

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## **The Panorama Prospector**

September 2018

### **Panorama Gem and Mineral Club**

Minutes for Meeting

August 21, 2018

6:00 p.m. (Annual Picnic)

The meeting started with a delicious chicken dinner with sides that were provided by club members. It was held inside this year due to the smoky air. There were approximately 50 people that attended the dinner.

The meeting was opened at 6:55 p.m. by Johnie Pitman. A thank you was given to Sherryl Sinn for getting the chicken and for those who set up.

There was no secretary or treasurer report given this month.

Gene Fisher and Johnie Pitman found a 2018 covered trailer for an excellent price (\$4,457) that will hold all the show equipment. They purchased the trailer and licensed it in the club's name.

Frank Stratton suggested that the money we would have paid to rent a storage unit could be paid to reimburse Gene and Johnie for the trailer. We do not take that much money in per month. We discussed what money goes to scholarship fund versus general fund. It was then suggested that the November auction money go towards the trailer instead of scholarship funds.

A work day is needed to go over the cases and make new liners for the cases that need them. We decided to meet at Johnie Pitman's house on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

We decided to use light colored fabric for the liners. Sharon Borgford volunteered to call a representative of the Spokane Club to see what kind of fabric they used and where they purchased the fabric. We should bring cleaning supplies to clean the cabinets. Rick McDougald suggested that we have matching numbers on all the parts of the cases.

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### **Crystal Park, Montana**

*By Joe Barreca, Pictures Jim Peters*



Jim Peters digging at Crystal Park

Club members Jim and Betty Peters recently visited Crystal Park in the Beaverhead National Forest near Dillon, Montana to look for quartz crystals. This is one of several rockhounding hot spots within a day's drive from Stevens County that have been producing collectable rocks for many years. Jim and Betty found mostly small crystals but that is common.

"Crystal Park is a unique recreation area at an elevation of 7,800 feet in the Pioneer Mountains in southwest Montana. Crystal Park is open for day use only and has a \$5.00 fee per car. Facilities include 3 picnic sites with tables and grills, information signs, toilets, and a paved trail with benches and an overlook. The facilities are designed to be universally accessible.

Quartz crystals are scattered liberally through the decomposed granite of the unique 220-acre site that's been reserved by the Forest Service for the popular hobby of rockhounding. Quartz crystals are hexagonal (six-sided) prisms, with a pointed "face" at each end. The crystals found at



Betty Peters turned in 300 rock bags she made for the show. There was applause for her hard work. We need a total of 600 to 800 bags made before the show.

An outing was planned to pan for gold on the Columbia. Johnie asked for a showing of hands of people interested in attending and there were a good number of interested people. The outing will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. It was decided to meet at the gas station in Northport.

Johnie closed the meeting and announced that the leftover chicken was available for sale and a tail-gate rock swap would be held in parking lot.

*end*

Crystal Park can be clear, cloudy, white, gray or purple. They can be smaller than your little finger or up to several inches in diameter. Gray, purple and other colors are caused by minerals within the quartz. Gray crystals are known as "smoky" and the highly prized purple ones are called amethyst. Single crystals are most common at Crystal Park. Most of the crystals have little value other than as collector's items.



[Jim and Betty's collection from Crystal Park]

Rules established for Crystal Park include a ban on tunneling. The rules are listed on signs and in brochures available at the site. Other rules include use of hand tools only, and a five-day-per-person season limit on digging."

(<http://southwestmt.com/listings/11967.htm>)

Scepters, some with Amethyst on the top, and twins are the most sought after crystals to be found there.



[You can see all the digging in this aerial]

They also found larger quartz specimens on Crystal Butte between Melrose, Montana and Twin Bridges, about 30 miles from Crystal Park as the crow flies but much longer by car. It took them two days to find the location using a guide book. The book claimed you could pick up crystals just walking around. Jim picked up a piece of massive quartz that he owed to Frank Stratton but no crystals. The Peters went through the mining museum and gem and mineral museum in Butte and also went to Ruby Reservoir, but the water level



was too high and there was no area to prospect.

[Spotting some Bighorn Sheep was one of the highlights of the trip.]



## Mysteries at the Rock Shop

by Joe Barreca



[Joe at the shop - note grease on the apron]

The first mystery that my wife, Cheryl, noticed was the grease on my head. Before she could assume that it had something to do with my Italian heritage I had to explain that it came from sticking my head under the lid of the biggest rock saw in the shop to pull out pieces. Gene Fisher's advice was "I wouldn't do that." So beware, cutting oil drips from the lid of the big saw. It also sprays onto your clothes if you don't wear one of the aprons that Gene has supplied - along with many other tools and handy items such as Dawn dishwashing liquid.

If the whereabouts of the club's rock shop is also a mystery, check out the [January 2018](#) issue of this newsletter on our website. The real mysteries were inside of the rocks themselves.



[Crinoid fossil rocks cut to feature the fossils]

The small Crinoid rock in the last picture was one of the first mysteries. Since the small

round section of the Crinoid stem at top corner of the rock should have more stem below it, I was surprised to see that there is no sign of it besides the disk on the surface. The larger rock is impressed with the frond from a Crinoid. It did not show below the surface either.

I can only assume that the pieces made impressions on a muddy sea floor and basically dissolved into them. It is nice that the rock left behind is hard enough to take a polish.



Ophiolite is "an igneous rock consisting largely of serpentine, believed to have been formed from the submarine eruption of oceanic crustal and upper mantle material... Ophio is Greek for snake, and lite means stone, after the green-color rocks that make up many ophiolites. [Wikipedia](#)"

What I think is cool about the ophiolites found at the McGraff Quarry near Waitts Lake is that you can see little eight-sided formations inside of them like two pyramids stacked bottom to bottom. I have managed to tease a few of them loose from the matrix, but generally they are fused together and have different shades of color inside than outside. So they are not really crystals but what else would you call them? This cut done on a small trim saw shows what they look like in a crosscut.

Another mystery slowly revealed itself in the heart of a Brazilian geode that a friend of mine, Ty and his wife Cathy brought to the rock shop. At first the slices showed a mass of white quartz around the perimeter of the geode. But succeeding slices started to show a purple color and a hole opened up in the center lined with Amethyst.





[Ty and Cathy by the shop with their geode]

What still remains a mystery is the way that Tiger's-eye works. I have a slab from a rock auction that I have been wondering what to do with.



[Note that the end of this block is a very dark blue.]

Originally I thought that the dark color on the end was just a kind of stain or something hiding the color of the rock. But I cut a slab off of the end and both sides of it were that same dark color. It turns out that this effect is not just an annoyance. It is actually a phenomenon called Chatoyance.

Chatoyance is an optical phenomenon in which a band of reflected light, known as a "cat's-eye," moves just beneath the surface of a cabochon-cut gemstone. Chrysoberyl and tiger's-eye are two of the best-known gem materials that exhibit this phenomenon. Excellent specimens of chrysoberyl exhibit the finest chatoyance, and tiger's-eye is the chatoyant gem most widely used in jewelry.

Chatoyance occurs in stones that contain a large number of very thin parallel inclusions within the stone, known as a "silk." The light reflects from these inclusions to form a thin band across the surface of the stone. The band of light always occurs at right angles to the length of the parallel inclusions. These inclusions can be crystals, hollow tubes, or other linear structures that are present throughout the stone and are usually aligned with a crystallographic axis. [Geology.com](http://Geology.com)

I got a closer look at a polished piece of Tiger's-eye when I got home. When you round the edges, the chatoyance re-appears. So that will be another trip to the rock shop. Another mystery in this particular rock is the wash of blue striations that sweep across the face of the rock. Again this is not a stain. It turns out that Tiger's-eye is thought to be a transformation of Pietersite, a naturally blue rock that also exhibits chatoyance. Pietersite is actually more valuable than Tiger's-eye, so maybe we can think of this color as an enhancement.

**Johnnies Jabber**

*by Johnie Pitman*

Last week I got an e-mail from The "Stone Seekers Gem and Mineral Society" which is a new club in the Okanogan Valley. The contact person is Candice Floyd and they meet at the Oroville Grange Hall every other Wednesday. Their email address is [thestoneseekers@gmail.com](mailto:thestoneseekers@gmail.com) and Candice's phone number is 1-509-476-7028. We should include them on any of our field trips that are in that direction, and they sounded interested in combining some field trips with us. I offered to help them in any way that we can.

Remember the work day Sept. 19 which is

the day after the club meeting. The ladies will work on improving the show case liners. Sheila, Ginger, and I went through them. Some were ok. Some need cleaning and some replaced. The guys will work on the cases, repairing the hardware and sanding and refinishing some of the fronts. There is also some work to be done inside the new trailer. Come to Pitman's place at 10 AM, you might want to bring some lunch, the work will take a while to complete.

The Sept meeting is when I will appoint the nominating committee for getting officers for next year, so consider how you can help.

Last week Ed Scott from Colville brought over a donation for the club. It consisted of the following: 1). Highland Park 10 inch saw that's in good condition and is mounted on a nice stand 2) 4 lbs. of 80 grit 3) 4 lbs. of 220 grit 4). 4 lbs. of 600 grit 5). 1 lb. of cerium oxide polish 6). Star Diamond 10" flat lap 7) 8" Lortone Expandable Rubber Lapidary Drum 8) 2 ea. 6" flat disc 9) 2 ea. 8" carbide grinding wheels 10) arbor with two 8" sanding belts 11) a shaft with bearing's 12) a motor 1/6 HP 1). 1.5 gal of saw lube 14) 2 buckets of petrified wood from the Yakima Firing Range. These items will be at the November auction. THANKS Ed !!!

Gold panning Sept 27: We will meet at the station on the north end of Northport at 10 AM. Please wear shoes that cover the ankles because there are a lot of jagged and sharp rocks. Also if possible, wear shoes that can get wet, it will be easier when panning at the water's edge.

## **Annual Club Picnic**

*by Joseph Barreca*



The Panorama Gem and Mineral Club has its annual potluck (formerly BBQ) dinner on August. 21st. We missed having Bill Allen cook for us on his custom barbeque grill. But Sherryl Sinn made sure we had lots of fried and baked chicken and the club came through as usual with an overwhelming array of homemade delights.



We also traded rocks from tailgates and there were plenty, even if you didn't have any to trade.

## **Call for a Newsletter Committee**

*by Joe Barreca*

I am resigning as newsletter writer/editor as of the November 2018 newsletter. I have been editor for 13 years, since December 2004. In that time I have created, printed, and posted 148 newsletters. They take about 8 hours to create and proof and 4 or 5 to print, staple, stuff and stamp. Then I posted them on the club website. That amounts to a year of full time work. I'm tired - and busy with other projects.

I know it is hard to find a full color printer that would print these letters for 8 cents/page. So I am willing to print, staple stuff and stamp if other people send me a PDF document to send to my printer. There are a lot of people in the club who can write, word process and email. I'm calling on you to work together and replace.



### 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).

### September Meeting 7 PM

The club will meet at its regular summer time of 7 PM. There are several items on the agenda concerning early preparations for the rock show and the work party (is that an oxymoron?) on Wednesday the 19th, 10 AM at Johnie's house, 701 B Williams Lake Road. We will also have some entertainment and eat great snacks as usual. Hope you can come.

### 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

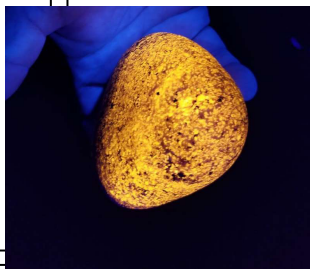
September – D, E, F, G October – H, I, J

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.

### Yooperlite

Erik Rintamaki was searching for rocks on a Michigan beach last summer when he made what he calls a "mind blowing" discovery. Resting among the thousands of pebbles covering the Lake Superior beach, Rintamaki saw a glowing rock. Michigan State, along with the University of Saskatchewan, researched the Yooperlites for months. The universities determined that Rintamaki did, indeed, discover a new type of rock. It only glows in black light and "Yoopers" is a nickname for the local people.



### 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	909-207-8506
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	79 Mary Ellen Rd, Kettle Falls, WA 99141	909-207-8503
Trustee 2:	Jim Peters		
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)		