

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



Time: 6:00 PM
Third Tuesday
Each Month
(Jan.-Dec.)

The Panorama Prospector

January 2016

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

Minutes - December 15, 2015

Anni Sebright

A small, 33 members, but hardy group gathered for the December meeting and Christmas celebration.

A blanket nomination for renewing last year's officers, with Bill Allen stepping into the Trustee position, was approved.

The Hospitality Chairperson job will be shared by Deborah Danielson and Sherryl Sinn.

The Field Trip Committee will be Jerry Novak, Bruce Hurley and Bob Bristow. Any suggestions for places of interest are welcome. A follow-up note of thanks will be sent to the landowners or hosts. Mailing addresses will be needed.

A welcome Christmas greeting from longtime member and now Arizona-resident Steve Fox was read.

Johnie Pittman reported \$1,377 has been added to the scholarship fund from the auction. We will have a new sign designating donations for the scholarship fund for the rock show and various other festivals and booths. There was a cost of \$37 for the sign.

In 2017 the rock show will be scheduled for the second week in March. It's March 4th and 5th this year.

Dues will increase to \$20 per household in 2017.

Snacks and juice will be furnished by Sherryl, Sharon, Mark and Anni.

Cathy Fritz suggested 6 p.m. meeting times for the winter months - - - the first three months of the calendar year. After discussion it was decided that we give it a try. So, 6 p.m. in January, February and March.

continued on Page 2

Christmas Party

by Joe Barreca



[Eugene Fisher picks out a present at the party.]

The Christmas Party for the rock club had a good turnout in 2015 despite the predicted snow storm, which didn't turn out to be much but was near the beginning of what has amounted to a good deal of snow ever since. Of course you could not just jump in your car and go to this meeting, everyone had to bring something to eat. Well, we had LOTS to eat. You can still see food on the kitchen table in the room behind the presents, and that was after dinner.

We couldn't just jump into eating though. The Christmas meeting is usually pretty short, but this year there was a lot on the table that was not food. We were glad to see Bill Allen up and around again. He is taking over as trustee number 2 for Bill Sebright and he is back in the saddle as chairman of the upcoming rock show March 4th.

Speaking of the rock show, because of the show and the slow go in the snow, **we are pushing the starting time of the meetings from 7 PM to 6 PM until after the rock show.** More light to travel by that way.

If that was not enough we voted to boost dues from \$15/yr to \$20/yr starting in 2017, since many have already paid \$15 for 2016.

Thanks to all for providing a Christmas feast, fun with silly string and the gift exchange (and wasn't it great to have Daniel Lundy's healthy laugh adding to the fun?)

See you at 6 p.m., January 19th!

Motoring in Moab - Part II

by Anne Ott



The plateau north of Dead Horse Point State Park, just south of Highway 313 and west of Highway 191, showed a slightly different type of agate, with most being fairly small chips that are red or orange in color. There was very little jasper in this area, and the larger agate boulders all appeared to be conglomerates found in the washes, with the locally-prevalent blue-green schist cementing large chunks of red agate into boulders weighing up to several hundred pounds. Again, these boulders were simply laying in the sandy wash, waiting for rockhounds! This area is mainly known for several lovely canyons, arches and bridges, in addition to having many uranium mining prospects and tailings piles below the rim of the plateau, mainly on the eastern edge of the plateau. Uranium Arch, Gooney Bird Rock, and the Gemini Bridges are some of the main attractions to be seen here.

Another superb rockhounding site was Courthouse Pasture and the area around the Merrimac and Monitor Buttes north of Highway 313, shown in the photo at left. Here, weathering action has left very large fields of agates and petrified wood lying on the smooth slickrock areas, and also along the edges of the sandy roads

leading from the area to Cotter Mine Road (which runs essentially parallel to Highway 191 north of Moab). Most specimens in this area have a white outer layer, almost like a crust, but it's a crust of chalcedony that is smooth and waxy to the touch – in the photo below left, you can see a white-colored layer of agates lying on the slickrock on the north side of Merrimac Butte. Some agatized specimens are banded or have rings – some appear to be obvious petrified wood samples, and others appear to be what is locally called “Bacon Agates.” With the creamy-white outer crust and pinkish-colored interiors, these truly resembled bacon! Although all samples had the same outer layer color, there were basically only 2 shapes of local samples: rather flat and slightly rounded nodules, and very irregular nodules with cracks, dark vein lines, and appearing to be petrified wood limb casts. One warning about this area – it's the location of many of the most difficult 4WD trails, and you can be surprised by how quickly the nice, sandy road suddenly turns into a cliff! The eastern rim of this plateau is known as the Sevenmile Rim, and is a continuation of the uranium mining zones that made Moab famous in the 1950s. Pitchblende is the basic ore here, along with mineral samples of carnotite and other uranium ores being available on the tailings piles – without a Geiger counter, rockhounding in these areas is at your own risk!

Cotter Mine Road also accesses a wide variety of other trails – Tusher Tunnel, Dinosaur Trail, Blue Hills, Willow Creek, Bartlett Wash, Dubinky Well, and more. Along Willow Springs Road in the Sovereign Trail area east of Highway 191, there is a dinosaur track area open to the public – you can actually walk along the 3-toed Therapod tracks! Just west, along Cotter Mine Road, is



another track section that is in the unique blue-green mineralization so common in this area. Although there are known copper deposits to the northeast, in the Klondike Bluffs area, information from the Geology of Moab book reveals that most blue minerals are related to iron



reduction due to weathering.

Visits to local parks and monuments will complete your trip to Moab, as you can hike to your heart's content and see some amazing geology – the photo at above shows the wide variety of geological features, from high desert plateaus, to sandstone arches and fin formations, to the snow-capped La Sal Mountains just southeast of Moab.

And, the rockhounding is easy and fun, as evidenced by the many lovely samples of agate, jasper, and petrified wood, plus available samples of uranium minerals, selenite, copper minerals, sandstone, and more! The Moab Rock Shop has a great selection of local fossils and minerals just in case you didn't find everything you wanted in the local area!



Panorama Gem and Mineral Club News January 2016

Agates by the Square Mile and Gem Jasper by the Ton - Part II

by Bob Bristow

(When we left off, Bob and Luci has just crossed Burro Creek in Arizona and climbed a dusty jeep trail in a rented Buick.)



[Rock garden along the road]

We were sure we had it made now. It was only about 30 miles to Bagdad and we could already taste the dinner and feel the bed. We reached the highway and found the turnoff road to Bagdad. We were impressed. The town of Bagdad serves only the one mine. Yet the road leading to it had four lanes. With that much traffic, Bagdad must have a number of motels and restaurants. Bagdad was a nice sized town but the only place to eat was in a doublewide trailer. We went in and everyone stared at us. They obviously didn't see too many strangers. The young waitress came over and asked us where we were from. We said the Seattle area. She then put her hands on her hips and said, "Why would anyone want to come to Bagdad?" You could tell she would dearly love to see the lights of a big city. We asked about rock hunting. She assured us that no one was allowed onto the mine property. She also told us the only place to spend the night was in a room over the tavern.

We decided we would get more sleep in the car than over a noisy tavern so we headed for the next town, which was about 40-miles away. When we got there, not even a street light was on. It was then bite the bullet and drive 120-miles to Prescott. Here, we did find a good motel and spent an hour the next morning reading the phonebook. That's right. Reading the phone book. All of the ads in the book were in joke

form and very good. The ads were so funny, we decided many talented people live in Prescott!

That evening, back at Cave Creek, I went west of town to look for hematite. I found a big chunk of gem quality and lugged it back to the car. On the way, I almost stepped on a big rattlesnake lying across the path. I stopped to take a picture but I wanted him coiled up. I walked around him but he wouldn't budge. Finally, I picked up a little sand and hit him with it. He tensed but didn't coil. I then picked up a big handful of sand and really let him have it. That did it. I thought Luci could hear him rattling clear back at the motel.



[Bob with a boulder. All the rocks are agate.]

The next day was our last and we went after red jasper. It was cold and rainy. In Arizona? In July? Due to mud, we could only reach the Camp Creek Campground, about half way to the best jasper. That was far enough. There was so much red gem-quality jasper that all of the fireplaces in the campground were made of it. By that time, we had more specimens than we could carry on the airplane so we only took small samples. However, one was outstanding. It was bright red orbicular jasper in transparent blue agate. Beautiful.

It was a number of years before we could get back to Burro Creek. By that time, things were quite different. Highway 93 was no longer a two-lane country road. It is now a four-lane freeway. In building the bridge across Burro Creek, the engineers removed the source of apache tears. That is a shame since that was one of the few places where people could see the obsidian breaking down into grey clay and apache tears.

The road from Highway 93 to the agate field is now called Burro Crossing Road. It has

been straightened out and made suitable for any type of car. However, when it rains, the grade down into Burro Creek has bentonite clay that is as slippery as ice. Most people avoid that part of the road when it's wet. We expected to cross Burro Creek on that next trip, which was in February. But before attempting a crossing, we stopped to explore the agate field.



[Burro Creek in February.]

On that trip in February, we drove down to Burro Creek expecting to cross with ease. Instead of driving a low-slung Buick, we now had an all-terrain SUV. When we got there, we found the water about three-feet deep as shown above. I walked down to the edge of the water to get a better look. While I was standing there, what sounded like a clap of thunder followed by a mighty roar engulfed me. On looking up, there were two F-16's a few hundred feet overhead. One was chasing the other. Right then, the lead F-16 released a large number of flares. (Flares are released to cause a pursuing heat-seeking missile to divert from the plane and home in on the heat from one of the flares.) After I had found my heart and put it back in my chest, I decided there was no way to ford Burro Creek. Instead, we drove



back to Highway 93 and crossed onto the road to the old town of Station. The map showed us having to ford the Big Sandy River a couple of times. The first time, the water was up to the bottom of the door. I wasn't worried because the area had had a violent rainstorm two days before and the water was still receding. We could see that the river was dropping several inches a day at that crossing. If we got stuck, all we would have to do was sit there and wait until the next day for the water to go down. It's a good thing we didn't get stuck. That night another heavy rainstorm hit and the water went way up instead of down. Our car would have ended up miles down the Big Sandy!

World's largest blue star sapphire 'found in Sri Lanka'

By P Sivaramakrishnan, BBC Tamil



Gemologists in Sri Lanka claim that the largest blue star sapphire yet has been discovered in a mine in the country.

The gemology institute in the capital Colombo has certified that the gem weighs 1404.49 carats and say they have not certified anything larger. The previous record holder weighed 1,395 carats. The owner said it was "absolutely confidential" how much he paid for it. The gem is valued at at least \$100m and the current owner estimates that it could sell for up to \$175m at auction. It has been named the The Star of Adam by its current owner, after a Muslim belief that Adam arrived in Sri Lanka after being sent away from the Garden of Eden. It is claimed he then lived on the slopes of a mountain now known as Adam's Peak. The owner of the Star of Adam said he bought it thinking "this was not a piece of jewelry but an exhibition piece". Speaking to the BBC, Arnil Samoon, a leading gem and jewellery dealer in Sri Lanka, confirmed

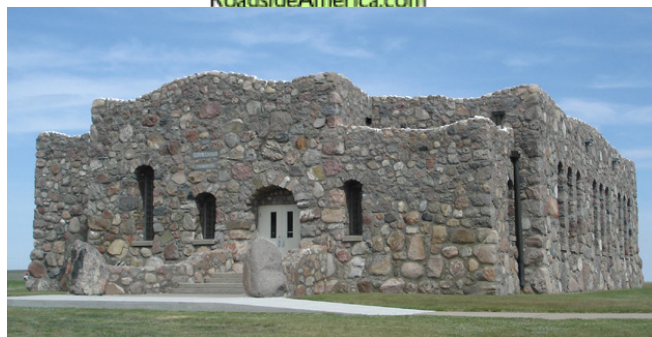
this was the largest blue star sapphire in the world. A 17kg (2st 9lb) rock containing sapphires was revealed in 2013, but the final weight of the gems inside is not yet known.

Blue star sapphires are so named because of the distinctive mark found at their centre.

The new gem was mined in the city of Ratnapura, in southern Sri Lanka, which is known as the City of Gems.

Paul Broste Rock Museum

Field Review by
the Team at
RoadsideAmerica.com



Parshall, [North Dakota](#)

North Dakota marks most of its important sites with piles of its most abundant natural resource, rocks. The enigmatic "Sermon in Stone" graces Fairmount, the historic Rare Rock Cairn steals thunder from the battle monument at Merricourt, and the majestic [Geographical Center of North America](#) pile, certainly North Dakota's best-known, juts out of a Conoco parking lot in Rugby. But North Dakota's most heartfelt shrine to Earth's knobby spawn stands alone on a treeless hilltop overlooking the small town of Parshall. It is the **Paul Broste Rock Museum**. It is built out of rocks.



[One of many steel spirals adored with spheres.] Paul was born in a one-room log cabin with a sod roof in 1887, which perhaps explains his desire for a museum made of something more

Membership Dues:

\$15.00 per household per year is due to the club

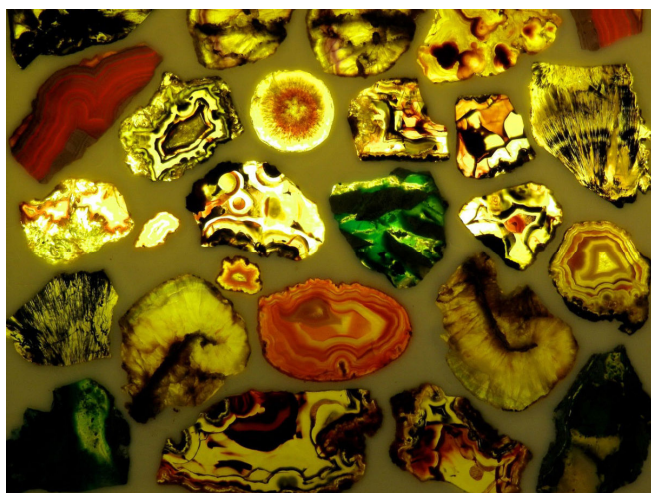
Treasurer Johnie Pitman (address below) on the third Tuesday of November for regular members.

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).

substantial. He didn't complete it until 1960. By then he was an old man, and when he died he asked that the town of Parshall preserve what he had so painstakingly created. A Roadside fan who grew up near Parshall remembers: "He was somewhat of a recluse, but allowed school children to visit his rocks."



The collection within the Paul Broste

New Meeting Time 6 PM Tuesdays till April

We only have two meetings before the annual Rock Show starting March 4th. This is the earliest show ever, so be ready.

Also bring cash for your annual family membership, \$15 (\$20 starting next year) if you have not already paid it. 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. **If the name on your address is highlighted in yellow, this may be your last issue.**

Rock Museum encompasses much more than the museum's name implies. Mr. Broste apparently fancied himself an artist as well as a North Dakota farmer, and saw his museum as a way of displaying his paintings, conceptual sculptures, pen-and-ink illustrations, and poems and philosophies, as well as his rocks.

Unfortunately, artistic Paul Broste never understood the art of labeling. Thousands of agate slices -- almost all identical and almost all unidentified -- fill the glass cases that fill the main room of the museum.

The highlight of the museum is the "infinity" room, or, as Mr. Broste named it, "Astronomical Cavalcade." The room is shaped like a hexagon and each wall is mirrored from floor to ceiling. In the center stands one of Mr. Broste's sphere trees, mounted on a pedestal.

Labor Day - April 30, call (701)862-3264

pbrostemuseum@hotmail.com

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 Allen	2633 Highline Rd, Chewelah, WA 99109	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