

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



Club Meetings:

Temporarily Suspended
Due To COVID-19

The Panorama Prospector

July 2020

Passing of Sherry Bamberger

By Johnie Pitman



Sherry Bamberger and two good buddies
From March 2015 newsletter

Sherry Bamberger passed away on June 22nd. She has been a member of the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club for many years. She has not been able to attend meetings for the last few years but has kept in contact with many of us and always willing to make us a good deal on any rocks that we were interested in getting from her. Sherry supported the scholarship fund with many donations through the years because she wanted to help young people get an education. She was incredibly good at identifying agates and jaspers.

Sherry made a thriving business from her hobby with a lot of work. She had a wonderful success story and now she is gone. Friends are keeping up her Facebook group.

She was always a fun person to go rock hounding with. The club lost a knowledgeable and enthusiastic rockhound. Her family and friends lost a dear lady. Our best wishes to her family.

What to Do with Your Trim Saw Scraps

By Jim Retzer

What do you do with all those small pieces that are cut off on your trim saw? If they are big enough, you can use them to make another cabochon or put them in your tumbler. But what about the slivers and odd shaped pieces that are too small? Do not throw them away, they are still usable. I put mine in a container and save them to use for later project. Some of these scraps can be used for inlay and mosaic projects. Some can be crushed – the powder used with epoxy for inlay, and some can be used to form a laminated stone.



A Variety of Scraps from Trim Saw

To make a laminated stone, I spread the scraps out on my bench. Look through the scraps to find ones that together will make an interesting stone. It is a good idea to select stones that are similar in Mohs hardness. If you use a mixture of soft and hard stones, it will make the cabochon forming process more difficult. The pieces you use should be trimmed or ground down to uniform shape. Once I decide on the pieces I am going to use and the pattern I will make, I grind facing sides that will be next to the other pieces smooth. This is can be done on a flat wheel on the end of your cabbing machine or on the side of a silicon carbide wheel. If you use a silicon carbide wheel, be careful of heat buildup if you do not wet the side of the wheel. Make sure the sides of adjacent pieces are smooth and when put next to each other do not have any gaps.



Epoxied Scraps

Once the epoxy has properly cured you can mark the stone and cut it into a cabochon. When working with this stone, use a light touch and take your time. Rushing the cabochon cutting process can result in sections of the stone breaking off. Once the top of the cabochon is finished, you can flatten and smooth the back of the stone on the flat disk on the end of your cabbing machine or on the side of a silicon carbide wheel. Again, be careful of heat buildup on the silicon carbide wheel.



Epoxying Scraps

After I have my stones ready, I mix some Epoxy 330. This is a two-part epoxy that, when it dries, forms a water-clear bond. The epoxy is spread liberally on the sides of the stones that are to be glued together. Do not worry about applying too much epoxy as the excess will grind off when the stone is formed. A small, light clamp can be used to hold the pieces together until they dry. Once epoxied, set the stone aside until the next day to allow the epoxy to cure completely.



Finished Cabochon

When the stone is used in a jewelry piece, it is a good idea to set it in a strong bezel setting to best protect the stone.



Laminated Stone in Pendant

This is the most basic of laminated stones. As you refine this technique you can advance to more complex designs utilizing multiple laminated pieces to form a variety of designs such as chevron shields, herringbone, or whatever your imagination can come up with. Any of our club members that have questions or want help in this technique feel free to contact me at Jimrocks@recycledhistory.com.

Clubs New Facebook Page

By Frank Stratton

The club now has a Facebook Page thanks to Frank Stratton.

I would like to let ALL the members of PGMCM know that today I started a Facebook Group for Panorama Gem & Mineral Club. If you have a Facebook page, I would encourage you to join the group, so that we can share information especially during these times we are not meeting. The Web address below will take you to the Facebook page for the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2653467288226755/?ref=share>

Hopefully, this will benefit ALL the members & the club in some way positive. Items currently for sale by minimum bids have been posted there. I am still in the process of establishing rules for discussion,

photos, posts, field trips, and etc. at this time & welcome any help from you. If you have questions, please ask because I want this to be beneficial to ALL taking advantage of this.

Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

Last month’s rock or mineral:



Psilomelane:

Psilomelane is not a distinct mineral but describes barium manganese hydroxides such as Romanechite and Hollandite that are sometimes mixed together. It does not form in visible crystals but forms in a botryoidal mass with a somewhat metallic luster. It is an ore of manganese.

Psilomelane is sometimes called “Black Malachite” because of its silver and black banding that is similar to the dark and light green banding of malachite.

It has a submetallic luster with a dark gray to black color and a Mohs hardness of 5 to 6. When cut and polished, higher quality pieces will have a black and gray metallic banding, swirls, or circles.

This month’s rock or mineral:



Hint: Found at Soda Dry Lake California

Since we have not had a meeting for several months, I would like members to submit articles of interest or information they wish to pass on to the club in general.

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).

A Quick Note from The Editor

The restrictions put in place because of the Corona Virus have interrupted and changed many of the plans of the club and its members.

This has resulted in the cancellation of the club's meetings and activities until further notice. In this light we hope to keep all members informed of future meeting and events status through this newsletter as well as e-mails.

It is hoped we can resume a somewhat normal schedule of events soon, but until then stay healthy and safe.

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	jgpitman@outlook.com	509-684-8887