

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



Club Meetings:
Third Tuesday of The
Month at 6:00PM

The Panorama Prospector

July 2021

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

June 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

By Sheila Stratton

The meeting was opened with a welcome to all. New attendees David Milton, Vicky Blake, Gimmie Morgan, and Renai Strolm were introduced and welcomed.

The meeting this month was started with a presentation given by Bob Bristow on his and Linda's trip to Arizona in April 2021. He shared about visiting his cousin, Denys Overholser. He was a top government engineer who helped develop equations for surfaces that radar could not detect ... Nighthawks.

Bob shared his visit to Death Valley, Lake Havasu (London Bridge), and Mono Lake which has the Tufa Towers, which are hot springs coming up to the cold lake and forming pillars. They visited Burro Creek Agate Field, which had agates just lying around everywhere. They continued traveling in Arizona to Camp Verde, Sedona, Parker, and the Grand Canyon. They went on roads that would seem too narrow and rocky for most, but not to Bob. They found agates, hematite crystals, chrysocolla, and many other minerals. Bob brought rocks from his trip to share at the back table.

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A Trip to The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies – Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Gem and Mineral Show.

By Betty Petters

Several members of the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club headed to Big Piney, Wyoming for the AMFMS and RMFMS Conventions and Gem and Mineral Show. It was agreed to meet at the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho rest stop at 9:00am on June 15th, 2021.

The group consisted of Johnie and Ginger Pitman in their Class C motorhome, Gene Fisher in his Class C, Jerry Novack with his trailer, Audrey Richard in her Subaru Outback, and Jim and Betty Petters with their trailer. The plan was to head to Big Piney, Wyoming which is 672.1 miles from Spokane, Washington via I-90 for a travel time of 10 hours and 7 minutes. Although, for our members not living in Spokane, there were more miles added.

Once we had all arrived at the rest stop, with Johnie and Ginger in the lead, we pulled out and headed east. Our first night out would be at Crystal Park.

As we were getting close to Crystal Park, it was decided that Ginger and Audrey would go ahead of the rest of us in Audrey's car to scope out camp spots then report back to us on a good place to camp for the night. After driving for some time, and no cell service, we decided to pull off to the side of the road. We were wondering where the girls were. Should we keep going? We decided to keep going. When we reached Little Joe campground, we pulled in and still

had not seen the girls but decided we would set up camp even though it meant dry camping. Eventually, Ginger and Audrey arrived at the Little Joe campground and reported that closer to Crystal Park there was a larger campground with water and electricity, but it was unanimous that we would spend the next two nights at Little Joe.

Being a small campground with only four spots and two being occupied, Jerry parked in one small spot and the rest of us squeezed into the larger camp spot. Audrey being the pioneer that she is, slept and ate in her car while the rest of us had our RV's. The nights were COLD. 'good thing that she had every imaginable type of camping gear there is! Once, she woke Gene up early in the morning by accidentally setting off her car alarm when she started her car.

The next day we drove to Crystal Park where everyone but Betty found something to show and tell.

When we arrived back at Little Joe campground, we noticed that our neighbor had left, so Gene moved his rig over to that camp spot. Jerry needed to make a phone call, and due to poor cell phone coverage he had to drive over 100 miles to make his call!

Audrey had gone on her own little adventure earlier in the day where she met a woman who had found some nice pieces. Later that afternoon Johnie, Ginger, Audrey, and I got in our Suburban. With Jim driving, went to where Audrey had met her to see if any of us could find anything. We did not have much luck, so we returned to camp.

Johnie and Ginger had a new mesh tent which we set up over the picnic table so we could play cards and visit without being eaten alive by the mosquitoes. Audrey had repellent spray which she shared with everyone.

Thursday morning, June 17th, we all packed up and pulled out of the campground heading for Big Piney, all in need of a shower after two days of sweating and bug spray.

We came to construction work at the Gem State dam in Idaho, Johnie and Ginger got through, but the rest of us were stopped by the flagger and had to wait for the pilot car.

The Gem State Dam is a concrete and rock-fill gravity dam on the Snake River outside of Idaho Falls.

We arrived at the fairground in Sublette County, Big Piney, Wyoming about 4:30pm. It is at an elevation of 6870 feet and very hot.

Audrey was supposed to go on ahead of the rest of us from Little Joe to scope out the camp spot we had reserved and check on a spot for Jerry as he did not have a reserved spot. When we arrived, Audrey was not there. Later she called to say that she had taken a wrong turn, it was after 6:30pm when she arrived at the camp spot. There were plenty of spots for Jerry to choose from, so he was able to settle into a spot. Audrey decided to drive into town to see if there was a motel room, she did get the last available room. Glynis Hull and Cyndie Doppler had arrived at the park just before we did.

The building where the show was held was huge, and there was also a place for their rodeos in the back. It also had lots of covered picnic tables along with several buildings and beautiful showers!!!!

We learned that the field trip to the Blue Forest would not be until Monday, June 21, as they did not want to interfere with the show. We agreed to go ourselves on Friday June 18th, leaving at 7:30am with Jim showing the others where they could go dig in the Blue Forest. So, Johnie and Jerry went in Jerry's truck, Glynis and Cyndie in their truck, Jim, and I in the Suburban, and Ginger and Audrey in her car. Gene opted to hold the fort down.

After driving for two hours and almost to the dig site, we stopped so Ginger and Audrey could catch up to us. Considering how bad the dust was from driving, everyone had to leave space to be able to see. When Ginger and Audrey caught up to us Audrey was not feeling well and was not going to join the rest of us in digging, so I volunteered to drive her back to our camp spot.

Next thing we know, with Jim in the lead, Jerry and Johnie second, and Glynis and Cyndie bringing up the rear, we proceeded to drive off - leaving Ginger behind. She was holding her backpack containing lunch and water for Johnie and herself. Ginger and I began yelling and waving our arms and hoped

that someone would see us and stop, but everyone was on a mission looking forward, not behind.

Audrey had her phone, and thankfully we had cell service. I called Jim's phone which he did not answer, so I called mine as it was in the Suburban and he answered. I told him someone needed to return to get Ginger as she wanted to dig, which as a thing as there was only room for two people in Audrey's car with all her camping gear.

Later everyone returned to camp with nothing to show for their time in the heat. They showered and we sat around and visited.

Saturday, June 19th, some of us had breakfast at one of the three vendors outside the show selling different food items. When the show opened at 9:00am, we entered, paid for our admittance, and were given a ticket to vote on the best display case. There were 16 of them. On entry they asked us if we would put a stick pin on the map of the United States to show the area we were from. It was cool to see 7 pins all placed in the Colville area and close by.

We were impressed with their fluorescent room, they had taken a pop-up tent, covered it in black, and made a door in a frame so several people could enter at the same time. The lighting system they had set up was unique. It gave us ideas for our fluorescent "room". Ginger has some great ideas for setting ours up in the future.

Later that day Jim, Gene, and I drove into the Big Piney, population 527, to wash our Suburban and find some place to get something cool to eat or drink. We found their grocery stop and picked up lemonade and ice cream bars.

Ginger, Johnnie, Gene, Jerry, Jim, and I went to hear about the people that traveled the Oregon Trail which ran through where the fairgrounds now sit. It was a very interesting presentation hearing how people traveled across the country with their livestock and wagons.

Audrey had left earlier to begin her travel home as she wanted to stop in Jackson and Yellowstone.

Our last night there Johnnie and Ginger had their famous apple cider to share with the rest of us.

Sunday, Gene was the first to pull out heading for home. Then Jim and I were next. Johnnie and Ginger were going to head for Idaho and her sister's place. Jerry had planned to stay and was already gone to do some rockhounding.

Jim and I had planned on spending a night in Yellowstone, but that was a bad idea as there were people all over, parking lots were filled with cars, and it rained, so we decided to drive through and try to get as many miles as possible behind us so that Monday we would not have so far to drive to get home.

We arrived at Indian Creek campground about 5ish, found a camp spot and texted Audrey to see how she was doing. She actually was behind us, so she stopped for bit to show us some of the pictures she had taken in Jackson and Yellowstone. After leaving us, Audrey went to a friend's house where she planned to stay a couple nights before heading home. Jim and I arrived home about 12:30 Monday afternoon.

Our Trip to New Mexico

By Johnnie Pitman

On our trip south in March, Ginger and I went through the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona again. It is still a must-see for any rockhound. There is a place near the south entrance where you can purchase the very colorful "rainbow" petrified wood from a ranch \$45 for a 5-gallon bucket full. But before we got that far we had spent 9 days with my sister in Northwest New Mexico near Bloomfield. Since everything was still shutdown because of the virus, we decided to do some walking a couple of miles south of her place to look for some petrified wood that she knew about. We found two different logs that are about 15 feet long and lots of smaller pieces. They are weathering out of a layer of sandstone. The wood is not agatized at all but is more grainy, I think it's called silicified or silicate, and is mostly various shades of brown. You can still identify the growth rings, knots, and bark, so it still has some character.



Johnie and Ginger with Petrified Wood In NM

There is also a wilderness area about 35 miles south of her place that we visited one day. It is the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness and is an area that some would call desolate because of the lack of vegetation and is dry.



Entrance to the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area

The following is information put out by the U.S. Department of the Interior BLM office in Farmington N. M.: Between 30 and 50 million years ago, the Rocky Mountains rose to the north and east, and other mountains to the west. As the rain washed down from the mountains, it wore away at the

sandstone cutting through to the softer layers beneath. In some places, pieces of sandstone remained, protecting the layers below from rain and water, and forming column-like “hoodoos.” These hoodoos also look like mushrooms, arches, and even “cracked eggs.” Dinosaurs roamed the area too, including a Tyrannosaurus-like creature nick-named the “Bisti Beast.”

We parked at a walk-in area (a place where you can zig zag through the fence) on the south side of the wilderness and went about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to where the petrified logs are located that we took pictures of. There is a location in the wilderness that is called the log jam because of the petrified logs laying across each other. We didn’t find the log jam and the rangers in the BLM office didn’t know how to get there either, it’s a very remote area. (below)



Petrified Logs in Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area

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Sharon gave a short talk on her “Rock with a Story.” Sharon went to Idaho with her daughter’s biology class to a small town named Clarkia. They were looking for fossils in a private quarry. There were petrified maple trees but with the original carbon they have to slowly dry, or they break apart. The professor found a way to harden with hydrocarbon acid.

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Sharon picked up a rock and put it in her pocket. She still has that rock, and it reminds her of that trip with her daughter.

At this time, a break was taken for refreshments, silent auction, and drawing of numbers for a prize of a beautiful rock with pyrite crystals. It was won by Maurice McPherson.

The meeting then commenced with a report from Treasurer Frank Stratton. Joe Barranca shared one of his new books, "Kettle Country Treasure Maps."

Sheila Stratton shared the plans for the August picnic and auction. It has been decided that the auction normally held in November will be held in August due to not knowing where the state will be as far as being open. Also, it will be easier with the warmer weather.

It has been decided to handle the picnic and auction as follows:

- a. Johnie will arrange for an auctioneer and spotter.
- b. It was decided that Johnie and Greg have so much donated material that it will not be necessary to have people bring donations.
- c. The picnic will be held outdoors so bring your own chair. The auction will be set up inside the building with the hall's chairs.
- d. Food: Betty and Sheila will purchase fried chicken for the main dish. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Water will be provided. If you want soda or something else, please bring your own drink.
- e. Please arrive early so we can eat promptly at 6:00 in order to get the auction started at an early time.

The meeting was dismissed at 8:30 p.m.

Identify the "Rock or Mineral"

Last month's rock or mineral:



Epidote: a silicate mineral commonly found in regionally metamorphosed rocks of low-to-moderate grade - often associated with feldspars, quartz, amphiboles, and chlorite. It is frequently found in veins that cut granite. Occurring as monoclinic crystals in pegmatites, it is also found in massive form and as monoclinic crystals in marbles and schists that were formed or altered through contact metamorphism.

Epidote has a chemical composition of $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Al}_2, \text{Fe})(\text{SiO}_4)(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)\text{O}(\text{OH})$ and is yellowish-green to green and sometimes brownish green to black. It produces a colorless streak and has a Mohs hardness of 6. It has a Monoclinic crystal structure but is mostly seen in massive form as seen in epidosite and unakite.

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
rick-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 Covid Virus have interrupted and changed many of the club and members plans.

This has resulted in the modification of our club meetings and club activities until further notice.

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

Refreshment Schedule for 2021

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	bristow71@outlook.com	509-935-4375
Secretary:	Audrey Rickard		
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	frstratton@outlook.com	509-207-8503
Trustee 1:	Jim Peters	jimNbetty17@gmail.com	509-999-9074
Trustee 2:			
Trustee 3:	Greg Cozza	troller@hotmail.com	509-710-0375

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