

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

November 2015

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes - October 20, 2015

Anni Sebright

President Bruce Hurley called the meeting to order. One guest, Maurice McPherson, was introduced. Before he left the meeting, he had become a member.

Bruce introduced Andy Buddington from Spokane Community College. His program and photos following the crest trail of the Sierra Nevadas was very informative and beautifully presented.

Following a snack break, we segued right into our meeting with Bill Allen presenting the nominating committee's slate of officers for the coming year. The current officers agreed to continue in their positions. Bill Allen agreed to fill the trustee position Bill Sebright vacated. The election will be held at the November 17 meeting.

Two positions open for your thoughtful consideration are a Hospitality Chairperson and a Field Trip Chairperson. Luci Bristow has made the hospitality position seem effortless for 10 years. Luci and Mable Barrans served as "hostesses-with-the-mostest" and are ready to retire their crowns. Scot Jackson, Bob Bristow, Becky Dobbs, Johnie Pitman, Bruce Hurley and Dave Paquet have scouted out field trip prospects for years. Please consider serving in either of these capacities.

A suggestion was brought forward for thank you notes to be sent to property owners after field trips. We will need to secure mailing addresses for the people concerned.

Johnie and Ginger Pitman have been storing several donated rock collections, and they will form the bulk of the auction items for the November 17th scholarship auction. Anyone wishing to donate items will certainly not be turned away. Everyone else needs to bring his/her piggy banks.

Matt Harbin, Peggy Martel, Ginger Pitman and Sharon Borgford will be providing snacks and juice for our November meeting.

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Motoring in Moab

by Anne Ott



Although many club members are familiar with rockhounding in Moab, Utah, I was pleasantly surprised by the accessibility of a much wider range of collecting areas than expected on our October, 2015 trip to Archview RV Park at the Highway 191/Highway 313 junction along the Moab Fault, about 10 miles north of Moab. Pre-trip research using [Rockhounding Utah](#) and [Gem Trails of Utah](#), plus the newly-revised [Roadside Geology of Utah](#) (complete with color photos) revealed only a few rockhounding sites in the Moab area, many of which would have required trailering our Polaris RZR side-by-side UTV to trailheads, as off-vehicles are prohibited on 4-lane highways in Utah, eliminating the use of the normal north-south route of Highway 191. Rockhounding information gleaned from book and online research also seemed to imply that many areas are just about picked clean, and that collectors would have to do quite a bit of searching to find any good material. . Perhaps it's due to simple weathering and frequent trail use revealing more rocks, but we certainly

found Moab to be a place where you almost can't turn around without tripping on an agate, jasper, or petrified wood sample!



We limited our rockhounding to those areas easily accessible by ATV/4WD – the photo above shows a typical local road that's listed as being "improved." Be prepared to park and walk if the roads get too difficult for your vehicle, and make sure you know your vehicle's limitations, as well as the limits of your driving abilities – a nice, sandy road can suddenly become a 45 degree rock slope with huge ledges to crawl over! There seemed to be no road that didn't have boulders, slickrock outcrops, or deep sandy wash sections, making travel rather interesting, even with an ATV; roads can also be extremely narrow, essentially no more than ATV trails. Visiting the local Moab Information Center can help in your trip planning – it's located at the intersection of Center and Main Streets in downtown Moab, and they have free trail guides, plus maps and geology guides available for purchase.

Land ownership in the Moab area is fairly easy to understand, as the local off-road trail groups have put signage virtually everywhere – there are a few areas where it's difficult to tell if a road is "legal" to travel on, but most of these areas are on BLM land, so as long as the road is well-traveled, you are allowed to use it. Your vehicle should be well-maintained, have a full gas tank, emergency supplies, and GPS. CB radios and cell phones seldom work well in this area, due to the many rocky plateaus, pinnacles and outcrops, so it's best to travel with another vehicle for safety, or let someone know where you're going and when you'll return. Local guide services are

available, and they also rent fully-equipped Jeeps and ATVs for your rockhounding vacation!

The rockhounding areas we visited were in and around the area affected by the salt "paradox" formation, bordered by the Moab fault. The photo below shows Gemini Bridges from Bull Canyon, a typical example of sandstone layering and weathering. Between uplift, salt formation



collapse, layering of both freshwater and saltwater sediments, and weathering, mineral deposits are frequently found between layers of the local sandstone and shale. This results in agates, jaspers, and petrified wood being found on the ground in large "fields" of similar types and colors. The Archview Campground area (open for public use as the Sovereign Trail system, Copper Ridge Jeep trail, Klondike Bluffs trail, and Jeep Safari trails) had agates literally everywhere, including all of the gravel roads within the campground. As with most other areas, collectible material seemed to be in "fields" where the light-colored or shiny surfaces of agates and jaspers contrasted nicely with the red, sandy soils and slickrock areas. Most agates here tended to be clear to white in color, with some agates being in boulder form with black outer crusts – sizes ranged upwards to several hundred pounds, and all boulders were lying in the sand and could easily be dug out, if desired. Jasper in this area tended to be dark golden yellow in color with dark green central cores, with some grey to tan-colored jasper.

(This story to be continued in the January edition. Thanks a ton Anne for both story and pictures.)

The theme for our March 4 and 5 rock show will be "My Favorite Rocks."

Cindy Dobler volunteered to do the art work for a banner/sign for the scholarship fund.

Anyone who wishes to bring canned food to the November meeting can do so. It was suggested that we put together a Thanksgiving basket for a long-time member and family struck with an unexpected health problem. It was moved and seconded that \$1,000 from our general fund be gifted to help them through this time. Anyone wishing to do anything additional can also do so. Nothing pumpkin, please, the wife is allergic to all things squash.

See you November 17th!

Chips From The Outcrop

By Bruce Hurley

A couple of years ago, I mentioned that, based upon attendance at recent Northwest shows, the rockhound community seemed to be attracting fewer young people than before. Experience this year, however, is leading me to the happy conclusion that my concern may not necessarily be true.

Years ago, most young attendees tended to be with school groups. For whatever the reason(s), few school groups now visit Inland Northwest shows. Even as recently as last year, older folks still tended to much outnumber people under forty. Then came 2015.

This year, we have seen a noticeable increase in the younger age group, in particular Millennial generation families with children. Many of these folks show enthusiasm not only for the "pretty stuff," but also to a wide range of rocks, minerals and fossils, and where they are found. And, unlike the children in school groups, many of these children have the opportunity to spend considerable time looking carefully at everything and asking questions. Not surprisingly, their parents usually show similar interest. Is this just a passing trend, or are we seeing the beginning of a higher level of interest from the Millennials? I certainly hope it is the latter.

In a similar vein, I was recently invited to attend the "Fantastic Fossils" event at Washington State University's Palouse Discovery Science

Center in Pullman, and bring along a few fossils. Attendance for the event was good, and again young families showed great interest in fossil materials. Let's hope this is another sign of a brightening future for earth science and for rockhounding. So, please take advantage of any opportunity you may get to further encourage the interest of these younger folks in our hobby.

Agates by the Square Mile and Gem Jasper by the Ton

by Bob Bristow



As chairman of an ASTM test development committee (American Society for Testing and Materials), I attended three meetings a year at various locations. Most of these locations were at places where there was good golfing. Most of the attendees wanted to play golf after the business meeting. Not me. I always went out into the hills to have an adventure chasing after rocks. The next meeting was scheduled for Phoenix. I asked my wife if she would like to go and she said, "Of course!" The only problem was, in order to get a good air fare, you needed to get a ticket 30 days in advance and it was only 29 days until I had to leave. Being rather poor, or cheap, or a little of both, I told her she would have to come down to Phoenix the day after I left. It was just as well. When I got there, they had been having 110 to 115 degree weather for several weeks and no one could go out in the hills. I arrived and checked into the hotel and was just leaving to see what the Salt River was like when I met one of my friends. We said "Hi" and he got on one of those elevators that are glassed-in and go up the outside of the building. I stepped

outside and looked up to see my friend between floors when a sudden sandstorm hit. A palm tree came crashing down, a power transformer across the street exploded and all power was out. My friend was stuck in that elevator in the sun with no air conditioning. There were some vents inside but it was a broiling one and half-hours until power was restored. (He suffered no lasting ill effects.)

The storm was good for me. It brought in weather in the mid 70's and it stayed that way for the entire week we were there. Before finding tons of jasper, Luci and I had a few adventures. After the business meeting, we moved our headquarters to Cave Creek north of town to be near good rock hunting. But before looking around Cave Creek, we drove out to the Superstition Mountains and turned north to Tortilla Flats. Luci wanted to sample some of the "world's best chili." On the way we stopped to collect a number of desert roses, swirled quartz with a bit of fire agate. These roses fluoresce a bright green under short-wave ultraviolet light. We next headed toward Kingman to collect apache tears at Burro Creek and look for an agate field we had heard about. (I had read that several green apache tears had been found and I wanted to try my luck. I found only black ones.) The agate field was 14-miles down a 4-wheel drive powerline road (we were driving a rented Buick).

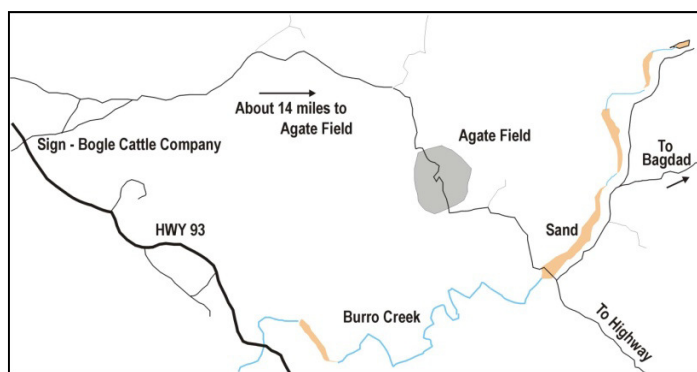
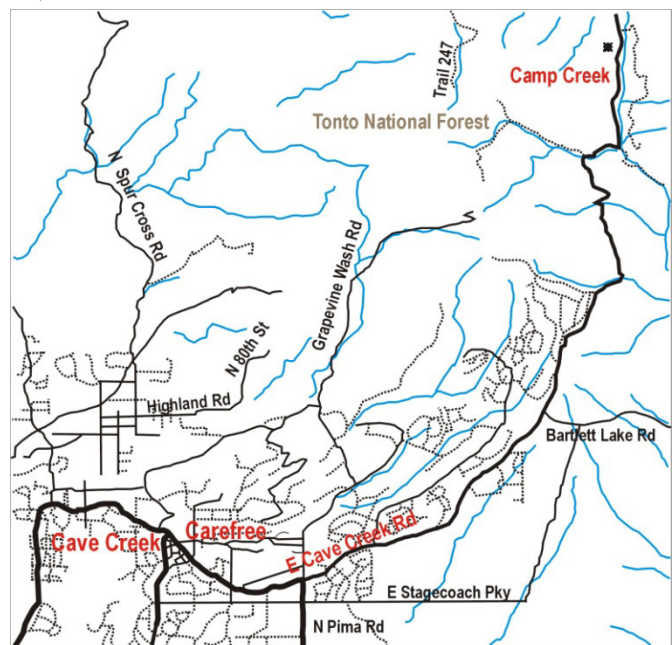


Figure 1 shows the road to the agate field. (The Apache tears are just south of the big bridge over Burro Creek.) The agate field turned out to be spectacular from the standpoint of size and quality. It was about two miles in diameter and very rocky. All the rocks, including a cliff near the road, were agate. It was good agate, too: Clear to brown to black and very transparent. There was so much of it to select from that we ended up not taking a single piece!

If you go there during the summer, beware! During that first visit in July, I turned over a number of rocks to see underside. When the rock was upended, out of the corner of my eye I could see bugs scampering for cover. I paid no attention since I was used to see big black wood ants under rocks at home in Washington. Finally, I noticed that the bugs had something sticking up in the air. When I actually looked at the bugs instead of concentrating only on the agates, it was obvious they were small black scorpions. Almost every rock had at least one little scorpion, ranging from one-half to three-quarters of an inch long. They may be small, but I have heard that the little scorpions have a much worse sting than the big ones.

After the agate field, we decided to go on to the Bagdad mine to look for copper minerals. Our map indicated that the powerline road continued on and entered the mine from the back. We came to Burro Creek canyon well above the point where we had crossed it on the way toward Kingman. We stopped at the edge of the river. (Burro Creek can be bigger than most rivers in Arizona.) It was about 300-feet wide with a



sandy island in the middle. The water was clear and we could see that the ford was across rocks that were rather large for a low slung Buick. We couldn't tell how deep the water was except near shore. Crossing was iffy but I decided it was time for another adventure. Luci wasn't so sure. We plunged in and drove very slowly so as to not flood the engine. The bottom was bumpy but the

water was only about a foot deep. The sand on the island was loose and I speeded up there to keep from sinking in. The other part of the river wasn't bad and we had it made. Which was a good thing because it was getting late and we were anxious to find a place to spend the night.

The road up out of the canyon was no longer on rocky soil. It was a sandy streambed. To keep the Buick going I speeded up to make it through the sandy areas. We finally crested the top and breathed a sigh of relief. There was the paved road and we could see signs of the mine in the distance. The relief was short lived. We rounded a corner and were confronted by a cyclone fence planted right across the pavement. There wasn't even a gate. Just steel posts in the asphalt. With nothing else to do, we started back down to the river to try another way out. A rough road had branched out from ours just above the river and we took it.

It was also a sandy wash but steeper and with even more loose sand. I put the Buick up to about 30 and started sliding around corners. In about a mile, we once again crested the breaks of the canyon and found a lone camper. We stopped to ask how to get to Bagdad from that road. At first, he just stared at us. Finally, he said he was with a local rock club going down to a travertine deposit but was waiting for other four-wheel rigs to arrive before starting down. He said it was so sandy that they never went down with anything but 4-wheel drives and then only with more than one rig. We left him shaking his head that a Buick had made it up out of there.

(Alert readers may have noted that we are two pages into this story and Bob and Luci have yet to collect many rocks. You might also note that it is never a good idea to rent a car to Bob. Beyond that, you will need to wait until January to find more out about these acres of agates.)

Coyamito Agate

Coyamito Agate comes from about 40 miles north of the famous Laguna Agate area in the state of Chihuahua, in Northern Mexico and is well known for its vibrant colors of red, yellows, blues, and pinks and pseudomorphs!

It is found in multiple deposits on the ranch known as Rancho Coyamito, in Chihuahua, Mexico, south of El Paso, Texas. The ranch covers about 23,000 acres and numerous small

Johnie's Jabber

by Johnie Pitman

I have saved out some nice rocks and other items from the donated collection for the scholarship auction at the November meeting. I have about 60-80 items but there would still be room if you want to bring one or two. If there are too many for the auction they can be saved for the silent auctions at the meetings next year. Remember November is the time to pay dues if you haven't already, and officer election is also done at the Nov. meeting.

Johnie

mines are scattered around. Coyamito Agates are



believed to be about 38 million years old. This material has been mined since 1945, but large scale mining did not take place until the 2000's. In fact in 1992 two men died using explosives and mining was banned on the ranch until 2003.

Wire Wrapping Class

Given By Karen Snyder from Newport

Saturday, November 14, 2015

Beginning Class Starts at 9:00 am

Intermediate Class Starts at 1:00 pm

Cost is \$35.00

You can sign-up at the Shop or call Mike Shaw

509-244-8542, 509-251-1574,
mikeshawmoose@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: <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).

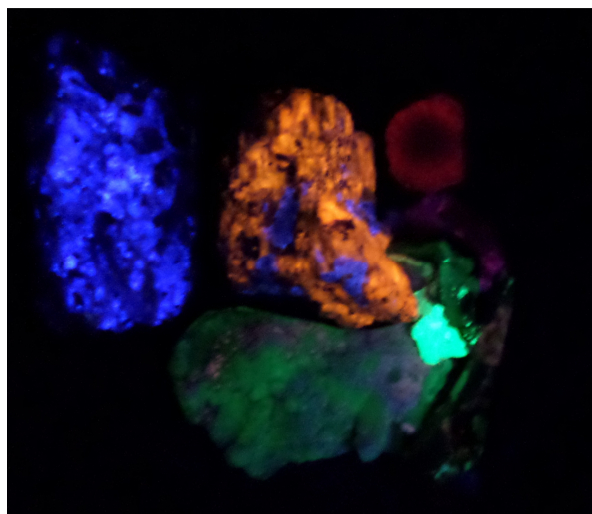
Auction Auction Auction Dues Dues Dues

The upcoming meeting of the rock club is our annual auction. It gives everyone a chance to pick up a lot more rocks of different kinds than they would have on our field trips. Bring cash and boxes for your goodies.

Also bring cash for your annual family membership, \$15. We collect it at this time each year to insure that we send a list of members to the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies so that all our members get the NFMS newsletter.

Hidden Treasure

by Joseph Barreca



I finally got around to visiting the massive collection of rocks that we will be auctioning off at the November 16th meeting last Tuesday. Well

that is not entirely true, you would need a lot more than a pickup truck to take as many rocks to the auction as Johnie Pitman has in his back yard. The difference here is that I visited the collection at night and brought the club's multi-frequency ultraviolet light. The picture at left is taken of some of the rocks we picked out with the UV light that looked like very ordinary rocks in the daylight.

The bright orange rock with blue highlights is the prize. It even shines bright orange in long wave UV light. The others need short wave and medium wave light to bring out their colors. At the auction there will be a spectacular piece of franklinite, a highly UV intensive rock, for sale. Several others of the 80+ pieces that Johnie picked out especially for the auction are UV sensitive. I'll bring the light to the auction as well as some of the other treasures we found and leave the light with Johnie so that anyone else can explore the pile in his back yard.

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