens of solid galena about six inches thick and five feet long. The galena had turned a shade of grey like the skarn rocks above the shaft. No one had recognized it as galena since the mine shut down. I took a sample and felt that this would be a good place to take people for samples for many years. Unfortunately, one or more of the people I later showed it to came back and removed the whole lens.

After finding the galena lens, I took Rex to see if the Jim Creek Mines would be a possible place to take the mineral club. Rex took a sample of the lens and said he would like to take a look at the old cabin across the creek. We crossed the brushy creek and found an abandoned adit. There was a large tailings pile below the adit. Other people had undoubtedly also seen the adit and tailings pile, but they failed to recognize that the dark-grey rocks were galena. Here was a pile of rocks up to two feet in diameter containing up to 25% galena! This was a perfect spot for rockhounds.



Greg and Jim with Galena and Marble

We brought the Rock Club to Jim Creek together with members of other rock clubs. Everyone collected all the galena specimens they could carry. Since then, there has been a steady stream of rock hounds gathering galena. That big pile of boulders has been greatly reduced, but there will be enough for another year or two.

Today I was heading to Jim Creek again with the Rock Club. Greg Van was riding with me, Johnnie and Ginger were taking Harold Ingram, and the outing leader, Scott Jackson, was taking two new club members, Jim and Joan Sperber. We met at Tiger in a downpour and expected to have to sit this one out.

However, the skies dried up and no one got wet.

Scott had scouted out the road a couple of weeks back and reported that it was rough but a four-wheeler wouldn't have trouble. He also reported that there were trees down across the road. He carried a chain saw and I had a large set of shears. I happened to get in the lead and quickly discovered that there had been considerable erosion since Scott had been there.



Greg Van thinking about jumping the Creek

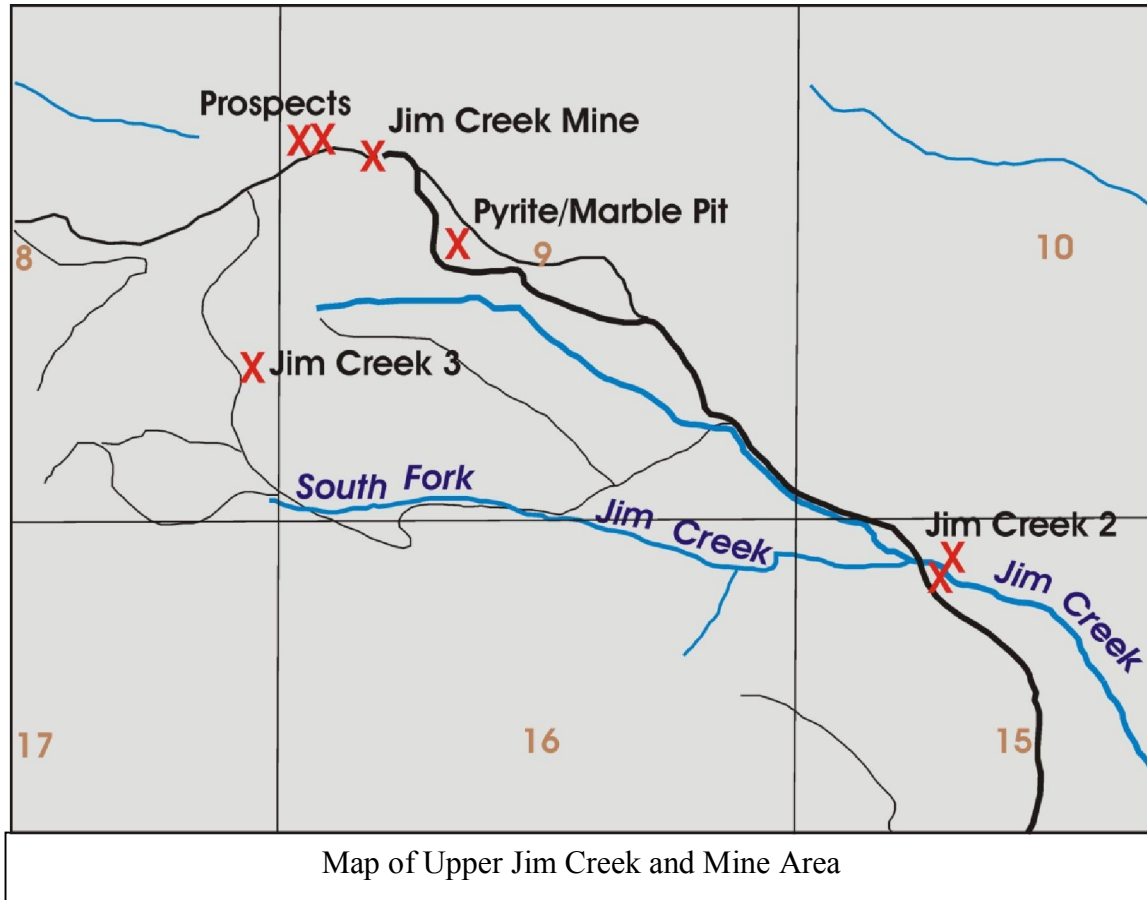
Some of the ruts were approaching three feet deep and many small trees were hanging down to the ground level. Several times, the car had to straddle a gully and then move over to straddle the next. At one point, I got too close to the edge and the dirt gave way. The car dropped to the axle. I thought we would have to get out and jack it up, but with four-wheel drive, we pulled out. Greg rode shotgun and jumped out numerous times to cut brush and limbs out of the way. We finally made it to the first mine and the other two vehicles were close behind.

Scott, Jim, Greg and I headed for the tailings pile with the large galena boulders. Jim Creek was flowing far too high to jump so we crashed through the wet brush past the remains of the old cabin.

Johnnie and the other hounds headed to the shaft portal. Johnnie wanted to get some pyrite to put in kid's grab bags for next year's club show. There had been a big change. The shaft was completely filled with tailings. (The Government is trying to close all open shafts and adits.) Filling the shaft had one advantage for rockhounds. The tailings pile had appeared devoid of all galena and most pyrite. The digging required to fill the shaft exposed a large number of small galena

specimens. After getting our fill of galena at Jim Creek 2, we drove up the creek to the pyrite pit. A lot of spectacular specimens of small pyritohedrons in pure white marble have been recovered here. While the specimens are getting harder to find, everyone who wanted went home with nice specimens.

This is a map of the Jim Creek mines. The GPS coordinates are Latitude: 48.8108 and Longitude: -117.5153 (Bureau of Mines data).



Map of Upper Jim Creek and Mine Area

Johnie's Jabber

By Johnie Pitman

The year is half gone and I haven't done half of the rock hounding that I want to do this year, looks like the weather is going to cooperate now that the days are getting shorter, Ha!! The date to go to Livingstones Rock Ranch is Monday July 23. We can arrive there any time from 9 until about 3 and can stay until 5 PM. There is a bit of an orientation when we arrive so that he can explain the operation, so we need to arrive as a group if possible. We will decide on a meeting place at the next meeting.

The program for the July meeting is "Show and Tell" so prepare a few minute explanation of something you do or story that happened to you while rock hounding or whatever else you want to share. This is your chance to be involved and you don't have to listen to me, lets make it interesting.

We will have a 10' x10' booth at Rendezvous Days in Colville on Friday, Aug 3rd with a display to promote our club. We will have the space all day and will have to take everything away in the evening because someone else will have the same space on Saturday. Display items need to be eye catching and large enough that they don't walk off, we'll talk about it at the meeting.

Field trips for August so far are Metaline Falls for trilobites and we hope to go gold panning on the Columbia River.

Remember the shop is open the first and third Saturday of the month, or almost any other time if you arrange it with Scott, Gene, Daniel or Johnie. (Phone numbers on the back page.)



Field Trips

Club	Date	Meet	Destination	Rocks	Tools
PGMC	23-Jul	To be Determined	Livingstones Rock Ranch	Museum and rock hunting	None
Rock Rollers	28-Jul	9am Coles Corner Gas	Wenatchee Lake	Garnet, Soapstone	Screens, waders, saw
Rock Rollers	4-Aug	9am Naches Ace Hardware	Timberwolf Mountain	Included Quartz Crystals	Digging & hard rock tools
Rock Rollers	8/11/2012	8am Lolo Hot Springs Resort	Lolo Pass, MT	Smokey Quartz	Heavy digging tools
PGMC	August Sometime		Metaline Quarry	Trilbites	Rock hammer, chisel
PGMC	August Sometime		Waits Lake Area	Old Mines	
Rock Rollers	25-Aug	9am Rosauers at the Y	Jim Creek near lone	Galena and Pyrite in Quartz	Rockhammer, chisel
PGMC	This summer		Columbia River	Gold Panning	Gold Pan, shovel, etc.
Rock Rollers	9/8 & 9	Swauk Campground	Red Top Mountain	Geodes, Agate, Jade	Digging & hard rock tools
Rock Rollers	9/15 & 16	9am Enumclaw Ranger Station	Little Naches near Yakima	Thundereggs	Digging tools
Rock Rollers	6-Oct	9am Chewelah Safeway	Chewelah area	Magnesite, Serpentine w/Pyrite	Digging & hard rock tools

Here is a list of rockhound field trips for the summer and early fall as we have them so far. As you can see, the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club (PGMC) is more than a little sketchy on where and when these will take place. If you don't make it to the meetings, keep checking the website PanoramaGem.com. Look under the Events tab for 2012 field trips. We expect a lot of this to be hashed out at the July meeting.

Meanwhile, the Spokane Rock Rollers appear to have a lot going on. It is a good idea to check out their website, rockrollers.org. To be honest, there aren't any field trips listed on their site right now. In fact it is still promoting their rock show in May. But they have a schedule and a better explanation of most of the trips in their newsletter, which is downloadable from the website. The guy to contact with them is Mike Shaw, mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com, 509-244-8542 or 509-251-1574.

This is the story on the Lolo trip:

Prepare for the Lolo Pass field trip in August! It'll be Saturday and Sunday, August 11th and 12th. Smokey Quartz will be the target on this one! It's about a four-hour drive from Spokane down Hwy 90 to 93 and then Hwy 12. If you want to stay at a cabin (\$90 or \$40/night depending on amenities) at the Hot Springs, a reservation now would be a good idea. Camping with electricity, water and a dump station for RV's is also available. It's \$24/night (\$20 for seniors) for hookups.

Reservations can be made at (406) 273-2294. Tell them you are with the "Mike Shaw Party" as they have a block of three cabins and seven RV sites semi-reserved for us.

This won't last long. Tent camping is available for \$16/night which includes showers. The forests are free, and there's lots of them! Motels in Lolo, Montana are 30 minutes away and average priced.

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).

News and Notes

This is another newsletter that **Ye Olde newsletter editor, Joe Barreca**, didn't have to write much for. I am **EXTREMELY** thankful to **Bob Bristow**, (who as I remember cajoled me into this position by offering to write many articles back in 2005) for writing the long article on **Jim Creek**. I also thank **Bob and Johnie** for an exploratory rock trip to **South Baldy**. If any of you want company for a similar trip, don't hesitate to call.

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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:			
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