

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

November 2012

Minutes October 2012

By Ginger Pitman

Opening the meeting we found that our guest speaker and his wife were our only visitors and they are now members. Volunteering for refreshments next meeting are Becky, Jan and Peggy, thank you guys.

Bob passed out a sheet of mining terms as miners have a language all their own. When we visit mining sites it is nice to know some of the terms they use.

When we receive our prize from the AMF Endowment fund, the club needs to discuss how to use it. Maybe as the grand prize at the show, but members are not entered in that drawing. We could find a way to do that, or we could use it as a raffle item. Please have your ideas ready.

Sylvia gave the treasurer's report but due to health reasons she is requesting that a new treasurer be elected this year. She and Bill have done such a great/dependable job. Their dedication will be missed.

Sylvia read a thank you note from Colter Garcia one of our scholarship winners. It was very impressive.

Scott gave a report on the trip he led to Horseshoe Mt; a good field trip and good finds.

Bruce would like to go to Crystal Prospect if it can be done before the weather gets bad.

A board was provided so all the name tags can be pinned to it, if you remember to wear your name tag, you can leave it for future meetings. Thanks Arden.

Nov. is the month to present a new slate of officers to the club for voting in Dec. and new officers take their jobs in Jan. Arden Fritz, Bill Lupton and Luci Bristow will be on the nominating committee. The list will be in the Nov. newsletter.

Continued on Page 2

Back to the Barter Fair

By Joseph Barreca



Okay. This is the article where every year I carry on about the rocks available at the Okanogan Family Faire (AKA the Barter Fair) near Tonasket. Most often you find displays like the one pictured above where people are selling part of their collection. It is a like our tailgate trading exchange on steroids. Johnnie and Arden went this year but found the prices to be a little high. While it may not have worked out for them, I was happy with the piece of Labradorite I traded for and a nice-sized rough garnet that I exchanged for one of my 4000 folding maps of Northeast Washington.

Perhaps a little trading wisdom would help the cause. The Barter Faire has been going on for 34 years. It has become a lot more standardized than in the early days, which doesn't mean you won't wake up to the sound of a bagpiper walking the aisles at the crack of dawn, like the first one, but it is much more unlikely. They have a website, <http://www.okanoganfamilyfaire.net/>. You can even buy tickets on line and figure out the best plan of attack.

It goes on for three days, Friday through Sunday, though vendors can come and setup on

Thursday, which makes that day and night very a mellow time to be there and meet the

More minutes:

Bill Allen gave an update on the show as now is the time to get letters to our vendors. Bill, Johnie and Arden will visit the Ag Trade Center for measurements and layout to see how many vendors can be accepted. We will need to revise the signs.

After great and plentiful refreshments and the silent auction it was time to turn the meeting over to our speaker.

Roger Olsen is the Senior Geologist for ALBAR, right now he works at the barite mine at Northport, but has worked all over the world. He gave out a sheet entitled "Prospecting Primer". Subtitles included preliminaries, geologic clues, tools, lab studies and finally with some common sense ideas like: be careful, be responsible, be respectful, and take your friendly neighborhood geologist out to lunch. "Know that it's very unlikely that you will ever 'strike it rich' but know also that you'll have fun trying. If it ain't fun, give it up!" We want to thank Roger for a very entertaining talk and we'll have to see if he will do it again, we know he could share lots more.

end

[Barter Faire Continued]

rest of the vendors. But it costs at least \$100 for a vending space which you are expected to occupy for the whole period, so we stopped doing that. There is a lot of stuff available on Friday and it can be good pickings. We try to go on Friday. With most vendors coming from a good distance away, the price of gas and the cost of vending space, Friday and Saturday are days when people are trying to make their money back. Sunday is the day for bargains, but a lot of vendors try to pull up stakes around noon. So staying overnight or getting there early are good plans for bargain hunters.

There are some huge semi-commercial rock bead and jewelry booths. I prefer the smaller venues where people take time to talk to you about their rocks. This gets to be particularly interesting when you see things you have never seen before. For instance I came across "Bubble



Agate", something I've never seen exactly like this before. (Also something I couldn't afford, so Johnie has a point on that one.) But still it was cool. I looked for it on the Internet and discovered that it is really called botryoidal agate, from the Latin word for a bunch of grapes. A bubble type can even be found in Ellensburg Blue Agate.



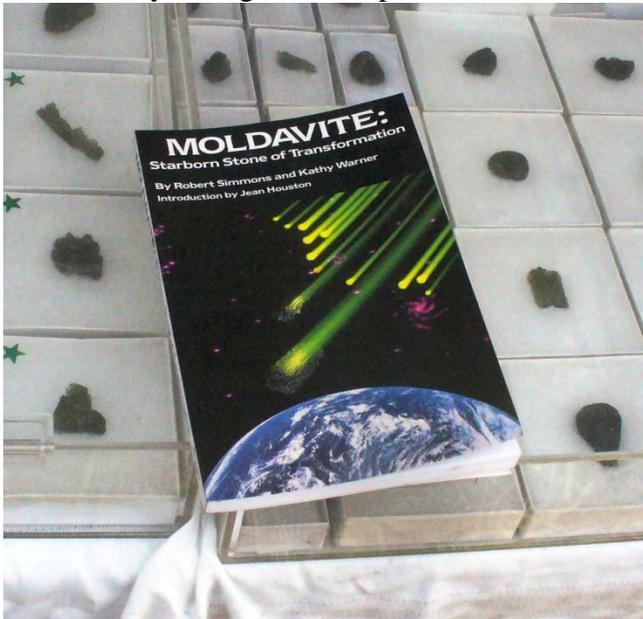
[Botryoidal (Bubble) Agate]

Another type of rock that I had seen but not in a green color or in such a delicate formation was carborundum, which is really just silica carbide, SiC. It has all kinds of uses besides being just pretty. Here is the piece I saw at this Faire.



[Carborundum]

The most unique kind of rock though (to my mind) was Moldavite. It is hard to say if this is as crazy as the story goes or is just a fancy kind of natural green glass found around Moldova, a tiny country stuck between Romania and Ukraine. Moldavite is a “green silica based tektite that formed during a meteorite impact approximately 15,000,000 years ago. The impact caused molten



[Moldavite display]

rock and meteorite to be ejected into the atmosphere where they combined to form a natural glass (a tektite). As the glass fell, it was sculpted into different shapes by a process called flight ablation.” (Ebay guide) My wife and I read The Geography of Bliss by Eric Weiner to each other about the happiest places in the world once while driving somewhere. There was a fairly long chapter on Moldova because it was the unhappiest country in the world. I’m pretty sure this had more to do with being a place that neither Europe nor the Soviet Union wanted any part of than

having big problems with meteors. At any rate a guy had a table with hundreds of small samples of Moldavite which were very pretty and expensive.

I did manage to trade for a piece of Labradorite that I just love because it shines like a purple ghost with rainbow highlights inside a generally green surface. I saw one for sale at an earlier Barter Faire for \$60. That price came down on a Sunday. This one was on a little wagon with other trade items and was already affordable on Friday. (The photograph doesn’t do



[Labradorite in the tray on the right] it justice, so you will just have to trust me.)

At any rate, there were probably 20 different places to buy or trade for rocks at the Barter Faire and I still recommend it, not just for the rocks but for a completely different, though admittedly primitive market place. For stocking up on food supplies for the winter though, I think we’ll stick to the local Farmers Markets.

Johnie’s Jabber

By Johni Pitman

The Rainier Frogskin Agate from the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing has finally leaped into our hands it’s very interesting, not at all what I thought it would look like.

There is one item that I didn’t get on the list for the auction, it’s the 10" Lortone slab saw. It’s in really good condition with a good blade. Someone will get a very nice saw!!! Limber up your arm and get ready to raise it often, you will be rewarded with some really nice items, it’s fun to win.

Bring any rock related items that you would like to donate to the auction and lots of cash or a

check, but no credit cards. Remember the proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

There will be a report from our nominating committee.

Bill Allen, Arden Fritz, and I went to the Ag Trade Center and did some measuring and planning for the annual show. It looks like everything will fit nicely and there are no stairs.

Kay Lupton has done a really nice job of labeling two additional sandwich signs to advertise the show. Thanks Kay!!

Serpentine

By Joseph Barreca



Some of you may remember this picture from the cover of my booklet, Kettle Country Treasurer Maps, which is mostly a collection of articles from this newsletter about places we have visited on field trips. It shows member, Jim Bachelor's daughter with some serpentine from the McGraff Quarry. Recently I have had several conversations with a guy who would like to ship some (maybe all) of the serpentine from that quarry to China, where they would actually make something out of it. I'm not sure if that would qualify as shipping rockhounding jobs overseas. I am sure we have a lot of their rocks over here already. As luck would have it, the new owners of the quarry live in California. I don't know what their plans are, but I thought I would look into serpentine a bit more using our Scribe newsletter collection and the Internet.

I found out that serpentine is the California State rock. I also found a bulletin from the University

of California about serpentine saying:



[Serpentine]

“The term ‘serpentine’ refers to a group of minerals that make up serpentinite rock.

“Serpentine” and “serpentinite,” however are often used interchangeably. Serpentinite is a metamorphic rock formed when water and rock are exposed to low temperatures (about 400 to 600° C) and metamorphic processes (high pressures) within the earth's crust. Serpentinite is a type of ultramafic rock, consisting predominantly of magnesium silicate and iron oxide minerals.

Most ultramafic rocks, including serpentinite, contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) particles, microscopic needlelike particles of asbestos or asbestos-like fibers. The term “NOA” also refers to a group of relatively common fibrous minerals in rock (U.S. Geological Survey 2007). NOA minerals include chrysotile and fibrous forms of five amphiboles, crocidolite, amosite, anthophyllite, actinolite and tremolite. “

The bulletin goes on to say that you can only see the asbestos with a microscope; there is no safe level of exposure; that any disturbance that causes dust from serpentinite and other NOA minerals can cause cancer many years later; and that children and older people are at greater risk. I would say that this definitely puts working with serpentine in the risky business category, though admittedly we usually have water or oil trapping all the dust. California has a much bigger problem in that it has almost 2000 square miles of serpentine soils.

Reading further newsletters that mention serpentine in one form or another, it appears that there are large quantities of it in Pennsylvania at a

site known as Mineral Hill located just west of Media in Delaware Co. There are also large deposits in Canada. So China shouldn't run out of places to get this stuff any time soon.



[Actinolite and tremolite also from McGraff]

Some newsletters are very specific about dangers associated with serpentine and asbestos, others talk about how nice some of the colors are for ornamental rock. These rocks are typically fairly soft, so they would carve easily but not take a good polish or much pressure. I did finally look at a few of my specimens with a loop and found some fibers, but they seem to be from the cloth I cleaned the rocks with. So the at-home tests are inconclusive. If you really want to carve and polish rocks, I think we should come up with a good place to find Jade. Now there is a rock that seems to be both safe and sound. Of course, most of the nice carvings I've seen come from China...

The Annual Rock Auction

Here is a partial list of the things we'll have at the auction for our meeting on Nov 19.

Grind stone (matate) with hand piece (mono)
Fluorite (4 lbs.)
8 Brazilian agates (from the Allens)
One 35 lb jasper
1 lantern (red)
1 ceramic lamp
1-3 gallon crock (Red Wing)
1 small crock
Box of old jars
Box of insulators
2 crock lids
6 cigar boxes of mineral specimens
1 box of fossils
Several boxes of misc. rocks
From Rex :
1 large wormhole tracing
Obsidian needles
Stonerose plant fossils

Horn coral
Ammonite
turitella plebian agate
terado wood petrified
Many more crystals and minerals from Rex!
From Harold:
Rock water fountain (table size)
Rock wine bottle stopper
Black light (portable)
LED light for crystals
DVD player (black/white only)

It's going to be big, really, really **BIG**. Don't miss it.

Nominated Slate of Officers for the Panorama Rock and Gem Club.

President: Bruce Hurley
Vice President: Bob Bristow
Secretary: Luci Bristow
Treasurer: Johnie Pitman
Board of Directors (two year term): Bill Lupton
Board of Directors (three year term) J.W.(Bill) Sebright

Above is the slate of officers who have agreed to stand for election. We have found one officer for each office. The membership will nominate from the floor so (hopefully) we have two candidates for each position.

The Nominating Committee wishes to communicate to the club the following information: Bruce Hurley is presently on the Board of Directors and will have to resign that position as the by-laws prohibit any one person from hold-more than one office at a time. All offices are one year term except the Board of Directors (three years).

The process stated in the by-laws is that the Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees at the November meeting, at which time nominations will be solicited from the floor. At the completion of the nominating process from the floor the slate will be set and voted on at the December meeting. It is usually the only item of business at the meeting.

We further sincerely hope that the members will come prepared to nominate persons to stand for election with this slate. It is courteous to be sure that the person nominated is willing to serve.

Respectfully submitted, Arden Fritz and Bill Lupton.

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).

~ Dues in the News ~

Besides the **REALLY REALLY BIG ROCK AUCTION** at the November meeting, dues for the upcoming year will be collected. If you are new to our system, the explanation is that we submit our membership list to the **NW Federation of Mineralogical Societies** at the first of each year and they send our members their newsletter. Also we will be electing new officers in December. So solicitations, dues and elections -and you thought it all ended on November 6th!

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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:	Luci Bristow	PO Box 1165; 2567 Mudd Lake Rd. Chewelah WA 99109	509-935-4375
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