Place: Arden Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA

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

The Panorama Prospector

June 2014

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for May 20, 2014

By Anni Sebright

Bruce Hurley thanked Bob Bristow for manning the gavel while Bruce recouped from his successful back surgery.

Johnie Pitman reported that the Scholarship committee has decided on 6 scholarship recipients. A scholarship for a two-year school and four-year school will be presented by Johnie to Courney Sears and Colin Axtell at Kettle Falls; Madison Dashiell and Paige Miletz at Colville; and Luci will present at Chewelah's graduation to Jasmine Elliott and Megan Rusher.

Dave Paquette has invented a new tool for gold panning. Check it out.http:/prospectorman.com/

Remember to pack Epi Pens and Benadryl along with sunscreen and any kind of bug prevention applications on field trips to deal with things that fly and sting.

Five cars from our club and five cars from the Spokane club enjoyed a beautiful day at the Phillips/Phelps Ranch field trip. Selenite and pyrite were added to collections. Saturday, June 7, at 9 AM we will meet at Harvest Foods in Kettle Falls for calcite crystal gathering at Evans Quarry.

The Merikay trip has been rescheduled and is now Sunday, June 29, rather than August 9. The time has also changed to 9 AM, and we will gather at the south end of the Safeway parking lot in Chewelah. It's an easy access road with limited parking--probably 6 cars maximum. Head lamps, lanterns and hard hats are recommended.

We will need to sign releases for our Metalline Falls field trip.

The Pend Orielle mine is reopening.

Continued on page 2

Germania Mania

By Joseph Barreca

[This giant funnel was left at the Germania Mine]

The chief source of tungsten for the Krupp Steel works in Essen Germany prior to World War I; the biggest producer of tungsten in the United States before WWI; a pile of 100,000 tons of waste rock and a mine that may once again be a major tungsten producer; these are all things than can be said of the Germania Mine in southern Stevens County. The article about the mine in our May, 2013 edition (http://panoramagem.com/News/2013/News0513.pdf) caught the attention of the mine's new owner, Bill Broderson and his family. He gave me a chance to visit the mine once again on May 31st.

We talked about how the Germans had covertly taken ownership of the mine after seeing it's ore at the St Louis Exposition of 1894. Wilhelm Schenk, a captain in the German Engineering Corps, posing as a US Citizen, bought the mine and began operations in 1904 that sent concentrate via submarine from Maine to Germany. Congress had an administrator take over the mine when The United States entered WWI. But not before Schenk blasted the adits closed and burned the mill down. The federal administrator neglected to pay local taxes and the sheriff sold it for back taxes to the man who

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Vanita Novak, Jan Hurley and Anni Sebright will provide snacks for the June meeting.

At least 8 hands were raised as interested parties for a wire wrapping workshop given by Karen Snyder from Newport where she and husband Dale have a studio and gallery. The cost will probably be about $25 for a several hour class. More details will be forthcoming.

Johnie's Treasurer's report was given but did not yet include the deducted scholarship monies.

The Audubon Fossil Book will go up for raffle starting in June. We still have hats for sale... a "deal" at $10.

Bruce Hurley will contact the Rock rollers for the latest tax information and any additional paperwork needed.

Bruce will also be the featured speaker at the Boyer Mountain Lodge in Deer Park, Thursday, June 26, at 7PM. The Nevada Test site will be the topic.

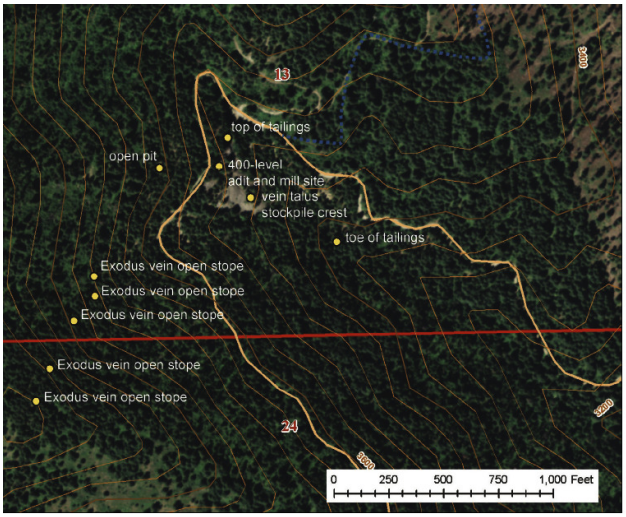
Jerry Harder won the May door prize drawing. Again!

end

(*Germania continued*) discovered the mine, J. S. McLean, a local rancher. It began operations again in 1931 under the leadership of J.A.Scollard. It once again became the largest producer in the United States and shipped the largest shipment ever, 162 tons of concentrate in 1935. We also talked about how the German, Schenk was a prodigious drinker with a commercial account from a Spokane wholesaler. Bill showed me a bottle they found on the place made by Segrams and valued at about $17.

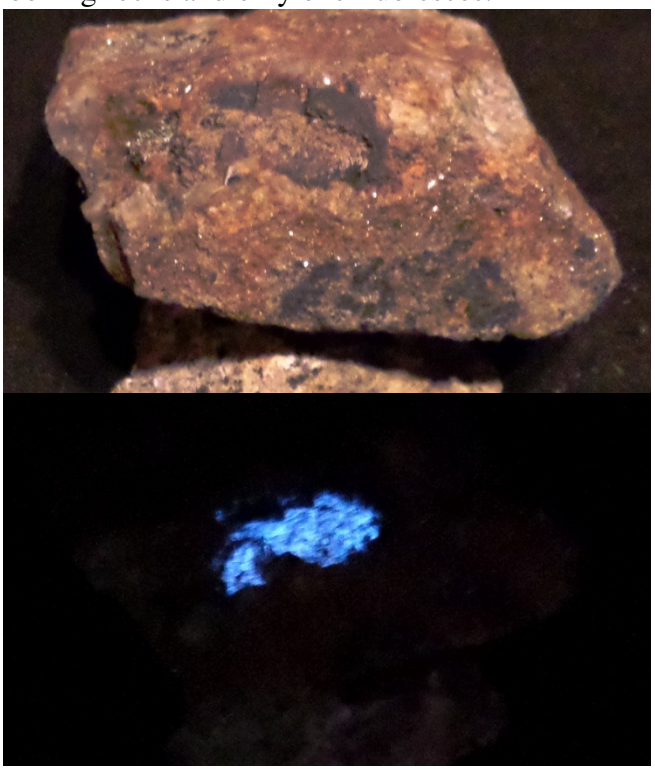
Bill also told me that the DNR had studied the Germania as an abandoned mine. Fritz Wolff and company published a great account of the history of the mine and also the possible future of the mine on the DNR Website.

Perhaps the most intriguing part of the report is the opinion that although the "Exodus Vein" from which millions of dollars worth of ore has been mined is basically exhausted to the Southwest of the mine, the same vein appears to extend to the Northeast some 2000 feet and may once again be a viable operation at some future date.



[Yellow Dots trace the Exodus Vein SW]

So why would rockhounds care about a tungsten mine since the filament light bulb is going the way of the Edsel? In a word, Scheelite, (calcium tungstate), $CaWO_4$. This mineral fluoresces under short wave ultraviolet light. The larger crystals have some use as gemstones. They are tetrahedral, similar to fluorite and usually amber in color. But the color of white/blue emitted by Scheelite in UV is unique. It is also very handy for picking out tungsten deposits in the dark. Not knowing exactly what to look for, I have to admit that I picked up twenty likely-looking rocks and only one fluoresces.



[The same rock under daylight and UV light.]

Wolff's report, which I didn't have at the time, shows locations of several stopes that have

caved in to the top two levels of the mine. It would take some serious equipment to explore these safely, but the report goes on to describe "Three separate veins spaced at intervals of nearly 130 feet …were exposed by trenching. This vein appears to be the northward projection of the mine's Exodus vein. A 250 foot drift was driven along this exposure… Promising quantities of Wolframite were seen in nearly all the veins exposed by the trenches." So let's be clear, Wolframite, [(Fe,Mn)WO_4] is not Scheelite. It appears as black, tabular, striated crystals. It can be seen surrounding the fluorescent area in the sample rock. But Scheelite "occurs as thin veinlets in and around Wolframite crystals."

The other commercial mineral in this mine is Huebnerite ($MnWO_4$). Notice that both Wolframite and Huebnerite contain Molybdenum. A mine we often visit, the Deer Trail Monitor, is a molybdenum mine near the smoky quartz dig northeast of Fruitland and directly north of the Germania. Wolff's report notes that the tungsten tapers out below the 400 foot level and is increasingly replaced by molybdenite. A similar mine in Climax Colorado indicates that there may be more molybdenum lower in this vein and more tungsten higher in the vein. Uranium was also found in the ore in 1979 but does not show up in current water or tailings samples.

What did show up while looking around the property with the owner was a slash pile that seemed to have re-ignited a month or so after it was assumed to be out. With no cell coverage and an eminent danger to Bill Broderson's property if this thing caught the forest on fire, I cut my explorations short and drove 8 miles to the Fruitland Store to report the fire. If anyone is ready for some rugged exploration, Bill invited us back. We should inform him first. Pack a lunch and start early. I'll bring the UV light.

Evan's Quarry

June 7, 2014

By Bob Bristow

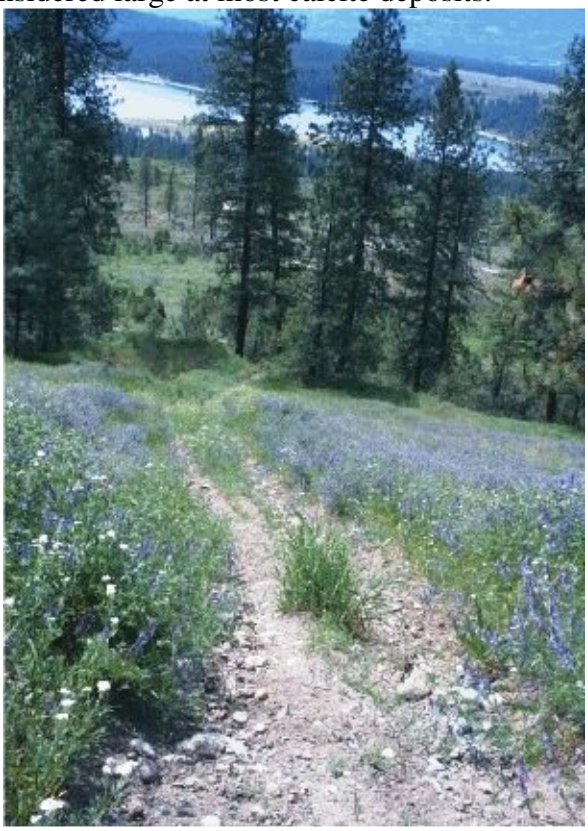
[Larry Engles with a keeper]

The group of seven members met at the Harvest Foods grocery store in Kettle Falls at 9:00 AM. Insurance forms were signed and everyone was cautioned about the danger of unstable rocks in the quarry. Several cars were left at the grocery store parking lot so everyone could go in the four-wheel drive vehicles with high clearance. It had been rumored that the main road into the quarry might be unlocked. One of the two gates was unlocked, but that road only went to the lower tailings area. We then drove up the Evan's Cutoff Road to the County road across from the Bonanza Mine road. This road is only used for logging and by some messy people for dumping garbage. It is a long road to the top of the quarry and is filled with tank traps. Some of which were full of water and mud. We finally reached the road that drops down to the level of the quarry floor. This part of the road was good, but one of the cars slipped into a water-cut rut that was over a foot deep.

The fun part began when we got to the entrance to the quarry. The area had been sealed at one time after two boys were killed when they drove too close to the edge of the cliff. There was only a trail through the bermed area that had been made by ATV's. It was narrow and very steep. Crossing this area was an experience that the club members will be sure to remember.

[Scott Jackson's Big One. *Note blanket*]

The clay in the area with huge calcite crystals had hardened since it fell from the cliff several years ago and it was difficult to dig. However, there were a lot of small and broken crystals on the surface throughout the area. There were small, but well formed, crystals all along the base of the cliffs. There were some very heavy rocks recovered that were covered with well-formed crystals. These crystals would be considered large at most calcite deposits.



[The road in was rugged and beautiful.]

A good time was had by all.

Chips Off The Outcrop

By Bruce Hurley

Spring is about to turn into summer, and the season for field trips is in full swing. While many of us will go on planned club trips with leaders familiar with the locations visited, some folks will go on trips to scout out new potential areas or relocate old localities for collecting rocks, minerals or fossils. These trips are often taken by a couple of collectors in a single vehicle, generally going to places with which they are not very familiar. These trips can be fun and rewarding, but making a few important preparations before such a trip will not only increase your chances of success, but can also save the time, money and heartache of an adventure gone wrong.

First of all, find out as much as you can about the area to which you are going. Maps (road, topographic, geologic, etc.), collecting guides, geologic reports, and internet articles and references are all valuable sources of information regarding what geologic materials can be found in an area, how to get there, and road access conditions. A Global Positioning System (GPS) device is a very useful tool to have, but taking along an old-fashioned compass is a good idea too, as GPS devices (and their batteries) have been known to fail. Also, GPS reference coordinates from some sources are occasionally incorrect. (One of my worst mis-adventures began because I put far too much faith in GPS coordinates taken from a Google Earth map, which turned out to be quite inaccurate.)

At least as important as knowing where you are going is being able to get there, and especially back. If the locality is near towns or along well-traveled roads, this is usually not a problem, provided your vehicle is in good working condition. However, if you are going way back, especially in sparsely-populated areas in rough country, a few extra preparations might be in order. Extra radiator water is a must in desert areas, and taking along some radiator stop-leak is also a good idea. Cracking an oil pan is a serious problem, especially a long ways from repair assistance. A sizeable piece of dense Styrofoam can be used to make an emergency oil pan plug, and along with several extra quarts of oil can save you a long walk, in this situation.

Also, a second spare tire is a nice item to have in rocky areas. Spare fan, alternator and "circuitous" belts are also good idea for these kinds of trips.

These days, few people leave home without a "cell phone," and they are important accessories for field trips. However, the map locator feature for most cell phones is keyed to reaching locations via major road networks, and is of minimal value in areas with few recognized roads. Last year, on a trip to central Nevada, one member of our field trip became lost and tried to find the main party overland using his cell phone. Before we located him, his map application was actually taking him in the opposite direction from dirt road on which the vehicles were parked. Also, cell phones only work if a cell tower is nearby. In remote areas, small handheld radios (walkie-talkies) are much more reliable modes of communication between field party members.

Cleaning Selenite Crystals

By Joseph Barreca

[Dark Crystal of Fishtail Selenite with inclusions]

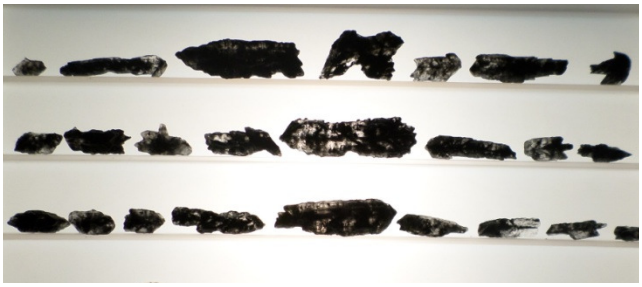
We had a short discussion of how to clean Selenite crystals at the May meeting. Bruce Hurley was happy with what happens to them if you let winter and spring weather work over your specimens. Online advice usually advocates running warm water with dish soap and old tooth brushes. These ideas may be all well and good for some specimens, but not for the dark crystals most commonly found at the Oroville Selenite Site (discussed in last month's newsletter).

They do work fine however for the clear crystals found in the yellow clay pockets at that site. I came back with a lot of black crystals covered in the black shale in which they were found. They also had black shale imbedded in them. Cleaning the bunch led me through a series of experiments to some – possibly odd – conclusions.

I started with the mildest approach, soaking in **water,** on a few of the crystals that I was willing to sacrifice. This did loosen up some of the grime, but these crystals are covered with spikes and crevices that hold on to the stuff. The next step up was **vinegar**. That didn't do much either and I wasn't about to put them in my salad. So on to the stronger stuff, **muriatic acid**. This is definitely a rubber gloves, working outside in a good breeze kind of treatment. But even after a few days, the crystals were still black even though the acid turned a yellowish brown.

So I rinsed them off and went the other direction. I got out a base solution, **Lime-A-Way**. It works fairly well on hard water stains and the calcium in hard water is close to the calcium in Selenite (calcium sulfate). Maybe if I could get some Slate-A-Way, that would work, but the base attack didn't work either. So how about other solvents? I tried **alcohol** (on the rocks) to no effect. I remembered that they discovered **WD 40** while cleaning the Space Shuttle. That didn't work either but at least it didn't smell too bad.

It's hard to scrub the little buggers by hand with a **tooth brush**. But it almost worked. By this time, most of the test samples had been soaking in water for up to a month. Looking for the next step, I dug out my **Dremel** with the tiny wire brush wheel. Now we were making some progress. But even the Dremel didn't clear out the small crevices where the crystal points came together. So I bought a **brass wire brush** ($2 for three brushes) and it works well, especially in water. Now the crevices were clean.



But the surfaces were scuffed up. WD 40 made them clear but smelled weird. Carnauba wax was hard to buff and was white in the crevices. So was Pledge. For now I'm using olive oil but I'm still keeping them out of the salad and looking for a better solution.

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 the June meeting will be the DVD *The Mystery of the Giants Crystals*, about the giant selenite crystals in Naica, Mexico.

There is a field trip scheduled to the Merikay Mine Sunday, June 29, 9 AM. We will gather at the south end of the Safeway parking lot in Chewelah. It's an easy access road with limited parking-- probably 6 cars maximum. Head lamps, lanterns and hard hats are recommended.

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

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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	
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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
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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