

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

September 2015

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes

July 21, 2015

by Luci Bristow

The meeting was opened with President Bruce greeting everyone. We had members from Oregon and other guests that we welcomed.

The White Calcium Mine trip on July 11, 2015 was an interesting trip. Chuck Smith, the manager, gave a safety talk and then led the tour of the plant. White Calcium crushes decorative rocks. The tour members could take whatever samples they wanted.

There was a discussion regarding the field trips. The July 19th trip to Horseshoe Mountain's upper dig was closed, and the other part of the Horseshoe Mountain dig marked "private" was also closed. Members tried some other locations that apparently were not very promising.

A Silver Valley geology tour was on July 19 also. Andy Buddington was the geologist that led the tour. Interesting geology areas and old and working mines were toured. The Galena Mine is currently working and provided the group with 2 buckets of very shiny specimens.

Upcoming field trip to the Buckhorn Mountain Mine will be mostly underground and the groups will be shown where they are extracting approximately \$1 million in gold a day. So many of our members wanted to go to the mine, that the mine tour person broke it up into 4 separate tours. They have been split in groups of six. The visits will be July 23, July 24, July 30 and August 6. The groups will meet 2 hours before mine check-in at Harvest Foods in Kettle Falls. Bob has passed out instructions and a map to get there.

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Buckhorn Mine Tour

By Joseph Barreca and Many Others



[Panorama Gem and Mineral Club crew at the Buckhorn]

Thanks to everyone who sent pictures of this tour, particularly Deborah Danielson, who also identified what was going on in them. Kinross only allows small groups on their tours. There were several of them, arranged by Bob Bristow (second from left in the picture above). The Buckhorn mine is a big operation, run through a relatively small hole in the side of Buckhorn Mountain.



[Mining truck emerging from the Buckhorn Mine.]

| Date | Place | Rocks | Meet |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Sept 11-14 | Redtop Mtn in Wenatchee | Geodes | With mineral club |
| Sept 25-28 | Little Naches River Yakima | Geodes | with Spokane Club |

One of the tours was guided by Amber, a geologist for Kinross. After the crew was suited up with coveralls, boots, hard hat with lantern attached to front, goggles, and rescue pack to wear on your side. They were given white sample bags. Amber wrote down the names of the minerals that they would be seeing.



[Mineral veins in the working face of one drift.]

In this area, the gold has been transported by water in the yellow brown vein. The black is magnetite and the green above it is epidote. The pink below the black may be garnet.



[Another gold-bearing vein in the mine.]

In this picture the gold vein is shiny and speckled silver sitting above the darker material below it. The only gold colored places in the rock that they saw were probably iron pyrite.

July Minutes from page 1

We were delighted to have Bill Allen back with us after his hip surgery. He talked about the upcoming picnic on August 18. He will set-up at 5:00 PM. We will eat at 6:00 PM.

He will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. Bill will also supply the iced tea and lemonade. PLEASE! Remember to bring a chair. We always have a great picnic. Please come! We will be screening sapphire gravel. Look forward to the fun!

Joe Barreca talked about the newsletter. He is mailing approximately 95 copies to club members. He would greatly appreciate pictures and articles to help fill out the newsletter. He does an excellent job of keeping everything together and getting the newsletter out each month.

Johnie and Ginger will have an “open house” to view and buy rocks, findings, and other materials they brought back from a collector in Montana. There are many fine things! The date: July 27, 2015 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Debra Danielson won the door prize! Congratulations!

We enjoyed a video about the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Canada.

end July Minutes



[Probably pyrite and not gold in the rock face]

Look for more pictures on our website.

Minutes for August 18, 2015

by Anni Sebright

66 people gathered for the annual picnic. Johnie and Ginger Pitman and their elves had tables set up for processing sapphire gravel. \$3 per bag was the charge, and treasure seekers were plentiful. The Scholarship Fund benefited, and everyone had fun. So much so that it may be repeated. I think it was a first that when the dinner bell rang, people asked if they could sift just one more bag. Thank you to all.

Bill Allen manned the BBQ with Luci Bristow at his side. Delicious burgers and dogs were served to one and all. Thank you for another great picnic.

Bill Allen and Bruce Hurley were both navigating much better and with seemingly less pain.

Rex and Mable Barrans should be remembered in our thoughts and prayers. At the time of the meeting, Rex was in the VA Hospital.

Joe Barreca has revived and replaced printers and is back in business. His maps were in demand by first responders during the wildfires not to mention an August Newsletter.

Speaking of fires, Becky Dobbs lost her barn and hay but was able to park her horses at the rodeo grounds in Arden. She also owns property in Hawaii where Kilauea is spouting once again.

Please be thinking about a theme for our 2016 gem and mineral show in March.

Gene Fisher, Luci Bristow and Peggy Martel will be providing snacks and juice for the September 15th meeting.

If you're interested in the rock collections donated to the Club, visit the Pitmans. It will be opened up to other clubs soon. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.

end

Symposium: Contact Bruce.Kelly@gmail.com

Every year, the **Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy (PNWFM)** holds its **Annual Mineral Show and Symposium** at the Red Lion Motel in Kelso, Washington. This year's show is scheduled for **October 9-11**. The theme is "**Minerals of the Northeast United States and Fluorescent Minerals**". Invited speakers will be giving presentations on mineral deposits and collections specific to this theme. Prominent collectors from the Pacific Northwest will also be presenting displays of world-class mineral specimens, many of which will emphasize the show theme. Featured displays will include one by the award winning Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals.

Horseshoe Mountain Quartz Crystals



[PGMC crew at Horseshoe Mountain.]

Despite dire predictions about the roads being washed out and the sites now being on mineral claims, the scheduled trip to Horseshoe mountain on July 19th went well. Rockhounds at the lower site found clusters of crystals in the many vugs in these rocks.

They were expecting to meet up with more rock hounds from British Columbia, but that did not happen. I think some members of the rock rollers managed to make it.

These crystals are plentiful and popular. You can see some of them at Sherry Bamberger's booth at our annual rock show. Sherry knows how to clean them up and make them look their best. Of course if the roads do get rough, Gene Fisher and Sherryl Sinn have the answer:



Bring your own side-by-side ATV.

Chips From The Outcrop

By Bruce Hurley

Collecting rocks is likely to be fun for almost anyone reading this column. But if you collect rocks, especially if you are not selective enough or sometimes a little too lucky, you can end up being nearly overwhelmed by them. I am guilty on both counts, and as I get older find that figuring out what to do with too many treasures becomes an ever-bigger deal. Others have this quandary, too. As a result, the Panorama Club has recently inherited some fine donations of lapidary rocks, minerals and fossils from several sources. These materials are great and much appreciated by our members, and have been a benefit to us all.

One thing does tend to be a little baffling with most donations, however, and “the devil is in the details.” Most collectors, myself included, tend to bring things home after a trip and sit them down somewhere out of the way, to work on later. This eventually leads to lots of bags, boxes and/or buckets of goodies sitting or (probably worse) stacked around with no label regarding what the material is or where it came from. If your case of “rockpox” is too severe, the containers may sit there until they begin to fall apart, eventually yielding mixed piles of great stuff that you may not remember the name of or where it came from. For some materials, such as distinctive agate types, Brazilian amethyst and Metaline trilobites, figuring out this information is fairly easy. But a large number of materials are much more generic, especially those from smaller or long-closed localities. The value of a mineral specimen such as covellite is considerably enhanced by knowing it originated from the long-closed Berkeley Pit at Butte, Montana. This information is of special value to museum collections, such as the Chewelah Museum, which is currently trying to locate ore specimens from the many now-closed mines of our own Stevens County.

The upshot of the paragraph above? The next time you return from a successful trip, take a few minutes to write down where your latest treasure came from and what it consists of, before stuffing it securely into the hoard. The items you label may have special significance to someone in the future, who will thank you for it.

The Annual Picnic

by Joseph Barreca



[Members line up as Bill Allen grills burgers.]

Our rock club tends to have serious meetings. Well that may be overstating it, but we do have meetings with a business agenda. But once each year we get together for a big barbecue potluck with hardly any meeting. These are usually well attended (the minor roll of the meeting might have something to do with it). But a big part of the draw is the great burgers and hot dogs grilled up on his own portable grill by Bill Allen, who has also been chairman of the rock show and had hip replacement surgery this year.



[Jan and Bruce Hurley pick out sapphires.]

An added bonus this year was a chance to glean sapphire sand for precious stones. Bags of sand cost \$3 and Johnnie Pitman and Brian Martell had tubs of water set up with screens to clean the clay and dust off the sand and make the sapphires shine. Most people would clean the sand from their bags in the water and then flip the screens onto a table to pick out the blue and green sapphires. We also got tiny ziplock bags to put them in. I found that using a gold pan worked just as well and the green bottom helped highlight the good rocks. It was great fun. Many people bought several bags and could hardly stop picking long enough to eat.

Johnie's Jabber

by Johnie Pitman

Ginger and I had a great vacation to Wisconsin for her family reunion, and went rockhounding for two days on the U.P. (upper peninsula of Michigan). We were looking for lakere (Lake Superior agates) in the gravels on lake Superior beaches. The waves classify the gravel, some areas are sand and some small pebbles and some are fist size rocks. I was following the old logic, if you want small agates you look where the rocks are small, if you want bigger ones you look where the rocks are larger, I wanted bigger ones. Ginger and both of her sisters found one. Each was about the size of my thumb nail. My brother-in-law and I found nothing, zero, etc.!!! Oh Well !! The area is beautiful and the weather was perfect.

I also got to tour a U.P. copper mine, there were no copper minerals like malachite and azurite. It was totally underground. The copper there is 99.8 % pure, but is difficult to follow the veins and faults in the very hard rock. Sometimes the copper is found in large chunks that are difficult to remove from the mine. The largest nugget ever found was the size of a school bus. One store had a nugget out front, approximately 30"x18"x12" and weighed 3000 pounds.

The sale of rocks from the four donations is ongoing, there is still quality rocks available just call Ginger or me at 684-8887 to verify that we are home before you come. Many thanks to the donors of the collections and to many of you who have purchased the rocks all to benefit the scholarship fund. Somehow the buckets are still full!!!!

SAPPHIRE SCREENING

August 18 is our picnic eat around 6:00, come early(4:30-5) if you want to screen for sapphires. We will have the screens large tubs with water and will provide instructions if you need. It's easy and fun and you keep what you find. The sapphire gravel is in bags of 3 pounds each and will cost \$3 per bag. One bag per person until everyone that wants one has one then the rest can buy more. The sapphire gravel was from the Bob Adams collection and donated by his family, the proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

The Comstock Mine

by Joe Barreca



[April Barreca and James Houston at the Comstock]

It all started with some research in an 1897 book about mineral resources of Eastern Washington. There was an entry reading "The most famous series of mineral cropping on the reservation (North Ferry County was part of the Colville Indian Reservation at the time) is on La Fleur Mountain at the head of Koos Moos Creek (now called Goosmus Creek), directly south of the Boundary... The La Fleur was discovered years ago, and numbers of men have since been carrying specimens of peacock copper from it as evidence of the mineral wealth that awaited development in this closed country... The cropping of this ledge were great masses of peacock copper or bornite forty to fifty feet wide." This had to be a great place to rockhound and I managed to get up there on April 11th with my daughter April and her 3 year old, James.

Well, a hundred years have come and gone and the huge ledge of bornite is now a huge open pit maybe 70 feet wide, 100 feet high and a quarter of a mile long. There is a fairly good road going right to it, with plenty of tailings dumped over the side all the way up.



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: <http://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).

This is not to say that there is nothing left to find. At the open pit there are large boulders with specks of pyrite throughout. They would make nice yard rocks. Also the mine had a spectacular view of Grand Forks since it is very near the Canadian Border as seen below.



Also seen from the top of the mountain was a huge pile of crushed rock. We went down to check it out. The rocks had been crushed down to 1/2" to 1/4" and did not seem to have any blue or green colors as you expect to find in a copper waste pile.



[James Houston running across the waste pile.]

The fact that nothing was growing on this pile should have been a clue that it was not just a waste dump but actually a leach pad. Duncan Lickey helped me research what had happened here in the Ferry and Okanogan County edition of Discovering Washington's Historic Mines. This pile of 50,000 tons of crushed rock was excavated from the Gold Hill mine, which shows on my maps to be even further north of the Comstock. In fact the cut we walked through was probably the Walla Walla mine. The Comstock was reported to have a steep shaft and to be underground. Cyanide was used in the 1980's to extract gold and silver from the leach pad. Core drilling holes abound in the area and large ore bodies of low-grade ore still exist. We finally did find some bornite by a cabin near more shafts and an adit lower down on the mountain.



Here are some of the rocks we found. They include bornite, malachite

and pieces speckled with pyrite.

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

| Officers: | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---|--------------------|
| 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 | 509-935-4375 |
| Secretary: | Anni Sebright | POB 293, Clayton, WA 99110 | 509-276-2693 |
| Treasurer: | Johnie Pitman | 701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114 | 509-684-8887 |
| Trustee 1: | Gene Fisher | 295 Gold Creek Loop Rd, Colville, WA 99114 | 509-684-8546 |
| Trustee 2: | Bill Sebright | POB 293, Clayton, WA 99110 | 509-276-2693 |
| Trustee 3: | Becky Dobbs | 968 Phillpott Rd, Colville, WA 99114 | 509-684-6931 |
| 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 | 509-684-6371 |
| Historian: | Carol Price | PO Box 77, Laurier, WA 99146 | 509-684-2857 |
| Newsletter: | Joseph Barreca | 2109 Hwy 25 South, Kettle Falls, WA 99141 | 509-738-6155 |
| Show Chair | Bill Allen | 2633 Highline Rd, Chewelah, WA 99109 | 935-8779, 936-2446 |
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