

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

March 2020

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes of the February 18, 2020 Meeting

By Club Secretary

Our meeting opened at 6pm with a large membership group present. This was the final meeting before our March Rock Show. Our president, Sheila, introduced The Statesman Examiner Reporter to The Club (RaeLynn Ricarte) who is going to write a nice article about our club & Rock Show in the Colville paper. Sheila explained that this reporter will be interviewing anyone, in the club tonight, that wishes to express their feelings about our club & also take a photo at the meeting during break.

Sheila had coupons for members that want to buy a Rock & Gem Magazine subscription. She told us that next month's meeting will feature Ann Ott telling us about "The Health of our Forest". She showed the us the 4 USFS MAPS that are required for Colville Forest travelers. Get them at the Three Rivers Ranger Station in Kettle Falls, WA. Members were reminded that if they want to share a "My Favorite Rock Story" to sign up for a month. She also reminded us that tonight was "TACO TUESDAY" and we would break early to enjoy hot plates and tacos.

Continued Page 3

Rock Show and Rockhounding in Deming NM

By Jim Retzer

It was time to move on. The Quartzsite AZ rock and mineral shows are over. The large tents around Tucson were coming down, marking the end of their shows and the weather was clearing and getting warmer to the east. The next show to visit is the Deming RockHound RoundUp March 12th thru the 15th. Not only is there a great rock show here but it is a great area for many ways to collect a variety of rocks and minerals.

Just 11 miles southeast of Deming, in the Florida Mountains, is Rock Hound State Park. As the name implies, this is an area to find some nice specimens, but don't get overconfident that there will be easy finds. This area has been walked over by 1,000's of rockhounds before you, but for the diligent searcher willing to put forth the effort, there are still great finds to be made.

The main mineral collected is jasper that occurs in red, white, pink and sometimes a whitish banded agate form. Geodes and thunder eggs have been found here but the locations have been excavated down several feet. The easiest material to located is perlite, a form of obsidian that sometimes yield "Apache Tears". Looking in the drainages on the mountain slopes can yield the observant collector many perlite specimens. Generally, prospectors should come equipped with a large hammer, several chisels, and a spade. Be prepared to spend several hours on the hillside.

When we are in the area, we stay at the Hidden Valley Ranch RV Park, north of Deming off HWY 180. This is a great park but the 5-mile dirt and gravel road is a little bumpy with the 5th wheel but it is a normal New Mexican dirt road. When you pull into your space you notice the sites are marked out with large rock of agate, jasper, petrified wood, and several other rocks from the area.

You do not have to go far from the park to collect some great material. The hill behind the park has a trail going to the top with some benches to sit on and look at the area scenery. On this hill and over the top of it you can find pudding stone, common opal in yellow, orange and sometimes pink, as well as different color jaspers, and some agate.



Rocks with Petroglyphs

During the Deming rock show, the club offers collecting trips to some great local areas. One of the trips this year is to Fluorite Ridge to collect fluorite, jasper, and rhyolite. Fluorite Ridge is an area northeast of Deming that is best known for its fluorite mines. If the weather stays as forecast, the rain is forecast to stop by then. I hope to go this trip.

So, for now stay warm and I will be looking forward to seeing you in April.



Parked at Hidden Valley Ranch - Collecting Hill in Background



Results of Collecting in Deming NM



View from Top of the Collecting Hill

Another must see are the petroglyphs to the southwest of the park in some large rocks on a low hill. To the south and east of these rocks you can also find pudding stone, jasper, and some agate.

GEMS FROM SHEILA March 2020

Message from the Club President
By Sheila Stratton

March is a good month – March 8th starts daylight saving time; March 13th & 14th is our “What on Earth” gem and mineral show; and March 19th is the first day of spring.

Continued Page 3

Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

Last month’s rock or mineral:

“Apache Tears” – Obsidian



Polished Apache Tears



Unpolished Apache Tears

“Apache Tears” - The name comes from an Apache legend where a group of Apaches and the US Cavalry fought on a mountain in the 1870s. It is said that rather than face defeat under the gunfire of the Cavalry they jumped from the edge of a cliff. When the wives and families of the warriors grieved the

loss of their dead at the foot of the cliff the Great Father turned their tears into the black stones.

“Apache Tears” are small nodules of obsidian found primarily in New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada mostly in the areas where the Apache Indians resided. While Apache Tears are obsidian not all obsidian is considered to be apache tears. Apache tears are formed when molten lava is ejected into the air where it cools and solidifies quickly before hitting the ground. It is usually found eroded from a gray-white matrix of perlite.

Apache Tears are smooth, black and opaque when found but reveals a red, brown or smoky black translucency when held to light. As with most obsidians Apache Tears have an average Moh’s hardness around 5 and 5.5.

Before polishing, they will have an uneven coating of perlite clinging to it. After tumbling and polishing it will reveal a shiny translucent glass pebble that will range from smoky to black in color.

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 McDougald

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 **March 17, 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
Historian:			
Newsletter:	Jim Retzer	jimrocks@recycledhistory.com	509-738-2503
Show Chair	Johnie Pitman	jpgpitman@outlook.com	509-684-8887