

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



Time 7:00 PM
Third Tuesday
April - September
6:00 PM October -
March

The Panorama Prospector

February 2018

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes January 16, 2018

by Sheila Stratton

Meeting was called to order by Johnie Pitman. (This is the first meeting for Johnie Pitman as President; Sheila Stratton as Secretary; and Frank Stratton as Treasurer)

Bob Bristol, Vice President, was asked to give report on any old matters and he said there was nothing at this time. He gave a welcome to everyone.

Johnie made the announcement regarding the passing of Bill Allen. It was announced that there would not be a memorial for a while. The family will have a memorial service at the house or at a park later this year. It will be announced when there is more information. Johnie had a package of paper plates that he said Bill had purchased for the club.

Report on finances was give by new treasurer, Frank Stratton. There were no further comments on this.

It was announced that at the end of January, Northwest Federation dues are due. They are \$2.50 per member. \$235.00 has been paid. We get a quarterly paper from them.

An agenda for the upcoming Rock Show that is to held on March 9th, and 10th, 2018, was passed out listing all the different jobs that are need for operating the show. The list was gone over and asked for volunteers to handle the different jobs.

Johnie will talk to Bill Allen's wife, Sylvia, who in past years helped with the advertising through her business in Chewelah. Joe Barreca will design and produce posters. Johnie said he needed a big lead time to go to newspapers. Building rental was previously handled by Bill Allen. Johnie will follow through on that.

Rock Show and Tell

It's all about the Rock Show right now. The club has one more meeting, this coming Tuesday February 20th at 6 PM to finalize the details. In keeping with that theme, this newsletter is mostly about the Rock Show **vendors** from our club.

Since the club moved out of our old meeting place at the union hall in Kettle Falls and more recently as we moved the rock show from the Grange to the Ag Trade Center, the club and the show have grown exponentially. A hidden story behind that growth is how much the individual vendors from our club have benefitted from that growth and how the club has benefitted in turn from having their enterprises boom.

Johnie's Jabber

Some members have been doing a lot of preparation getting ready for the show.

- Sharon Borgford has put in a lot of time and miles going to schools, working with the teachers and printing and assembling the Treasurer Hunt booklets. She and I also did a presentation to Audrey Rickard's 5th grade class at Inchelium a couple of week ago.
- Matt Harbin has been busy filling grab bags and working on the electrical stuff to get everything we need for lights in the display cases.
- Joe Barreca has the posters done and will bring them to the next meeting so we can all get them distributed throughout the area.
- Frank Stratton has the treasurers job well in hand and way more organized than it has been. He and Sheila have been working on a contact directory for everyone.

Some advertising has been done, it's a little early to contact the radio station. I cut up a sheet of plywood to make panels to cover the exposed ends of the display cases, I hope they work.

I have not heard from all of the vendors yet but they still have a few days to send in their contracts. When they are all in I'll work on the floor plan.

I still have some display cases to fill. So think about it and let me know at the meeting.

I'll contact Sylvia Allen to see if we can use Bill's black light cave.

Thanks to everyone for all your help!!!

minutes continued

Matt Harbin will help with floor plan and dealers.

New possible outings were discussed:

1. Stonerose Interpretive Center
2. Big Jasper – June Robbins to

get permission from owner to dig

Dismissed for break. Food was provided, silent auction drawing held

Program was shown on the Petrified Forest – Timeless Expressions.

end

Rock-Covered Birdhouses

by Johnie Pitman



[Rock-Covered Bird Houses by Johnie Pitman]

Like a lot of our members, Johnie found himself with a lot of small tumbled material on hand and found a way to enhance it. Here is his story.

I started making the polished slab bird houses after I saw some that were done with common little kind of flat rounded rocks, nothing special I thought but clever. Then I was in a hobby store and saw some small wooden bird houses already made and cheap. I've tumbled rocks including slabs for years so I decided to try gluing the slabs on the houses.

These houses are not meant for birds to live in they are too fragile, plus the glue that I started with was water soluble so the rock might come off after a rain. I started using a glue made by Loctite called stick-n-seal (indoor). When the hobby stores and Walmart quit handling it I went to a glue called E6000 it's a little messier but dries clear. I have made a few larger actual bird houses because I thought if they were actually useful they might sell better. That didn't work because they were bigger and I had more time and cost in them I had to charge more, therefore they were too expensive.

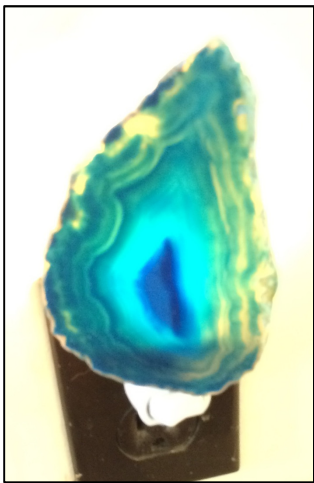
The most fun part for me is find the right shapes to fit together like a jigsaw puzzle, and trying to have a mixture of colors on each surface. I like to have as little wood showing as possible, and because the wood is a light color first I stain it to a dark color so it doesn't show as much.

The hardest part is keeping the surface flat when you glue the slabs on or they will slide off or separate while the glue is drying, the E6000 takes about 30 minutes. Each house has 6 surfaces, two roof and 4 sides and sometimes a chimney with 4 sides, so it takes a while.

The largest was about 16"Lx12"Wx14"H and the smallest 1"x1" it was just a little block of wood cut to look like the others. I like to put jigsaw puzzles together and this is a way to use some rocks so I can go find some more and cut and polish them.

Lighting Up the Slabs

by Joe Barreca



Becky Dobbs is another member who saw something she could do to make use of some of her favorite rocks. She took note of some pictures that were lit from behind by night lights. This was one of those "light bulb moments" (literally). She realized she could put together night lights that made translucent agate

slabs into useful decorations.

It didn't happen automatically. She found parts online that could hold something in front of the light with a clip. Then she had to figure out what sizes and kinds of slabs would work best. They had to be thin. Moss agates didn't work well. Brazilian agates do. Even those with artificially enhanced color. Some slabs don't need to be polished, but most do. Those polished in a vibrator did not work better than those from a tumbler.

So now Becky does a lot of her own work. She may pick up slabs at rock shows or cut them herself at the club rock shop. But then she tumbles them for the shine and trims them where necessary.

Once she had the night light idea working, She tried some other ideas. One was to get little stands that folks could insert their own favorite rocks into. So she had a craftsman friend make a bunch of little wooden stands that would hold the light and have a place for a rock. That actually

didn't sell well, perhaps because they needed cords instead of just pluggin directly into a wall socket. (Anyone want a bunch of little wooden stands?)



Like Johnie, she settled on E6000 glues as the best glue for the job. It is available online and Wal*Mart.

The ideas just kept coming and you will be able to see some new items at this year's Rock Show. One is a solar light that will gather energy during the day and shine it back at night. Getting that going took a lot more trial and error. The mechanism needs to stay dry so she developed ways to make sure that happened.

Even beyond that she created little landscapes out of rocks for the solar lights.

As if that was not enough, we'll be able to see one more idea in action at the show, agates hanging from suction cups so you can put them on a window to let sunlight shine through.



So, starting with a simple idea and adding a little research and experimentation, then doing some test marketing and making adjustments can lead to a fun hobby that pays for itself and

then some. In the next story we see similar initiative turn into a full-blown business.

Martell's Rock Shop

By Joe Barreca



[Brian's Table at an early Rock Show]

It was 2008. The housing market had crashed. Brian's logging job went down the tubes. He was looking for work. He had recently joined the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club. At one of our meetings at the Union Hall in Kettle Falls, it was announced that a local rock hound had passed away and his family was looking for someone to buy all of his equipment. The club decided that it was too much to take on for the club rock shop. In a bold act that changed his life, Brian spoke up and said that he would buy the whole bunch.

Now he just got back from 7 weeks in Quartzite where he not only buys rocks, but he cuts them and fixes equipment for other vendors. Back home he is not just sitting around either. He sometimes has 6 rock saws running at once cutting slabs to sell at upcoming rock shows. He attends 19 shows all over Washington and in Oregon. Many go on for 4 or 5 days and he often has to pack up and move to the next one before going home.

It wasn't always that way. On his first trip down to Quartzite, he arrived with \$11 in his pocket and no credit card but some rocks and equipment. His reputation spread as other vendors found he could diagnose and fix almost any problem with a rock saw or other lapidary equipment almost miraculously. Now he carries a large collection of parts. New vendors marvel at the constant stream of repeat customers coming to his booth everyday at Quartzite.

This year, his son David (also a member) will be holding down his booth at our rock show while Brian is in Issaquah for another show.



[Some of Brian's rocks on tables outside his shop.]

With his big equipment trailer, Brian is always hauling tons of rocks and equipment to and from shows. He fills 27 crates with rocks to bring to a show and displays them in tubs with water so you can see what they look like. Brian has a lot of good stories from all these years. Look forward to seeing more of them in this publication.

High Desert Minerals

From Bruce Hurley's website

<http://www.highdesertmineralsnv.com/>

Bruce Hurley first became interested in all "things geologic" at a very young age. During elementary school, he lived in an apartment complex in North Charleston, South Carolina, noteworthy for its potholed parking lot. One summer, the apartment complex decided to fix the lot, and brought in fine gravel dredged from the nearby Cooper River, now famous for the *Megalodon* sharks' teeth found in its bed.



Once the gravel was spread, Bruce discovered he now lived on the edge of a man-made outcrop containing hundreds of small fossil sharks' teeth. Soon the parking lot was again potholed, but this time from the fossil-digging of more than a few small boys, until all the teeth were collected and the holes filled under the watchful eyes of stern fathers.

First bitten by the fossil bug, Bruce was soon to discover minerals from an entirely different source. His maternal grandparents lived in the country outside of Greenville, South Carolina, and Bruce often spent time there in the summer. The geology at Grandpa's was much different than in Charleston. Instead of the sands and gravels of the coast, the Southeastern Piedmont hills are of red clay, weathered from underlying granitic and metamorphic rocks which occasionally poke through, displaying sparkling mica and quartz veins right out of a 1950's western movie. Even better, at a nearby uncle's farm, one field produced tiny orange quartz crystals, plowed up seasonally from the decomposed remains of an underlying quartz vein. After a couple of trips there, Bruce would never be the same, again!



The quest to find and understand rocks was on, eventually leading to degrees in geology from N.C. State, UNC at Chapel Hill, and Washington State. This was in turn followed by a thirty-something year career as a geologist and hydrologist in the Southeast, Pacific Northwest and Southwest.

Janice Linderer-Hurley avoided rocks for much longer than Bruce. Growing up in Spokane, Washington, she decided early on that rocks were great to walk on and hold the earth together, but otherwise not all that deserving of notice. Even after marrying Bruce, for about the first twenty years she thought rocks were just okay. Then in 2001 she visited



Panorama Gem and Mineral Club News February 2018

the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, and found that fossils especially were far more interesting than she had thought before. Since then, she has even been known to go fossil collecting, but only if the weather is perfect and the roads are good! She would still rather collect in an air conditioned tent in Tucson, preferably not too far from the car.

High Desert Minerals (HDM) has been participating as a part-time dealer at mineral shows across the Southwest since 1987. It is a family partnership between Bruce and Janice. In the 1990s, daughters Erin and Kyle Hurley also helped out quite often with HDM, before leaving home for college and lives in faraway places (perhaps to get away from Dad's four-wheel adventures). Erin has been very instrumental in getting the High Desert Minerals Website up and running, and Kyle still occasionally helps out at shows in the California area, and has been known to collect a few rocks herself.



The year 2009 brought major changes to HDM, as Bruce retired from his day job as the Department of Energy's environmental monitoring program manager for the Nevada Test Site. This, along with family needs in Washington State, brought about the building of a new home near Spokane and relocation from Las Vegas in late spring of 2010. Because of the long driving distances involved, HDM could no longer participate in Arizona shows, but still remains a dealer at the annual Searles Lake



Gem-O-Rama in Trona, California, in October. In 2011, we also began participating in the club shows in Colville and Spokane, Washington, while

completing all of the inevitable extra work that goes with building a new home "long distance." Finally, the website became operational in the summer of 2011, allowing us to be available to customers that time, distance and the cost of gasoline did not allow HDM to reach before.

Membership Dues:

\$20.00 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).

February Meeting 6 PM

This is the last meeting before our 2018 Gem and Mineral Show. We will be going over the final plans. But we can also expect to see some of the door prizes and other treasures that members have brought back from Nevada. We should also discuss an invitation from the Stevens County Historical Society to demonstrate geology, mining and other minerals on a special day at their Colville Museum.

Refreshment Schedule for 2018

Last names that begin with the letters posted bring refreshments for that month

January – W, A, B, C

February – D, E, F, G

March – H, I, J

April – K, L, M

May – N, O, P

June – Q, R, S, T

July – W, A, B, C

August – Club Picnic

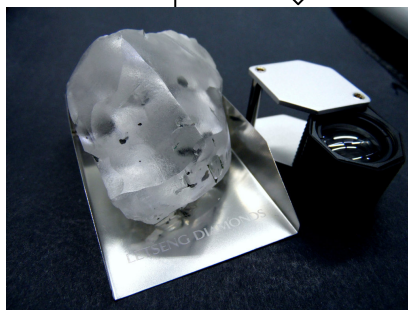
September – D, E, F, G

October – H, I, J

November – K, L, M

December – Christmas Party

Call Sherryl Sinn at [509-684-6093](tel:509-684-6093), if you have any questions. Thanks for helping.



Huge Diamond Found

(January 14th) One of the biggest diamonds in history has been discovered in the mountainous kingdom of Lesotho in southern Africa. Gem Diamonds Ltd. found the 910-carat stone, about the size of two golf balls, at its Letseng mine in the country. It's a D color Type IIa diamond is one of the most expensive stones. The diamond is the fifth-biggest ever found. The estimated sale value is \$40 million. It will probably NOT be a door prize at our rock show.

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

Officers:			
President:	Johnie Pitman	701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-8887
Vice-President:	Bob Bristow	PO Box 1165; 2567 Mud Lake Rd. Chewelah WA 99109	509-935-4375
Secretary:	Sheila Stratton	79 Mary Ellen Rd, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	909-228-0546
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	79 Mary Ellen Rd, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	909-228-0546
Trustee 2:	Gene Fisher	294 Gold Creek Loop Rd, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-8546
Trustee 3:	Dennis Gibbens	827 Hwy 20 E, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-3532
Trustee 1:	Sherryl Sinn	725 S. Chester, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-6093
Committee Chairs			
Program Coordinator:	Bev Bockman	1750 N Havichur Loop, Post Falls, ID 83854	208-773-5384
Hospitality:	Sherryl Sinn	725 S. Chester, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-6093
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	(vacant)		