

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

November 2013

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

October 15th, 2013

By Luci Bristow

Bruce opened the meeting with old business. Tunk Creek was a success- everyone seemed to have a good time. There were some really nice specimens found and treasured.

We are busy planning next season's field trips. Please talk with Scott if you have some good ideas of where we can go as a group and still find wondrous specimens. Jim Sperber will be in Quartzite, Arizona area this winter and has offered to take people who are interested in that area on field trips. He also mentioned if you are interested, that at Tonapaw there are apparently signs "ghost wagons". The Forest Service presents this opportunity. Please contact Jim if you are interested.

Pat Weeks sent out e-mails to all members asking if they were interested in a field trip to Bead Lake. Our club will look at this trip. It looks like it would a good trip for next summer.

We had some very interesting specimens brought it for our enjoyment. Dave Paquette brought a huge calcite specimen that he found in Evans Quarry. Several other members brought in interesting specimens. We thank them for sharing their treasures.

Our video equipment case was completed by Johnie Pitman. Gene Fisher provided the rollers. Thanks for a job well done!

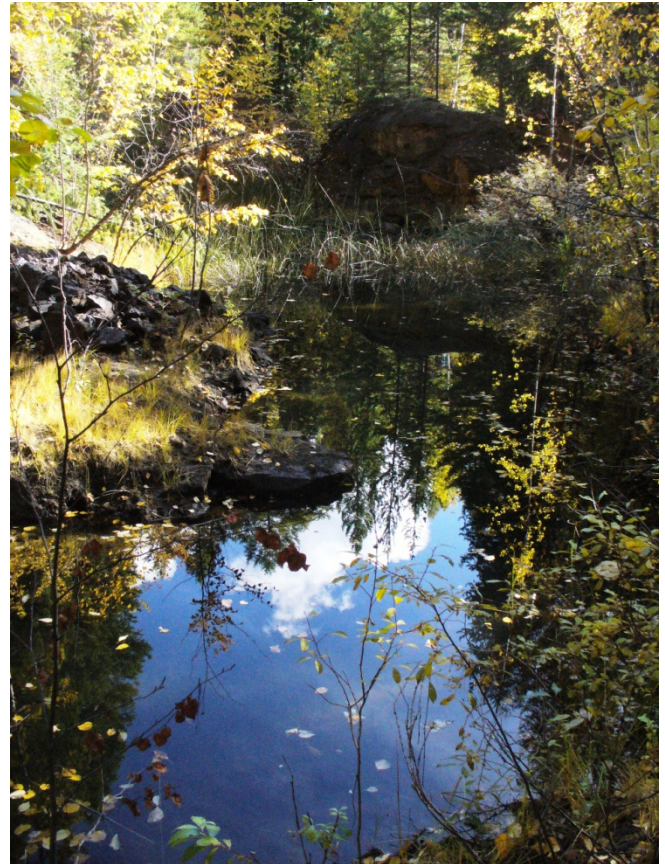
As you all are aware, November is our Auction meeting. The full purpose of this auction is to aid in our Scholarship funds. We will appreciate all items for this rock/equipment auction.

As you are aware, next meeting we will be electing our officers for the coming year. A nominating committee was established with Becky Dobbs as Chairman, Arden Fritz and Brian Martell as committee people.

Continued on page 4

The Big Iron

By Joseph Barreca



I had always wanted to see the Big Iron Mine because it was said to have great pyrite and magnetite, which turned out to be true. What might have to be admitted is that despite its name, the Big Iron Mine was not quite big enough. As usual, I regret that I didn't study it more before the actual visit. Several pages are written up in [ger_r114_magnetite_stevens_okanogan_co.pdf](#), a DNR paper on magnetite deposits in our area. The paper includes a map of magnetic readings around the mine and descriptions of where different minerals are most abundant.

I also didn't come with the right equipment. Sure I had my handy-dandy giant

magnet which would positively identify iron ore. Well hey, this whole place was iron ore. You could throw a magnet anywhere and it would go “Clack” and cling to any rock it hit. The mine is surrounded on two sides by waste piles 15 to 20 feet high. The real ore from the mine was magnetite. Between 1924 and 1937, 35,000 tons of iron ore shipped from the Big Iron to Chewelah where it was used in making ferromagnesite. A good indicator of magnetite (magnetic rock) is a small iron object like a paperclip on a string. Sure enough on a couple of the pieces I brought home, the paperclip swings right over and sticks to the rock. I’m not sure how they separated the magnetite from just plain iron, but only 56% was shipped. The rest is still lying there.



[Larry Engle works the edge of the pit.]

I did go with the right guys however. Scott Jackson took us right to it and Larry took care of his dog, Annie, and Scott’s dog, Duchess, both black labs that had a lot of fun running all around and in the water while we were there.

A lot of the pieces we picked up were pyrite. It is not magnetic and was considered waste rock. Scott made one into a very nice polished sphere that I thought was a giant ball bearing when I first saw it. We didn’t find anything worthy of that effort on this trip. But not for lack of trying. Scott combed the waste piles. Larry and I explored the rock face. Scott brought a big sledge hammer, what would have also been good was a pair of safety goggles. Half the time hitting one of those rocks would send shock waves right up your arm while the hammer

bounced right off. Other times sparks and chips would fly in every direction.



[Sulfite crystals at the end of the south canyon.]

I was looking for Scheelite, CaWO_4 , Calcium-Tungsten Oxide. But without reading the DNR paper, I was looking on the wrong side of the mine. Scheelite clusters up to 3 inches across have been found on the south and west sides of the pit. It is rare to find any of gem quality, but they fluoresce sky blue.



[Scheelite Crystal cluster.]

“The Big Iron deposit is believed to have originated by mineralizing solutions rising along a zone of fracturing from some underlying and unexposed granitic mass and replacing impure quartzites and limestones with ore minerals.” (DNR paper, 1945). The paper also includes a map of the magnetic intensity around the mine.

The mine is located north of Pierre Lake going out Churchill Mine Rd turn left onto Forest Service Road 1500 and turn left on USFS Rd 291 4 or 5 miles east of the beginning of the USFS 1500. The mine is at 3,750 ft. but the roads are good enough for 2 wheel drive. And if you need an extra passenger, I know one with a good map...

Mini Rock Show



[ProspectorMan.com is Dave Paquette's website]

It's a little harder getting to the club meetings, in the winter, but each one is like a little rock show. This is a chunk of calcite crystals that Dave Paquette found in the Evans Quarry and brought to our last meeting. Beside it are some smoky quartz crystals that he dug up on Lolo Pass. You can actually watch him doing a lot of rockhounding and prospecting on his website ProspectorMan.com.



This is a tray of sunstones that Vanita and Jerry Novak had cut in China. A friend of theirs arranged it. There are over 100 stones in this fantastic display.

This is the rolling box Johnie built to keep the TV in at the meeting hall. Now we don't need to have people haul it to each meeting. Thanks Johnie!

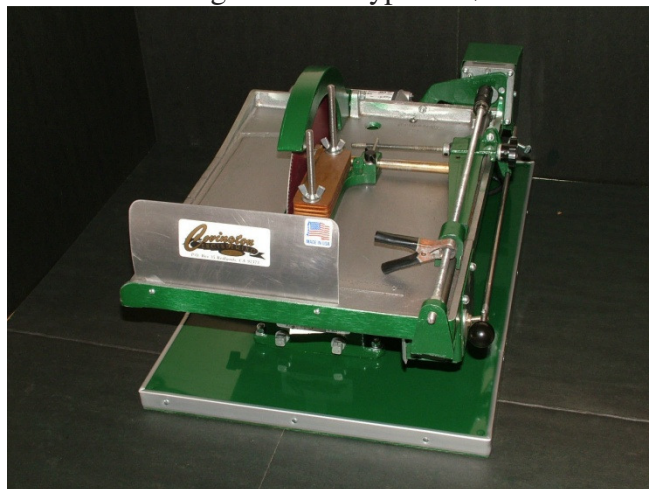


Rock Saws for Sale

Sherry Bamberger has been helping the club by selling our excess rocks online to add to the scholarship fund. Now she needs a little help of her own. She needs more cash and less rock shop equipment, so she has a couple rock saws for sale. She has a 10" Crown..stand up type for \$250



[This is not Sherry's saw but is a Crown 10" saw] and a 10" Covington bench type for \$300



[Here is a picture of a 10" Covington] also a 6" Lortone for \$200 (it also has a grinding and a buffer wheel on it).



This is a Lortone combination unit. These saws sell for MUCH more than Sherry is asking. So if you are in the market for a saw, contact Sherry Bamberger, 685-0113.

Minutes continued from page 1.

Johnie mentioned that he had several specimens of obsidian for sale as well as Sapphire gravel. He also gave our current Treasurer's Report.

Remember that we are also buying tickets from Johnie for Sapphire gravel to benefit our Scholarship fund. Please buy a bunch!

We have a very interesting Presentation from Johnie and Bruce on how to organize a show case at Rock Shows to show-off and benefit our specimens.

Becky Dobbs, Jan Hurley, and Peggy Martell will provide snacks for our next meeting. See you there!

New Officers

Here is a list of the officers who have agreed to serve for next year. Nominations will be open from the floor at the November meeting and a ballot will be available for the election at the December meeting.

President: Bruce Hurley

Vice President: Bob Bristow

Secretary: Ann Seabright

Treasurer: Johnie Pitman

Trustee (To replace Scott Jackson):

Becky Dobbs or Eugene Fisher

Thanks to our Nominating Committee: Becky Dobbs (chair), Brian Martel and Arden Fritz.

Auction

The November Meeting is our annual rock auction. Bring stuff to sell and money to buy. All proceeds go to our scholarship fund. It is a lot cheaper and faster than going out to find these things yourself and sometimes more fun.



Pink Tourmaline



[Pink Tourmaline from the Brown Derby Deposit]

Johnie Pitman sent around a link to an article about Pink Tourmaline in Colorado. Since this locality is far outside our usual rounds, I am relying on this link [Where to Find Tourmaline](#) (available in the pdf format on our website) for the story and pictures. Apparently the waste piles are still pickable, so if you are looking for an exotic field trip, here it is.

When it comes to Colorado pegmatite's, most people think of the vivid and prolific smoky quartz and 'Amazonite' feldspar combinations or perhaps fluorite or topaz crystals from the Pike's Peak batholith, which can be seen in collections all over the world. Tourmaline is certainly not a species that comes to most collector's minds from the Rocky Mountains, yet Colorado does contain several unusual and interesting pegmatites of the 'LCT' (lithium-tantalum-Niobium) type which contain fairly high-quality (though not 'gem' in the pocket sense) tourmaline crystals along with other rarer species. The most notable and certainly the most studied of these deposits is the Brown Derby #1 Pegmatite, located in the Ohio City/Quartz Creek District, approximately 18 miles northeast of Gunnison in the high mountains of Central Colorado. First mentioned by Eckel (1933) and later by Staatz and Trites (1955) in their

exhaustive study on the Quartz Creek Pegmatite District, this locality has long been of interest to both collectors and mineralogists. In recent years, however, due to a combination of property access issues, remoteness, and a shift in focus of Colorado collecting to 'dig' localities for smoky quartz, amazonite et cetera, the Brown Derby seems all but forgotten.



[Polychrome Tourmaline]

The #1 Pegmatite was developed from the early 1930's through the 1970's and was mined principally for the lithium content of lepidolite, along ceramic-grade feldspar, minor beryl, and a somewhat substantial production of microlite, a tantalum species, though it is unclear if the resulting microlite concentrate was ever processed (Heinrich, 1967). It is presently divided into two properties in legal terms; a large surface exposure with associated dumps, which sit on National Forest/BLM land and are open to mineral collecting, and a fairly small underground portion which is owned by a group which identifies themselves as 'Precious Offerings Mineral Exchange, LLC' and is based in Boulder, Colorado.



[Door to the Brown Derby]

This article goes on to describe many other rare and often beautiful minerals found in the Brown Derby Deposit. It also included detailed instructions on how to get there. So if you are looking for something completely different in the way of rockhounding. The Brown Derby Deposit near Gunnison Colorado is worth a look.

Chips Off The Outcrop

By Bruce Hurley



Fall is a very busy time in the Inland Northwest, preparing for winter and the holidays, and getting back to those indoor projects set aside during the summer. For rockhounds, that usually includes working on "stuff" found during the summer, and deciding what to keep and what to part with. With that in mind, please remember that

our meeting on November 19 is devoted to the annual Scholarship Auction, and bring some of those treasures you can part with to the meeting. We are also always in need of a variety of materials for the monthly Silent Auction, and any donations for this will be gratefully accepted.

The nominating committee will make its recommendations for club officers for 2014 at the November meeting. Our club is always in need of persons willing to serve as officers. It will not make you rich or come with a Rolls-Royce health plan, as some elected offices do, but serving the club gives you more opportunity for input into how things are done, and is appreciated by everyone else in the group.

Although many cold, gray months lie ahead, it is never too early to think about where we want to go on next year's field trips. So, please put some thought into what you might want to look for, where to go for it, and when it would be best to go there. We are going to shoot for having a field trip schedule before our show in March.

Membership Dues:

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

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

Webpage: 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 Auction

This coming meeting will be our annual rock auction. There will be some very collectable specimens, workable material and decent equipment for sale. On top of that there is the sheer entertainment value of the auction itself and the rock show that goes with it. So this will be a meeting not to miss. Bring some rocks and some money.

Martell's Rock Shop

2 Baxter Lane
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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:	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
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
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
Show Chair	Bill Allen	2633 Highline Rd, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-8779, 936-2446