

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## **The Panorama Prospector**

March 2015

### **Minutes for February 17th, 2015**

*By Anni Sebright*

President Bruce Hurley called the meeting to order.

Since the annual Rock Show is just two weeks from Thursday, Chairman Bill Allen reported on the finalization of the plans. Thursday, March 5, at 8 A.M. will be the set-up day.

Becky Dobbs and the Field Trip Committee have organized several field trips for our club and others wishing to join us. The date chosen for April is Saturday the 25th. The June date of Saturday the 13th was settled on. Meeting places and times will be announced at the meeting preceding the field trip. Please check your February Newsletter for the proposed schedule or our webpage at [panoramagem.com](http://panoramagem.com) for details. Jerry Novak is a member of the Trail Rock Club, and we may be able to join with that club for the Rock Candy Mountain fee dig for fluorite.

Anyone wishing to use the shop, please give Gene Fisher a call. He will instruct us in the safe use of the equipment, and away we go!

Vice President Bob Bristow announced the March 19th program at the Boyer Mountain Masonic Lodge in Deer Park at 7 P.M. will be "Felts Field and Its History."

Thank you to Rex and Mable Barrans for the beautiful collection donation.

Sharon Borgford is willing to give a demonstration on the art of Viking chain weaving before our April 21 meeting. Anyone interested in learning this method can then sign up with Sharon for a workshop - - - time and place to be determined. If you've seen the beautiful bracelets Sharon has made, Sharon is willing to share her knowledge of this art.

Jim Nance was the door prize winner for this month.

### **Rockin' Treasures**

*By Joseph Barreca*



[Sherry Bamberger and two good buddies]

We have not seen much of Sherry Bamberger lately, but long-time club members know that for years she has been selling some of our surplus rocks online to contribute money to our scholarship fund. What most of us have not realized is that for most of those years, Sherry could hardly afford to drive to Arden and back to her place on Aladdin Road just for a meeting. There was an article about her enterprise in the Feb 2011 issue of this newsletter.

Well, things have changed. More accurately, things keep changing. At a point a little over a year ago, Sherry's eBay enterprise was just not earning her a living. She had a super great rating for her sales, but the whole auction thing with repeated posting on eBay didn't generate enough traffic. In what was a desperate move at the time, she started her own group on facebook in January of 2014. It took off.

(First a little background, you can create a group on facebook and act as the moderator. You

Date	Place	Rocks	Meet
April 18th	Saddle Mtn	Petrified wood	Westbound Sprague Lake Rest Area at 9am, and at the Shell station on the far (East) side of Mattawa at 11:30 <a href="tel:5092511574">(509) 251-1574</a> .
May 3rd	Flagstaff, Northport	Barite Crystals	Meet at Harvest Foods at 9 am
May ??	Clarkia, Id	big garnets	\$25 pay for dig
June 13th	Keystone/Edna mines	Copper, Serpentine, Pyrite cubes	Meets at Safeway in Chewelah at 9am
June 20-24	McDermitt	Jasper/Agate/Petrified Wood	with Spokane Club
July 10-13	Clarkia, Id	Garnets/Quartz Crystals	with Mineral Council
July 19th	Horseshoe Mtn	Quartz Crystals/Florite	Meet at Intersection Hwy 20/Hwy 21 at 10am
Aug	Rock Candy Mine	Bob Bristow is contacting Trail Club for possible field trips and checking on Dates and times and trips to be determined.	
Sept 11-14	Redtop Mtn in Wenatchee	Geodes	with Mineral Council
Sept 25-28	Little Naches River Yakima	Geodes	with Spokane Club

can set some rules and make sure you trust the people in your group.) I imagine some of her loyal customers joined and liked the facebook approach. Sherry still has to photograph rocks, post pictures and store orders for customers in until there is enough to fill a pre-paid priority mailing box. But with facebook it is more of a community than a competition. Actually, it is much more. Within the past year, membership has grown to over 1500 people. The online activity is constant and Sherry is making a decent living. But life still has its ups and downs.



[ The very new rock saw]

For instance, Sherry bought a \$900 rock saw and found a friend to carry it in a trailer back from the coast. But the friend had an accident on the way back. Insurance covered his pickup but

not the trailer or the rock saw. \$900 down the tube. That would have been the end of it, except that her friends on the facebook group, Rockin' Treasures, caught wind of it. Without her knowing it, they raised \$1500 for a new saw. She got a good deal on a rock saw from Steve Livingston in Spokane and was also able to buy a whole collection of rocks from the family of a deceased rockhound in Oregon.



[The new rock collection]

Rockhounds, it seems, are like geodes. They may seem rough on the outside, but they can be very beautiful on the inside. The members of Sherry's group are like that. They raise money for worthy causes every month, \$589 for Shriner's hospital one month, help for a member's medical expenses from an accident the next. Right now Sherry is fighting pneumonia, but she's still raising money for someone else on facebook.



## Johnie's Jabber

The 2015 Show "OBSIDIAN : Rainbow of Color" went very well thanks to Bill Allen's preparation and the many helpful members, new and old. Set up on Thursday went really fast and got us started with lots of time for dealers to get setup, and displayers to get their cases filled. This was our third year at the Ag Trade Center and we are getting more organized each year.

We were disappointed that Sherry



Bamberger and Steve Livingstone weren't able to be dealers this year but look forward to seeing them again next year.

Thanks to everyone that filled the display cases, you did great, they were beautiful and the labeling was good with identification and location on most items.

The attendance on Friday was down a little



[Vanita Novak setting up her display] due to less fourth, fifth, and sixth graders than we usually see. We'll need to work at getting them back next year. The overall attendance was steady and the dealers said they were happy with sales. Calculating from the first ticket and last ticket at

the door there were 663 adults signed up for the door prizes, so counting the children and those that didn't sign up maybe around 2,000 total attended. The Grand Prize winner was Grant Swim, he said that his daughter would really like the amethyst crystals.

Tear down on Saturday again went very well, many hands make the jobs easier.

The scholarship donations were down slightly from last year, the "wheel of fortune and grab bag" area was identical to last year and the "silent auction and ring toss" was up about \$200 from last year, due to better quality rocks for sale.

Things to improve for next year: I'll ask for permission to buy new skirting for the tables. We hope to have all of the electrical equipment that's needed so we don't have to borrow any. We will have a time at the next meeting for you to add your suggestions for improvements.

A big THANKS to everyone for your help during the show.

## Rockhound of the Year

Johnie Pitman (author of the regular column, Johnie's Jabber) has been designated "Rockhound of the Year" by the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. This is the article in the NFMS newsletter written by Bob Bristow.

*Johnie Pitman has been the guiding light of the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club, Colville, WA, since it's founding in 1996. He was President from 1998 till 2013. When other officers were not available, he did their jobs, too. He has a unique style of leadership that fits well with the typical rock collector. Everyone is welcome and made to feel a personal friend, (which they soon become!).*

*Until 2010 he was show chairman, handling all arrangements in spite of working full time as a chemist. This profession allowed him to understand many of the properties of minerals. Much of his own collection adds to our silent auctions at every meeting He has been a leader on many field trips, especially those out of state, and has been on many of the NWF sponsored events sharing the experiences with the club. Since 2013 he has been treasurer and keeps careful accounting of the clubs finances.*

*He has attended most NWF shows since the club was founded. He was instrumental in*

*setting up scholarship programs in all schools in our area, and works tirelessly to secure funding for these. A large part of the money derived from silent auctions and raffles is added to this fund, as well as much of the income from the annual show. He represents our club and our future as rockhounds.*

## **Chips From The Outcrop**

*By Bruce Hurley*

As our very mild, dry winter rolls into a very early spring, it is about time to head out for the rocks again. This should give us a long collecting season in the Northwest in 2015. However, there are a few things to be more cautious of this year than in most others, because to the lack of our usual snow and cold.

Probably first on this list is the potential for wildfires. This applies not only to campfires but also other potential ignition sources, such as hot tobacco products and, especially, hot vehicle exhaust systems. While working in the Great Basin, where it is always dry, I saw quite a few fires started by parking off-road vehicles over tall grass or brush, and these fires were always hard to put out, even in semi-arid areas. Always park your vehicle so that it does not touch anything on the ground beneath it, or flatten the brush under it. Also, this summer it would be a very good idea to keep a close eye on the weather, especially when there is potential for thunderstorm activity. Another good idea is to have along a good, recent map of the area you will be visiting, to know alternate ways to get out, in the event of a wildfire nearby.

Because spring is so early this year, many of the hibernating critters are out already. In southern Stevens County, we already have gnats and yellow jackets on the prowl, and the ticks cannot be far behind. If you are down at lower elevations, especially out on the Columbia Plateau, rattlesnakes are also likely out by now. And Mama Bear may be a little grouchy after too short a winter, especially if she has a pesky cub along, so look sharp for her, especially in thickly-wooded areas with berry patches.

Be conscious of what is going on around you, and have a safe and productive collecting season.

## **Beyond the Rocks**

*by Joseph Barreca*



[Mike Latapie and his rebuilt mine train engine.]

Most of us are content to pick up a few rocks on a rockhounding trip. But some people just have to take it a little bit further. That would be Mike Latapie. Sometime after we had snow on the ground last winter, (did that really happen?) Mike found a listing for old mining ore cars and called a woman to check into it. She turned out to be the heir to the Shoemaker Mine, located near Aladdin Road on Joe Creek Road.

The Shoemaker operated in 1926 and again in 1941. It produced copper, lead, silver and zinc. Total reported production amounted to a little over 2 tons of lead and 5 tons of zinc. The ore was hard to concentrate. Workings were over



[The overshot loader at the head of the train.]  
3000 feet in 4 adits. There were several ore cars, capable of carrying about 2 tons of rock each, an overshot loader and a diesel-powered locomotive.



An auctioneer estimated that the cars were worth \$1200 each. But he was not willing to dig them out of the snow. The lady wanted some money to take her children to Disneyland. Mike



was willing to dig them out of the snow and picked up the whole train, 5 cars, locomotive and loader, for \$2000. The cars were built by the Coeur d'Alene Hardware and Foundry Company, established in 1884.

Mike is setting up a model mine on his property with the mining train set on tracks leading into the adit. But that is not all. He got the German-built diesel engine running again and could theoretically move the whole train with it. In working condition, the locomotive is worth more than Mike paid for the whole group. The overshot loader "Mucking Machine" runs on compressed air. That probably will not be fixed any time soon.



Surrounding the ore cars are yards of rock: obsidian, serpentine, quartz crystals and many kinds of ore. Mike also makes jewelry like these feathers carved from bone and

melts down gold from his dredging and metal detecting to cast and draw out gold wire. Yes it's all about the rocks, but with Mike it's so much more.

## Reviewing the Rock Show

*by Joseph Barreca*



[Sharon Bordford's display about basalt]

This show featured a lot of wonderful display cases. I particularly liked the one shown here by Sharon Borgford. Basalt may be the Charlie Brown of rocks, seldom collected or displayed. But Sharon went to a lot of trouble to show everything from Pahoehoe to A'A in this display each with a little explanation mounted on a card and set in a holder. She measured out a place on her floor to arrange them so she knew how they would fit together. Good Job Sharon!

Another great display was Vanita Novak's (shown partially on page 3). The jewelry was wonderful. But what got to me was that some of the pieces were draped over petrified mastodon bones that her husband Jerry found in Alaska. There were also whale vertebrae in there.



[Jerry Novak's display of Thunder Eggs]

Next to Vanita's display was Jerry's collection of thunder eggs from around the world. You just never know what will come out of the woodwork for the rock show.