

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

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## The Panorama Prospector

October 2014

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### Minutes for September 16, 2014

*By Anni Sebright*

A glitch with the keys stalled the beginning of the meeting a bit, but it got solved and all was good.

Gene Fisher volunteered his 10' X16' Sturdy Built building for the rock shop location and needs helpers to finish it.

Please be thinking about setting aside a "goodie" for the November Scholarship auction.

Johnie has been making shopping expeditions for auction items. Any donations would be appreciated. Becky Dobbs is also accepting donations for door prizes.

Bob Bristow and Bruce Hurley investigated a new garnet field in Idaho on the other side of the mountain from Emerald Creek. The garnets there tended to be more like sugar garnets with abundant inclusions.

Joe Barreca reported on the trips to the Big Iron and Talisman/Owl Mt./Laurier Mine and also finding the Churchill Mine- no thanks to forest Service maps. (Trespassing warning signs were found on a road the way out.)

Vanita and Jerry, Scott, Larry and Mike-from- Spokane are going to Mc Dermott, NV.

Johnie and Ginger enjoyed the Federation dig at Terry, MT. They did their best away from the Yellowstone River. Everyone was helpful. The Baisch Ranch welcomed the rock hounds there. Doug True is planning another adventure in Eastern Oregon July 2-5, 2015. More information will be forthcoming.

Bob Bristow will be the featured speaker, September 25th, at the Boyer Mountain Lodge in Deer Park. His talk is entitled "Engine Burst and the Crash of United Flight 232." *Continued on Page 2*

### Comet, MT, Ghost Town

*By Bill Sebright*



For two years my friend Sharron Schimke and I have talked about a trip to Montana to see our former Art teacher and friend Eve duBois. We were finally able to set aside four days at the end of September before the snow flies and put together a trip.

Eve lives at the Sunshine Health Mine, a radon mine between Boulder and Basin (on Boulder Pass between Helena and Butte).

If you were to take the turn-off for the Old Basin Road and instead of heading west toward Basin, just go straight north toward Comet. This was the one trip Eve wanted to share with us, and it did not disappoint.

Mining at Comet started in 1869 with one scrawny miner and grew to a town of 300 souls. Lead, zinc, copper, gold and silver came from this mountaintop.

It was a very cold in the mountain top ghost town... at 6,700 feet, but when has cold weather stopped intrepid, determined rock hounds? I braced Sharron's butt as she made her way up a vertical pile for that most perfect of yard rocks. I'm not sure what we brought home except for some killer ghost town photos and a great day in a beautiful mountain setting with friends.

We need to update our email list as the Federation Newsletter is "encouraging" everyone to receive it via email as a cost-saving measure.

The scholarships have all been awarded and 4 thank you notes received.

Peggy Martell, Ginger Pitman and Becky Dobbs had hands in the air for snacks and juice for the October meeting.

Thanks to Bruce Hurley for the beautiful Crystal Mine program--kind of like crawling around inside a geode.

*end*

## **BIG SKY, GREAT FOSSILS**

By Bruce Hurley

At the end of July, several mineral federations jointly sponsored three days of field trips for fossil and mineral materials in the vicinity of Terry, in southeastern Montana.



[Glendive, MT, Dino Museum]

Fellow geologist Marshall Davenport and I, both former Nevada geologists, were interested in participating in trips to look for Cretaceous marine and terrestrial fossils, something we rarely saw in the southern Great Basin. Especially interesting was the opportunity to collect terrestrial vertebrate fossils, including dinosaurs, on private land. All types of dinosaur materials found there cannot be retained by collectors, only fossils of those non-carnivorous species of which numerous examples exist and have already been studied. Although we could not take home T-Rex, this was an opportunity which we decided not to miss.

After driving nearly a day and a half from Spokane to reach Terry, we were suitably convinced that "Big Sky Country" is a pretty good nickname for Montana. As we arrived in Terry some hours before trip check-in time, we decided go to the Glendive area, to check out a locality that our rockhounding guide showed as hosting abundant marine fossils. Driving east on I-90 to Glendive and straight south through town, we easily found the area, near some pumping oil wells, which we took to indicate that we were on leased federal land. Soon after, we located several fossil-bearing concretions in the Pierre Shale, just off the main dirt road through the wells. While we were collecting specimens from them, a young fellow rode up on a red ATV. It turned out we were actually on a ranch, for which he was a cowhand. He said they did not normally allow anyone collect on the ranch, but since we were doing minimal digging and not driving off-road, it was okay for that day. He also pointed to a distant ridge beyond the oil wells and said that the best fossils were there, on federal land. Marshall and I thanked him for the information, packed up our finds in the 102-degree heat and headed back to Terry. There, we signed up for three trips, a marine fossils trip and two days of dino-hunting.



[Hell Creek Formation, Glendive, MT]

The first trip day was for marine fossils, and began with quite a long drive on dirt back roads east of Terry. Eventually, the vehicle caravan came over a hill and stopped along the road – literally beside the same hill on which we had been collecting the day before! The trip then split into two collecting groups, one group going back towards Glendive, while the second group, including us, went east, towards the ridge beyond

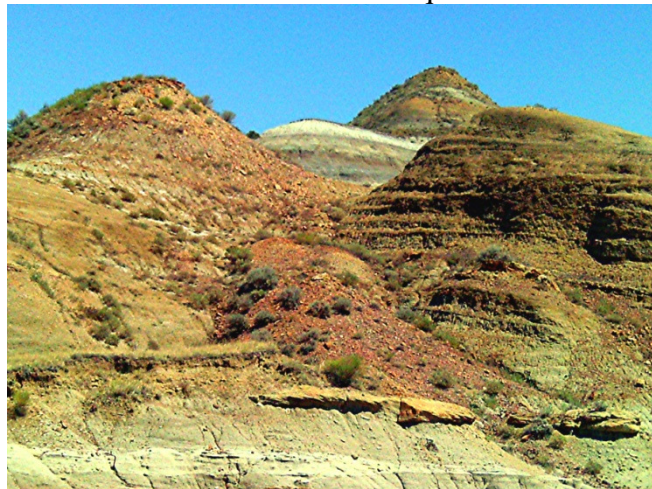


the oil wells. We never reached the distant ridge, but stopped to collect in some low hills near the



[Fossil Clam]

oil production area. After the day before, we had a pretty good idea what we were looking for, but that only helps if you locate the right rocks. We did not, and for a couple of hours mostly had a nice hike. After a trip back to the truck and a quick lunch, Marshall and I took a look at some of the ammonites other folks had found looking where we did not, and they were definitely first-class. This time, we headed in the other direction, and found several large concretions within a few minutes. These hosted large fossil clams, along with smaller but still nice ammonites, baculites and snails, some with drusy golden barite along host rock surfaces. The rocks required hard work



[Hell Creek Formation, Glendive, MT]

to split apart, but having been skunked earlier in the day made finding these fossils even more enjoyable.

Marshall and I decided to devote the next two days to finding dinosaur bones, hopefully small enough to fit into the back of a Kia Sorento. We need not have worried about that. Each morning, we crossed the electric fence (thankfully

turned off) separating good range land from badland hills of tan, gray and black sandstones and shales of the Hell Creek Formation. These rocks were deposited at the very end of the Age of Reptiles, and the “K-T Boundary” (the demarcation between the Cretaceous and Tertiary Periods, above which no dinosaur fossils have ever been found) could be seen near the top of the highest hill. The hills looked easy to traverse, but the shale slopes were treacherous, and steep-sided gulches made crossing the area an exercise in zig-zagging. So much for the table-flat Great Plains.

But on the first day, walking proved to be the easy part. This time Marshall and I really did not know what we were looking for, and inquiries indicated few other collectors did, either. Since we had gone the wrong way the morning before, we decided to try to corral the dinosaurs, each of us going a different way, to eventually meet up back in the hills. It was a good plan, but the dinos refused to cooperate. We paid particular attention to the gray sandstones, which seemed most abundant and contained lots of petrified wood, most of which was large and very far from the truck. During the morning and much of the afternoon we found little else. (Evidently the dinosaurs did not live in the woods.) Towards the end of the afternoon, we headed back toward the truck, carrying a little petrified wood and some interesting rocks, but no dinos, skunked for real, this day.



[Fossil *Champsosaurus* Tail & Back Vertebrae]

But we had the good fortune to return to the vehicle just as the lady who owned the ranch arrived, along with the site paleontologist, to see how the trip members were doing, now that the day was cooling off (down to maybe 95). The owner invited Marshall and I to go along with her, and did we get a lesson. First of all, the tan sandstones were actually the source of most of the vertebrate fossils, and almost immediately we began to locate small fragments of turtle shells and bones, and specimens of dinosaur bone

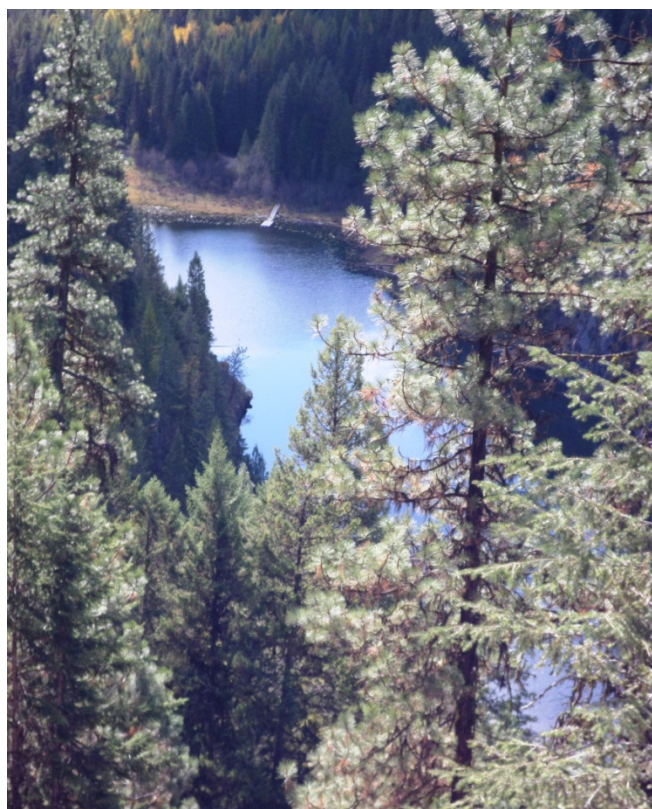


marrow. After lots of long, frustrating hikes earlier in the day, these finds were especially gratifying but a little embarrassing, as we were within sight of the truck! Upon returning to the parking area, we saw the three-foot leg bone of an herbivorous dinosaur found the previous day, already encased in plaster for shipment home. And it would have just fit into a Kia.

Thus inspired and armed with knowledge, we started out the next day, once more following the ranch owner around at another location, and learning more about collecting in the Hell Creek rocks. This time we were fortunate enough to find a number of pieces of a large dinosaur limb bone, although not most of the large bone itself. It had apparently been hurriedly taken by bone thieves early in the year, a not-so-unusual occurrence in rural Montana, because of the value of the bones. I was fortunate enough to find two vertebrae from an ancient crocodile, and one very nice piece of dinosaur bone marrow. We also gained a much greater appreciation of just how much work and knowledge is required to track down these fossils in the Montana badlands.

## Hoodoo Canyon

*By Joseph Barreca*



[Trout Lake seen from Hoodoo Canyon Trail]

It seemed like a good idea at the time. I had heard that there were interesting rocks along the Hoodoo Canyon Trail from Trout Lake to Deadman Creek just north of the Sherman Pass highway. So when my daughter, April, suggested a father-daughter hike to celebrate my birthday, I remembered glowing reports of this hike and decided that was the one. A **hoodoo** (also called a tent rock, fairy chimney, and earth pyramid) is a tall, thin spire of rock that protrudes from the bottom of an arid drainage basin or badland (Wikipedia). This trail certainly had those.



[April Barreca, James Houston and hoodoo]

This formation has an igneous granite boulder atop a stack of metamorphic quartzite plates with some other intruded seams of clay in between them. There are also round formations made when plates of rock slide on top of each other. I don't pretend to have a good story to explain this, but the quartzite was stacked a thousand feet thick to the top of the canyon and appears to be the same rock that appears at the Kifer Quarry several miles to the east. According to mine records at the top of the mountain is a graphite mine with muscovite in it, which indicates that it was a slowly cooled granite pegmatite (although the base rock charts don't



show this and believe me I was not going to climb up the sheer rock cliff and check it out.)

The granite that we did see had what looked like small pieces of glassy obsidian in it. I managed to bring a very small piece back. Next time I'll have some more serious chisel and hammer tools. A rock hammer just didn't cut it.

So after a couple of hours hiking and trading off carrying my very substantial grandchild, James, we arrived at the supposed jewel of the whole hike, Emerald Lake. The big problem was that there was no lake! It had all dried into a long mud flat with cracked mud and some clay-covered rocks. This was disappointing for April and I but apparent fun for our dog, Gretchen, who ran with abandon over the mud but found no water to drink. I shared some of mine.



[Emerald "Lake"]

One rock that was not covered in gray sediment was light green with white quartz veins. I managed to whack a bit of it off and take it home. It turned out to be the prize of the day. Parts of it glow red under UV light. Of course if we go back to find it, it will be under water.

## New Shop Coming Along

*By Johnie Pitman*



The shop equipment is not available right now as it is in a cargo trailer awaiting the completion of Gene Fishers' building. He has a 10'x16' building that he has insulated; put tongue and groove on the inside walls, wired and is in the process of putting up the lights (they are probably done now). Next is to build benches and then it's ready to put the equipment in and go to work. He has put in an electric wall heater that should keep it toasty in cold weather. It is really REALLY nice!!! Thanks Gene.

His place and the shop are located at 294 Gold Creek Loop then stay right at the Y. It's about half a mile off the highway, and you will see his beautiful pond (lake) just before you get to his house and the shop.

It's time to think about the scholarship rock auction in November, put away a few dollars now. There will be some very nice rocks, specimens and other items that will look very nice in your house or yard. We already have some donations but any rock related items are appreciated. If you have a really nice rock that you want to keep you could always donate it then buy it back, that way everyone gets to see it and it's still yours, kind of like "show and tell".

## New American Lands Access Association Representative

My name is Ben Odum and I am the new ALAA representative for Eastern Washington. I really could use some help. If your club has already appointed an ALAA rep...great! If not... please consider searching for a couple of motivated and enthusiastic individuals who could research their respective locations for access issues.

I've been tasked with trying to find ways to work with the Lolo National Forest staff in an attempt to regain hounding opportunities for the famed smokey quartz crystals within the Lolo area of Montana.

As of right now, Shirley Lesson (ALAA president) has a meeting scheduled with the head ranger for Lolo in Missoula at 11am on October 14th. (The day this newsletter is being written)

Ben is looking for representatives in each club. You can contact him via email at:

<[rockroller\\_ALAA@yahoo.com](mailto:rockroller_ALAA@yahoo.com)>

### 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).

### Martell's Rock Shop

2 Baxter Lane  
Kettle Falls, WA 99141  
509-738-3041  
509-675-0390  
[bkmartell@hotmail.com](mailto:bkmartell@hotmail.com)



**Rocks, Slabs,  
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**Mineral Identification  
Mineral/Mine Locations**

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

[mineralsoftware.com](http://mineralsoftware.com)

### More Stuff to Think About

The program for the coming meeting will be **"The Great Floods: Cataclysms of the Ice Age"** Be there or be square.

Meanwhile dues are due in November so we can get lined up for the Northwest Federation newsletter. Some folks have already renewed.

The November meeting is our annual **Rock Auction**. Johnie could use some more donations and don't forget to bring lots of money to the meeting.

Expect more of Bob Bristow's story on the Pollyanna Mine next month.

# SAGO

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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 Lupton	2530 Six Mile Rd	509-935-6198
Trustee 2:	Bill Sebright	POB 293, Clayton, WA 99110	509-276-2693
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