

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

November 2014

Minutes for October 21, 2014

By Anni Sebright

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Hurley.

Johnie and Gene reported on the progress being made at the Rock Shop at Gene's. Larry and Becky raised their helping hands for assembling benches. Thanks to all who have helped Scott download equipment and Gene upload and set up shop. Many thanks to Scott for his years of hosting the shop and to Gene for volunteering his facilities.

Our November meeting will be our scholarship benefit auction. The Hall will be open early, 5:30 P.M., for set up. Remember to bring a rock or goodie you wish to donate.

Membership dues are due in November, and if there's been a change in any of your personal information, please let Johnie, Joe or Anni know. Anni also has quite an assortment of name tags or you can order one hot off the griddle!

Anni and Sharron's trip to the ghost mine town of Comet, MT, was discussed and lovely yard rock specimens displayed which led to the mention of Bodie, CA's, State Park restored ghost town. Road trips!

Bruce reported on his latest trip to the Metaline Falls fossil deposit and brought home a biggie.

Bob Bristow announced the speaker for October at Boyer Mountain Masonic Lodge will be Randy Anderson from the Lucky Friday Mine. October 23, Thursday at 7 P.M.

A 200 pound chunk of green rock thought to be jade was donated to the club. Upon closer examination and discussion, it was "diagnosed" as serpentine.

Continued on Page 2

A Mellow Trip to the Melrose

By Joseph Barreca



[Gene Fisher at the Melrose Mine]

For years I have wanted to check out the Melrose Mine. It is a fairly easy drive an hour and a half north of Kettle Falls. I had been impressed by an old picture I saw of this entrance (which for the life of me I could not find for this article). \$8000 worth of silver was taken from this mine in prior to 1921. Other metals included lead, zinc and copper. Gene Fisher and I were hoping to find some interesting rocks in the waste pile, but I can't say that we found anything as exciting as rocks found there by Joe McNamee of Northport in 1977 which were assayed to contain

The wire wrapping class with Karen Snyder from Newport has been tabled for the present. Schedules were full at this time, and we may feature her as a speaker for an upcoming program.

Remember to buy your ticket for the drawing for the fossil book.

Vanita Novak was this month's door prize winner.

Joe thanked people for their newsletter contributions and welcomes your adventure tales.

"The Great Floods: Cataclysms of the Ice Age" was our feature film.

Our sympathies to Steve Fox following the death of his father.

Healing prayers and thoughts for Diane Evans.

Vanita, Jan and Gene are our snack and juice volunteers for the November 18th meeting. Bring your big bucks and practice raising your bidding arm to support our scholars.

end

69% silver. There had been some work done on the mine entrance shortly before we visited which attests to a continued interest in the mine even though it is recorded as being on Vaagen timber land. There are two tunnels into the mine, but we only looked into the one in the photo.

Despite Steve Fox's insistence that it never rains on rockhounds, it was raining and sometimes snowing on us while we looked around and I did not relish the thought of climbing through wet bushes to find the other entrance.



[DUREDs (DARNED UGLY ROCKS) from the Melrose]

"The deposit is explored from two levels opened from the wall of a small tributary gulch known as Bush Creek Canyon. The upper tunnel is 500 feet in length and exposes a quartz vein six feet in average width. The vein is enclosed in the Boundary argillite, which in the vicinity of the mine, can best be described as thinly-laminated graphite schist." (Earnest Patty, The Metal Mines of Washington, 1921)

Patty didn't give the Melrose much of a chance in 1921 but the mine produced valuable ore in 1937 and 1938. It has 1600 feet of tunnels and was promoted heavily in 1977. It is a hard site to pin down. Gene and I found similar rocks on roads far from the mine. The waters run clear from the Melrose Mine but it is still hard to determine what is in there. What we can say is that it is easy to get to.

Chips Off The Outcrop

By Bruce Hurley



On the way to the Multi-Federation Field Trip in Montana in late July, I had the opportunity to visit the Museum of the Rockies, on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman. This museum provides the main public display for dinosaur fossils found on public lands in the western United States. As you can imagine, this includes a great number of specimens, and those on display are the best of the best. Because most of the exposed rocks in eastern Montana were deposited near the end of the Age of Reptiles, Cretaceous Period favorites including Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops, the duckbilled Edmontosaurus and the velociraptors are especially abundant.

Dinosaurs and their marine relatives from earlier in geologic time and around the world are also represented.

Besides from the size and number of dinosaur fossils on display, there is also a second dimension to these exhibits which is not found in many other museums. Along with the standard name-location-size information, the Museum of the Rockies also has displays demonstrating evidence of disease and predator attacks in fossil bones, development of such features as horns and beaks as dinosaurs matured, and information about the environment in which dinosaurs lived, died and were fossilized. This made my visit as much an educational as a visual experience. The next time you are near Bozeman, save a couple of hours to pay this museum a visit.

The Polyanna Part II

By Bob Bristow

Back in the September issue we started this story Bob and Luci had found the mine on the Arizona/New Mexico border and were collecting fluorite when he had to run from a hive of bees...

The bees had attacked Luci, too. When the first two flew in the open window, she rolled up the window and used the magazine she was reading to kill both that had entered the car. The bees had left the car so I circled around and went

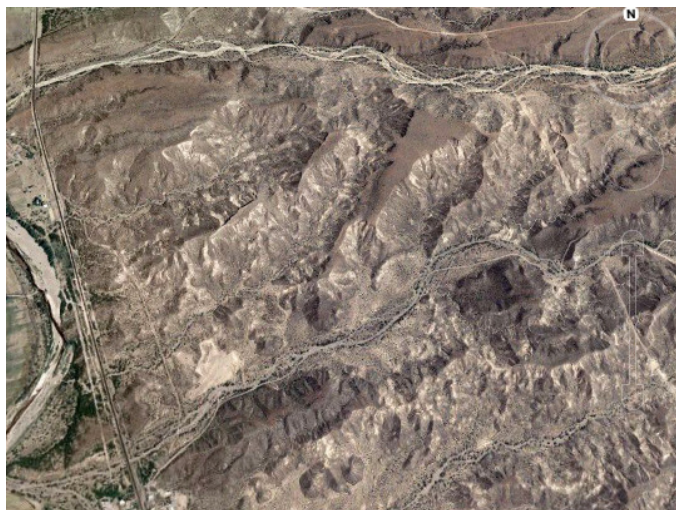


Figure 3. Satellite View of the Area Between the Highway and the Pollyanna Mine

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club News November 2014

across the streambed to the head frame where I could dig large chunks of green fluorite directly from the vein. I had to creep back to the tailings pile to retrieve my bag and tools. From there, I could see that the bees had a hive in some old lumber that covered one end of the open vein. The vein had been mined out clear to the surface leaving a gaping slit for about two hundred yards. The vein had also been mined down to below the water table. There was a plastic hose coming out of the shaft and leading down to a cattle-watering trough. It was set up so that a continuous stream of water was siphoned out of the mine. We concluded the bees must be the killers we had read about. It certainly is true that they will not give up. Either you kill them or they kill you. The next day, I expected the stings on my face and head would be a real problem. Surprise! The lumps made by the button on top of my hat hurt worse than the stings. The stings left lumps, but they didn't even itch. I decided that if all killer bees stung like that, I could take on a whole hive.



Figure 2. Pollyanna Fluorite

Well, maybe at least in my dreams.

The only part of the vein that was left was a section about 50 feet on each side of the head frame. Someone had been digging in the vein on the far side. The exposed vein was about eight inches wide. The fluorite was very gemmy and came in green, blue, purple, yellow and clear. Since we were flying home, we couldn't take much. We would have liked to visit another mine about two miles further on that was reported to have even better fluorite. However, the rocks were too big to grade down with our car. The trip out was uneventful except Luci got to see her first roadrunner.

Coming up: Part III, The Return

Inside the New Shop

By Joseph Barreca



[Lights are on in the new club rock shop.]

Last week I got a chance to see the new rock shop that Gene Fisher has constructed for the club. Scott Jackson has passed the torch to Gene and the club's saws and grinders are now set up in a small but well-equipped shop with finished walls, plenty of light, several electrical circuits and a rubber mat floor.



[The big saw is running fine]

Gene built benches for this place that could easily hold that 200# piece of serpentine that was donated to the club. The tops are treated 4 x 4s cinched together with threaded rod.



[A trim saw in the corner on the beefy benches]

There was a little bit more work to do connecting the equipment when I visited, but everything should be ready to go now. It's a good thing that the place is heated since we are in a cold snap with temperatures forecast down to 7 degrees at night.



[The grinder and a smaller saw in the corner]

With electric heat, the new shop should be comfortable all winter long. There was a little work left to do to get the water set up. But we won't have to worry about it freezing.

The address is 294 Gold Creek Loop Rd. It is on the right a mile up from the Valley West Side Road and nearly a mile up the driveway. Stay to the right. Gene's phone is 684-8546. While the saws are running, look out the window to catch sight of deer and moose by Gene's pond.

The NFMS News

By Joseph Barreca

Everyone in the club should be receiving the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies newsletter, so it might seem redundant to have an article about it in our own newsletter. But I am taking this occasion to mention some of the points in this month's issue of the Northwest Newsletter because they synchronize nicely with things we could talk about as a club.



[Winning case from Lakeside club in Kennewick]

There was an article about how the Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club assembled a club case for a rock case competition for the NFMS convention in Herimiston. They won the competition. It seems like this is something we could do. We put together a ton of cases each year for our own rock show. They didn't say it would be easy, but it was doable.

If you read the newsletter, you would have seen the picture of this case in black and white. Rocks come in all colors, that's part of the charm. So a newsletter in black and white is not much fun. An article from the Northwest Newsletter editor, Beth Heesacker, notes that there is an option to get the NFMS news as an email in color! You can also go to their website and download any issue, which is where this image came from. I don't know how we could get the emails, but I think we should look into it.

Which brings up the last point. November is when our annual dues are due. If you just joined the club, this might seem unfair since it has not been a year since you paid dues. The reason for this schedule is to submit member addresses to the NFMS so that each of our members gets their newsletter. They have a deadline of January 10th. There might be some more responsive system but that is the way it is for now. (I do keep track of when each member paid dues and give everyone a full year's subscription to this newsletter.)

Crystallography



[The eye of crystallographer Margarete Neu reflected from her computer screen.]

Alert reader, Cheryl Barreca, sent a link to an article about crystallography from the BBC News. Although we tend to think of crystals as a special form of rock, the study of crystals is a key component in designing all kinds of substances. Most of the article is about cancer and malaria drugs and the how refraction of light in crystals shows how they are built. Workers in a lab at Oxford celebrate when a new crystal structure is determined with a bottle of Champagne. It can take many years to grow, measure a crystals diffraction pattern and solve its structure. In the words of Nobel laureate Max Perutz crystallography shows "why blood is red and grass is green, why diamond is hard and wax is soft, why graphite writes on paper and silk is strong". There is a link to the full article on our website.

Spreading Across



As some of you know, one of our local resident geologists is retiring to Vashon Island. Bill Swartz has informed us of local geology for years with articles in the North Columbia Monthly written as Leopold Hayden Powell (famous geologists). This Fall he hosted his last field trip, Spreading Across, with stops from Colville to Republic. "In Northeast Washington, we have a variety and complexity of geology and landscapes that are hard to match... We have the legacy of being on the edge of continents: successive mountain ranges and ripped apart land masses..." You can read the road log from this last trip on our website.

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).

More Stuff to Think About

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.

There is no program since the rock auction will take up as much time as we can afford.

Martell's Rock Shop

2 Baxter Lane
Kettle Falls, WA 99141
509-738-3041
509-675-0390
bkmartell@hotmail.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.

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

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