

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

February 2022

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes of the January 18, 2022 Meeting

By: Glynis Hull, Secretary

President: Sheila Stratton opened the meeting at 6:05 welcoming everyone including visitors.

Vice President: Bob Bristow said there were mining journals on the back table free for the taking.

Treasurer: Frank Stratton presented the detailed financial report for 2021. As of 31 December 2021, the club has current assets of [REDACTED] with fixed assets of [REDACTED] making the total assets amount [REDACTED]

Presentation: Dave Paquette presented "Green Diopside Dig." He showed how to dig the diopside and had samples of what he had found. He also showed a DeWalt tool that he recommended for removing overburden to get to the diopside. There was discussion about having a club field trip to the site.

Johnie Pittman gave a report on the status of the March show. Things are progressing but help is needed in many areas, it is hoped more members will step forward to assist Johnie.

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GASPEITE

By Sheila Stratton

Approximately eight years ago, Frank and I took a trip to Tombstone, Arizona. Growing up watching Western movies, I love everything Western and Cowboy. We wandered into a Native American jewelry store and a ring captivated my attention. It was a light green stone and I thought it was just beautiful. The man working there said it was "Gaspeite" and a very rare stone. It was mined in Australia and Canada and that they were being mined out very quickly. (Maybe that was a sales pitch, but I still loved the stone with the silver setting.) The ring and matching bracelet I purchased were made by a Native American.





(The ring and the bracelet in the picture were purchased in Tombstone, AZ; the slab earrings were purchased at Yosemite National Park at the Indian Museum; and the small bead earrings were purchased in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.)

What is Gaspeite? According to Geology.com, Gaspeite is a rare nickel carbonate mineral and a member of the calcite mineral group. It was first discovered on the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec, Canada, from which it received its name. Gaspeite does not have a long history in the scientific literature, being first described in *The American Mineralogist* in 1966. Because of its rarity and relatively short history, it is not a widely-known material.



However, over the past two decades, Gaspeite has been emerging into popularity as a colorful inlay material used to add a splash of green color to Southwestern-style jewelry. It is typically set with turquoise, coral, shell, lapis lazuli and other gem materials in sterling silver mountings. These produce an attractive and affordable product. Gaspeite is also seen as beads, tumbled stones, and cabochons.

Gaspeite occurs as a secondary mineral where nearby rocks serve as an abundant source of nickel. It is often found where ultramafic igneous rocks have been weathered or where they have been altered by hydrothermal metamorphism. All significant occurrences have been found in Western Australia and Quebec, Canada. Minor occurrences are known from Japan and South Africa.

Now that I know this is a relatively rare stone and the fact I love the color, I am going to keep my eyes open to purchase more jewelry.

Show Planning for 2022

By: Johnie Pitman, Show Chairman

The show dates are Friday and Saturday March 11 – 12 with setup on Thursday the 10th. We will need all hands onboard for setup at the Ag Trade Center (fair grounds) at 8 o'clock Thursday morning. We should be able to practice social distancing without needing masks while setting everything up. I am concerned about the spread of the virus and do not want anyone to get sick while at the show, I recommend that we wear masks when the public is in the building, and we will be in close contact with them. There may not be a very big crowd and I don't think anyone will be policing us.

Three new signs have been ordered for the highways coming into Colville, I should have them before the February meeting. We still have some of the older small signs to give directions around town.

A new roll of skirting has been purchased, Thanks Glenis, with what we already have that will give us enough for three or four years.

Some advertising has been done and the flyers will be ready for the Feb. meeting

The cost for renting the Ag Trade Center will be \$750 this year, up from \$350. At the last meeting we voted to raise the price of grab bags to \$2 each to try to offset the rent increase.

If you would like to fill a display case and you are not at the Feb. meeting, please call me so I can put you on the list. While the snow is still on the ground would be a good time to practice your display at home and get the labeling ready, we like to have the names of the items and where they came from or can be found and any other information that makes the display more educational.

The dealer spaces are all full, I just have to figure out how to fit them into the space available.

Jim Retzer has donated a grand prize, it's a beautiful sterling silver necklace with an agate stone, Thanks Jim.

The black lights have been tested and are in good working condition.

Here is the E-Mail Sent Out by Frank Stratton to Our Club Members

To ALL PGMC membership:

I want to remind everyone we are actively working on preparing for our next Rock Show to be held March 11-12. Johnie has been looking for volunteers to help with several of the tasks at hand to make this a success. There are several things that are involved in putting on a show like this and should not be left to just a few, so if you can help contact Johnie for it would be greatly appreciated.

The theme for this show is "**Earth's Treasures**" and a flyer has been prepared. I would like to share it with all of you in this email to preview before our next meeting

Attached you will find a copy. At the next meeting we will have printed copies for members to post at

various locations to bring attention of the show. The more visible we are and the more people we can reach I feel we will have a much more desired response.

Earth's Treasures
Gem and Mineral Show
Free
21st Annual



March 11th and 12th
Colville Ag and Trade Center
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM Friday March 11th
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday March 12th

Wheel of Fortune **Jewelry** **Fossils**
Gold Panning **Food**
Gems and Minerals from Around the World **Black Light Tunnel**
Silent Auction **Door Prizes**



(509) 684-8887

Livingstonite From New Mexico

By: Johnie Pitman

I have a small chunk of a fairly rare mineral called Livingstonite, it's a sulfide of mercury and antimony. Its appearance is metallic, hardness of 2, Specific Gravity 4.88, its crystal system is monoclinic, and it streaks red. Its chemical formula is $\text{HgSb}_4\text{S}_6(\text{S}_2)$.



The interesting part is where it came from. The Spanish Conquistadors explored the southwest in the early 1600s and visited or conquered several of the Native American Pueblos. For the next 150+ years Spanish and Mexican settlers came north to settle and occupy the area, mostly raising cattle and sheep. This caused some problems with the Native Americans.

Spain ruled the area from 1769- 1829 when Mexico gained it freedom from Spain, then it was under the Mexican Government. Spain had started issuing Land Grants to individuals and communal groups including Pueblo Tribes and small Spanish or Mexican settlements. Some of these were large, the Alameda Land Grant was 89,000 acres it is now the northern part of Albuquerque, the Maxwell Land Grant was 1,714,765 acres. When the Mexicans took over the area, they also issued land grants as a way to keep the peace between the different groups.

The Americans were also infiltrating the area by the 1840s and wanted protection for the settlers, thus the Mexican-American War 1846-1848. On Feb. 2nd, 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed ending the war and establishing the boundary between Mexico and the United States. The treaty also gave property rights, (including land grants), and civil rights to the Spanish and Mexican people who now lived in the United States.

By now you are wondering what this has to do with my Livingstonite. When I worked at a uranium mill north of Grants, N.M., in the laboratory we had an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer which could help

identify minerals. You pulverized a small sample, placed it in the X-ray and scan it. This gives you the chemical composition of the sample.

One day one of the lab technicians brought in a rock he had found when he had moved his cattle to the summer range on the southeast side of Mount Taylor just east of Grants, N.M. He was a Spanish man and a member of a land grant association. He saw, these almost round rocks while on horseback and decided to break one open, it was metallic inside and heavy. He couldn't carry very much on his horse, and it was a very remote area so only a small amount was brought back in his lunch sack.

We were all excited when it turned out to contain mercury, we didn't know much about antimony. We asked if he was going to pursue staking a claim or not, he decided not to because any profit that would be made would be split among all the land grant members, I don't remember how many families were in the association, I think between 39 and 50. So Mr. Chaves let us keep most of his samples.

Identify the "Rock or Mineral"

Last month's rock or mineral:



Colemanite –

Colemanite is a secondary mineral that forms by alteration of borax and ulexite. It was first described in 1884 when William Tell Coleman, owner of the “Harmony Borax Works” at Furnace Creek in Death Valley discovered it.

Colemanite is a borate mineral of hydrated calcium borate ($\text{Ca}_2\text{B}_6\text{O}_{11} \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$). It was a significant ore of boron, and was the most important ore prior to the discovery of Kernite in 1926. It typically occurs as colorless, brilliant crystals and masses in Paleogene and Neogene sediments (those formed 65.5 to 2.6 million years ago), where it has been derived from ulexite and borax. Some of the largest deposits of Colemanite are in the Southwestern U.S. Large crystals come from Death Valley, Inyo Co., California. Crystal-filled nodules associated with Celestine were found in the Calico district in San Bernardino Co., California. Other California Colemanite deposits are Boron, in the Kramer District, Kern Co.; Tick Canyon, Lang, Los Angeles Co; and the Boraxo Mine, Inyo Co. In Nevada, it comes from the Muddy Mountains, Clark Co. Colemanite is an important source of commercial borates and boric acid.

Colemanite forms in evaporite deposits together with other borates and is one of the more stable of borate minerals. It is pyroelectric and develops an electrical charge during a change of temperature. The crystal symmetry of prismatic monoclinic minerals would scientifically disqualify them from being pyroelectric, since pyroelectricity is directly related to crystal symmetry. This mineral is therefore regarded as a scientific oddity, as no satisfactory explanation has been given to how Colemanite is pyroelectric.

It forms in the monoclinic crystal system and is ranges from colorless to white, yellowish, or even grey in color.

Colorless, white, yellowish, grey with an Adamantine to Vitreous in luster and is Transparent to Translucent. Colemanite has a hardness of 4.5 on the Mohs hardness scale and a specific gravity of

2.423. It often has a pale white fluorescence under a shortwave ultraviolet light. Commonly found in association with Ulexite, Borax, Realgar, Celestine.

This month's rock or mineral:



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The following assignments and motions were made:

Building and dealers: Johnie

Grab bags: Jim, moved and approved to raise price to \$2 a bag

Silent Auction: Greg

Treasure Hunt: Sharon

Gold panning: Dave

Door prizes: Johnie, grant prize: Jim

Display cases:

Hospitality: Frank and Sheila Lunch: Ginger,

Snacks: Betty, Friday: Sheila, Saturday: Linda

Front door: Betty, Sheila, Johnie

Road signs: Johnie, moved and approved to buy new signs

Black light cave: Bob and Greg

School contact: Sharon

Trailer: Gene

Skirting for tables: Ginger, moved and approved to buy new roll of paper, Glynis to pick up

Picture taking: Glynis

Food Vendor: Mr. Sub

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

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:			
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	frstratton@outlook.com	509-207-8503
Trustee 1:	Jim Peters	jimnbetty17@gmail.com	509-992-6921
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	509-992-6921
Historian:			
Newsletter:	Jim Retzer	jimrocks@recycledhistory.com	509-738-2503
Show Chair	Johnie Pitman	jgpitman@outlook.com	509-684-8887