

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

August 2014

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for July 22, 2014

By Anni Sebright

The first order of business for the evening was the discussion about our annual picnic on August 19th. We will gather an hour earlier - 6 PM. Bill Allen will be our BBQ chef, and we'll potluck the rest. Juice and coffee will be provided, and Luci Bristow is bringing the condiments. Also, don't forget any swapping rocks for the tailgate swap to follow. A member also suggested that those musically inclined bring their instruments.

A new location for our club's rock shop is needed. Preferably by September. Colville, Chewelah or any place in between would work.

The White Stone Calcium field trip is scheduled for Sunday, the 20th, with rockhounds gathering at the south end of the Chewelah Safeway parking lot. (15 of us in our hard hats and closed-toe shoes showed up for our tour led by Chuck Smith.)

The Rock Candy Mountain field trip will be postponed until next year.

Big Iron Mine will be the next scheduled field trip on Saturday August 23rd. We will gather at Harvest Foods in Kettle Falls at 8 AM. Bring your safety equipment along with the usual tools, lunch and water.

Garnets and star garnets were discussed, and it was concluded that the best specimens came from Emerald Creek.

Thank you to Bev Bockman and Bruce Hurley for the silent auction "treasures."

Vanita Novak won the door prize.

Remember to come an hour early in August with your potluck item and your swappin' rocks. You also may want to bring your own comfy chair.

end

White Calcium Stone Processing Plant

By Bob Bristow



[Figure 1: Group Photo]

Thirteen of us met on July 20th at the Safeway parking lot in Chewelah and then converged on the plant behind the big smokestack south of town. The Manager, Chuck Smith, met us in the yard, welcomed us, and gave us a safety lecture, including free safety glasses. Chuck and our group are shown in Figure 1. He described what their products were and how the plant operated. He has 14 full-time employees including four out at the pit. The processing starts with a large jaw crusher and then the material is fed through a gyratory crusher. After screening, the over-sized stones were rerun through the gyratory crusher. They have a number of pits for each of a number of colors. All pits are all in the Chewelah area except for the green stone, which is shipped in. Most of their material is mixed with a matrix, hardened, and then sanded and polished for decorative floors and walls. One of the interesting new products being manufactured by one of their customers is an insulation made by expanding pebbles of dolomite using heat.



[Figure 2: Primary Crusher]

He then turned us loose and said we could take anything we could carry. We found the facility much larger than it had looked from the highway and Chuck said it would be enlarged this year or next. There were piles of both as-mined rock and



[Figure 3: Rockhounds loading up] crushed material in seven or eight colors. It was also interesting to examine the equipment on the property. Figure 2 is the primary crusher. Figure 3



shows rockhounds finding plenty to collect. Figure 4 shows some of the many piles of crushed and sorted rock. They will be tearing down the old smelter in the near future.

Chuck was very friendly and may be coming to some of our meetings. He invited us back whenever we wanted. He just requested we give him a few days notice.

Ringling Rocks

By Johnie and Ginger Pitman

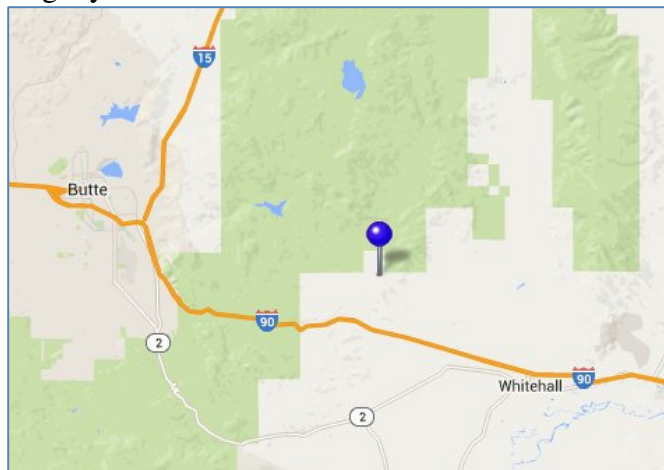
On our way back for the Tri-Federation Field trips; Johnie and I stopped by the Ringling Rocks of Montana. They are east of Butte, on the Continental Divide. You need a hammer, any hammer, and they do sound like bells, some a better note than others, but all fun. They are just a short, but slow 3 and half miles off the main road.



Directions:

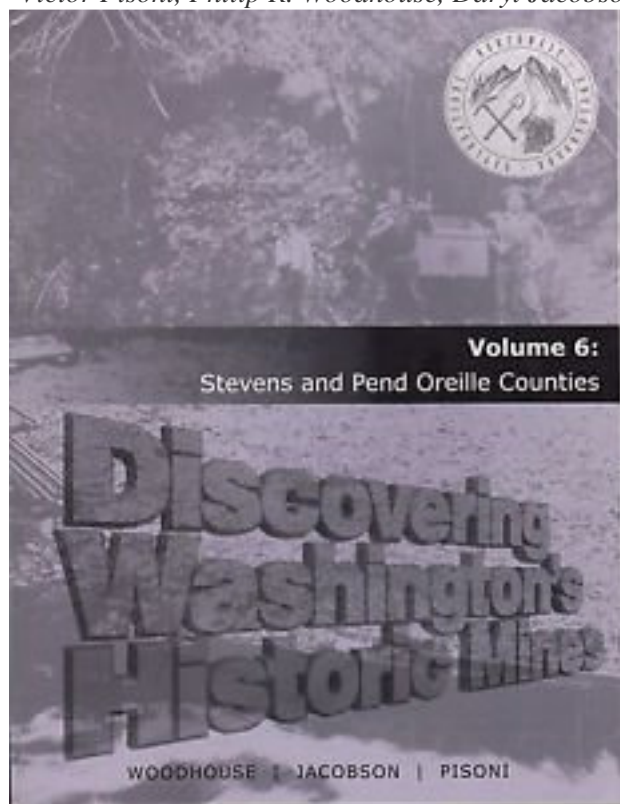
Take (very poorly marked) I-90 exit 241 (Pipestone). Drive east on a gravel road that parallels the freeway for about three-fourths of a mile, then turn north on a gravel road marked #2. Cross the railroad tracks, and continue north for about four miles on a poorly maintained dirt road. The road is narrow and makes sharp turns. When you reach the rail fence, park, then continue to

walk about one-tenth of a mile up unimproved road #2 until you see the ringing rock sign and more rail fences (You can drive this last bit if you have high clearance and four-wheel drive). Don't forget your hammer!



Discovering Washington's Historic Mines

Victor Pisoni, Philip R. Woodhouse, Daryl Jacobson



This is the 6th volume of a widely acclaimed series of books on Washington's mines. There is a whole group on Yahoo.com that shares pictures and stories from mines they have explored (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/NWUNDEGROUND/info>) based on these books. Volume 6 is on Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties. Volume 5 is on Okanogan and Ferry County.

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You can buy both volumes at Coffee and Books in the Chase Bank Building in Colville. The list price on them is \$34.95 but Lisa Shinn sells them for \$31.95. It's always good to do a little research before a field trip – or with these books, do a little research to know where a good field trip might be.

Agate Hunting at the Inter-Regional Field Trip

By Johnie Pitman

The multi-federation field trip was in Terry, Montana, about 800 miles east of Colville, and was attended by rockhounds from Seattle to the New England states, Tennessee, Texas, California and places in between. I heard 250- 300 in all, no official count that I know of.

The trips were to collect Montana agate,



sea fossils, and dig for dinosaur bones. There were at least 2 and sometimes three agate trips each day all to different locations, some in the Yellowstone River and some into the hills. The trips left Terry at 9:00 and returned about 1-2 p.m. which was long enough as the temperature was getting into the 90's.

My first trip was in the river about 8 miles west of Terry, we were taken there in a "cool" bus that is school with the s and h removed. There were 25 on this trip including Becky Dobbs and her sister, after a short walk down the bank we collected on a gravel bar that was about 600-700 yards long. The first agate I found was a good one the size of my hand and 1.5 inches thick, I had high hopes, but it was down hill the rest of the day. I ended up with 10 pounds of mostly tumbling material.

The second day it was west again for 30 miles then 12 miles of dirt road including a one lane bridge across the river, that put us on the

north side of the river. The gravel bar this time was bigger, I chose to go up stream and after an hour or so I had nothing. The report later was that the ones that went down stream did better. I ended with a couple of nice agates and 6-8 pounds of small ones.

The third day I hitched a ride with two very nice lady's and the trip was to the same area as the second day except we drove another mile or two into the hills. This time the hunting was in draws and under a few scattered cottonwood trees where the cows had spent time in the shade to get out of the heat. The agates were more plentiful and I got about 25 pounds, some very nice.

Thursday and Friday evenings there were programs on Montana agates and other rocks found in the Yellowstone River, like jasper, petrified wood and fossils. They were interesting and informative.

We left Saturday evening and drove part way home, so we missed the tailgating, auction, and pot luck.

It was nice to meet old friends and make new ones.

Auction Rocks Coming In

By Johnie Pitman

At the June meeting I was given the OK to purchase up to \$100 worth of items to upgrade our silent auction at the meetings and the November rock auction to benefit the scholarship fund. The day after the meeting I got a call from a fellow named George, whom I had never heard of before, saying he had a large collection of rocks for sale at very reasonable prices. So I decided to give George a try and ended up spending \$64 of the clubs money for 25 items including a very nice set of Brazilian agate book ends. The remaining \$36 was spent at Sherry Bambergers for 12 other items and she donated several other specimens for the auctions.

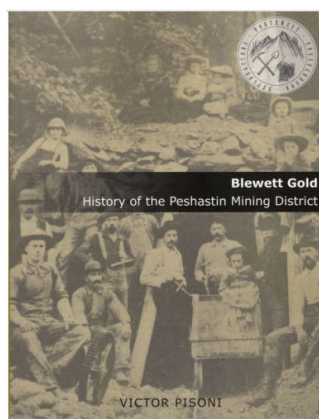
George still has many good quality rocks for sale at 1-3 dollars per pound, for

instance, he has approximately 6,000 pounds of cut and polished Brazilian agates for \$1 per pound. If any one is interested his phone number is [1-509-238-4418](tel:1-509-238-4418), he lives near Cheney. Mention my name and he will give you directions.

Blewett Gold History of the Peshastin Mining District

by Victor Pisoni
308 Pages

This is the newest book put out by the Northwest Mining Publishers group. The Same publisher that puts out the ever popular series "Discovering



Washington's Historic Mines" vol 1 - 6. The Blewett Mining District was one of the largest gold producing districts in Washington and prospectors are still finding good gold their today. This book takes you through the history of this great district with lots of pics, maps of the

area, maps of mines and much more.

[Available on eBay – search Blewett Gold]

Rock Star of the Month

(Editor's Note: We don't have a Juniors Club, but maybe we should)

Dear NFMS Friends,
Please find attached the July issue of *Mini Miners Monthly*.

I would like to start featuring your Juniors Clubs and also have special profiles of outstanding youth, the "Rock Star" of the month.

If you are able and willing, please email pictures of your club in action and a few paragraphs about what you do and what is happening with your group. It would be a lot of fun to highlight you and encourage continued success. Thank you, in advance, for your contributions.

Best wishes.
Darryl

Special Offer: We are continuing to offer our newest book, *Diamond Dan's Mineralogical Dictionary*, for \$2/copy. With each copy purchased, you will also receive a free copy of either *The World of Minerals* or *Mineral Oddities*. Email your orders and, as always, we'll send an invoice to you after the order is on its way. These publications can be a great fund raiser for your kids' program.

diamonddan@rochester.rr.com

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Darryl Powell

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Egg Carton Rock Collections *by Kreigh Tomaszewski* (From the Mini Miners Monthly)



When you are trying to make a rock collection you are faced with several problems. How do you store it? How do you display it? How do you label it?

How you store it depends on how big your specimens are. There are some traditional sizes. Thumbnail specimens fit inside a 1 ¼ inch cubic plastic box usually called a perky box. Miniature specimens fit inside a 2 1/2 inch box. Hand specimens are too big for a miniature box, but are smaller than a grapefruit. They may also be referred to as small cabinet specimens. Cabinet specimens are larger than a grapefruit, but are still small enough to pick up and put on a shelf. Floor specimens are too large to put on any shelf. Boulders are probably too large to bring indoors. Micromounts need a microscope or good hand lens to view and are usually stored in a 3/4 inch box. **An egg carton works for most thumbnail to miniature specimens. Most common specimens are roughly the size of an egg.**

If you go to the geology department of your local college they probably have a room full

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of cabinets with drawers about 3 inches tall full of minerals. The senior collectors at your local rock club probably have a basement room lined with shelves full of minerals. **Most beginning collectors have a bunch of egg cartons full of rocks under their bed.**

Egg cartons tend to come in two styles. One has the lid textured to hold the eggs. The other has a flat lid. You want the kind with a flat lid.

Cut a sheet of paper to fit in the flat lid. Most flat lid egg cartons have a dimple in the middle, so you need two smaller pieces of paper. Divide each paper into six squares to match where the eggs would go. Glue the papers into the lid. Each square now is a label for the specimen that would be under it when the lid is closed. **As you collect and identify new specimens, put them into egg cartons and update the label in the lid.**

You may want to take steps to prevent the specimens from being scrambled if the egg carton gets dropped. Using glue to secure each specimen is a fairly permanent solution. Using poster tac is less secure but allows you to remove specimens when necessary. And yes, there is special mineral tac available if you do some research.

And when your collection becomes serious you want to make a catalog of it. When you go to the library you can find books in the library catalog. You give each specimen a unique identifier. You attach this identifier to the specimen. You add this identifier to the label for the specimen. And you create a catalog entry for the identifier that includes all details you know about the specimen. And like a library catalog (title, author, subject), you index it several ways so you can find it (minerals, chemistry, geology)

You really can fit a lot of egg cartons under your bed before your growing rock collection becomes a problem for your Mom.

Tailgate Rock Exchange

Speaking of collections... Don't forget to bring your extra rocks as well as your pot luck dish to the upcoming Pot Luck and Barbeque outside of the regular rock club meeting hall in Arden. We regularly exchange rocks with each other after the meal. There is usually lots of good stuff to choose from.

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

Our annual BBQ, potluck and tailgate rock exchange will all be happening at the next meeting. We will be starting early at **6 PM**. Remember a few things before you leave home:

1. Bring A side dish
2. Bring rocks to trade
3. Bring a lawn chair
4. Bring a musical instrument

Big Iron Field Trip Saturday August 23rd

Special thanks to Bob Bristow, Johnie Pitman, Bill and Anni Sebright for help with this issue.

Martell's Rock Shop

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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

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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