

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



Time 7:00 PM  
Third Tuesday  
April - November  
6:00 PM December -  
March

## The Panorama Prospector

June 2016

### Panoram Gem and Mineral Club

May 17, 2016, Minutes

by Anni Sebright

President Bruce Hurley called the meeting to order and welcomed two new members, June Robbins and Jim Retzer.

Vice President Bob Bristow talked about the calcite found at the Evans Quarry and using muratic acid to clean it.

The Trustees met, read the scholarship applications and selected recipients from Kettle Falls, Colville and Chewelah. The \$1,000 scholarships will be presented by members of the PGMC at graduation.

A Thursday field trip to Stonerose yielded some good fossils. Mid-week seems to work the best as the site was decidedly less crowded and parking was close and plentiful.

Scot Jackson talked about the aventurine near Conconully. Due to the fires last year, access is easier.

The Flagstone Mountain barite field trip may need to be postponed if the predicted rain falls. The mountainous roads become treacherous when water is added. When signing up for a field trip, your telephone or cell number and email address would be helpful for last minute notifications or changes.

Deborah Danielson would appreciate knowing if you are attending the meeting night where your alphabetical letter appears. Also, it would be helpful to know what you are bringing to prevent 8 bottles of juice and no snacks. Her phone number is 509-738-9260. N, O and P are the June snack bringers.

Bruce Hurley talked about calcite and its many uses. It splits light and examples made the rounds.

Jim Nance was the May door prize winner.

*end*

### Aventurine on Happy Hill

by Joe Barreca



[The aventurine crew on Happy Hill near Conconully]

And here all the time I thought it was "Adventurine". Well it turned out to be a bit of both since it was both a new stone and a new place. The name aventurine derives from the Italian "a ventura" meaning "by chance". This is an allusion to the lucky discovery of aventurine glass or goldstone at some point in the 18th century. Although it was known first, goldstone is now a common imitation of aventurine and sunstone... Aventurine is a form of quartz, characterised by its translucency and the presence of mineral inclusions that give a shimmering or glistening effect termed aventurescence.

The most common color of aventurine is green, but it may also be orange, brown, yellow, blue, or gray. Chrome-bearing fuchsite (a variety of muscovite mica) is the classic inclusion, and gives a silvery green or blue sheen. Oranges and browns are attributed to hematite or goethite. Because aventurine is a rock, its physical properties vary: its specific gravity may lie between 2.64-2.69 and its hardness is somewhat lower than single-crystal quartz at around 6.5. (Wikipedia).

But enough with the technical details, "Was it fun?" - Heck yes. Deborah Danielson writes *"After the devastating fires in that area last year, I expected to see blackened trees & barren hillsides. The beauty that greeted all of us was just the opposite. The breath-taking scenery of velvety green hills & purple mountains were complimented by field upon field of wildflowers. Purple Lupine dotted the landscape for seemingly endless miles, along with blue Forget-me-nots, yellow Balsamroot, white Daisies, & pink Bitter-root that emerged from rock stem-less & leaf-less."*



[Aventurine outcrop]

And she hasn't even mentioned the rocks or the bird. The aventurine comes in different textures and colors. The trick was to find a piece that was big enough to work with and of good quality without cracks. We all did our best at that but bigger hammers and more time might have helped. As could be expected, the most solid pieces were still parts of big boulders.

People took a lot of pictures that won't all fit in this newsletter. So the website has a gallery with most of them, [panoramagem.com](http://panoramagem.com).

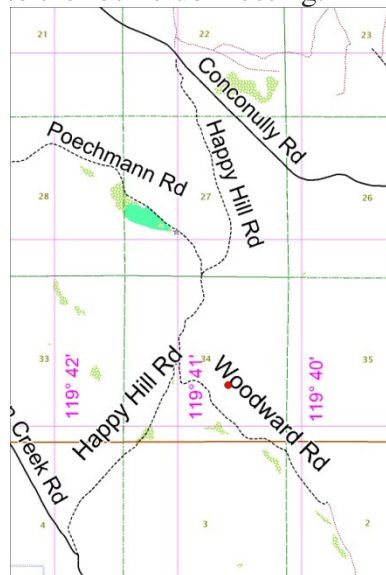
About the bird: Deborah Danielson and I had a little go-around on this and she won. It looks like a nighthawk and is close to the town of Nighthawk and in the middle of the nighthawk range. But really it is a Common Poor-Will and on the edge of its range. The Common Poor-Will is the only bird known to hibernate while sitting on its eggs. At first we

thought it was dead. But with all of us standing around it, it did blink an eye. You had to really look hard to realize it was a bird and not an odd-shaped rock. At the end of the day it was still sitting on its eggs.



[Common Poor-Will on its nest]

Aventurine is used for beads and carving with the clearest pieces being made into cabochons and jewelry. I cut a couple slabs off one of my pieces and it is a whole new rock inside. I encourage those who did get some good specimens to work on them. I know Jim Retzer already did and brought some nice slabs to the rock club meeting.



This is a map to the site which is on public land as a wildlife refuge. There is a gate but it was not locked. The best rocks were on a west-facing slope above the road. the coordinates are -119.6766° by 48.4870°. We drove up Conconully

road and then back on Happy Hill Road. It did turn out to be a happy hill for us and with considerate use it can continue to be for many years to come.



## Johnie's Jabber

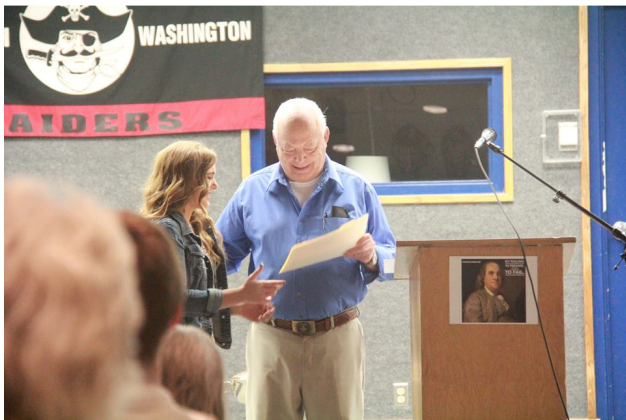
*by Johnie Pitman*

The Trustee's have selected the winners for our three \$1000 scholarships this year. There weren't many applications but there were qualified students in each school.

- The winner for Jenkins High School (Chewelah) is Carly Oman. She will be majoring in Agricultural Education at Utah State University in Logan, Utah.
- The winner for Colville High School is Aerin Basehart. She will major in Environmental Science at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.
- The winner for Kettle Falls High School is Olivia Beardslee. She is majoring in Psychology at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. She wants to be able to help veterans adjust to civilian life.

Congratulations to all three.

I also still have many rocks at my house that are for sale to benefit the scholarship fund, If you are interested call to see if we are home at 684-8887.

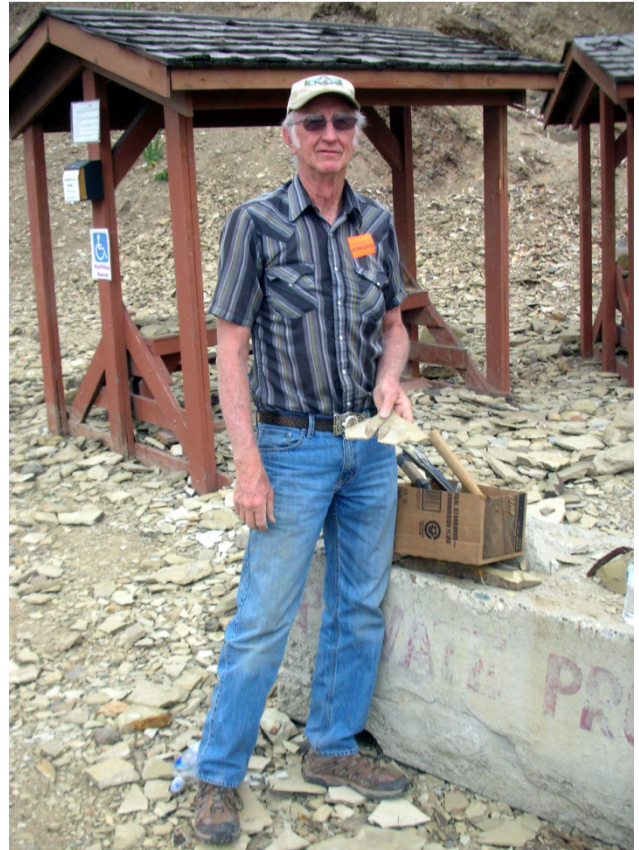


[Bob Bristow awarding Carly Oman]

Since Johnie wrote this article for last month's newsletter all three scholarships have been awarded. Thanks go to the club's trusty trustees for taking care of this annual chore. We wish the best to all these fine young students.

## Stonerose Field Trip

*by Joseph Barreca*



[Johnie Pitman showing off a fossil leaf]

On May 12th members of the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club went on a field trip to the Stonerose Fossil Interpretive Center and quarry in Republic, Washington. Stonerose charges club members a flat fee of \$5 each to dig in their quarry. Less than the cost of gas to get there. They reserve the right to retain rare specimens that they have few or no samples of. You do get your name attached to such samples.

The club members were very successful in finding good fossils in the well-maintained digging area. Scrap pieces of rock where no fossils were found are removed to improve access to the raw rock face. Parking was easy and competition at the site was limited because the club chose to go in the middle of the week, mostly due to other events at Stonerose on other days. This might be a good model for some other trips since many of us have fairly open schedules.

## **Chips From The Outcrop**

*By Bruce Hurley*

We are now well into June, and halfway through the Panorama field trip schedule for 2016. The trip for Stonerose fossils had to be rescheduled but worked out well, as did trips to the Evans Quarry, the aventurine dig near Conconully, and Horseshoe Mountain (if a bit damp at the end). The trip to Flagstaff Mountain had to be cancelled, because of heavy rains that entire weekend. The trips have been good, with as many as forty attendees on one trip, with many rockhounds from clubs some distance from the Kettle Falls area, from which our trips have departed. But the trips which had to be rescheduled and rained out also exposed some things we could do better in planning and carrying out future trips.



[Jim Retzer takes on the Stonerose outcrop]

The most important thing we need to change is get a firm idea of who is going on each trip in advance, and their contact information. This is necessary for two reasons. In the case of the Stonerose trip, we had to reschedule because the Stonerose site could not accommodate the fifteen attendees we estimated, on the date originally scheduled. And when we had to reschedule, we did not know who planned to attend, which required notification for the entire club via email and a post card mailing. That notification not only required extra work but also the cost of mailing a large number of post cards.

The second reason we need to know in advance who is going has to do with weather conditions at the time of the trip. Most places we go involve driving on dirt roads, as at Flagstaff Mountain, which quickly become at best a mess and at worst unsafe, after prolonged rain. Because we did not know who planned to go to Flagstaff Mountain, Jerry, Scott, and I all drove to the meeting place in Kettle Falls, to tell anyone who showed up that the trip was a “no-go.” We estimate that together we drove over 200 miles we could have avoided, had we been able to contact those people we knew planned to go.

Likewise, fire conditions are important reasons to cancel field trips, not only because of the fires themselves but also because of road closures and unsafe driving and breathing conditions due to smoke. It would be very important in this situation to be able to contact attendees that the trip was cancelled.

So, before the upcoming Panorama field trips, please call Jerry Novak (509-738-4578) or Bruce Hurley (509-413-2768) at least a week before the scheduled trip, to let us know if you plan to go along. And should you know in advance that you cannot go after all, we would appreciate hearing from you, so that we will not hold everyone late at the starting point, awaiting your arrival.

## **50th Anniversary**

Bill and Ann Sebright invite everyone in the club to help them celebrate 50 years together by attending an open house on the 26th of June from 1 to 4 PM at their home, 4382 Highway 395 South, in Clayton, Washington. That address is on a driveway right across from the North junction of Railroad Ave. and 395.

They request that you do not bring gifts or cards, just yourselves in casual dress ready for some food, drink and of course cake.



## Horseshoe Mountain Quartz Crystals



A crowd of 27 rockhounds gathered at Harvest Foods on June 11th for a field trip to Horseshoe Mountain, north of Republic, Washington for quartz Crystals. The group was mostly composed of members of the Rock Rollers club out of Spokane. It was nice to see so many families and kids on a trip. Bruce Hurley, Scott Jackson and Jerry Novak were all there to make sure everyone had a good time.



[Rockhounds swarm over the Horseshoe digs]

I'm sure they did, despite some showers. These crystals had some mud on them that will come off with soapy water and a toothbrush. Do that before soaking in vinegar water to remove any other film.

## Back to the Rock Shop

*by Joe Barreca*



[The club's rock shop at Gene Fisher's]

I visited the club's rock shop, (generously provided by Gene Fisher), this week for a couple of special projects. I took some notes:

- Rock saws are greasy. It is water-soluble oil but don't wear your good clothes. Do wear one of the aprons at the shop. Bring rags.
- Rock saws are noisy. Wear the ear protectors - also found in the shop.
- It takes about 15 minutes to cut a 4" rock on



the blue saw. There are 4 saws. The biggest seems to be out of commission. The blue one has a good clamping system and a power feed.

There are lots of other rocks lying around to inspect while yours is being cut. But you should bring containers for your uncut, cut and waste rocks to keep them separate.



- Be sure to sign in and out in the sign in book and, and pay \$2.00/hr. in the box

underneath the counter.

- Don't be too quick to stick your head in the blue saw while adjusting your rock. The lid drips oil.

**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.

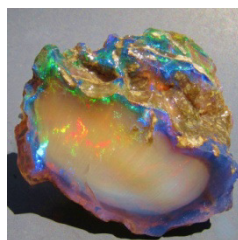
We, **The Panorama Gem and Mineral Club**, are a multi-faceted group of mineral-minded people. Our proud members include some real gems, a few fossils, and even some diamonds in the rough. A few have lost some of their marbles, but they know where to get more! A few need to polish their coordination 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).

**June Program**

Johnie Pitman will be giving a demonstration on identifying rocks at the June meeting. He has 75 sample rocks in categories from easy to advanced. You can always learn something from a program like this and have fun doing it.

The refreshment last names for this month start with "N", "O" and "P". It would be good to talk with Deborah Danielson, 738-9260, about what you want to bring.

This summer, the theme for the **Index, Washington museum** will be mining. Stop by if you can and browse the displays. And of course if you can, bring pictures you may have of the mines as they are now. Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays, I believe from noon to 3:00 PM, until late September.



They are still finding great opals in the Virgin Valley. This one in a snapshot from the Internet is almost 2.5" across and was for sale on eBay for \$7000 or best offer.

<u>Trip</u>	<u>Mineral</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Time/Place</u>
Adams Mountain	(epidote, quartz)	7/9/16 (Sat.)	Gasoline station, Fruitland, 10:00 am
Metaline Falls quarry	(trilobites, brachiopods)	7/23/16 (Sat.)	Train station, Ione, 10:00 am
Emerald Creek; Clarkia Bowl, ID	(garnets; plant/fish fossils)	8/13,14,15,16	Yoke's Fresh Market, Deer Park, 9:00 am

**Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart**

<b>Officers:</b>			
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 2:	Gene Fisher	295 Gold Creek Loop Rd, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-8546
Trustee 3:	Bill Allen	2633 Highline Rd, Chewelah, WA 99109	935-8779, 936-2446
Trustee 1:	Becky Dobbs	968 Phillpott Rd, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-6931
<b>Committee Chairs</b>			
Program Coordinator:	Bev Bockman	1750 N Havichur Loop, Post Falls, ID 83854	208-773-5384
Hospitality:	Debora Danielson	1365 Arthur Ct, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	509-738-9260
Club Shop:	Gene Fisher	295 Gold Creek Loop Rd, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-8546
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