

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## The Panorama Prospector

August 2018

### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes June 17, 2018

*by Ginger Pitman*

Johnie opened the meeting, we had one visitor, Harold, joining us. A good turnout of 39 members on a hot evening.

Bob gave a report of the field trip to the Merikay mine, looking for beryl crystals. Bob also has on the back table some magazines for members to take.

Acting secretary Ginger Pitman read a thank you note from Jamie Eide of Chewelah as she was our scholarship recipient. We hope she will attend one of our meetings.

Johnie gave the Treasure's report, and answered some questions of which funds are scholarship and which are operating expenses.

Bob and many others had gone to Bill Allen's memorial, a nice event, the club will miss him. Sylvia and family had put out a donation jar for people to donate to one of Bill's favorite clubs. She has presented the club with \$85 for our scholarship fund in Bill's name. Sylvia has also donated items from her store to be used during our show. Thank you Sylvia and family.

The club now has the rough grit (60-90) to be used for tumbling rocks for grab bags, you can get it from Johnie or Scott.

Our August meeting is our annual picnic at the meeting hall at 6 pm. **an hour earlier** than usual. The club will buy fried chicken and members are to bring potluck and chairs. Place setting and drinks will be provided.

Afterwards we will have a tail-gate trading and show & tell if you have some things you want to bring.

Bev will be sending us the patterns for the grab bags and the case liners. It is not too soon to start sewing. Next meeting a date in Sept. to work on our club cases will be set. We need to fix

*continued on page 2*

### Metaline Trilobites

*Photos by Jim Peters and others*



[Maurice McPherson and Piper at Trilobite site.

*Photo by Margit Neuhaus ]*

On Saturday July 28th Panorama Gem and Mineral Club members and guests from the Spokane Rock Rollers club met at Tiger (the intersection of Hwy 20 and Hwy 31) and set off to the Lefarge cement quarry near Metaline Falls. This may be the most popular annual field trip for the club.

The specimens of trilobites at this quarry are unique. In an longer article in our [July 2012 newsletter](#), Bruce Hurley writes trilobites are "ancient marine arthropods related to the horseshoe crab, along with occasional brachiopods, bottom-feeding animals which resemble scallops, but are unrelated to them." Bruce further explained: "The Metaline rocks are old, deposited in the middle Cambrian Period of the early Paleozoic Era, about 520 million years ago. These



*(minutes continued from page 1)*

liners, minor repairs on the cases themselves, and change some very heavy liners.

Our black light cave was discussed again and it was decided for now, since the guys think they now know how Bill's cave is put up, that we will continue to use it as is.

Johnie brought some samples from the First Thought mine. Gene said there is gold in the samples if you have a good microscope. These were picked up while riding with Gene and Sherry on a ride of their 4-wheeler club.

It was announced that the North Idaho and Rock Rollers clubs were going to Crystal Park July 19-21. It is about 450 miles from here, open to the public, a \$5 day fee at the dig site for parking, and there are nearby Forest Service camp grounds. Small clear quartz crystals are found there along with scheelite, epidote and garnets by digging dirt.

Bruce will be leading, on July 28 a trip to the trilobite dig at Metaline Falls. That may be it for field trips as it gets hotter and drier it is not a good idea to be in the forest.

At each meeting as you sign in, you are asked if you want to put your name in for our monthly drawing. Becky, who is in charge of door prizes, asked for new donations. Rocks or rock related items are needed.

The program was on the Ice Age Floods of the Northwest.

*end*

site try to combine sitting in the shade with splitting out trilobites.



[Johnie Pitman in the shade]

The trilobites at the quarry are all on the west wall which thankfully is in the shade in the afternoon and has quite a few trees. Different kinds and sizes of trilobites can be found on the north and south ends of the quarry. Smaller ones - but often with several in a tight area - can be found on the south end. But there is not as much shade there.



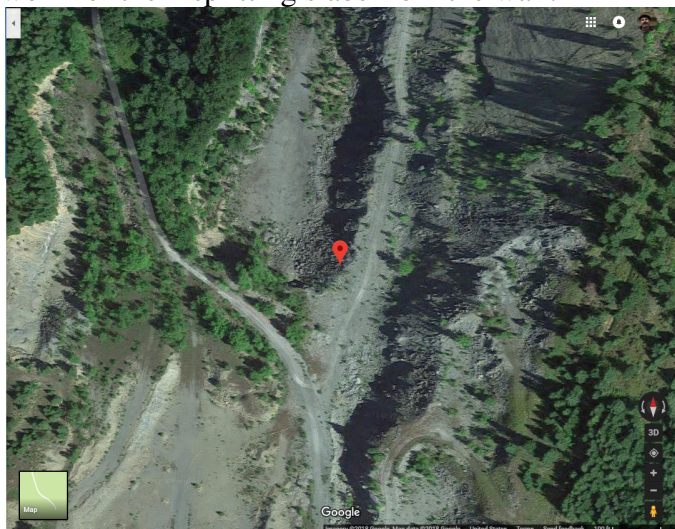
In this picture by Jim Peters, who climbed to the top of the east side of the quarry, the south

*sedimentary rocks were deposited on the ancient sea floor along the western edge of what would eventually become the Northern Rocky Mountains." The thing that sets these apart from other trilobites is that " During the time since the Metaline Formation rocks were deposited, several episodes of mountain-building have squeezed and uplifted them, locally warping and folding these ancient sediments. " So what you find at this quarry are not just ancient trilobites but trilobites that have been squeezed and stretched in odd ways and are like no others.*

"Summertime and the digging is easy..." You know the tune. But in this hot weather it is not necessarily true. Experienced rockhounds at this



side of the quarry is to the left. You can see that there is plenty of parking on good flat ground. As a bonus, trilobites can sometimes be found right out in the parking lot. Mostly however you have to work for them splitting slabs from the wall.



As a bonus, Jim Peters has the location on when he takes a photo with his phone, so you can get to this aerial photo of the quarry from Google Photos. The location, 48.8496971,-117.3498084, can also be found in Google Maps if you use these coordinates - that I extracted from the photo.



Jim reports that the best specimen, shown here, was found by Rick McDougald. Note that it is slightly skewed and not symmetrical. (A coin or something for scale would have been helpful.)

Everyone found some trilobites and there were no reported injuries.

## Johnie's Jabber

*by Johnie Pitman*

Good news - bad news, the good news first. It's picnic time, the club provides the meat (fried chicken this year) and the rest is whatever you want to bring to share. The plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons and napkins have all been donated by Harold, THANKS Harold!! Remember the start time is 6:00 pm, we hope it's not too hot and not too many wasp and mosquitoes. There will be a short business meeting after the meal, followed by tail gate rock swap, if you want bring something to trade (rock related stuff). No sales please.

Other good news, Gene Fisher found a 20 foot cargo trailer for a reasonable price so we purchased it. It should be large enough to hold all of the show equipment. It will be at the meeting for your inspection. I have the registration and license plate and the title will come in about 6 weeks. It's made by Wells Cargo and is a 2018 model, almost new.

We will need to set a date for working on the display cases and liners. When they are ready we can load them in the trailer and be ready for the show next March. Donations toward the purchase of the trailer can be given to Gene Fisher or myself.

Now for the bad news, Pattie Latapie passed away earlier this month. She was the wife of Mike Latapie. He demonstrated knapping (arrow head making) at our show last year.

I'll have the pattern for making grab bags for anyone that needs it, we'll need 700-800 bags.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has a new "story map" series online that shows places to rockhound in Washington.

<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/rockhounding>

It also spells out the rules you should take into consideration for State, Federal and private land. Click on the Mineral and Fossil map option. The little spots on the map show collecting sites. You can zoom in to get a better idea of the locations but there are not always driving instructions or exact coordinates. What surprised me was that it shows many more collection sites for things like trilobites, fossils, petrified wood and gemstones than I knew about. We need to check these out! There is a sample on the back page.



## United Copper Mine

by Joe Barreca

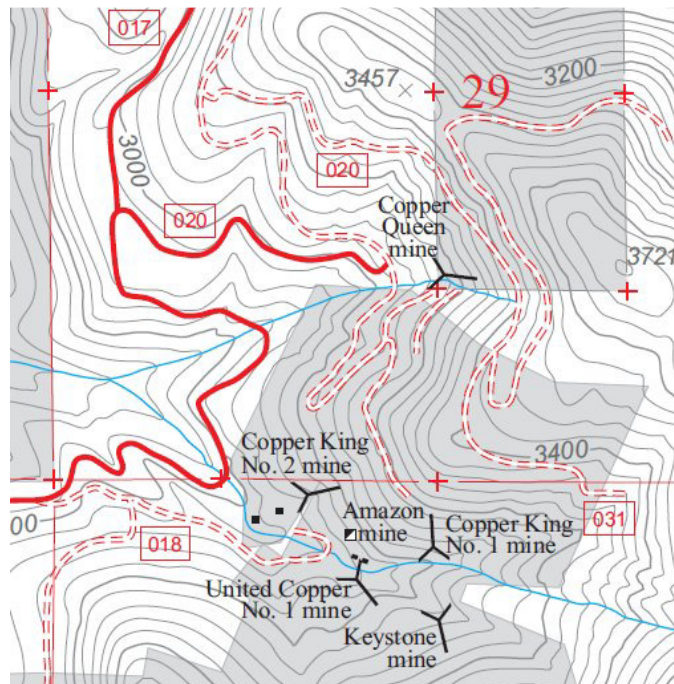


[Bob Bristow and Margit Neuhaus, Copper King]

Walking the plank into the Copper King Mine is not as scary or dangerous as it might look or sound. You can steady yourself on the rock wall to the left and try not to look down. As a bonus, it is much cooler inside than out on a day like July 24th when I visited with Bob and Margit.

As usual, I regret not doing more research before I went, but being there is more important than being super well-prepared. (Except that I started on the wrong road out and would have been late for dinner if not corrected in a text from Margit.) In preparing to write this article I have a very good article already written by Bob and probably printed in a newsletter some time before 2005. I also have [a paper written by Fritz E. Wolff](#) and others from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology. But for an original source, nothing beats Metal Mines of Washington written by Earnest N. Patty in 1921 and published by the Washington Geological Survey. It has diagrams of the workings.

So what do all of these sources say. In short "It was big, really really big." Patty writes: "This property is the largest and most consistently producing mine in the State." It produced over 9 million pounds of copper and 1.6 million ounces of silver during the period from 1906 to 1920. At today's prices, that would be almost \$24 million worth of silver and another \$24 million worth of copper. The United Copper Mine made Chewelah a prosperous city.



We entered the Copper King No. 1 adit. The Amazon, Copper King and Keystone mines lie within an 800 foot radius of the United Copper #1 adit. Six prominent mineralized veins have been identified and developed within the United Copper Group. Another vein eight feet wide was identified in 1942 but not developed. Belief that a horizontal fault lay beneath the lowest (1400 foot) level of the United Copper cut off the 6 vertical shafts that were in production curtailed deeper exploration, but that belief has proved to be false. So some day this area may again be in production.

In the meantime there are some features in this mine that are of interest to rockhounds. Generally the club does not encourage members to go underground and I doubt that there will be a field trip to it. There are pictures however of extensive mine waste at the Copper King No. 2 that might be worth exploring for bornite, (peacock copper),



azurite and malachite, the typical copper mine collectables.



Those however are not the most valuable mineral in the mine. Above is a picture of what Bob Bristow describes as hemimorphite. It is calcite that has been stained blue by the copper minerals in the mine. Margit found a pretty nice looking specimen on our trip. But it was not easy to get to and I'm sure she wants another shot at it.



You have to be dedicated to go after a rock while lying on the wet ground and working up. To add to the fun (and I'm sorry I don't have a picture) there was a wood rat (AKA packrat) that took interest in what we were up to but ultimately disappeared through a crevice in the rock.

The Copper King adit (tunnel or drift) is not that long but has several forks that lead to different "rooms". Some of these are as much or more interesting than the rocks you might be able to find. They contain blue calcite stalactites that cover the ceiling and sometimes the walls. Reportedly the color of these fades if you expose them to sunlight for very long. For that reason and because you would ruin the beauty of these formations if you

chipped parts off of them, we left them alone. But they were beautiful in their own right.



[Blue stalactites on the walls and ceiling]

The drifts of the Copper King also have a lot of graffiti and several logs that have been hauled in. In some cases the logs may have been used to secure climbing apparatus. Bob reports that after losing a hard hat down one of the shafts some younger folks "*bought 600 feet of climbing rope together with ascenders in Spokane and came back with sleeping bags and food. They later told me that the actual depth of the shaft was 400 feet and it ended over an old haulage way that had been used to carry ore from various mines to an ore mill about a mile away. They also reported that in the three days they spent underground, they saw even better blue stalactites and a lot of blue flowstone.*"



So there you have it. The United Copper Group has a lot more secrets to discover, but we can't recommend that the club goes after them. Maybe someday it will open again and we can go on an official tour. If you go on an unofficial one, bring more than one flashlight and make sure they are all charged. A complete set of tools, safety and communication equipment is also recommended. Be safe and not sorry.

### Membership Dues:

**\$20.00 per household per year is due to the club Treasurer**

Frank Statton (address below) on the third Tuesday of November for regular members.

Webpage: <http://panoramagem.com/>

Contact: Johnie Pitman, 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 Meeting 6 PM

**This will be our annual picnic. Without Bill Allen and his grill to cook burgers and hot dogs for us we will have 100 pieces of fried chicken delivered. Utensils will be provided but bring your own chairs.**

**We also do a tailgate rock swap so if you over-collected a few rocks of one kind, bring them and trade for another. But most of all bring yourselves for a great meal.**

### 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**

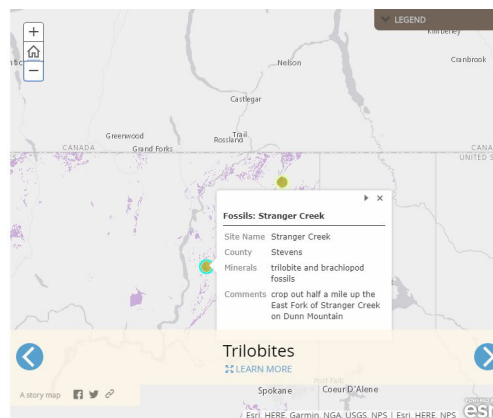
**August – Club Picnic**

**September – D, E, F, G**

**October – H, I, J**

**November – K, L, M**

**December – Christmas Party**



This DNR map describes a trilobite collecting site on Stranger Creek. Does anyone know where that

site is? (See page 3 for more information.)

### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

<b>Officers:</b>			
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	909-207-8506
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	79 Mary Ellen Rd, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	909-207-8503
Trustee 2:	Jim Peters	3311 B View Ridge Ln, Valley, WA 99181-9604	509-937-2238
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
<b>Committee Chairs</b>			
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)		