

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

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## **The Panorama Prospector**

### **October 2013**

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#### **Panorama Gem and Mineral Club**

September 16, 2013

By Luci Bristow

Our meeting began with Joe Barreca and our President Bruce talking about the e-mail from Pat Weeks discussing an upcoming trip for Thulite and violet blue Iolite at the site on Tunk Creek. The field trip is planned for September 21. Everyone is to meet at Riverside at 10:30 AM and will go on to the creek from there.

President Bruce mentioned that Andy Buddington is thinking about a geology trip to the Silver Valley at a future date. He will talk with Andy and find out the details and let us know.

Luci introduced Denise and Calvin Hunter and welcomed them to our club. Nametags are in the works!

The club thanks Bill Allen and Brian Martell for their excellent work in cooking and serving our hamburgers and hot dogs at the picnic. Thanks to everyone else who brought really appetizing side dishes. The picnic was really fun!

We were delighted to note that the club has been given a Short Wave Fluorescent Light box.

The display in the box at the meeting was certainly outstanding. We will be sending a thank you note soon.

After much thought and looking at the availability of a TV cabinet that will fit our TV, Johnie will be making our TV cabinet. Many thanks go to Johnie and a number of other people who were involved in trying to find the right cabinet. Thank you all for that effort.

Johnie asked if we would be interested in an on-going raffle in support of our scholarship fund. It was decided that a bag of sapphire gravel would be auctioned for that purpose. Please buy a ticket, and even several tickets, to support this effort.

*Continued on page 2*

#### **Thulite Dig**

By Arden Fritz



[Arden taking on the cliff face]

It was kind of a dreary morning on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, not the kind that makes one jump out of bed with a lot of enthusiasm, but the prospect of getting in on a dig for thulite in the Okanogan Country was enough for five members of the Panorama Club. Three of us met at the Yellow Pine station in Kettle Falls, got into Gene Fisher's Humvie and headed to Riverside. We gave ourselves ample time and were the first to arrive at the Riverside Memorial Park. The park actually has two locations about a half block apart. And neither of them is very large but they are well kept. And the dreariness had turned into a nice warming sun.

Sharon Bordford talked about a trip she made to Elgin, Oregon. She visited friends who were blessed with 30 years of lapidary rough due to the death of an acquaintance. She found some agates, jasper, and wonderful blue lace agate. She brought a sample of the blue lace agate that she had sliced and it was a great specimen! Thanks, Sharon.

After the break and the end of the silent auction, President Bruce showed a video entitled "Earthquake Below". It was an older film, but certainly showed us the "life" we have under us!

**Snacks for next meeting: Anni Sebright, Ginger Pitman, Mary Hill. Luci will supply the beverage.**

After about a half an hour, people began to trickle



[Johnie and Gene with a hunk from Tunk] in and we began to exchange names, and everyone wanted to know where to find the coffee. In addition to the five members from our club (Gene Fischer, Johnie Pitman, Jerry Novak, Anita Novak and Arden Fritz) there were a number of members of the Canadian Club and members of the Stone Cutters Club of Okanogan Valley lead by Jim Lawson. Jim, who lives in Omak, had an arrangement with the owner of the ranch where the quarry is located and oversees groups that come in for digging.

After signing the usual papers, we headed northeast out of Riverside on a rather windy road

that goes up to Tunk Mountain. After parking we had a short walk up the hill to the quarry. Unlike a lot of digs, where it takes awhile to find and recognize what one is looking for, thulite in this area is pretty easy to spot. On the way to the quarry we were greeted by a large deposit in the ledge along the pathway which proved to be very visible and colorful.

Jim has used some heavy machinery to scrape the area and so almost immediately one can spot some of the pink rock. Some is found in the edge of the cliff and if one wishes they can work the hard rock for the prize. Everyone has to try just to see if they might hit the jackpot.

The prize this time goes to Jerry, who slid a large rock away from the cliff and then kind of ignored it while he searched for smaller pieces.



[Jerry and Vanita found the best rock.]

About the time we had our packs and buckets full (that only took a couple of hours) Jerry says that he has this large piece and wondered what we might find if we took a BIG hammer to it. Well, it turned out to be a large piece which was almost entirely pink. Most of what we found was a mix of blue-grey and pink with a thin line of green, usually around the edges. And sometimes there is white rock mixed in. It is



quite pretty and out hope is that when cut, we will be able to show it off.

We want to thank Jim Lawson and the Canadian Club for hosting us. We thought it was a worth-while and fun trip. I would recommend it to all the members of our club. Access is easy as is the digging.

The joke of the day was: What do you call a travelling nun? A roaming Catholic! I know.....

## **Chips Off The Outcrop**

*By Bruce Hurley*

The last week of September, I fled the wet of Northwest fall to collect fossils in the warm and dry of Nevada, with friends and family. The trip turned out great, except for one troubling note. We re-visited several localities first visited some years back, all off the beaten track and notable for their abundance of fossils, often lying right on the surface. This time we were in for a surprise.

Even the most remote location, accessible only by hiking over and packing rocks back across a mountain range, was now so heavily collected that it was hard to find specimens small enough to carry back. One other area, less remote but less well-known, had also been nearly “cleaned” of loose fossils, since I last visited in 2006.

Since these localities always had prolific numbers of fossils before, they have obviously undergone heavy collecting pressure in recent years, even though located in that part of Nevada known for “the Loneliest Highway in America,” (US Highway 50). We were all greatly surprised, and left many specimens we would have taken before, so that the next collectors would at least have a chance to find some reward for their trip. Reflecting again upon it on the long drive home, I think that taking just a few might be a good policy for me in the future, too.



## **The Succor Creek expedition of 2013**

*By Joseph Barreca*

It's nice to have this sign after all the years as a rockhound where I have been hearing praise for Succor Creek. Without it you might think that it was spelled, “Sucker Creek.” In this spelling, succor means “to send relief.” The other spelling might be pretty bad news for visitors. From what I understand, occasionally they did need some relief, but let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. This was a followup expedition after a trip to Succor Creek with the Rock Rollers in May. Scott Jackson and fellow rock hounds, Greg Van, Larry Engle, and Jim Sperber, headed south for a week-long foray into this rockhounding Mecca in southeast Oregon in September.

After travelling south through Idaho on Hwy 95 to Homedale, they cut west back into Oregon and camped at the the BLM Succor Creek campground. It turns out that this was just a base camp. All the places the expedition went to find rocks were 2 or more hours away and another 2 hours back.



This is another great sign. For one thing, it spells out Owyhee Reservoir and the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Club was very helpful for this trip, particularly a guy named Tony, who acted as

a guide to some of the spots. Their club website, <http://www.owyheerocks.com/> shows trips to Graveyard Point, the Pink Plume Claim and to Succor Creek for Thunder eggs. It doesn't mention the blue opal fee site or Rocky Butte picture Jasper. But these were places that the expedition would explore from base camp.



[Jim, Greg, Larry, Scott and Annie, Larry's dog]

Not seen in this picture are flies. Evidently in the heat of the day – and days were getting up to 92° - there were LOTS of flies. Since this was BLM land, cattle graze the area and ... you can see where this is going. At night though, it was nice and after all there were long days spent mostly driving to get to the various dig sites.

The most famous dig site would have to be Graveyard Point. It is famous for its plume agate. Word in many rock hounding circles was that there is no more to be found. Our explorers did find some. Pieces for tumbling are still plentiful and if you are willing to work at it, you can still dig some up. The trip might have been



worth it just for these agates, but they were only the beginning.

The Owyhee Rock Club has its own claim for Pink Plume Agate. Our team got permission to go to the site. It was almost too good. They found at least 10 rocks that would take a 20 inch saw to cut through, and that was only after you got them back on the truck out of the dig. It was

not a place you could just drive in to and load up your rig.



This was a piece of pink plume agate that Scott had to go back to and haul up the hill himself. I'll bet it is a beauty when it is cut into pieces and polished. Of course that will take time and equipment he doesn't even have yet.

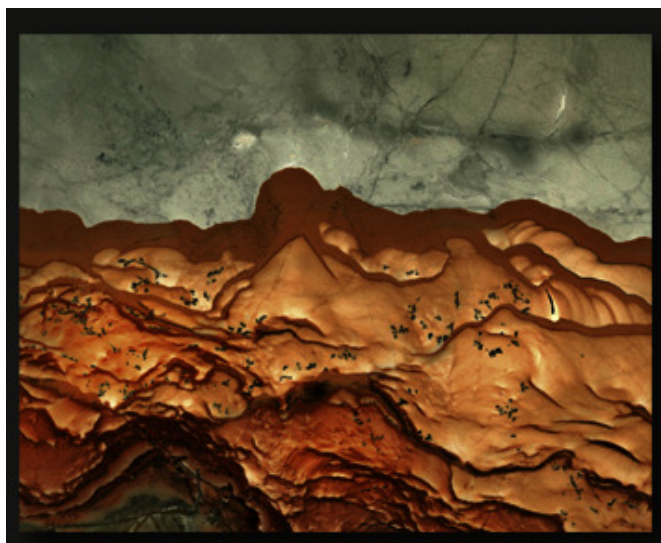
While Scott was busy yarding out his chunk of pink plume, the rest of the crew visited a site for blue opal, probably the Blue Grouse Opal Mine. The claim is excavated, picked over and thrown back in the pit, then for a fee you can surface collect what is left. It looks like



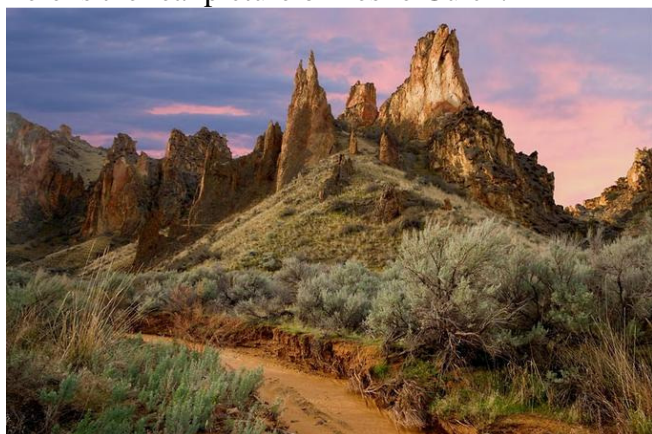
good stuff if you can bring it home. I am not sure our expedition got anything like this, but it is Blue Owyhee Opal.

As if these finds were not enough, the team also visited a site for Rocky Mountain Picture Jasper. I'll include a picture below but when I went to look at samples of it on the Internet, I was blown away, not just by the Rocky Mountain Jasper but by several others that are just labelled Succor Creek Picture Jasper. Check <http://www.worldofjaspers.com/OwyheeEN2.html> for some spectacular samples.





There is one more sight to report that was not just about rocks, though in a way it was. They travelled up Leslie Gulch. (No this is not a picture of Leslie Gulch – it is Rocky Butte Picture Jasper- that just happens to look like rocky hills.) Here is the real picture of Leslie Gulch.



A winding road through castle rocks and spires ends at Owyhee Reservoir Lake. This whole area is amazing and beautiful. The downside of that is that there is a movement to designate it as a wilderness area. I don't know how they would handle roads like this one in that case. But it would be sure to affect rock hounding.



## ALL THAT GLISTENS

B	Z	A	G	Z	T	R	A	U	Q	G	E	G	E	B
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P	N	O	P	K	I	D	I	L	A	R	O	N	I	A
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C	L	U	M	L	Y	P	I	E	O	E	O	A	O	Z
A	I	R	L	H	E	R	L	O	T	C	N	H	O	A
R	S	E	T	N	A	J	E	A	U	S	R	C	R	L
B	R	E	T	M	E	U	M	B	T	Q	U	I	B	S
Y	M	I	A	W	Q	B	D	S	L	I	R	L	Z	I
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E	Q	L	O	R	R	E	P	P	O	C	P	U	T	A
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AGATE	GARNET	STONE
AMBER	GOLD	TIARA
AMETHYST	JADE	TOPAZ
ANKLET	JEWELLERY	TORQUE
AQUAMARINE	JEWELS	TURQUOISE
ARMLET	LAPIS LAZULI	ZIRCON
BANGLE	OPAL	
BERYL	PEARL	
BRACELET	PENDANT	
BRONZE	PLATINUM	
BROOCH	QUARTZ	
CHARM	RING	
CITRINE	RUBY	
CLUSTER	SERPENTINE	
COPPER	SILVER	
CROWN	SOLITAIRE	

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Solution on page 112

Here is a little puzzle for your entertainment. Since we don't have page 112 with the solution, you are on your own. (contributed by A. Fritz)

## National Fossil Day Activities

### Activities Saturday Oct 12<sup>th</sup>

8:00-11:00 a.m Guided Fossil Digging

12:00 p.m Lunch

2:00 – 3:00 p.m Rosalie Faubion will be doing a group activities with stamps and Madilane Perry will present on Local History at the FCHS

6:00 -8:30 p.m Presentations at the Republic school Multi-Purpose Room by:

Melanie Devore-Why Drop your Leaves? What Republic Fossils tell us about the origin of Temperate Trees.

Bruce Archibald- Republic Fossil Insects

George Mustoe-Wading Ancient waters: the Geologic history of Stonerose Lake.

### Activities Sunday Oct 13<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – 10:00 am Geology Tour (maybe)

12:00 p.m Lunch

5:00 – 8:00 p.m Presentations at Freckle Face BBQ

Melanie Devore: Why Ammonites Twist our Imagination. (and many more)



### Membership Dues:

**\$15.00 per household per year is due to the club**

**Treasurer** Johnie Pitman (see below) on the third Tuesday of November for regular members.

Webpage: [www.panoramagem.com](http://www.panoramagem.com)

Contact: Bruce Hurley, President, 509-413-2768.

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).

### Get Ready for the Meeting

This coming meeting should be somewhat of a Fall rock show. Folks have been out picking up great stuff from some remote rock sites. There are bound to be some super samples. I know the stories in this issue are not the only ones.

Meanwhile Bruce and Johnie have been cooking up a presentation on presentations - of rocks that is. So there are bound to be good stories, good stuff and good people. See you there.

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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](mailto:joe.barreca@gmail.com).

### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

<b>Officers:</b>			
President:	Bruce Hurley	10617 W. Lakeside Lane, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026	509-413-2768
Vice-President:	Bob Bristow	PO Box 1165; 2567 Mud Lake Rd. Chewelah WA 99109	935-4375
Secretary:	Luci Bristow	PO Box 1165; 2567 Mud Lake Rd. Chewelah WA 99109	935-4375
Treasurer:	Johnie Pitman	701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-8887
Trustee 1:	Scott Jackson	1028 Old Hwy 12 Mile Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-6371
Trustee 2:	Bill Lupton	2530 Six Mile Rd	509-935-6198
Trustee 3:	Bill Sebright	POB 293, Clayton, WA 99110	509-276-2693
<b>Committee Chairs</b>			
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
Club Shop:	Scott Jackson	1028 Old Hwy 12 Mile Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-6371
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
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