

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 June 17, 2014

*By Anni Sebright*

President Bruce Hurley opened the meeting by welcoming new members Tim and Teresa, Mike and Duane.

A change was announced for the evening's program due to a formatting glitch.

Gene Fisher, Diane Evans and Tom Scales need to be kept in our thoughts and prayers.

Bill Allen, Luci Bristow and Jan Hurley volunteered to bring snacks for the July meeting.

Sunday, June 29th, 9 AM, everyone interested in the Merikay Mine field trip will be gathering at the south end of the Chewelah Safeway parking lot. Besides the usual rock hammer, gad and a bucket for collecting, remember any safety equipment and bug spray, etc., for dealing with things crawling and flying. The field trip leader will be Becky Hobbs.

Bob Bristow will lead the white stone calcium tour Saturday, July 19th. Please gather at the south end of the Chewelah Safeway parking lot at 9 AM. We are asked to wear hard hats and closed-toe shoes.

Bruce Hurley was the June 26th featured speaker at the Boyer Mountain Mason's Lodge in Deer Park. He spoke about the Nevada Test Site. Bob Bristow will be the September 25th presenter and will talk about the crash of United flight 232 and development of engine burst shields.

Monday, July 21st will be the Rock Candy Mountain field trip to Grand Forks, B. C. Mark your calendar and don't forget your passport or enhanced drivers license.

Johnie Pittman was voted discretionary funds to be used to buy specimens for the silent auction.

Vanita and Jerry Novak are going to the rock show and field trips in Prineville, OR, at the fairgrounds.

*Continued on page 2*

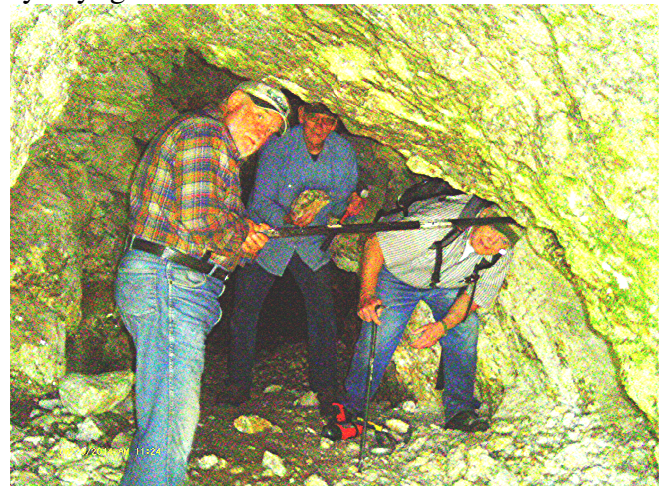
### MeriKay Beryl

*By Joe Barreca*



[The entrance to the Merikay Mine]

This deceptively small opening leads into a drift that goes further back than anyone in the club dared to go. Gene Fisher rightly points out that we should have all had on hard hats and steel-toed boots and tested the air for carbon monoxide. Luckily, all the good stuff people found was about 5 feet inside the opening and you could almost see by daylight.



[Jerry Novak and friends barring down Beryl.]

*Minutes from page 1 continued*

Jerry Novak also won the June door prize drawing.

The largest saw (1/2 HP) in our shop needs a new motor. There may be one available from a member.

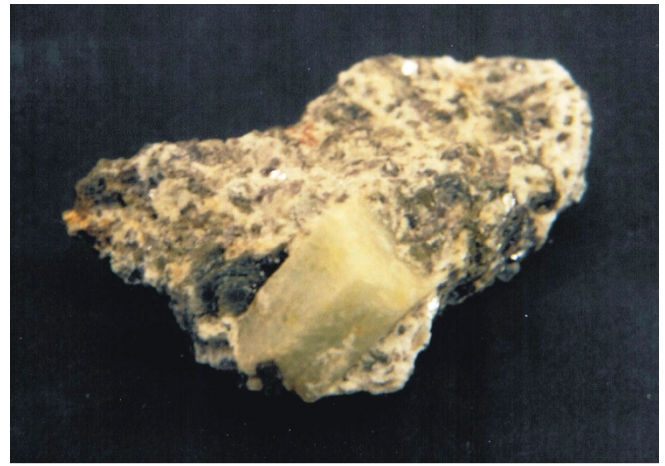
A wire wrapping class given by Karen Snyder will be scheduled most likely in the fall. The cost will be approximately \$25. More information will be forthcoming.

Lori and Karlea brought their "treasures" from their 11 day trip to central and eastern Utah. They stepped up/in smoothly relating their adventures and became the evening's program. Nicely done and thank you ladies.

*end*

Beryl is interesting stuff. First identified by Pliny the Elder in 100 AD, he noted the similarity of Beryl and Emerald. The key ingredient in Beryl is Beryllium, a light tough metal. Luckily, Beryl is a pretty crystal and not the main ore of Beryllium. Unluckily, I could not find much information about the history of the mine. It was worked until 1953. From the looks of the site, there was not much heavy equipment. There is track in the tunnel. It goes straight back as far as anyone went. There is a slight rise to make pushing ore carts out. So I surmise that the deposit could exist in places around the main tunnel. In fact Bob Bristow showed us a promising spot below the road that did yield several small Beryl Crystals.

Bob also noted that Beryl [ $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})$ ] is essentially the same stuff as Aquamarine and Emerald and several other gems. Unfortunately all of those are clear crystals and are worth big bucks. The most expensive clear Beryl is worth \$185/carat for large cut stones. The mineral, Beryllium is worth \$230 a pound in copper or \$400 a pound if pure. It exists only in combination with other minerals in nature. With a low atomic number of 4 and an atomic weight of 9.012, it is the second lightest metal. It is transparent to X-rays and fades after long exposure to sunlight. If the early miners were going for either the metal value or the gem value of the Beryl Crystals, they would have had a hard go of it. I'm not sure how the mine paid for itself. In official records, it is a "prospect".



[Picture of a Beryl Crystal by Bob Bristow]

The crystals we find are opaque and vary from light blue-green to almost white. The key thing to look for is the shape. They have six sides and all six converge on the point. Let me know if you find an actual point.



They are very rare. The crystals are also very brittle. Most are cracked. A solid one could be shaped into a nice stone for a piece of jewelry but most specimens will end up in collections as they were found. I would

caution against keeping them on a window sill because they fade in the light. The name in Greek means precious blue-green color-of-sea-water stone. Truthfully they can come in any color from blue to green, yellow or red. Inherently they are colorless and the color comes from impurities. Pure Beryllium powder can cause a lung disease, but there are no known health risks with the crystals in the form we find them.



[Happy rockhounds in front of the mine.]



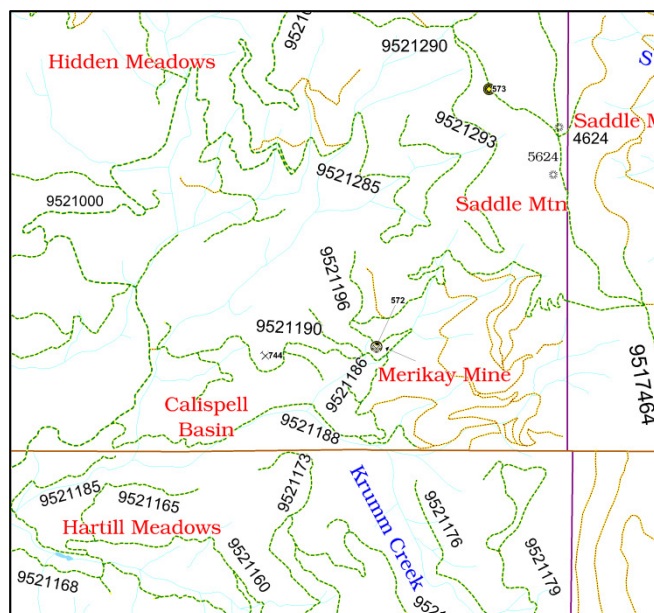
The whole region where the Merikay is located, the Kaniksu Batholith, is pegmatite, a form of granite that has cooled slowly allowing for the formation of large crystals. If the magma had reached the surface 100 million years ago, it would have been volcanic. Beryl crystals have been reported up to 2 meters in length and almost a meter across. I'll have to admit that those I found on June 29<sup>th</sup> were small. I did pop them out of their natural matrix which included big books of mica and pieces of garnet, which tended to crumble.



Most of the 7 cars full of Beryl-diggers left the Merikay in a rain storm around noon. I explored the area with the help of new-rockhound Kellie Roussos (above) using coordinates from the Bureau of Mines. Roads were most often not marked, and in at least one instance, marked incorrectly, so getting to old mines was not easy. We came near the GPS point for the Calispell Peak prospect but did not find any evidence of former activity except for a pegmatite boulder on the side of the road which looked very much like those at the Merikay. Kellie had a smart phone with a mapping program that confirmed what road we were on correctly most of the time. There was also a lot of helicopter activity which we thought might be a rescue operation near the "Man Camp" that had a sign to that effect alongside the Sand Canyon road on the way to the mine. They turned out to be from the Survival School on Tacoma Creek several miles to the east.

Sand Canyon road becomes Forest Service Road 9125 before it enters the disbursed camping areas along Chewelah Creek. The road to the Merikay, Forest Service Road 190, leaves Rd 9125 to the east right in the middle of a big meadow known as the Calispell Basin. It is not

marked. After a little over a mile, the road splits and road (9125)186 goes to the right while road (9125)190 goes on to the left and northeast. Within a quarter mile or so it makes a hairpin turn and within another quarter mile the Merikay mine appears on the right just before the road turns and continues climbing up the hill. The exact coordinates at the mine are 48°24.137' North and 117°31.251" West.



I think that a lot more exploration could be done in the immediate vicinity of the mine. There are other Beryl prospects in the vicinity that have not been pinned down and some places along the roads that have Beryl in them too. The area to the east and north of the mine has been logged in the past few years and those roads might also yield some good rocks.

Of course in the heat we have been having lately, it is a hard to get too enthusiastic about too much exercise. But there might be some good huckleberries out there too...





# Chips Off The Outcrop

*By Bruce Hurley*

This past week the California and Washington branches of our family had the opportunity to meet in Redmond, Oregon, for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July vacation trip. When rockhounds from Washington think of Oregon, they typically think of thundereggs, great agates and sunstones. On this trip, however, I had the opportunity to visit Crater Lake National Park, the Newberry Volcanic National Monument and the High Desert Museum, all south of Bend.



[Newberry National Volcanic Monument]

If you have never visited these places, this area deserves to be added to your “I want to go there” list. Crater Lake, the fifth-deepest lake in the world, has perhaps the deepest blue water anywhere. Along with being beautiful, it is also one of the best-displayed and most-accessible examples of a volcanic caldera in the world. The Newberry Volcanic National Monument also hosts the Newberry caldera, cinder cones, lava tubes and flows, and even an obsidian flow. The High Desert Museum provides information about and insight into the lifestyles of the Native American tribes and the early white settlers of the high deserts east of the Cascades. The museum also has nature exhibits including living native animal and plant

species from the high desert regions, including not only the High Lava Plains but also the Columbia Plateau and Basin and Range lands. Central Oregon has lots to keep you interested, if you are a rockhound.

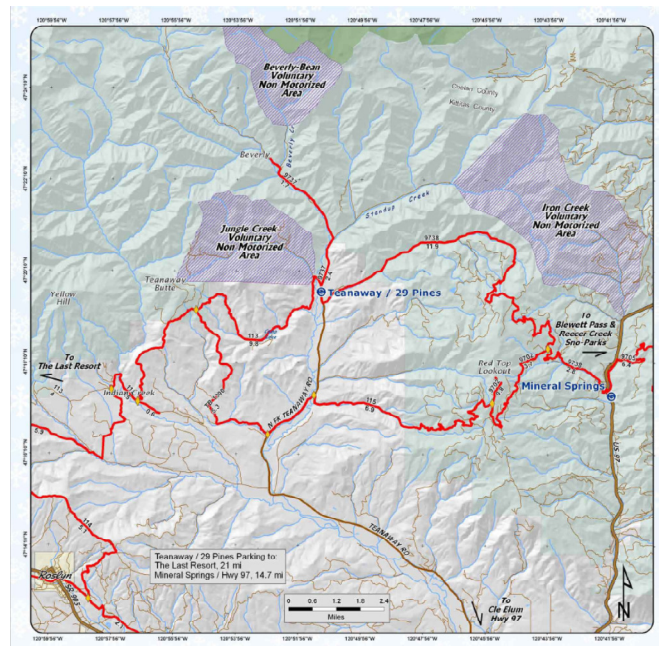
## Tom Scales

In a sad note, long-time club member Tom Scales passed away on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Tom and his wife Pat came to our meetings from Trail BC. They helped entertain us with programs and pictures of their rock-hounding travels. I particularly thank Tom and Pat for viewing our newsletter on line since mailing it to Canada was a problem. This is a big loss for the club. He will be missed.

## Some Notes from Bob Bristow

The trip to Geology Adventures being put together by Leslie Michel has been canceled for this year. She will try again next year.

We are invited to join the Chief Joseph Gem and Mineral Club on a trip to 29 Pines and the Yellow Hill areas on the 23/24th of August. The contact is Ed Poachman ([508-422-1637](tel:508-422-1637)).



[The Teanaway/29 Pines Campground map]

The top red road line in this map goes to Beverly Creek outside of Roslyn, Washington. Green and



white mottled Jade is found in this creek and is one of the destinations for this trip. The nearby Yellow Hill area has red agates and Jasper. Although the old dig has been played out, a new area with more agate is reportedly uphill from there. This would be an overnight trip with folks probably camping at the Teanaway/ 29 Pine Campground near the Jade site.

*Editor's note*

Scot and I found the garnet dig near Emerald Cr yesterday. I was great. Lots of good sized garnets. However, it won't last long. The RR are planning a trip there in August. Maybe we should set up one this month?

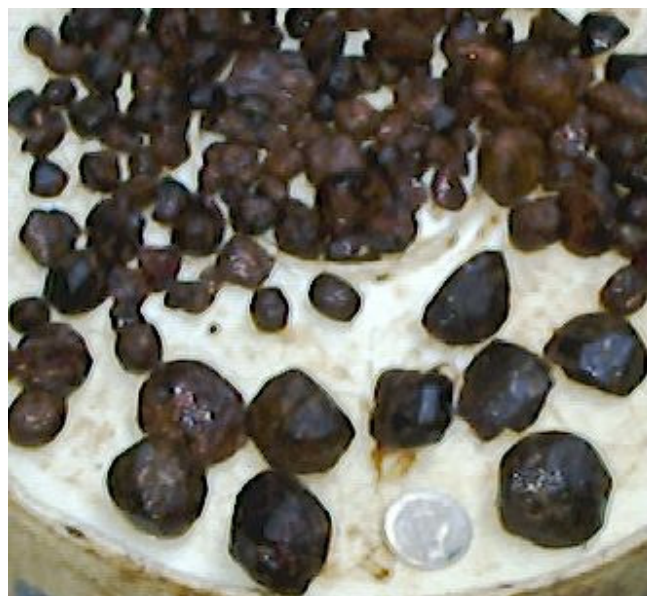
## Emerald Creek Garnets

The Forest Service has this to say about Emerald Creek Garnets:

There are only two places in the world you can find Star Garnets - India and right here on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests! The garnets found here are called "star garnets" because of a unique property that causes some of them to display a reflection like a four or six pointed star. India is the only other place in the world where star garnets like these are found in any quantity.

The 12-sided (dodecahedron) crystals found here range in size from sand particles to golf-ball or larger size. Gem quality faceting material is also found at the Garnet Area.

The Forest Service has developed the Garnet Area as a place where the public may collect these unique gems in a safe and environmentally friendly way. In the past, people would dig in the stream bed in search of the garnets. Now, due to concerns for water quality, aquatic habitat, and public safety, the Forest Service provides a stockpile of garnet bearing gravels from which people can gather material to run through one of two sluice boxes in search of garnets.



[Garnets from Emerald Creek]

Bob reports that he and Scot found garnets up to two inches across on their trip. Talking with other folks at the site the word is that although not all of the garnets are star garnets, at least they take a good polish and are worth spending some time on. Here are notes about the operation

<b>Operational Hours:</b>	OPEN: Friday through Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; CLOSED: Wednesday and Thursday; Opens each year the Friday before Memorial Day and closes after Labor Day.
<b>Area Amenities:</b>	Accessible, Picnic tables, Toilets, Parking
<b>Fees</b>	Permits are available at the site and cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 6-12, under 6 is free. The fee is payable by cash and check only. The permit is valid for one day and includes equipment.
<b>Permit Info:</b>	Permits are required for anyone washing or screening gravels. You may take up to five pounds of garnets with your daily permit. If you want to remove more than five pounds of garnet during the same day, you can buy another permit for each additional five pounds or fraction thereof. You are limited to six permits.
<b>Open Season:</b>	Friday Prior to Memorial Day
<b>Water:</b>	None - bring your own drinking water.
<b>Restroom:</b>	Outhouse



### 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](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).

### Field Trips and More

The program for the July meeting will be the DVD Minerals, Gems and Ores.

We will have a lot to talk about in the way of field trips. Bob Bristow will lead the white stone calcium tour Saturday, July 19th. Please gather at the south end of the Chewelah Safeway parking lot at 9 AM. The trip to The Rock Candy Mountain Fluorite mine will be Monday July 21<sup>st</sup>. Bob has some more ideas for field trips for agate, jade and garnet as mentioned in this newsletter.

### Martell's Rock Shop

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509-675-0390  
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**Rocks, Slabs,  
Cabs,  
Jewelry...  
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Grinders,  
8" & 10" Trim  
Saws**



**Mineral Identification  
Mineral/Mine Locations**

**Bristow Enterprises**  
PO Box 1165  
Chewelah, WA 99109  
[Bristow@theofficenet.com](mailto:Bristow@theofficenet.com)

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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:	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	
<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
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