

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



Club Meetings:
Third Tuesday of the Month
Time: 6:00PM

The Panorama Prospector

July 2019

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes of the June 18, 2019 Meeting

By: Chana McDougald

President Rick McDougald opened the meeting by stating that the Secretary and Treasurer were absent, and the positions would be filled in tonight by Chana McDougald and himself respectively. The only new business was that Rita C. had brought some Rock Books to give away. The Vice President Bob Bristow gave us his take on the Jim Creek field trip.

The Silent Auction went well. There were some "Show and Tell" rocks placed on the back tables (a nice piece of Asbestos by Rick McDougald). There were some nice obsidian pieces and thundereggs by the Retzers and the Danielsons, who later told about their trip to Eastern Oregon. Mike Wood and Scot Jackson had some nice rocks at a front table from their McDermitt, NV road trip. Lots of interest was shown for his Green Opal piece.

Rick then announced that our club NOW has a "secure website", so when you view it in the future, use "httpS" (that "S" means "secured site"). Here it is: <https://panoramagem.com>

A new field trip was voted in for Saturday, June 29, Jim Creek. Scot Jackson would lead that trip. The rocks to be found are expected to be Marble/Pyrite and Marble/Galena

Continued Page 4

It's a mystery: Caves 12 Miles South of Colville

The following is an article from *West Shore Magazine Sept 1887*. It describes two caves 12 miles south of Colville in a limestone bluff.

The COLVILLE CAVES. - The editor of the Stevens County Miner has very recently visited two large caves located in the Colville country. He gives the following account of subterranean experiences: These caves are situated in a large limestone bluff, about one-mile northwest from the residence of Mr. Thomas Stranger and twelve miles south from Colville and are easy of access by wagon to within 200 feet of their entrance.

The first of these caves is entered by a narrow passage some seven feet wide and scarcely three feet in height.

The first cavern is about forty feet long and has a number of smaller caverns or corridors leading to the right, which come together in the distance of twenty feet and another room half the size of the first is formed.

The farthest extremity of the second cavern is terminated by a very low and narrow passageway leading through solid rock a distance of thirty feet to the third cavern, which is about sixty feet in length by twenty feet wide and is arched over at a height of forty feet from the floor, and is in some places studded with long icicle-like pendants, caused from the perpetual percolation of water through the limestone.

The floor is covered with a mixture of decayed vegetation, to a large extent, and decomposed limestone, the former being placed there by

mountain rats and other small, inoffensive animals which inhabit the cave, and the latter by the constant crumbling of the surface of the walls.

The east side of the first and second caverns indicate a heavy volcanic disturbance and the facing of the wall in many places shows mineral. There is no telling how far the cave continues, as it terminates the same as the second and has never been explored any further.

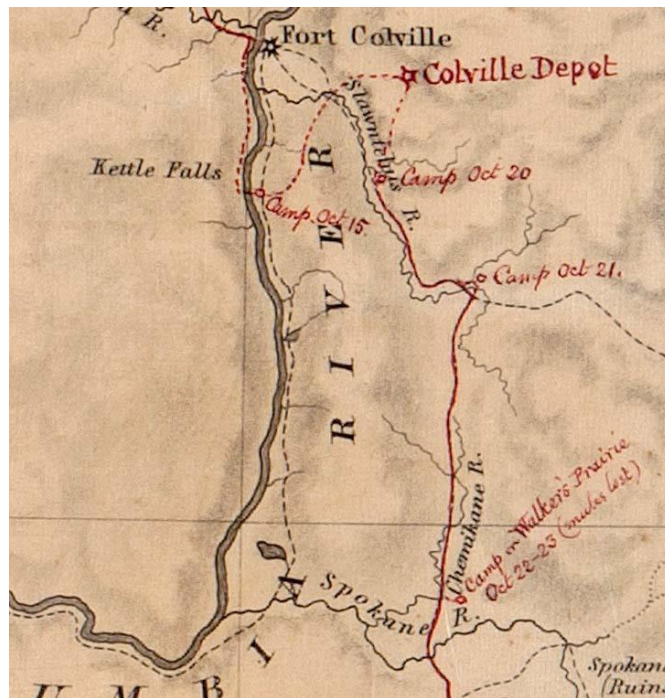
At this point the explorer is over 200 feet from daylight and experiences a slight current of air from the mouth of the cave. We left this cave and went farther up on the bluff and a distance of 100 feet to the east, to the entrance of the second cave, which is entered through a door very similar to the first. The first cavern is quite as large as the one on entering the first cave, with the exception of not being as wide; the floor has a gradual rise as we advance toward the interior, and at a distance of fifty feet from the door the light of the sun peeps through a chimney reaching to the top of the hill about fifty or sixty feet in height.

At a distance of seventy feet the larger room terminates in a round passageway, leading to the left, to a narrow corridor. This corridor extends a distance of twenty-five feet, when the cavern opens beneath our feet and appears to be a fathomless pit.

We did not penetrate any further as Mr. Hayes said he dropped a pick handle down this opening in the floor and he never heard it strike bottom. There is a gallery extending some length to the right again; there may be an extension still farther as this cavern narrows down to a small passage the same as those first explored. The formation in the chimney which goes down is igneous, apparently solid iron. There is a perceptible breeze following up from the depth of the chasm, and it is quite reasonable to believe that the two caves come together in the interior of the mountain.

The location of these caves is mystery at present, but it seems they would be easy enough to find. Since the article was written in 1887 the access mentioned in the location would probably have been off the Fort Colville Road (Fort Walla Walla to Fort Colville Road). At the location 12 miles South of Colville the road followed the Colville River which was

originally the Slawnte Louis River. Going by the location description in the article it would put the caves near the confluence of Stranger Creek and the Colville River just north of Addy.



Portion of the Map of the Oregon and Washington Territory, compiled in the Bureau of Topographical Engineers, chiefly for the military purposes by order of the Secretary of War 1859.

Keystone Mine and Jim Creek

By Jim Retzer

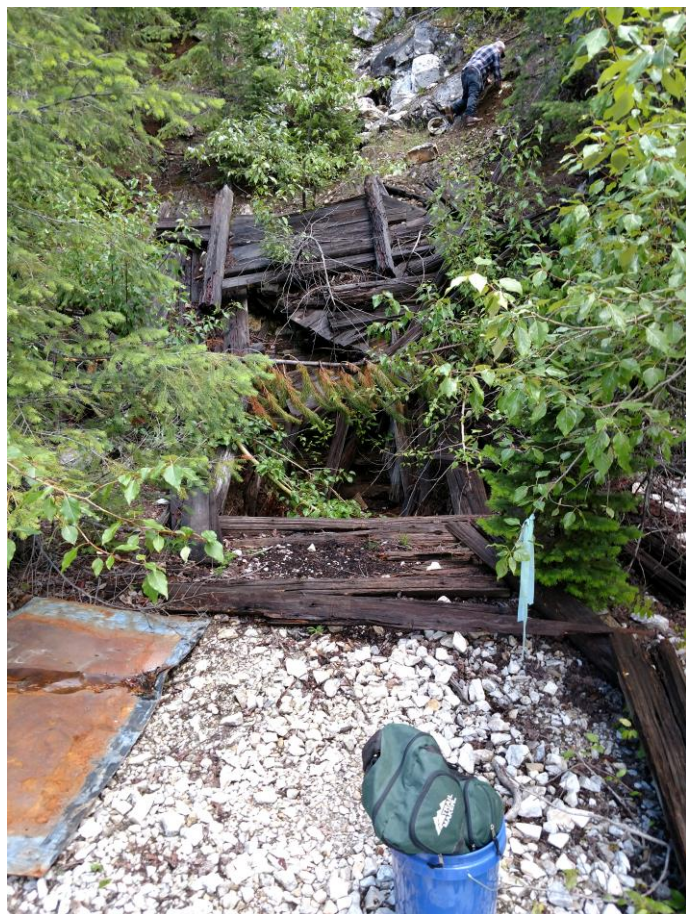
In June two field trips were led by Scott Jackson. The first was to the Keystone Mine, southwest of Chewelah, WA, for the collecting of Pyrite and Serpentine. The second was to Jim Creek, west of Ione, WA, to collect Galena. Both trips were well attended, and many specimens were located by our members.

The Keystone Quarry was first opened in the 1890's as a marble quarry and operated until about 1905. Because of the high magnesia content of the "marble" it was "rediscovered" as a Magnesite deposit in 1916. The Keystone mine made the first magnesite shipments from Stevens County. With the

discovery of the Finch deposit the Keystone mine was put in standby for many years. Production resumed in 1946 after completion of an aerial tramline to the deposit. Total production is estimated to have been around 500,000 tons of crude magnesite. More information can be obtained from Campbell and Loofbourow's "Geology of the Magnesite Belt of Stevens County, Washington, USGS Bulletin 1142-F: 40-41".

The Galena location on Jim Creek has the remains of two adits, one at the north east portion of the area and the other to the southwest, just below the remains of an old structure between the road and the creek.

most recent action on this claim occurred April 25, 2018 as a "Decision/Notice" The claim was abandoned on September 1, 2017. So as of now, according to the latest information I can find, it is an open area not under claim.



Upper adit that has been collapsed and some of the tailings pile.

While there we discovered a claim monument and paperwork. This new claim was located July 2016 as the *Lower JC*, serial number ORMC173286, a 21-acre load claim that encompassed both adits. The



Large Pyrite in bolder found at Keystone Mine.



Lower adit along Jim Creek between the road and the creek.

Meeting Minutes

Continued from Page 1

The President again asked the members to seriously consider Gene's Request that someone take over the Club Rock Shop. Details of the scope of "Club Rock Shop" are forthcoming.

The Vice President also had a request: The lighted magnifying lenses that are used for the Show and Tell tables need a new home – no one as yet has volunteered to do that take them over.

The President thanked our members for presenting the High School awards to the winning students and for having gone to the Keller Heritage Center to work with the Third Graders in the subject of geology.

The President asked for a volunteer to demonstrate Gold Panning for the July 18 Colville's Chamber of Commerce request. It would be for only 3 hours at Heritage Court in Colville. This is for the "Light Up Colville" fund-raiser. No one volunteered for that.

President Rick thanked the several members that had led Club Field Trips in the past 30 days and invited them to tell about their trips. Some members who had gone on their own Rock Hounding trips also gave presentations. Those trips follow:

(1) Joe Barreca had gone to a DNR website to scope out Trilobites and Fossils, but that "Stranger Creek" site proved to be a bust. He discovered that the old maps were outdated.

(2) Bob briefly talked about the Odessa Ring Dike day trip that several of us took, but it was so well described (and with good photos) in the May Panorama Newsletter that he did not need to go into it.

(3) The Retzers and The Danielsons had taken some weeks to go to Oregon to attend the UFO Festival and then rock hounding over in the eastern part of the state. Jim did a great job of describing where they went, what they found, where to get good publications and maps, and had a good slide show also. They were in the Prineville, Bend, and Redmond area.

Meeting Minutes

Continued

He said that the Prineville Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Center is GREAT place to get BLM, USFS, county, or even private print outs. They have a good map for \$3 called "LOCATIONS OF ROCK COLLECTING AREAS IN CENTRAL OREGON" (some other locations charge as much as \$8). It was also mentioned that copies of the maps originally put out by the ELKINS GEM STORE are also available at the Visitor Center. These provide excellent info because they show where drainages and important land features are and that is so helpful for rockhounds. They also went to Glass Buttes to dig obsidian and did find some nice pieces. The four of them also hunted at Lucky Strike and Whistle Springs for thundereggs and had some to show and tell. Jim explained that geodes and thundereggs are two different things: geodes have the hollowed-out area inside, but thunder eggs are solid inside – He also told about the POLKA DOT AGATE and a bit on the Polka Dot Mine. He said that IF you want to boondock that there is a HUGE BLM area just south of Prineville. You can camp for a couple of weeks and easily find lots of interesting rocks there: petrified wood is just laying around even! Lots of it. The Maury Mt. Agate Beds were having a beautiful SPRING WILDFLOWER BLOOM while they were there, and they enjoyed the lovely scenery all around as well.

He also talked about Richardson Ranch with their store and the great sales as well as the thunderegg beds.

(4) Mike Wood gave a short presentation on his McDermitt Trip that occurred in May. Several members went down together and braved the terrible rainy weather. He said the storms were dramatic and made the soil difficult to drive in, but they did do some fine rock hounding! Everyone wanted to know what the pretty green rock was. They thought it was an opal. I looked at it but didn't see any opalization, but it was a lovely rock! They also went to Glass Buttes to collect rainbow and mahogany obsidian where they found and loaded up a 200-pound piece! This ended the night's presentations.

Continued Page 5

Identify the “Rock or Mineral”



Last month's mineral is Pyrite. Pyrite (FeS_2) is a metallic luster, opaque pale brass-yellow mineral with a hardness of 6-6 ½ on the Mohs scale. It is in the Isometric crystal system. Typically, cubic or pyritohedral (pentagonal dodecahedral) with combinations common, resulting in striated faces. Less frequently octahedral, most commonly massive, granular, and sometimes radiating, reniform, discoidal or globular. Pyrite is a very common mineral (also one of the most common natural sulfides, and the most common **disulfide**) found in a wide variety of geological formations from sedimentary deposits to hydrothermal veins and as a constituent of metamorphic rocks. The brassy-yellow metallic color of pyrite has in many cases lead to people mistaking it for Gold, hence the common nickname 'Fool's gold'. Pyrite is quite easy to distinguish from gold: pyrite is much lighter, but harder than gold and cannot be scratched with a fingernail or pocketknife.

This month's rock or mineral:



Meeting Minutes

Continued from Page 4

Rick reminded everyone that AT THE JULY MEETING we will discuss the AUGUST ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC and HAVE THE SIGN-UP SHEET for foods! Also, there might be some bocce ball playing at the picnic (that is a very fun game – perhaps once, long ago the Italians threw “rocks” but these days it's balls of plastic!)

Rick's Ramblings June 2019 A Few Words the Club President

Do you have an article for the Prospector?
Send it to our Newsletter Editor, Jim Retzer!

Field Trips:

- Field Trip with Scot Jackson to Jim Creek: We found Marble with Pyrite and Marble with Galena.

- On Saturday, July 13th - Trilobites with the Hurleys at the Lefarge Quarry near Metaline Falls went well.

- Chana and I took highway 20 from Colville to Anacortes. The travel through the northern Cascades was filled with impressive granitic mountains. Some samples will be under the "Show and Tell" lamps at our next meeting.

- Please consider placing the Club's Shop Equipment at your place. Or should we sell it?

- Please consider holding the Club's “Show and Tell” lamps at your place. Just bring them, or arrange to have them, at each meeting.

- The Stevens County Commissioners are currently considering the lighting of the Courthouse's display case.

- I have discovered some interesting mineral/mine info. Check these out:

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/1004/index.htm>

https://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/1004/ds1004_alldmea.htm

https://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/1004/ds1004_wa.htm

Membership Dues:

\$20.00 per household per year is due to the club Treasurer Frank Stratton on the third Tuesday of November for regular members. Dues can also be sent to: Panorama Gem and Mineral Club c/o Johnie Pitman, 701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 99114.

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

Contact: Rick McDougald, President, pres-pgmc@hotmail.com

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).

If you have any particular interest you would like to see articles on feel free to contact me at jimrocks@recycledhistory.com or let me know at our next meeting on **July 16, 2019**

Refreshment Schedule for 2019

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

January – N, O, P

February – Q, R, S, T

March – W, A, B, C

April – D, E, F, G

May – H, I, J

June – K, L, M

July – N, O, P

August – Club Picnic

September – Q, R, S, T

October – W, A, B, C

November – D, E, F, G

December – Christmas Party

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

Officers

President:	Rick McDougald	pres-pgmc@hotmail.com	509-675-0237
Vice-President:	Bob Bristow	bristow@theofficenet.com	509-935-4375
Secretary:	Sheila Stratton	skstratton11@gmail.com	509-207-8506
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	frstratton@outlook.com	509-207-8503
Trustee 1:	Sherryl Sinn	sherrylsinn@gmail.com	509-684-6093
Trustee 2:	Dennis Gibbens	dddgibbens@yahoo.com	509-684-3532
Trustee 3:	Jim Peters	jimnbetty17@gmail.com	509-937-2238

Committee Chairs

Program Coordinator:			
Hospitality:	Sherryl Sinn	sherrylsinn@gmail.com	509-684-6093
Club Shop:	Gene Fisher	295 Gold Creek Loop Rd, Colville, WA 99114	509-684-8546
Historian:			
Newsletter:	Jim Retzer	jimrocks@recycledhistory.com	509-738-2503
Show Chair	Johnie Pitman	jgpitman@wildblue.net	509-684-8887