Place: Arden Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA

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

The Panorama Prospector

April 2014

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for April 15, 2014

By Anni Sebright

Vice President Bob Bristow opened the meeting welcoming the Martin family. New to the Club, they've been checking out our web page and its' resources.

President Bruce Hurley had his long-awaited back surgery and today had the staples removed. Our best wishes for his recuperation.

Bob Bristow distributed a field trip agenda and spoke about the Oroville Selenite trip scheduled for Saturday, April 19th. Black pants, gloves and a gad are suggested plus a 5 gallon bucket both for gathering and soaking afterward.

Sharon Borgford spoke about the Phillips/Phelps Ranch trip. That trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 10th. Pyrite, Calcopyrite and Selenite are the minerals du jour.

Jerry Novak and Becky Dobbs are awaiting responses to their queries regarding a June 7th trip to the Evans Quarry and at a time to be determined, the Merikey Mine.

Bob Bristow spoke to 2 men in charge of the Red Marble operation. A guided tour through their facilities is scheduled for Saturday, July 19th. Hard hats must be worn by all. We will be able to sort through their tailings and bring home minerals.

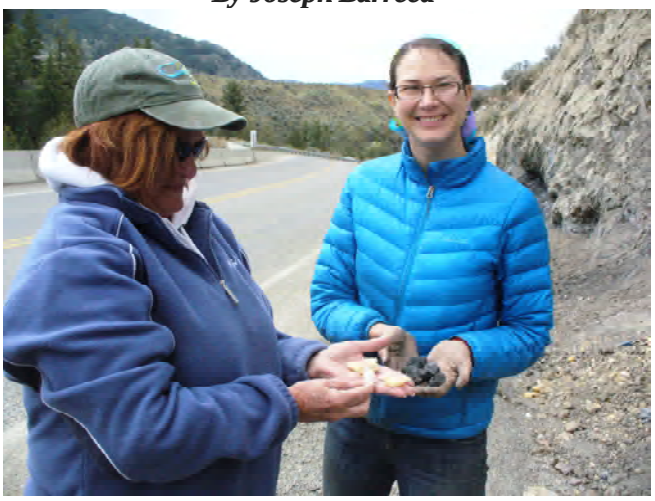
August 23rd, a Saturday, will bring us up the Kettle River to Big Iron for magnetite and pyrite.

Monday, July 21st, we will join another rock club crossing the Canadian Border (bring your passports or enhanced driver's licenses) to Grand Forks, B. C., and on to the Rock Candy Mine for a "Colorful Crystal Tour." It's a pay dig and will cost $30 per person. We have 17 people signed up with 4 of those being "maybe's."

Continued on page 2

Finding Fishtail Selenite

By Joseph Barreca



Two happy Selenite collectors from the Okanogan

All varieties of gypsum, including selenite and alabaster, are composed of calcium sulfate dihydrate (meaning has two molecules of water), with the chemical formula $CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$. Selenite contains no significant selenium; the similarity of names comes from both substances being named from the Ancient Greek word for the Moon.

The club's trip to find Selenite crystals near Oroville, Washington on April 19th was past the full moon but before the last quarter. It was kind of crazy but not completely. We figured it would take a couple of hours after leaving Kettle Falls but it took longer. We left with 5 cars following Bob Bristow, trip leader. We made several stops on the way that included one gas and rest stop near Republic, a meet-up-with-the-Okanogan Club stop at the Tonasket library, (which turned out to be the wrong city), a stop at the Oroville Library to actually meet up with more folks and a detour around some construction on the road we needed to take. After a lot of cell phone calls and finding library locations on the

Minutes continued from page 1

The Okanogan Opal Mine is another pay dig at $30 for the day and is, so far, not on our schedule. We can dig there from June 1st through September 30th only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. This will most probably be a multi-day trip.

Bob and Johnie also spoke briefly about Denny Mountain near Snoqualmie Pass. This is another possibility for a multi-day trip.

Bill Allen read a thank you note from jewelry vendor Lorraine Marie complimenting us on a great show. Bill estimates 1,600 to 1,800 people attended.

Gene, Ginger, Mary and Arden will provide refreshments for our May meeting.

Larry Engle was the April door prize winner.

Bob Bristow steps into the speaker chair again at the Boyer Mountain Masonic Lodge in Deer Park Thursday night, April 24th, at 7 P. M. The subject will be how terrorist bomb analysis was developed.

Brian and Peggy Martell provided the video for our April program. It examined the geologic floods resulting from the Mt. St. Helens eruption.

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car GPS unit – even though we had driven right past both of them- we had the caravan together and were at the Selenite site a few miles east of Oroville, (48.95°, -119.3833° to be exact)

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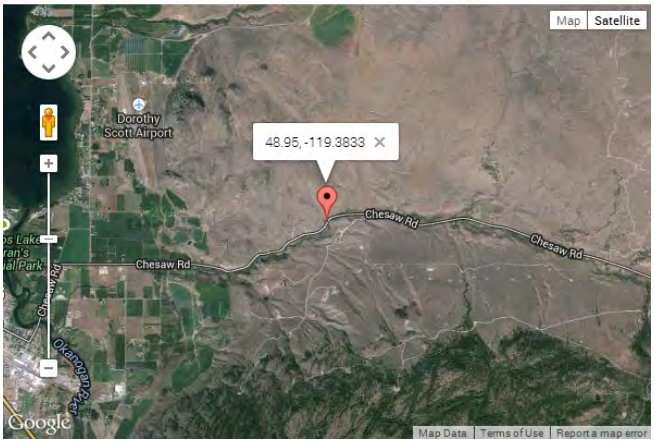
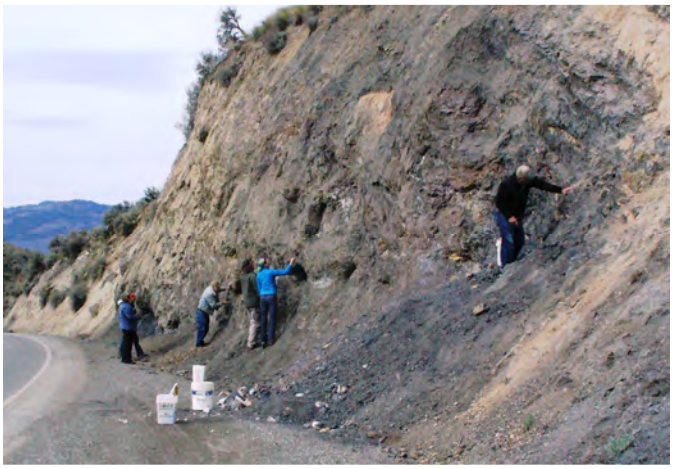


The Chesaw road climbs steadily out of Oroville. It is paved and busy. Few people stop to notice the black crumbly slate that crops out along this portion of the highway. Fewer still notice that there is another bed of the same material on the canyon wall across the creek south of the road.

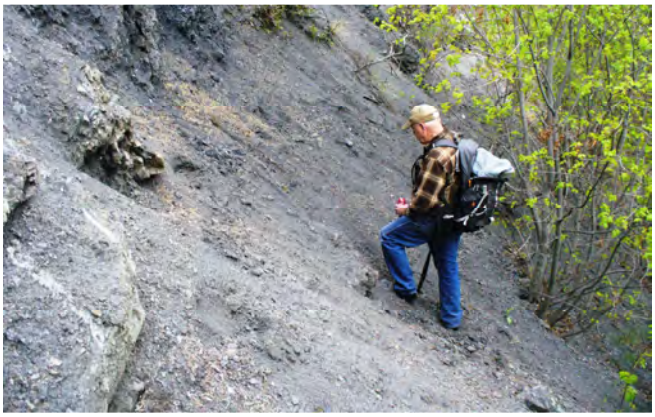
We parked near a wall of black rock in the road cut. Bob showed us basically what to look for, hard shiny crystals embedded in the rock. There were already several pockets in the rock wall where people had been digging. The pockets with yellow clay in them yielded fairly clean white and clear crystals in the ¼ to 3 inch range. These turned out to be the best places to look. But they had been cleaned out of crystals near the surface and we certainly moved the working face back further.



[The Selenite Site]

Since most of us did not have ladders, we worked the lower parts of the rock face. There were crystals in the black rock too. They could be decent-sized, but as it turns out, they are hard to clean. (I'll deal with that in a separate article.)

Some of us mountain-goat types were drawn to explore the rock exposure across the creek. It was a hard scramble getting there and the locals seemed to consider that canyon as the next best thing to a dump. Once across the creek, you are not anxious to climb back up to the road where the three of us who made it down there left our buckets and some tools.



[Here is Bob Bristow across the creek]

Without ropes and ladders it is hard to climb past

the scree at the bottom of the slope to solid rock. (Even "solid rock" in this stuff is anything but solid.) I walked along a deer trail that traversed the whole exposure without finding any crystals.

Going to plan B, I went to the bottom of the slope where rocks were a bit larger. I finally found a fairly clear crystal but did not find more nearby. I figured that there would be more up the slope from where I found that one. This plan worked. 10 feet up the slope I found another and then another. Using my geology hammer as a claw, I opened up a little pocket that had good-sized crystals, (3" and better on the larger ones). Pretty soon, the down side of not bringing the bucket or even a bag down became clear as my pockets overflowed with dozens of crystals.

Back up the slope to the highway other rockhounds were either happy with their finds, like the two ladies in the first picture, or deciding to call it a day one way or another. That gave me a chance to explore a high pocket of yellow clay using a ladder that Gene Fisher brought. The few crystals there were small. Picking crystals out of clay was tedious on a larger hole too. If you had a ladder, exploring the yellow clay area in the upper right corner of the second picture might prove worthwhile.

So while we didn't score any of the foot-long or better crystals we hoped to find, it was still a good trip. Everyone had crystals to bring home. It might be worth noting that some people hold the metaphysical properties of Selenite in high regard. I found wands and swords of dollars. The raw Selenite itself was not as expensive. [These are 50 foot long crystals in a cave in Mexico. Notice the man above the arrow.]

The stone is tubular in shape, with striations running along it's length. Selenite is found in Mexico, South America, USA, Australia and Madagascar and formed in evaporative clay beds and hot springs. The crystal manifests in ice-like, clear, striated, fine, delicate crystals, and it can grow into either in the v-shape twinning, the fishtail configuration or in a single extended point. Many of the black crystals had the fishtail configuration.

I found the following description on a website selling Selenite "swords" which were more the size of knives.

"Intensifying the light frequency, the resurgence of Selenite enhances our consciousness. Returning to this energetic element and tool now, at this point in history, enables us to create and intensify new seeds of consciousness.

Selenite is extremely sensitive, and acts just like "liquid light" from the angelic realm and universe. The crystals' striations (fine parallel grooves and narrow bands) are the pathways for the illuminated substance of Spirit. Selenite vibrates more on the spiritual level than on the physical, and resides on the threshold between pure white light and physical matter."

This website had quite a bit more to say along those lines.
http://www.seleniteswordmaker.com/

Rock Tumbling Contest

The Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society invites you to join us for our fifth annual World Rock Tumbling Contest. This year we will be using Brazilian Agate. Pictures of the polished rock are on our web site.

Prizes

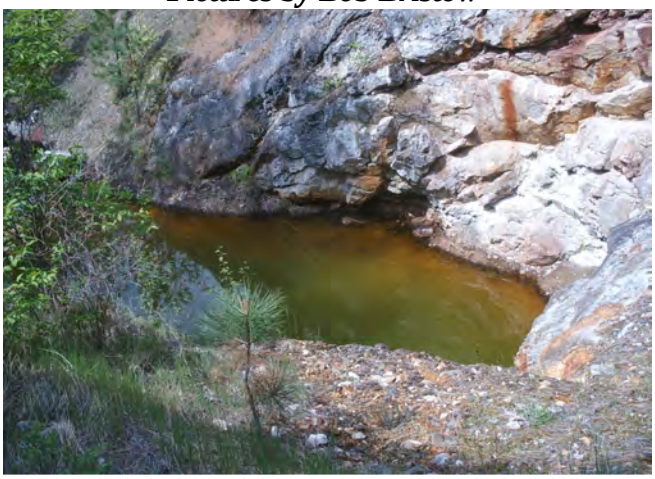
- First place $250.00
- Second Place $100.00
- Third Place $50.00

For more information
www.FeatherRiverRocks.org
Phone: (530) 877-7324
Email: ***Tumbling@FeatherRiverRocks.org***

This message is your invitation and your application. Print it and fill out the information, make out the check payable to FRLMS and mail to;
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society or FRLMS
P.O. Box 2645
Oroville, CA. 95965

Back to the Philips Ranch Prospect

Pictures by Bob Bristow



The lead-in picture for this story is the flooded entrance to the Philips Ranch prospect. A field trip went there on May 10th. About 18 people went. Everyone appeared to be happy with the location. Several were newbies and this was a great place for them. The most abundant mineral was pyrite with some chalcopyrite and possibly a little bornite. It was mostly in wide veins through limestone. Much of it had weathered into iridescent colors. There were some loose rocks as big as a small car. If that wasn't big enough, there was bedrock with the same bands of pyrite. There was azurite and malachite in one small area. Small blades of selenite were scattered all over.

This is Scott Jackson. I believe he is standing near the path going into the main mine quarry.

This is the east wall of the main quarry area. It is heavily stained with minerals and includes outcrops of chalcopyrite and bornite, a colorful copper and iron sulfide. Having a ladder in here might prove to be very useful. There are steep walls on three sides and a dropoff on another.

This is a look back down the path going into the main quarry. Notice the brown and yellow rocks to the left. A kind of dried sulfur foam oozed out of the rocks there. When combined with iron it forms the pyrite found all around this site.

I think this is our esteemed president, Bruce Hurley, standing in the main quarry. Notice the overhang behind him. In that hole and the debris slope below it, Selenite crystals have been found. None were as big as those at the Oroville site, but they were more complex in shape.

Chips Off The Outcrop
By Bruce Hurley

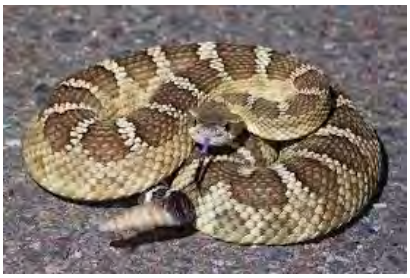
Spring made its appearance early this year, and already we have been able to get started with our field trips. Pretty much everyone who collects rocks, minerals, fossils or any other geologic material likes field trips, and most everybody who does has the various materials to pry up, dig out, break loose and carry back what we find. However, there is one common item everyone needs to take along on every trip, and that is their sense of safety.

There are lots of potential hazards in the field, regardless of where you go. Some of those hazards are inherent with the type of place where you collect, such as extreme heat and dehydration in deserts, treacherous footing and rock falls in steep places and animals such as grizzly bears to avoid in wilds of the Northern Rockies. However, probably the most common challenges to safety are often from ourselves. That said, here are a few situations to ponder.

Often in the Pacific Northwest, rockhounds end up collecting in areas of former mines or prospects, because of the accessibility to rocks otherwise covered by timber or heavy brush. These locations usually have cliffs and overhangs with the potential for falling rocks and collapses of previous diggings. Before working on or below such places, collectors should take a good, long look at their stability, or possible lack thereof, before applying shovels, hammers or prybars. If it does not look safe, it probably is not, and a safer place to collect should be your next objective.

When collectors fan out across a larger collecting area, some people tend to climb high, while others stay lower down. If you are digging high on a slope, even if what you are going after is "great stuff," stay connected to what is going on around, and particularly below, you. Be careful of what you do with the materials you extract, and never, ever, just toss them down the hill, unless very certain no one is below you. Likewise, if you are collecting downslope from other collectors, be sure they know you are there, and clear the area below them as soon as possible.

On the first day of my summer geology field camp in New Mexico nearly fifty years ago, our professor told us to never, ever, reach up and put your hand on a ledge before you could see what was on it. He noted that rattlers loved to sun on ledges in rock faces. I thought that was good advice, but about two days into camp I forgot it. I was lucky enough to only blindly grab a small barrel cactus, which sure beat a snake, but the experience sufficiently reinforced the professor's advice so well that I have never forgotten it since.



Perhaps the biggest challenge to safety on field trips is the presence of children. In most instances, children under about ten have yet to develop a sense of awareness to many hazards around them, and on field trips often focus completely on what they are doing. This means that adults with children have to keep a close eye on them, and make every effort to spot hazards to associated with children, before someone is injured. This includes discouraging such actions as climbing steep outcrops, running over rough or rocky ground or throwing rocks, for any reason. Another good idea is to have children use common safety items such as gloves, eye protection (an inexpensive pair of sunglasses will usually work), sunscreen and a cap or hat. In fact, those safety items are a pretty good idea for the adults with them, too.

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).

Field Trips and More

The program for this month will be a presentation by Bruce Hurley on "The Unofficial Tucson Show", which is about where most of the real activity goes on in Tucson each February.

The next scheduled field trip is to the Evans Quarry for Calcite. Meet at Harvest Foods in Kettle Falls, 9 AM on Saturday June 7th with rock breaking tools.

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:	Anni Sebright	POB 293, Clayton, WA 99110	509-276-2693
Treasurer:	Johnie Pitman	701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114	684-8887
Trustee 1:	Bill Sebright	POB 293, Clayton, WA 99110	509-276-2693
Trustee 2:	Bill Lupton	2530 Six Mile Rd	509-935-6198
Trustee 3:	Becky Dobbs	968 Phillpott Rd, Colville, WA 99114	
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
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