

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## The Panorama Prospector

August 2016

### Panoram Gem and Mineral Club

July 19, 2016, Minutes

*by Anni Sebright*

New members and guests, regular members with family and members from other clubs were all welcomed at the beginning of the meeting. Carol Barr from Payson, AZ, related her introduction to rock hounding and brought examples of rocks from her area plus hand-outs for sharing. Carol's rock club hosts other clubs and helps find campsites, etc., in their area.

Bob Bristow brought some sparkly, rusty things calling them iron oxide.

Carly Oman from Chewelah sent a wonderful Thank You note for her \$1,000 scholarship award.

The Adams Mountain trip has been canceled due to looters in the burned area. It is now protected by a padlocked gate.

This Saturday, July 23rd, is our trip to the Metalline Falls Quarry for 520,000,000 year old Trilobites. We will meet at 10 A.M. at the Ione Train Station. Please remember to list your phone number and email address for better communication. Please sign up with Bruce Hurley; and if you have signed up and cannot go, please let him know.

Bill Allen will once again be manning the BBQ at our August meeting/annual picnic August 16th at 6 P.M. The Club will provide the burgers and dogs, and we bring everything else. A sign-up sheet for the number of people in your party and a sign-up sheet for what you'll bring is on the table in the back. Remember the 6 P.M. starting time. There will be a brief meeting.

Our 2017 rock show will be September 9th, 10th and 11th. Sharon Borgford will contact the schools and coordinate an educational experience with the classes attending.

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### Metaline Trilobites

*by Joseph Barreca*

*Pictures from Debbie Gibbons*



[Sherryl Sinn's huge trilobite at Metaline Falls]

The club's annual trip to the LeFarge quarry near Metaline Falls has always been popular. This year's trip on July 23rd was no exception. 14 cars drove up there with about 30 rockhounds in them ready to find 520 million year old trilobites. They found those in abundance along with some other surprising fossils.

One of those was the size of Sherryl Sinn's 3" trilobite seen above but in more detail here: Bruce Hurley, this year's field trip leader, explained more about why these fossils are so unique in the June 2012 Panorama Prospector, (available online at our website, [panoramagem.com](http://panoramagem.com).) The rocks in this quarry were involved in the mountain-building movements of the Rocky Mountains, that are still going on today. While in a more plastic state under tremendous heat and pressure, they



warped into slightly distorted versions of their original shape.

Another surprise was that one of the trilobites that Bruce first picked up to show people what to look for was not in the black shale like the rock seen above, it was in relatively white limestone, which was the principle product of the quarry. Although limestone and trilobites are both products of an ancient ocean teeming with life, we have not typically looked for trilobites in the limestone. Perhaps that is because it is easier to split the slabs of shale apart to see the trilobites.



[Sharon Borgford packaging up her finds]

A discovery that we have not particularly looked for in the past was graptolite fossils. They are not as well-defined as trilobites and look a bit like hacksaw blades. Like the trilobites, their impressions are often found in shale formed on the bottom of ancient oceans where the oxygen was scarce. This made it hard for would-be scavengers to consume the remains before they were covered in another layer of mud. At least their white coating makes the impressions easier to recognize.



[Graptolite fossils in shale]

Come prepared in September with a suggested theme for next year's show.

Sharon Borgford also has a Viking Knit Bracelet class sign-up sheet for another class - time yet to be determined.

Joe Barreca's printers, at last count, were 2 dead and 1 on a ship rounding Cape Horn. Joe will be able to print newsletters as soon as the healthy printer arrives.

Joe had occasion to revisit the Lone Star Mine that Rex Barrans led us to several years ago with his grandchildren. The azure pool there is known for putting a blue cast on metal objects left in its waters. Malachite, Azurite and Bornite can be found there.

Sherryl Sinn's grand-daughter was a big help to her grandmother during coffee hour. She was also the winner of the kid's door prize, and Gene Fisher won the other door prize.

A program on Barite, "The Ganguie's All Here," was enjoyed by all.

See you at 6 P.M., August 16th, for the BBQ and Picnic.

## **Sandstone Concretions**

*Pictures from Deborah Danielson*



Rock City is a park located on hillsides overlooking the Solomon River in Ottawa County, Kansas. It is 3.6 miles south of Minneapolis. The large spherical boulders in Rock City are giant calcite-cemented concretions, typically called "cannonball concretions" because of their shape. They range in diameter from 3 to 6 meters (10 to 20 feet) with the average diameter being 3.6 meters (12 feet).



## Payson Arizona Rockhound

*by Joseph Barreca*



[Carol Barr shows us rocks named after her]

We had a special guest at our last meeting from Payson, Arizona. Carol Barr told us about a discovery she made when just getting into rockhounding. While looking for rocks near a neighbor's house in Payson, Carol came across these filled geodes that come in colors of white, red and green. She asked a local geologist if he could identify them for her, but they seemed to be a bit of a mystery.

After some time and evidently a lot of work going on in the background unknown to her, she got a call from someone at the Smithsonian in charge of naming rock types. They had decided to name the new kind of geode she found Barr-Cannos for her and the neighbor whose land they were found near.

Carol is a member of the Payson Rimstones Rock Club. There are many sites in the area that have agates, crystals and fossils. It sounds like a great area to visit and there is some information online, particularly about "Diamond Point". I hope we can find out more.

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club News August 2016

## Johnie's Jabber

*by Johnie Pitman*

The three scholarships have been paid, each for \$1000 dollars. The winners were: Carly Oman from Chewelah, Aerin Basehart from Colville, and Olivia Beardslee from Kettle Falls. Congratulations to all three they were very deserving and will use the money wisely.

Sherry Bamberger has donated another 21 buckets of rocks to the club for the scholarship fund and I still have a "ton" left from the donations last summer.

August is our picnic we are planning for a large group so bring a dish of your choice and join the fun. Remember we eat at 6:00 and could use a little help setting up. Bring a few rocks to trade or give away, no sales.

## Chips From The Outcrop

*By Bruce Hurley*

Our annual Panorama Club picnic is coming up on August 16 at 6:30 p.m., under the tall trees at the Arden Community Center. As always, there will be far "too much good stuff" to eat. (Please remember to bring your pot luck items, or we might only have just enough good stuff.) So load up your appetite and something to sit on, and head to Arden for some food and fun on Tuesday night.

After the picnic itself, there will also be a "tailgate rock swap" in the parking lot. These are always fun events, where people who have collected too much of some items want to trade with someone else, for something they do not have. There are no real rules for this event, but a couple of things do make it more fun. It is good to have your items cleaned up well enough to see their good features, and be able to identify what it is and where it came from. Your material does not need to be something rare or fancy, or even pretty, just interesting. And

since this event usually lasts into the twilight, a flashlight or two are always good to bring along. See you there.  
<-[sapphire sand]





## The Pyrites of McCoy Creek

Pyrite is one of the most common minerals in and around old mines. There are over 170 mines and prospects containing pyrite in Stevens County alone. While pyrite is very common, crystallized pyrite is not. Good, clean pyrite crystals are less common still. In Washington State, I know of only two deposits where museum-quality pyrite crystals occur. One of these is a patented claim owned by Bob Jackson. That claim is located on Spruce Ridge up the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River from North Bend. The other location is on McCoy Creek, northeast of Mount St. Helens. I had a map to this location. However, the Forest Service road number was wrong and it had McCoy Creek emptying into the Lewis rather than the Cispus River. However, since there is only one McCoy Creek in SW Washington, I was able to get in the general area of the deposit. McCoy Creek is in a steep-walled canyon with the logging road two to three hundred yards above the creek. The map showed what appeared to be a clear cut above the road near the deposit and a crossroad with a bridge over the creek about a mile above the deposit. I found no clear-cuts whatsoever above the road so that clue was no good. However, there was a crossroad with a bridge. I decided to walk down the canyon from the bridge with the hope of stumbling across the deposit. McCoy Creek was very nice and I saw many nice trout and decided I should be fishing instead of looking for pyrite! I also saw much evidence of fresh prospecting all along the creek. Every stain had been examined and sampled. Where sulfides were showing, the rock had been cut back to expose fresh minerals. I eventually came across a placer operation that was directly in front of a mine adit. The adit was in iron-stained valley fill. There was no bedrock in sight. The placer equipment looked like it had been used within the last month. I continued on down the stream, past another old adit, around a corner to bedrock, and there it was. A deposit of tuff with cubes of the brightest pyrite I had ever seen. It had been some time since anyone had dug there and some of the pyrite was already beginning to tarnish to peacock colors. The pyrite cubes were up to 1.5-inches across with a number of clusters of 1/2 to 3/4-inch cubes. The distinguishing characteristic about these crystals is that even with the naked eye, you can see the raised planes on each face where the last growth took place.

The directions I had gave a warning that the stream banks were a jungle of downed trees and brush. However, I found the area between the deposit and road to be old growth firs with very little brush underneath. As I headed back up to the road, I came upon a camp. There was an excavation in the steep hillside with a plastic tent and a cast iron cook stove, cots, and a big pile of firewood. I suspected I was on an active mining claim but there were no markers along the stream. When I reached the road, indeed, there were markers above and below the deposit.

I am always amazed at how small the world is! Soon after

my first trip to McCoy Creek, I attended a BLM/Forest Service/Mining Company symposium in Portland. This symposium was to teach miners how to do their work without harming the environment. During a break, I was in the hall and stopped to chat with two other

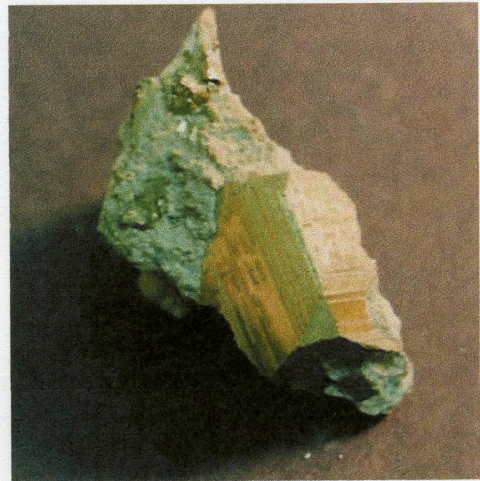


Figure 1. A 1.5-inch Pyrite Crystal

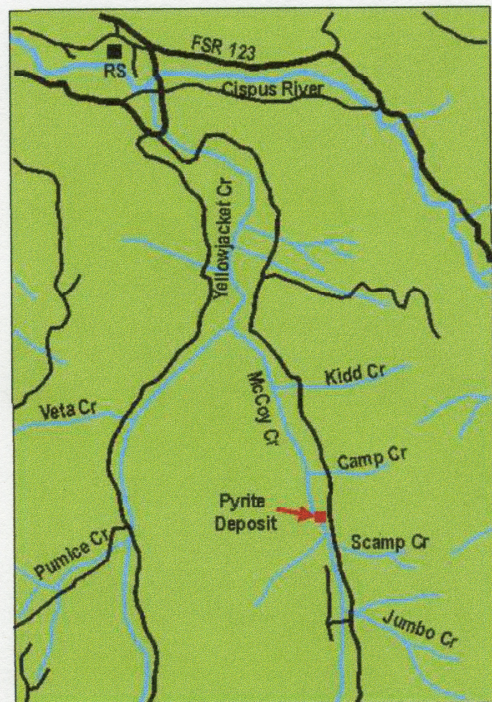


Figure 2. General Map to the Pyrite Deposit



miners. I asked then where their claim was located and they said it was on McCoy Creek in Washington. I told them that I had seen a camp on McCoy Creek after collecting some crystals (before I knew it was an active claim). They laughed and said, yes, it was their claim but I was welcome to any pyrite crystals I found. One of them said they even collected some themselves! I had thought they were after gold, but it was copper. They felt they had discovered the largest disseminated copper deposit in Washington. However, they were not going to work that deposit anytime soon. They were on the trail of a lost gold mine in Oregon. The one that had allowed the miner who discovered the vein to found one of the colleges in Salem.

Let's go back onto the road above the deposit. After I had climbed up the road, I could see there was no room to park. However, I found places for a single car about 300 yards above and below that point. Since there was no way to identify that particular location, I carefully measured the distance to the nearest named stream so that next time I would know where to drop over the edge of the road. Figure 1 is a picture of a pyrite cube and Figure 2 is a general map. Figure 3 gives details on where to park and where to drop over the bank to climb down to the stream.

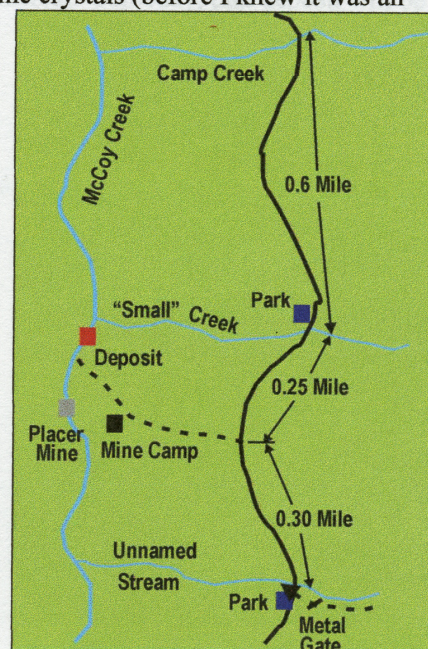


Figure 3. How to get to Deposit from Road

The next time I went to McCoy Creek, I found an interesting change. The second adit mentioned above was a short distance upstream from the pyrite deposit. It had been driven directly under a six-foot diameter fir tree. That old fir tree had fallen, but not in any old direction. It had come down exactly on top of the adit. It now was half buried in the top of the adit and extended on across McCoy Creek. It made a great bridge but was so low that it made it hard to get down the stream bank. I had to climb down a root to get to the bank by the deposit.

The last time I went to the deposit was about five years later. I was shocked to get there and find no deposit. Then I found that no one had been there since my last visit and moss had grown over everything!

The McCoy Creek pyrite deposit is interesting in that the pyrite cubes formed in tuff, solidified volcanic ash. The tuff originated as an ashfall from Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams, or Mt. Rainier. After the ash fell, andesite lava covered the ash and the whole was buried in additional rocks and sediments. At some point, water from hot rocks underneath tried to reach the surface. That bed of tuff was porous and offered an easy route for the hot water. As it passed through the tuff, it cooled to the point where the pyrite began to crystallize out. The pyrite crystals built up as long as hot mineralized water continued to flow up through the tuff. Over the eons, the ground rose up and McCoy Creek ate down through the rocks until the tuff was again exposed, this time containing pyrite cubes. This was not the only deposit of tuff discovered in the McCoy Creek area. Miners found a similar deposit on a tributary to McCoy Creek. However, in this deposit, gold was in the spaces around the pyrite cubes. It was reported that some of the gold was in sheets around individual cubes. The pyrite was nice there too,

but it was all crushed for the gold.

Just below the pyrite tuff is a quartz vein with white, milky quartz. The vein also has a small amount of pyrite.



Figure 4. Digging Pyrite in the Rain

Thanks to Bob Bristow for this article



### 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).

### August Potluck

August is our potluck meeting time. The weather should be great. Bill Allen will be grilling burgers and hot dogs purchased by the club. You are encouraged to bring desserts, salads, side dishes etc.

We always have plenty of food. We also have a tailgate rock exchange after the meal. No sales, but lots of trades. Bring your extra rocks etc. You may need extra light if it starts to get dark.



### Extra Large Amethyst Castle

We have all seen some big amethyst castles. But this one hits it out of the park. Except that it doesn't. It was labelled the Empress of Uruguay in a Pinterest offering, but the 3.27 meters tall Empress of Uruguay arrived at The Crystal Caves in November 2007 and two large cranes were needed to lift her into her current position. (right) René and Nelleke Boissevain paid \$75.000 AUS for the Empress. Apparently her market price is now over \$250.000 AUS.



### 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