

**Place:**  
**Arden Community Hall**  
**636 Hall Rd**  
**Arden, WA**



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

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## **The Panorama Prospector**

August 2019

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### **PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB**

#### **Minutes of the July 16, 2019 Meeting**

*By: Sheila Stratton*

The meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. by President Rick McDougald. People were asked to share what was brought to the “show and tell” table. Johnie Pitman shared beautiful rock scenes he created with slabs put together to look like a mountain range with a moon over them. Gene Fisher shared jade from Kalispell, Montana.

Scot Jackson and Rick McDougald shared about their trip to Jim Creek. They found some galena and marble with galena. Bruce Hurley shared about the trip to the La Farge Mine. It was a beautiful day that was not too hot but had lots of mosquitoes. They got some nice specimens of fossils and trilobites.

Rick welcomed Peter Boyle visiting from Calgary. He stated that he enjoys coming to our meetings.

Bob Bristow would like a volunteer to take over the setting up of the “Show and Tell Table” for the meetings each month. This includes the storing and setting up of the black lights each month. Please contact Bob if you are interested.

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### **Mystery of Stranger Creek Caves Solved**

*Thanks to Anne Ott, the “Mystery Cave” mystery has been solved.*

Great newsletter! I had to laugh at the 1<sup>st</sup> article about the mystery caves. The residence of Mr. Thomas Stranger is our house – LOL! Once I read the article, I knew the general location, even though I’d never heard of the caves. I asked Merrill about them, and wouldn’t you know, he and his family used to go up to the caves to play.

Although the article’s author suggested a location near the confluence of Stranger Creek and the Colville (which is on our property), that’s down in the flat fields, without a rock in sight. It is very close, however, to the rocky outcrop of dolomite where the Stensgar gravesite is located, and from that location you can look across the valley to the NW and see the hill where the caves are located.

The dolomite deposits that NW Alloys Corporation tapped into also outcrop on our property, right next to the gravesite of Thomas Stensgar (also spelled Stranger and/or Stanger, as locals couldn’t pronounce his name after hearing his Scottish accent, which is why you see Stranger Creek, Stensgar dolomite, and Stensgar peak, and the gravestone is spelled Stanger!). This deposit runs to the NW along Marble Valley Road and NW Alloys had a quarry on a road not far past the caves, but they couldn’t get any of the locals to allow them to dig further on the deposits or allow access across their lands. This quarry road isn’t named, as it’s now just a private driveway, but the rock formations are quite visible

from Marble Valley – Basin Road. In fact, Merrill says the lower cave entrance used to be visible from the road, and all the local kids played in them! Farther up the road there are several marble quarries, one of which is still in use (I think this latter one is closer to Naff Road – they sell the white “rock” for driveways and landscaping).

Merrill says there is a lower and upper cave, plus a few holes that they didn’t explore as kids, as their Mom went with them and made sure they didn’t kill themselves. The caves aren’t large, but Merrill said were fun to explore and his family, all amateur rockhounds, enjoyed this little bit of local geology.

Just FYI, the entrances don’t show up on Google Earth, but you can see rock formations in the area. It’s a rocky “finger” protruding out from the hill we call “Old Bill’s Hill” just to the NE, where the Marble Valley fire started a few years ago, quite a narrow parcel of land, but the parcel does include the entire “finger” of land, sort of an interesting place to try to build as it’s steep and rocky.

Merrill’s glad he could solve your club mystery for you!

Anne

## **Lone Star Mine, Huckleberries, and Diopside Crystals**

*By: Jim Peters*

One day in July, Rick McDougald and I ventured to the Lone Star Mine north of Curlew. The water in the pond was still Turquoise in color, and we found some interesting minerals. We didn’t explore all the diggings but wanted to see the city of Paris Mine up the road in Canada. But at the border, the sign said we could be prosecuted if we passed, however we did see a black bear. It was on the Canadian side. He didn’t come over to see us as his passport had probably expired.



Rick pointing to the blue water in pond at Lone Star Mine. The blue color is due to contamination from copper bearing minerals at the mine.

The Lone Star mine produced Copper, Gold, and Silver. It is located approximately 8 miles west of Danville adjacent to the international boundary.

*The following is some information on the Lone Star Mine from the Geology of the Curlew Quadrangle Ferry County GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BULLETIN 1169 Washington 1964 By Raymond L. Parker and James A. Calkins*

The Lone Star mine was first developed in 1897 by the Reservation Mining and Milling Co. By 1910, underground development on the property comprised 2,155 feet of adits, shafts, and winzes.

In 1910, the property came under control of the British Columbia Copper Co. which, during the period 1910-18, further explored the property with 2,220 feet of workings and 3,590 feet of diamond-drill holes. The company also constructed a 28,560-foot cable tram from the mine to the company smelter at Boundary Falls, British Columbia.

When World War I ended, the mine closed, reportedly because of the decline in the price of copper; it has remained closed except for minor rehabilitation and drilling in 1952 by the present owner, the Attwood Copper Mines Ltd., and extensive drilling in 1955-56 by a lessee, the Granore Co.

In more recent times the mine has been operated as an open pit mine with some drilling exploration.

The Azure Resources 1982-1983 Annual Report stated that the property was optioned by Azure Resources LTD in 1981. Since that time, reserves in the open pit have been increased. Drilling located two additional ore bodies, The Northwest Copper-Gold Zone and the Gold Zone.

It is still under the ownership of Azure Resources Vancouver, British Columbia who owns 18% with the remaining ownership percentage controlled by two Washington residents.

On a beautiful day in July, Johnie and Ginger Pitman along with Betty and Jim Peters, went out in search of Huckleberries and Diopside crystals on the south fork of Sherman creek. The score was Huckleberries in the tens of thousands, and Diopside crystals, nil. The Huckleberries were yummy and we all had a good time.



Johnie, Betty and Ginger with their load of Huckleberries.

For those of you unfamiliar with Dopside crystals they often occur in metamorphosed limestones (marbles) as generally pale greenish to greyish green crystals with a glassy to dull luster and a Mohs hardness of 5 ½ to 6 1/2 and have a monoclinic crystal form.

### Lapidary and Jewelry Instruction

Are you interested in learning cabochon cutting or basic silver and jewelry work? I am offering my time to help you out. The instruction is free, and I will supply the cabochon material unless you have something specific you want to cut. If you are interested in jewelry or silver work contact me for information. I like to keep the instruction to no more than 2 people at a time and I am available most any time except Tuesdays and Fridays. You can contact me at **559-738-2593** or by e-mail at **Jimrocks@recycledhistory.com**.

**Annual Bar-B-Que and Potluck Picnic**  
Arden Community Center on August 20th at 6PM

### Rick's Ramblings August 2019 A Few Words From the Club President

Are you ready for our Annual BBQ Picnic? It'll be held at Arden Community Center on August 20th. Right at 6PM, we need to have a discussion and a vote on selling the Club's equipment or not. Then the fun starts and we'll start serving burgers and hotdogs.

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## Meeting Minutes

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Rick asked for assistance in doing a demonstration on gold panning. He will be doing this demo on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in downtown Colville in the courtyard by the Pour House restaurant. Johnie Pitman volunteered to help.

Rick talked to the commissioners regarding the display case at the Court House. They are going to put new lighting in the case. Rick said he discussed this with Becky, who has volunteered to set up the display case with specimens of local rocks and minerals.

A discussion was held regarding the shop equipment at Gene Fisher's property. It was determined that it would be best to just sell the shop equipment. It does not generate enough money to justify keeping it. It was agreed to talk to Brian Martell about helping to put a price of each piece of equipment. A suggestion was made to sell it at the November Auction but was clarified that the auction funds in November go to the scholarship fund. It was then suggested to sell it at the August picnic. Johnie agreed that it was a good idea to sell and keep the money in the general fund. Brian suggested that the equipment be brought to the August meeting. Gene said that he could bring it on a trailer. Brian said he would look at it and would be happy to do the auctioning.

Jim Retzer announced he will be doing cabochon and lapidary instructions. It will be a one to two-hour class. He will be posting this in the newsletter. If interested, please contact Jim Retzer.

Rick gave a reminder for people to sign up to bring a dish for the barbeque being held at the August meeting. Chana McDougald volunteered to buy the meat, which it was decided to have hamburgers and hot dogs. Jim Peters and Maurice McPherson volunteered to bring grills. It was decided to meet at 5:00 p.m. for setting up the picnic.

## Meeting Minutes

*Continued*

Johnie Pitman read a letter about a company that will test your specimen to see if it is a meteorite. The Web page is: [meteoritetesting.org](http://meteoritetesting.org)

Vice President Bob Bristow gave a report about the visit to the Odessa Craters. It was very interesting to see how they were formed. A hand-out about the "Odessa Craters' Theory" was passed out.

Gene Fisher invited anyone interested to attend a ride with the off-road club, TCMRA, on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. They will be meeting north of Chewelah in National Forest campground off Sand Canyon Road. Refreshments were served.

The Silent Auction and door-prize drawing were held.

A Nick Zentner DVD was shown on the "Ellensburg Blue Agates."

Meeting was adjourned.

## Rick's Ramblings August 2019

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### Rock Shop Equipment in 2019

*For photos, visit: <https://panoramagem.com/clubs-equipment-for-sale/>*

*Note: the money that purchased the equipment came from the Club's general fund.*

This is a list of Club equipment that is at Gene Fisher's shop:

- #1. Combination: Lortone 6inch trim saw with two grinding wheels and polishing pad. - 'should go for more than \$100
- #2 Large(heavy) grinding/polishing unit with four, hard, 8" diamond wheels. - 'should go for more than \$175

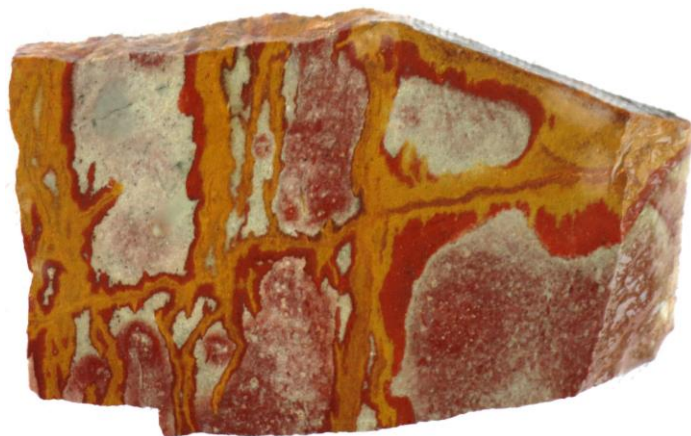
## Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

### Last month’s mineral:



Last month’s mineral is Larsonite, a silicate dioxide mineral in a jasper/agate form. It is a form of petrified swamp/bog material where the organic material of plants, algae, and dead organisms in a bog were petrified. Around 11 to 14 million years ago the bog or swamp was buried by volcanic ash. Under pressure, elements from the volcanic ash infiltrated the swampy material and gave it the colors. The teal to lime green color of the material is caused by a combination of iron, aluminum, potassium, sodium, and calcium. Larsonite is also known as Gary Green Jasper and McDermitt Green Jasper.

### This month’s rock or mineral:



## Rick's Ramblings August 2019

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#3 10" Raytech saw - 'should go for more than \$50, may need some work.

#4 18" Lortone saw with good, sintered diamond blade - 'should go for more than \$300, may need some work.

#5 Elite Air Pump

#6 Rock Rascal for dopping wax

#7 Dopping sticks and organizer

#8 Cabochon Templates

#9 First Aid Kit

We now have a key for the Mineral Sample Case in the Stevens County Courthouse. The reorganization, lighting, and labeling of mineral samples can now commence. We'll collaborate with the Commissioners on our lighting needs.

A huge THANK YOU goes to the volunteers who made the gold panning demonstration a success! On Thursday, July 18th, they skillfully set up in the Heritage Courtyard in Colville. We answered questions, demonstrated gold panning, and had informational displays.

Volunteers were Scot Jackson, Gene Fisher, Jim Peters, Johnie Pitman, and Rick McD.

Some of us went to the top of Calispell Peak with the Tri-County Motorized Recreational Association (TCMRA) on Saturday, July 27th. We met at the Chewelah Creek Campground on Sand Canyon Road. What a view! 'found some graphic granite, too!

## Attention Members!!

Joe Barreca would like your help. He gives out copies of our newsletter at the farmers market along with polished (tumbled) rocks. This is a great way for our club to get public exposure. But he is low on polished rocks, so if you can help him it with some tumbled rocks that would be a great benefit to the club.

## 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 991114.

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

**Contact:** Rick McDougald, President, [pres-pgmc@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jimrocks@recycledhistory.com) or let me know at our next meeting on **Aug 20, 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
Courthouse display case:	Becky Dobbs		
Newsletter:	Jim Retzer	Jimrocks@recycledhistory.com	509-738-2503
Show Chair	Johnie Pitman	jgpitman@wildblue.net	509-684-8887