

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

August 2022

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes of the July 17, 2022 Meeting

President: Sheila Stratton opened the meeting at 6:04 pm, welcoming everyone including new members. There were 26 adults and 2 children in attendance. She said thank you to those who submitted articles for the newsletter and encouraged more members to submit stories, especially of personal experiences.

Vice President: Bob Bristow read a thank you note from one of the scholarship awardees.

Treasurer: Frank Stratton presented the financial report for July 2022. Club funds are stable, new hats are available now.

Johnie asked if the club wanted a display at the county fair again this year, August 22-25. It was decided that the club would have a display case and people should bring display items to the meeting in August. Put name and description on the item.

The Marcus Ciderfest will be held again this year, October 1st. Several members are participating, and others are encouraged to do so. Johnie has the contract you can copy if you plan on being there.

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Fossils at Fossil (Oregon)

By Sharon Borgford

Several areas in east central Oregon contain a large number of scientifically significant fossils. They are protected within what is called John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Information about this monument can be found at the national park website: <https://www.nps.gov/joda/index.htm>.

The one place where it is legal to collect fossils from this general formation is in the town of Fossil, Oregon. For several decades they have allowed fossil enthusiasts the chance to find their own at an exposure located adjacent to the Wheeler High School ball field. I had heard of this site for many years, and in June I was able to travel there with family members. We only had a brief time to spend, so we were not sure what was quickly available. We did find parts of leaves and seeds. There is a newer portion of this site located slightly up the hill from the original spot, but we did not go there. It requires some hand tools to dig fresh rocks from small pits. A small digging fee can be paid at the entrance kiosk, and there are some tools usually available to borrow if you didn't bring any.

Their website is:

<https://www.oregonpaleolandscenter.com/wheeler-high-school-fossil-beds>.

Someday I hope to visit the remaining locations of the National Monument, as each part contains slightly different landforms and fossils. The modern museum near Kimberly, east of Fossil, is the headquarters for the research and display of fossils found there.

<https://www.nps.gov/joda/planyourvisit/tcpc.htm>

A brief scientific paper with photos describing the Fossil, Oregon, site is:
<https://www.oregongeology.org/pubs/og/OGv49n10.pdf>, pages 115-127

Plant species in the 4 photos below are not identified:



The Occasional Geologist *I'm not a geologist but I know two real ones.* **Fifty Years of History and Rock Collecting in NE Washington** By Pete Wyman

The first organization I joined, when I moved to Spokane to teach at the Community College (It's second year) in 1964, were the Rock Rollers and a group that specialized in our Northwest history - Westerners. Next to my home on Dartford Dr., the old Deer Park High Way, is a small dam and unique log cabin house. This is the estate of John T. Little estate, an early Spokane hardware store owner. The log cabin house is on the national registry. His granddaughter lived next door until recently. Two movies were filmed there.

Close by: Commellini estate is rich in history. Albert Commellini came to the U.S. at age 13, and worked his way west following the rail tracks, to become a successful entrepreneur. The colorful character was best known as the "Bootlegger King of Spokane" during the Prohibition. As a deputy sheriff, he allegedly resold confiscated liquor. But he was a humanitarian who opened a soup kitchen downtown six months before the city acted during the Depression.

Where Dartford crossed the Little Spokane, was Dartford that consisted of a flour mill, sawmill, lumber yard, post-office, general store, briquette factory, and school-house. Herb and Lafayette Dart built the mill in 1883, giving impetus to the rapid growth of the community. The mill was torn down in 1943. An archeologist at EWU told me where part of the foundation rested. Next to the Little Spokane bridge was a great swimming hole popular with the kids (and me) with a big rock near the middle. Unfortunately, a private sign now has halted casual use. A barn by the original homesteader, Herb Dart, and stonewall was also once the old Ziegler family home at Camp Dart Lo.

Steve Herbison, a fraternity brother, built a home in the Rivilla area in which native artifacts were found. He showed me a native fish weir on the river, and I

regret that I didn't photo it. Once, 60-pound Chinook salmon entered the Little Spokane.

Sliding along the Little Spokane, to the farm, originally owned by the late Morry & Margarete Haggin, who generously loaned their home for environmental fundraisers and meetings. Morry used to call in ducks to feed – on a TV short, the commentators were a bit snarky of his efforts, but the ducks didn't mind. Eventually, the property will go to the county. Following the Little Spokane driving north, in a small peaceful valley was Buckeye, with a large mill in 1910. Further North off Highway 2 were two mill towns of Millan and Elk, once important shipping points on the Great Northern – with four sawmills. One can follow Highway 2 to Priest River, Idaho and North to Solo Creek quartz crystal collecting location. South of Newport near Hauser Lake is a slate quarry with occasional pyrite crystal, (iron sulfide or fool's gold). East of Usk is The Best Chance quarry, a steep hill for calcite crystals. The Panorama Gem & Mineral Club's Kettle County Treasure Maps note that some of the rocks fluoresce causing me to want to return, as I did not have great luck finding material. Their map notes the High Noon south of Tiger with uranium and UV ores but, hard to drive to.

Diamond Lake has many memories of swimming, and fishing with Neil Herbison. He was from an extinct band of independent pharmacists that home delivered. His father, Ralph, got me into the Westerners and once delivered a prescription, to Grand Coulee, to an injured construction worker. Neil and I hunted for huckleberries, north of the lake, watched 4th of July fireworks and for a few years, there was a community potluck with live music, children, teens, and adults dancing – even saw a man dance with his wife! Busloads of people from schools and companies used to go to the lake for picnics. Years earlier, we fished at a small private lake – now a KOA Campground. North on Highway 211 are striking fields of blue camas, once a staple of the Native American diet. They taste like a starchy onion. The natives baked them or turned them into flour. Usk was a former Ferry terminal and the county's only drawbridge from 1888 to 1910.

Cutting cords of wood for the great stern-wheelers that plied the Pend Oreille River were important sources of income for the river homesteaders. Box Canyon was widened in 1907 allowing river traffic to Metalline. The railroad eventually killed the river traffic. (There is one sternwheeler, not to be missed, at Kalso on the Kootenai Lake, BC. It is beautifully restored with period cargo and passenger service artifacts.)

At Cusic, a few miles north, is the home of the Kalispell Tribe, owners of Northern Quest, who recently built a visitor center and small casino – Kalispell Park. Across the river is a new gymnasium, water park, medical and teaching facility. There are also Bison on the property, and the Grotto, a cave with two openings where Fr. De Smet held services in 1844. There is a sawmill at Usk, and one-time mills at Cusick and Ione. Near Metalline, is Sweet Creek Park with a gushing Waterfall down its slopes, unmarked decades ago when Rod Barkley fist showed me.

At Metalline, a sharp turn up the hill Forest Service Road 2975 goes to spectacular Boundary Dam and a campground where I kayaked to Z Canyon and PeeWee Falls, the only way to see the falls. I was taken there by my friend Joe Stapleton, who is also has a summer place on the river. We paddled into a small cave, unofficially names joe's Cave

A mile south of Lead-better Lake is an Ordovician 350 to 430 mya site of graptolite fossils in black shale on what was once the ocean floor. They are also found in the west bank of the river, 1 mile north at the Slate Creek confluence with the river. Five miles north of Metalline Falls are Devonian fossils on a limestone hillside at French Creek. A few miles farther is Gardner Cave, a 500 mya 2072 ft. long limestone cave with stalactites, stalagmites, and brimstone pools. It is now open but was not when Jay Holliday and I visited eons ago. At Metalline Falls is Sullivan Creek where a Community College class panned for gold led by the owner of Bowen's Hideaway – a prospecting shop. A road goes to Sullivan Lake and Salmo Wilderness, apparently the only inland rain forest in the U.S. The Lichens were food for mountain caribou. Ray Kresek, also a

retired firefighter, with the Mountaineers had long tried to preserve this area as did Rod who allegedly, pulled the stakes of a road that the Forest Service planned to log this fragile area. Jay and I founded the local Sierra Club group, a national organization with “muscle” to save this popular area for future generations by act of Congress.

From Usk bridge, a road goes to North Skookum Lake until it deteriorates. Along the road cuts are rock seams with vugs (small cavity with crystals). WA Mineral Council 2004.

Tiger was an important point served by boats that once boosted a population of 2,000, with post office, livery stable, dance hall, baseball team, St. Regis mill and restored 1912 store.

I joined the Panorama Club of Colville at Tiger to visit the Lafarge Limestone Quarry at Metalline Falls to collect trilobites, ancestors of the horseshoe crab, one of the oldest preserved fossils. Bruce Hurley gave the finest presentation prior to a field trip. He is a real expert and had a 3-inch fossil – largest I had ever seen. The fossils have been somewhat distorted by stretching during the building of the Rockies. The marine arthropods lived in an ancient sea during the Middle Cambrian 500 million years ago. The Metalline Formation is about 325 meters (1,066 ft.) thick and ranges from gray to black limestone. There are also grey to black shales interbedded with the limestone. The best are found in the newer black limestone. Several common trilobites are pictured in the Nov. 2018 Panorama Newsletter by Hurley. (See also “Groupe 6: Trilobite Fossils at Metalline Falls,” by Buddington SCC geologist.)

MY LUCKY DAY

By Johnie Pitman

On July 9th the club field trip to Metaline Falls for trilobites met at the Tiger store at 9:00 AM. The weather was good no rain and not too hot, what more could you ask for? I was concerned about the road conditions because of all the rain we had this spring, but they turned out to be good. There had been another group up there on Thursday the 7th, they must have cleared anything in the road.

There were 20 club members and a couple of dogs. I started looking for the little creatures(trilobites) in an area where I had found some a few years ago but didn't find any so I went wandering around. Jim Peters had found some large trilobite parts at the far end of the quarry, there was a little room close to him, so I set down and started splitting rocks. It took a while but finally this 3 1/8th inch long and 1 1/4 inch wide one popped out. To my surprise it was complete with no fractures through it, WOW, it's the best one I've ever found.



When Bruce Hurley, our former club president and trilobite expert, saw the pictures he agreed it was a good one and thought it was of the genus “Poliella”. He is probably right but my books don't list that genus. By the way, Bruce did his thesis on trilobites from this quarry.

I also found another good one that's more round it measures 2” long and 1 1/2” wide and looks to be of a different genus possibly Ogygopsis. That's just a wild guess!!!



I think everyone found some keepers and were happy with what they found.

Johnie's Jabber

By Johnie Pitman

I went by the Fair Grounds to check on the club trailer and everything seems to be in good condition, just hot. We have to move the trailer before Aug. 19th to make room for the fair people. I also ask for a display case in the adult arts and craft area, I'm not sure what size case we will have, I will get more information later. Be considering what you might want to put on display, it is in the arts and craft area so first choice would be something that you have made, then anything that is unusual or eye catching, but all related to our hobby.

The application for a booth at Marcus Cider Fest has been sent to them, it's a one-day event on Oct. 1st. We will need to be set up by 8:30 AM and will close at 5:00 PM, should be a chance to sell some of the club rocks that we all have some of already, and raise funds for the scholarship fund.

Don't forget to bring rocks to share or trade to the Aug. meeting.

Frank's Notes

By Frank Stratton

Our month of **August** has finally arrived with a bang of **HEAT WAVE!** Hope everyone has been able to survived and ready to get together for our annual barbeque picnic this month. I noticed at the last meeting a lot of members were unable to attend, so I will give the details so nobody will miss out! August 16th meeting will start at the usual time of 6:00 pm, but we ask members to bring a leisure chair to gather outside while the food is being prepared. During this time, we will have a time to chat with others. The Club will be providing the main items consisting of hamburgers & chicken. Water will be furnished. Please no alcoholic beverages! We ask members to bring a desert, salad, or side dish.

Afterwards, we will have a tail-gate **ROCK** trading & show time. Bring anything you want to share or trade.

We look forward to this event and the time to fellowship with other Club members.

Minutes of the June 21, 2022 Meeting

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Betty made arrangements for the annual picnic. It will be August 16, 6 pm, at the club location. There will be chicken and/or hamburgers. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. Drinks will be provided by the club. Everyone should bring a chair to sit on since we will be eating outside.

After dinner we will have a tailgate rock swap. (No selling!) Bring your goodies and get ready to share!

Break

The video "Mystery of the Megaflood" was shown. It was about the Missoula floods and the creation of the scablands and dry falls of eastern Washington.

Respectfully submitted: Glynis Hull, Secretary

This Month's Rock or Mineral:

Again, thanks to the great articles contributed by our members we do not have room for this months Rock or Mineral of the Month.

Remember, this is your newsletter and I know we have members with some great articles to contribute to it. No matter how small or large feel free to contribute your experiences, trips, or information.

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/>

Facebook Group: [Panorama Gem & Mineral Club](#)

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

It is a pleasure to note we are back in full swing. All meetings and outings are back to normal. Thanks to all for their support and participation during the pandemic.

On another note, we are always looking for newsletter inputs from our members. If you have an idea for an article, please forward it to Jimrocks@recycledhistory.com

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:	Glynis Hull	gghull@comcast.net	
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	frstratton@outlook.com	509-207-8503
Trustee 1:	Jim Peters	jimnbetty17@gmail.com	509-992-6921
Trustee 2:	Scott Jackson	free2rockhound@yahoo.com	509-680-4896
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	509-992-6921
Historian:			
Newsletter:	Jim Retzer	jimrocks@recycledhistory.com	509-738-2503
Show Chair	Johnie Pitman	jpgpitman@outlook.com	509-684-8887