

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## The Panorama Prospector

February 2016

January 19, 2016, Minutes

*by Anni Sebright*

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Hurley shortly after 6 p.m. Our next two meetings will also start at 6, and then we'll return to the 7 p.m. start time.

Debbie Gibbens mom, Vera Peters, was our guest du jour. She recently moved to the area from Oregon.

Bob Bristow showed off a new member brochure that gives prospective members a wealth of information about our club.

Johnie Pitman reported the scholarship balance is more than sufficient for this year's scholarship awards. He did some wheeling and dealing in Quartzite this year and has brought new specimens for auction and trade this year.

Mike Shaw from the Rock Rollers is willing to sell us some extra display cases. Cost and storage to be determined. We have 17 cases and usually put out 24. The cases need some repair work and have no liners. We have always made our own liners.

Sharon Borgford shared her "dinosaur egg." She hand painted her own version with a May 1996 National Geographic cover as her model.

Dave Paquette shared a beautiful snakeskin agate from a mysterious Oregon location.

Luci Bristow, Vaneta Novak and Ginger Pitman volunteered for the February 16th meeting snacks and juice.

Our lucky guest, Vera Peters, won the door prize drawing.

The remainder of the evening was turned over to Bill Allen for Rock Show planning.

See you at 6 p.m., Tuesday, February 16th.

*end*

## The Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Story

*by Johnie Pitman*



In the summer of 1996 a geologist and a rock hound were both getting a hair cut in a barber shop in Kettle Falls, when in the small talk that takes place, they discovered they had more in common than their first names. They had interest in rocks and minerals. Over the course of a few days Leonard Neyens (geologist) and Leonard Porath (miner and rock hound) decided to run an ad in the local paper to see if anyone else in the area would be interested in starting a rock club.

The first meeting was on Sept 15, 1996 in a classroom at the Kettle Falls Middle School, 8 attended. Over the next few months officers were elected and by-laws adopted. The officers were President Leonard Neyens, Vice President Leonard Porath, Secretary Jan King, Treasurer Johnie Pitman, Social Engineer Lynn Vierra, Trustees: Paula Barerras, Mark Porth and Lynn Vierra. During the Jan 11, 1997 meeting held at Donny's Pizza the name "Panorama Gem and Mineral Club" (PGMC) was adopted from many other suggestions because the area was already know as Panorama Land. The word Panorama means "a wide view" and the geology in this area is so



**Figure 1: Trilobite**

diverse in every direction as were interest in rock, fossils, gems and minerals, so the name seemed to fit. The first field trip was to Addy on May 18, 1997 to dig for trilobites, no one found a whole one but it was a nice day and everyone had fun.



**Figure 2 Obsidian Spearhead**

In the early days mining played an important part in the settling of this area that is now northeast Washington, north Idaho, western Montana and southern British Columbia. Prospectors and miners came in search of riches and found a very diverse mineral distribution. Most deposits were not huge but large enough to pay to develop and produce for a few years. Stevens County has around 900 old mine sites that can be researched and explored. As a club PGMC



**Figure 3: Amethyst**

Metaline Falls, graptolites on the Onion Creek road, petrified wood on Saddle Mountain near Mattawa.

In the summer months they try to schedule two field trips per month, mostly one day trips, and a couple of longer overnights that are always fun. The PGMC meets at the Arden Community Center at 7 PM the third Tuesday of each month. Each meeting promotes education by having a program to further knowledge of rocks,

minerals, geology, tumbling rocks, lapidary skills and jewelry making. They raise funds for high school scholarships one each for Kettle Falls, Colville, Chewelah.

As many school classes as possible are invited to attend the annual Gem and Mineral Show where the students will see some amazing minerals and fossils that they might not see anywhere else. There are displays of local minerals, lapidary skills PGMC members, and a black light cave showing some minerals that fluoresce some amazing colors. For more information check the PGMC website, <http://panoramagem.com>. The annual rock show is going to be March 4-5, 2016, at the Ag Trade Center in Colville. The show is free and the doors are open 8:30-6 pm on Friday-- 9am -5pm on Sat.

*Editor's note: This article is scheduled to be included in the February 25th issue of the Huckleberry Press.*

## **President May Designate National Monuments in the California Desert**

*American Lands Access Association  
Action Alert Committee*

ARRA has previously alerted you that Senator Feinstein (D-CA) and Representative Cook (R-CA) each have introduced legislation (S. 414 and H.R. 3668) that would provide for the management of the lands being considered for National Monument designation. These bills were developed over time and are the result of collaboration and compromise between various groups with often competing interests. These bills call for a federal advisory committee with a seat to be filled by a Rockhound. Yes, a named seat reserved for a Rockhound.

It is unlikely the Administration will designate the multiple OHV recreation areas designated as such in the Feinstein and Cook bills. As for the areas that will be designated as National Monuments - while motorized recreation and other multiple uses are not specifically prohibited in National Monument areas, history has proven that even the most responsible multiple uses are banned or restricted once an area is designated. (No Rockhounding) There will be no collecting of Biological, Geological, Historical or Minerals within these 3 National Monuments. There goes the Cady Mountains, Afton Canyon, Lavic Siding, Wiley Wells and most other collecting areas remaining in the California Deserts.

Please visit <http://www.amlands.org/6652/67112.html> for more information and actions.



## The Lonestar

by Joe Barreca



Ten years ago on October 7th, 2006, The Panorama Gem and Mineral Club went on a field trip led by Rex Barrans (above) to the Lonestar Mine. Somehow I neglected to write an article about it but even now, so many years later, I remember it as one of the most interesting places in Northeast Washington for rockhounds. Luckily I still have some photos and they have dates on them. That might be typical for the Lonestar, a hot start followed by obscurity.

The mine sits at the northernmost part of the Big Goosmus Road in Ferry County. The road actually goes over the border into Canada and so does the ore body. The Lonestar and its sister mine, The City of Paris, which sits just over the border, a half mile away, are copper deposits. They consist of older sedimentary rocks, laid down on the ocean floor 41 to 31 million years ago that have been broken up by time, pressure and movement. Breaking into those older rocks are dikes (a type of later vertical rock between older layers of rock) formed by molten magma intruding into the older rocks 18 million years ago when the major volcanics of the Curlew Valley occurred and cooled in place. "The mineralization in the metamorphic rocks (old ocean floor) is thought to owe its origin to ore-bearing solutions accompanying the intrusion of monzonite porphyry (granite) and the related rock dikes." [Howland Bancroft, The Ore Deposits of Northeastern Washington, 1914] I include this geological history to note that from the beginning, a hot start was followed by obscurity.

Closer to the present, Big Goosmus road is named after an Indian named Goosmus. (Older maps spell it Koosmos) "It is said that he had twelve sons and they all died within a month of

each other during a smallpox plague." [Report of Ranger Harold Nyberg, 2/2/1940] The major smallpox epidemic in this area occurred in 1853. The mathematics of having 12 sons and no daughters are astronomical. It may be that daughters were just not valued as much as sons. At any rate, it was another great beginning followed by loss.



[The blue pond with blue mud upper left]

Nineteen years later, in 1872 the Colville Indian Reservation was created and included land on the east side of the Columbia River. But President Grant soon limited it to the west side and in 1892 limited it to the lands below township 34, its present location. On February 20th, 1896 the north half of the reservation was open to mineral entry and in 1897 the Lonestar mine was first worked by the Reservation Mining and Milling Company, thus beginning another hot intrusion into the area.

By 1910 the mine had a half-mile of underground workings and was sold to British Columbia Copper Company. About a year later, they had completed a tram, 5 and a half miles long, that ran ore to Boundary British Columbia and presumably by rail to Greenwood. This whole area including the huge copper mine in Greenwood, B.C., the City of Paris and the Comstock Mine - 2.7 miles southeast of the Lonestar, supported a large copper mining district with its smelter in Greenwood British Columbia. The smelter was famously efficient because the low sulfur ores of the region required less processing. The Lonestar was shipping 40 tons of ore per day yielding a ton of copper. The small mining camps, Whites Camp and Shawnee sprang up next to the mine. The mine went from underground to open pit. As World War I wore



down and the demand for copper decreased, the



smelter in Greenwood and the Lonestar Mine closed down following the boom and bust cycle of most mines.

One of the most interesting characteristics of the mine was that if miners left tin cans in the waters that pooled in the mine's tunnels, after a few days they would become plated with shiny copper. When we visited there was a pool at the bottom of the open pit where the water was a pure blue. We didn't know about the copper plating trick but I would love to try it. There were some modern-day miners exploring the area drilling test holes when we visited. But as rockhounds we were more interested in some large boulders left around the rim of the pit which looked like they were solid pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ), aka "fools gold". It is just as likely that they were chalcopyrite,  $\text{CuFeS}_2$ . Both can be cut and polished and are often valuable as raw specimens. If you manage to get to the



Lonestar, bring a large sledgehammer and probably some chisels, smaller hammers and eye protection. Look for serpentine, bornite, malachite and azurite as well as pyrite.

Rex Barrans doesn't get around well enough to lead field trips anymore

and I can't tell which of the rocks in my collection came from the Lonestar. Our trip, like those of so many before us started out strong but has faded over time.

## Chips From The Outcrop

*By Bruce Hurley*

Winter is when I catch up on indoor stuff, and recently I took time to re-read the new rules for fossil collecting on U.S. Forest Service land, in the July 2015 "Northwest Newsletter." Upon a second look, I realized these rules are more restrictive than I had first thought. And, these rules for fossil National forest collecting likely foreshadow similar future requirements by other federal land management agencies.

According to the author of the July article, members of the public may now collect only invertebrate animal and plant fossils on National Forest land. Collection of vertebrate fossils is restricted to permitted "qualified individuals" of scientific or educational organizations, who will eventually publish the results of their research in scientific forums. Permits are not required for invertebrates and plant materials. The only type of public collecting allowed is by "casual collecting" methods. Casual collecting is further described as essentially-unorganized visits to forest lands, where collectors can only take fossils found on the land surface or removed from shallow excavations, which can be refilled with small hand tools. Organized fossil collecting trips are permitted only for scientific and educational purposes, to institutions or graduate paleontologists. Fossil materials "commonly collected" are illegal to sell, under federal law (U.S.C. 470-5). The club field trip as we have known it can no longer be conducted as before, in the national forests.

Before your face reddens about more federal regulation, it is only fair to note that this idea was originally put forward by certain elements within the academic paleontology community. Many vertebrate paleontologists are especially vocal supporters of preventing any vertebrate fossil collecting by non-professionals. In truth, there are compelling reasons for not "cherry-picking" materials from a complete or partial vertebrate skeleton. The more complete a skeleton is, the better it can be identified, and more information gained from bone placement, condition, and damage, and the environment in which the animal lived and was fossilized. However, isolated teeth or bone fragments no longer near their original place of fossilization give more limited information. The one thing that finding isolated vertebrate fossils has often done is to call attention to areas which contain more complete remains. By preventing their *de facto* public scouts from picking up isolated vertebrate fossils,

professional paleontologists may miss many future finds in places currently unknown to host such fossils.

The majority of discoveries of previously-unknown fossil-bearing areas have been made by members of the public, not professional paleontologists. Indeed, the first recorded find of dinosaur teeth was made in England in 1822, by a young woman and her physician husband. As recently as 2000, discovery of the St. George (UT) Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm was made by a bulldozer operator clearing land for a building site. This operator recognized casts of large, three-toed footprints on the bottom of an overturned sandstone slab, the original discovery of the best dinosaur trackway found in the United States in decades. Sadly, by greatly restricting public collecting, more areas containing some of our best information on prehistoric animals and plants may never be located, before weathering and erosion recycle their fossils into unrecognizable sand and gravel deep in some future depositional basin.

**My Favorite Rocks**  
**Gem and Mineral Show**  
**Free**  
**16th Annual**  
**March 4th and 5th**  
**Colville Ag and Trade Center**  
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM Friday March 4th  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday March 5th  
Colville Fair Grounds 317 West Astor, Colville, WA  
**Wheel of Fortune**  
**Gold Panning**  
**Gems and Minerals from Around the World**  
**Silent Auction**  
**Door Prizes**  
**Jewelry**  
**Fossils**  
**Food**  
**Black Light Tunnel**  
**THE PANORAMA GEM & MINERAL CLUB**  
(509) 935-8779

The posters for the 2016 Rock Show are ready now. You can pick up a stack at the next club meeting on February 15th. There will be fewer 8 1/2" x 11" posters this year but they will be on stiffer paper. Please hang up a few and then keep the smaller, 4.25" x 5.5" with you to give to people you meet or post in smaller places.

## A Refreshing Idea from Deborah Danielson

### SUGGESTED REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE:

LOOKING at the New Year:  
Snacks can be store bought or  
homemade, salty or sweet, healthy or  
not. Beverages are always welcome, as  
is coffee donations.

Please bring snacks if your last name  
starts with:

January: "A", "D", "M", and "O"

February: "K", "L", "Q", and "V"

March: "C", "G", "N", and "W"

April: "S", "T", "U"

May: "H", "I", and "Z"

June: "E", "F", and "J"

September: "B", "R", "X", and "Y"

Please note: If you want to bring  
something that requires bowls, plates,  
or utensils, just give me a call and the  
club can supply them.

New Hospitality Chairperson, Debora Danielson has an idea to even out the load of bringing snacks to the meetings. If we adopt it, I may print it in every newsletter since the letters are not exactly in alphabetical order. Hopefully they are weighted to how common a letter is in starting a last name. The good news for people whose last name starts with "P" is that you don't have to bring snacks at all!

### Daily Reports on the Tucson Rock Show



I was looking  
up some other  
information on  
the minedat.org  
website when I  
came across  
this picture and  
a link to  
MANY more

pictures from a daily report on the Tucson rock show. Check it out from our website, [panoramagem.com](http://panoramagem.com), just click on the this picture on the web page.



### 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).

### New Meeting Time 6 PM Tuesdays till April

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

Also bring cash or check for your annual family membership, \$15 (\$20 starting next year) if you have not already paid it. If the name on your address is highlighted in yellow, this may be your last issue. I apologize for many members marked with yellow in January. Johnie was in Quartzite and my membership list was not updated. This month it should be correct.

### My Favorite Rocks

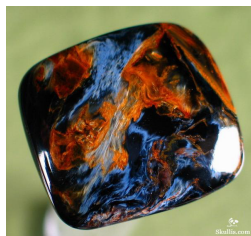
My Favorite Rocks is the theme of this year's rock show. I asked members



<- Rose Quartz, Bill Allen's favorite rock.

what those rocks were at the January meeting. Some

of the favorites are on the poster, others took some study. For instance, Bev Bockman likes Pietersite: "a breccia aggregate of hawk's eye and tiger's eye, with swirling colors of blue, red, gold and brown."



The hands-down favorite was agate. Some folks went on to designate a special agate such as

Ellensburg Blue, Blue Lace and Montana agate.

The runner-up was petrified wood. There were also several votes for crystals in general and specifically amethyst,



fluorite, barite and diamonds. So I am feeling pretty out in left field liking pyrite, though technically it is often a crystal. And Bruce Hurley is definitely unique in preferring the fossil, ammonite. This is bound to be a diverse rock show when people put together display boxes of their favorite rocks.



### 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	935-8779, 936-2446
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