

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



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

---

## **The Panorama Prospector**

February 2020

---

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

#### **Minutes of the January 21, 2020 Meeting**

*By Club Secretary*

Our meeting opened at 6 pm. Due to heavy snowfall, only 28 members attended including our youngest members Gary & Grace! Two guests, Denise Davis and Jerrine Bruce were welcomed. President Sheila reintroduced member Suzan Andrew & had the secretary read aloud her Thank You card (in response to the Sympathy card our club sent her on the passing of her husband recently). VP Report was short since Bob is giving our Presentation later tonight. Treasurer Report updated our Financials along with the news that our Christmas Party almost “made money” since members bought-back some HAM which reimbursed our club \$50!

It was suggested by Gene F. that the club take photos of Club equipment & the trailer for possible future insurance reasons. Rick McD. said he had the Club Equipment paperwork & will give it to The Club Trustees. In order to produce a new address book for the club, a paper was on the back table for members to make updates for their contact information.

NEW BUSINESS: President Sheila announced a fun new activity, “Share a Rock with a Story” to get members telling about their “favorite rock”. Everyone has either a favorite “find” or “trip” or “reason” they love rocks!

*Continued Page 3*

### **Thumbnail and Micromounts**

*By Jim Retzer*

So, you want to collect mineral and crystal specimens but do not have the room or it gets too costly for some better samples or maybe you want to find them yourself, but it is hard to obtain larger samples? Well you can still collect them in a limited space and at a more reasonable cost if you look into thumbnail or micromount specimens.

But first, why do you want to collect minerals and what direction do you want your collection to take? People collect minerals for a variety of reasons, scientific study, aesthetics, some simply just enjoy getting out and finding them. Whatever the reason you may want to define your collection before you start. Some collect by minerals of a certain region, mineral of a particular type, some even collect minerals by color. No matter why or how you collect, keeping records of your specimens and having some way of labeling them with appropriate information should be considered.

A major consideration in a mineral collection is cost. Some samples can have a significant cost. Along with cost, space is another factor to consider. Do you have room for shelves or cases to display your specimens? How much room will your collection take up; a shelf, a case, a room or possible many rooms? These are some limiting factors to your collection. One way to help mitigate these limitations could be collecting thumbnail or micromount specimens.

Thumbnail specimens are small examples of a mineral that are of the same, if not better, quality of larger specimens. Larger crystals tend to show more

flaws such as cracks and dings. These smaller specimens usually come from small vugs where they were more protected from damage. A thumbnail specimen is one that is small enough to fit in a 1-inch square box.



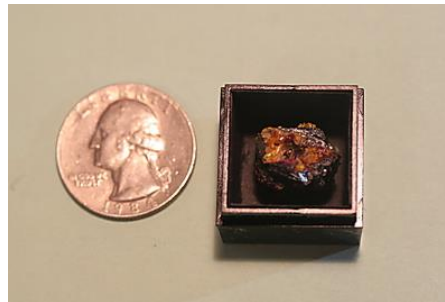
Thumbnail Display Case from Cornerstone Minerals Asheville, NC

If you are only collecting specimens you personally find, it is easier to obtain samples in this size. If you purchase your specimens, thumbnails allow you to obtain quality pieces at a fraction of the cost of larger pieces.

Micromounts are another way to collect quality specimens at a reduce cost and store them in a limited space. 100 micromounts can be stored in a box as small as 8 ½” by 11” by 1”. As with the thumbnail samples, micromounts are perfectly formed and undamaged less often than larger sized specimens and you can purchase prepared micromounts from dealers for far less cost than larger specimens.

A micromount is a specimen that requires the use of magnification to appreciate it. A common hand-lens or a binocular microscope usually with a magnification of 10X to 40X will work. A micromount is permanently mounted in some kind of box and labeled with the name of the mineral and the location from which it came. Proper mounting both preserves delicate crystals and facilitates their handling.

Micromount specimen collecting has a few advantages over collecting larger specimens. Along with the benefit of better quality and lower cost pieces micromounts allow the collector to obtain material from locations that rarely if ever yield specimens with larger crystals. Also, you can obtain crystals of many rare species which are only found in microscopic size.



Micromount

This is just the basic information on these two ways of collecting mineral specimens. If you have further interest in these areas, there are several publications available as well as many web sites filled with more information on these subjects. Enjoy your collecting.

***GEMS FROM SHEILA February 2020***

Message from the Club President  
By Sheila Stratton

Hello to all the “winter weary”, “cabin fever” fellow rockhounds! This is a time of the year to plan our fun spring, summer, and fall activities. Also, it is a good time to plan your Display case for the upcoming “What on Earth Rock Show”. I would like to encourage you to do a case. If you have not already, let Johnie or Rick know that you will be decorating a case for the show. When I first started coming to the club, it was intimidating to do a case being amongst so many very knowledgeable people. I felt I was such an amateur that no one would be interested in my case, but that was not true. There are adults and children that come to the show who enjoy seeing all kinds of cases.

*Continued Page 3*

## **GEMS FROM SHEILA February 2020**

*Continued from Page 2*

Sometimes, just sharing samples of your collection and where you found them is interesting to a lot of people, so just jump in and do it!!

I want to thank Bob Bristow for his program on volcanoes at the January meeting. This was not just pictures that he picked up online, but pictures where he actually flew over volcanoes and was actually there after an eruption. These are pictures of places I probably never will be able to visit (especially over the top of an active volcano) but loved seeing his pictures and stories of his adventures!

The program presenter at the February meeting will be Dave Paquette. As we saw from his last program on his finds of smoky quartz, he can find beautiful rocks probably almost anywhere—just kidding, but almost true! So please come to hear what Dave has for us this month.

Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

### ***A Few Words from Our Show Chairman***

*By Johnie Pitman*

The show planning is going well, members are very willing to help wherever they are needed. We are still looking for an organization to provide the food on Friday and Saturday. It looks like we now have a good selection of rocks and minerals for the silent auction, thanks to Suzan Andrew and Bruce Hurley. We now have more than 800 grab bags filled and ready to go.

Looking forward to everyone help to set up the show on March 12th at 8 AM, see you there!!!  
Suzan Andrew has donated Gene's trailer full of equipment and rocks to the club to use in whatever way the club needs, either scholarship fund or general fund or some for both. We'll need to decide at the next meeting, so that we know how to use some of them at the show. Gene will bring the trailer to the Feb. meeting for everyone view.

Thanks so very, very much Suzan, it is a very generous donation!!

Johnie

*Continued from Page 1*

(Tonight, she showed us how it's done and told about her 1983 Lake Powell vacation and rock. It was a lovely piece of petrified wood.) Please sign up/or contact her to tell about YOUR rock.

Betty/Hospitality announced a THEME DINNER idea for future meetings. It was quickly decided that TACO TUESDAY would be our first theme for February. YOU CAN STILL BRING ANY SNACK if it's your "Alphabet Turn" also.

It was again discussed that Club has NO TRIP COMMITTEE and so please, Members, think of interesting Rock Hounding Activities and help to coordinate those with Sheila for 2020.

ROCK SHOW: Johnie passed out "Show Planning 2020" form for all the duties needed for putting on the show. After discussion amongst the club, most positions were filled. If you were unable to attend the meeting, please contact Johnie for where you would like to work. We were reminded to show up March 12th at 8 AM for setup and our Show is the 13th & 14th of March (so February is the only meeting left before our show). Johnie will CONTINUE ROCK SHOW SIGN UPS & INFO AT FEBRUARY MEETING!

Refreshments were served; Jim P. won the door prize; and Silent Auction was held.

Bob, our V.P., gave a fascinating presentation on VOLCANOS in Washington and Hawaii. He discussed different types of volcanoes & different kinds of FLOWS. The best part was seeing photos of him & Luci from many years ago and hearing about their various volcano adventures! Thank you Bob!

**WE NEED ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND, IF POSSIBLE, FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING AS WE HAVE IMPORTANT ROCK SHOW DATA TO STILL DISCUSS AND SIGN UP FOR WORK.**

- Remember: "A Rock a Day keeps the Rockhound at play! "

Remember to Set Aside March 12, 13,  
and 14 for Our Gem and Mineral Show

**What on Earth**  
**Gem and Mineral Show**  
Free  
20th Annual  
March 13th and 14th  
Colville Ag and Trade Center  
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM Friday March 13th  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday March 14th  
Colville Fair Grounds 317 West Astor, Colville, WA  
Wheel of Fortune Jewelry Fossils Food  
Gold Panning Gems and Minerals from Around the World Silent Auction Door Prizes  
Black Tuna Tunnah  
Ag Trade Center Colville  
(509) 684-8887

**Upcoming Events in Our Area**

2/28/2020 3/1/2020  
**Oregon Agate and Mineral Society Show**  
Oregon Museum of Science and Industry  
1945 SE Water Ave  
Portland, OR

2/29/2020 3/1/2020  
**North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club**  
Crown Hill Center  
9250 14<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Seattle, WA

3/6/2020 3/8/2020  
**Tualatin Valley Gem Club Show**  
Forest Grove National Guard Armory  
Forest Grove, OR

3/7/2020 3/8/2020  
**Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society**  
O'Connor Fieldhouse  
2200 Blaine  
Caldwell, ID

3/7/2020 3/8/2020  
**East King Co Rock & Gem Show**  
Pickering Barn  
1730 10<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Issaquah, WA

3/7/2020 3/8/2020  
**Magic Valley Gem and Mineral Show**  
Twin Falls County Fairground  
215 Fair Avenue  
Filer, ID

3/13/2020 3/14/2020  
**Rock My World Gem & Mineral Show**  
Stevens County Fairgrounds  
317 W Astor Ave  
Colville, WA

3/21/2020 3/22/2020  
**Hellgate Mineral Society**  
Hilton Garden Inn  
3720 North Reserve St  
Missoula, Mt

3/27/2020 3/29/2020  
**Rock Rollers of Spokane Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show**  
Spokane Fairgrounds  
404 N Havana St  
Spokane WA

3/28/2020 3/29/2020  
**Mt Baker Rock and Gem Show**  
Bloedel Donovan Field House  
2214 Electric Avenue  
Bellingham, WA

4/4/2020 4/5/2020  
**Maplewood Rock and Gem Club**  
Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse  
8802 196<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Edmonds, WA

4/18/2020 4/19/2020  
**Lakeside Gem and Mineral Show**  
Benton County Fairgrounds  
1500 South Oak Street  
Kennewick, WA

4/24/2020 4/26/2020

**Yakima Rock & Mineral Club Gem & Mineral Show**

Central Washington State Fair Grounds  
1301 S. Fair Avenue  
Yakima, WA

4-24-2020 4/26/2020

**West Seattle Rock Club Annual Gem Show**

Alki Masonic Temple  
4736 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA

4/25/2020 4/26/2020

**Grays Harbor Annual Rock and Gem Show**

Grays Harbor County Fair and Event Center  
43 Elma-McCleary Road  
Elma, WA

5/02/2020 5/3/2020

**Everett Rock & Gem Club Annual Show**

Everett Community College  
Walt Price Student Fitness Center  
2206 Tower Street  
Everett, WA

**Identify the “Rock or Mineral”**

**Last month’s rock or mineral:**



**Ulexite** – Often seen as “TV Stone” Usually seen as a white rounded crystalline mass of parallel fibers. These natural fibers conduct light along their long axes like a fiberoptic cable. When a piece is cut perpendicular to the fibers and the faces are polished

it will display on one face whatever is under the other face.

Ulexite was the first commercial ore for borax and other borate products. Found in Teals Marsh in Nevada and later in Death Valley, CA in the form of “cotton balls, it was skimmed from the surface. Ulexite and Colemanite were the main ores for borates until the discovery of crystallized borax at Boron, CA.

Ulexite is a borate mineral containing boron and oxygen ( $\text{NaCaB}_5\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). It commonly forms in small rounded masses resembling cotton balls. Crystals are rare but the acicular form of Ulexite is very attractive. The thin radiating needles of Ulexite are very delicate and great care must be taken to protect them from damage.



The mineral is transparent and colorless to white and grey with included clays. It is 2 1/2 on the Mohs hardness scale and is brittle.

**This month’s rock or mineral:**



## 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 McD. [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 **Feb 18, 2020**

## Refreshment Schedule for 2020

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:      | Sheila Stratton | skstratton@hotmail.com   | 509-207-8506 |
| Vice-President: | Bob Bristow     | Bristow@theofficenet.com | 509-935-4375 |
| Secretary:      | Chana McD.      | Red.begonia@hotmail.com  | 509-675-0237 |
| Treasurer:      | Frank Stratton  | frstratton@outlook.com   | 509-207-8503 |
| Trustee 1:      | Jim Peters      | jimNbetty17@gmail.com    | 509-999-9074 |
| Trustee 2:      | Gene Fisher     | Efisher1@hughes.net      | 509-680-2487 |
| Trustee 3:      | Mark Danielson  | mickeesmom.dd@gmail.com  | 509-207-0447 |

### Committee Chairs

|                      |                 |                              |              |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Program Coordinator: | Sheila Stratton | skstratton@hotmail.com       | 509-207-8506 |
| Hospitality:         | Betty Peters    | jimNbetty17@gmail.com        | 509-999-9074 |
| Printer:             | Joe Barreca     | joe.barreca@gmail.com        | 509-738-6155 |
| Newsletter:          | Jim Retzer      | jimrocks@recycledhistory.com | 509-738-2503 |
| Show Chair           | Johnie Pitman   | jpgpitman@outlook.com        | 509-684-8887 |