

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

January 2022

December 2021 Meeting and Christmas Party

The December club meeting consisted of a quick business meeting followed by our Annual Christmas Party and Gift Exchange.

The food for the potluck was only outdone by the great gifts and fun of the gift exchange. Frank Stratton can attest this as other members kept stealing his gifts. Every time he got a nice gift someone else would take it from him, but Frank was persistent in selecting another great gift each time.

There was plenty of ham and side dishes as well as very tasty desserts. We want to thank our members for their delicious dishes. As at all of our potlucks there was a wide variety of food, and all members had their fill.

During the business portion of the meeting Johnie Pitman reminded us that we only have two meetings before the club's rock show March 11th and 12th. We will be planning the show at these next meetings.



Gift Exchange Table



Frank Choosing Another Gift

Show Planning for 2022

By: Johnie Pitman, Show Chairman

We are still planning to have the rock show and the dates are March 11-12 with setup on the 10th. Please set aside those dates, mark them on the calendar, we'll need all the help we can get for setup and tear down.

We will be discussing the various jobs and responsibilities at the January meeting, so be thinking of the areas where you would like to help. Also, be planning for a display case if you want to display some of your treasures. Its best to have the information and signs ready ahead of time. We like to have the cases as educational as possible.

The rent for the Ag Trade Center is going up, so we need to consider ways to compensate for that. We could charge an admission fee, which I'm against. Or raise dealer fees, but the dealer contracts have already been sent out with \$9 per front foot of table space, so can't change that. We can raise the price on the games and grab bags, we will discuss doing that at the January meeting.

The profit from the show is really our life blood for covering club cost like rent and insurance.

I'm looking forward to getting back to normal with the show even if we may need to wear mask all day, we'll just have to wait and see about that.

Emma Mine Acton, CA

By: Jim Retzer

It is funny how things from our past resurface in the strangest ways. This is how one such incident led me to some forgotten photos of an interesting rockhounding trip in Southern California. Not only was this interesting from the aspect of something from my past but also how it came about.

In November I received an e-mail from someone I worked with in New Mexico during the summer of 2008. He mentioned that the *NAGPRA Project Specialist from the University of California, Riverside* was trying to locate me about some

skeleton remains they found in a box that was unaccounted for. The only information they had was my name on the bags and the date 1974. It turns out that in her effort to locate me she found an article he wrote during his PhD work that had a photo of me working on a site in New Mexico. This article led her to him at the University of New Mexico and he was able to contact me.

Once I contacted her, I found that they were looking for information on where the remains came from and their background. I spent the next few weeks going through my collection of slides from the excavation and putting together a report. The remains were from an excavation done in Nevada north of The Valley of Fire east of Las Vegas. It was a series of pit houses related to an early culture in that area from approximately 750AD. I was a Geology major at Cal State Los Angeles at that time, but also doing Archaeology work at UCR.

In with the slides from the excavation were some slides from one of my rockhounding trips in 1975. This trip was one of several I took to the Emma Mine in Acton, CA.

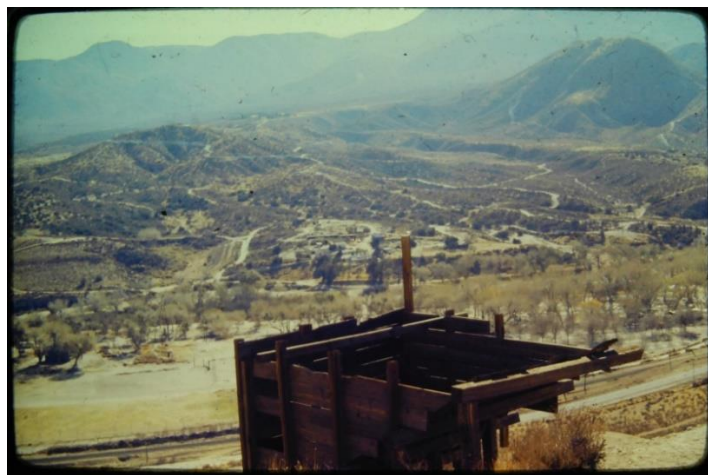
In 1974 I read an article, in *Rock and Gem* magazine, about this mine and the copper related minerals in the area. Since this was near where I lived at the time, I took a drive out and looked around the mine. On this first trip I just located the main adit and the remains of the ore chute.

The Emma Mine was a copper mine just over two miles south of Acton, California. It was a small production operation that ran in 1888 to about 1900 then again for a brief period in 1927 to 1928. The last mining at the Emma Mine was in 1949. The main operation was easily seen when driving out of Acton, CA to the south.

A few months later my friend and I were going to Tick Canyon to collect howlite, which is just a few miles east of Acton. As we passed Acton, I mentioned to him about the Emma Mine and the Chrysocolla I had found. We decided that after collecting some Howlite at Tick Canyon we would stop at the Emma Mine on our way home.

Tick Canyon has been a well noted collecting area to Los Angeles area rockhounds. It is a site associated with the dump of the Stearling Borax mine. The mine started in 1908 and remained in production until 1921. In 1910 the mines output reached 12,500 tons of colemanite a year, which was 30% of the American borax market. Howlite was a byproduct of the colemanite mining at this mine and was of no economic value. It forms in cauliflower shaped nodules. The material is white with black and sometimes brown veining. It is soft but can take a good polish. Back in the 1970's some people would put it in a bucket with some "Tidy Bowl" to make an imitation turquoise.

Digging in the old dump we would be able to find a good quantity of howlite. Today the mine site is fenced off with no trespassing signs. But, present day rockhounds are in luck. Sometime in the past a portion of the dump was pushed to the other side of the road where today is a large dump pile with howlite.



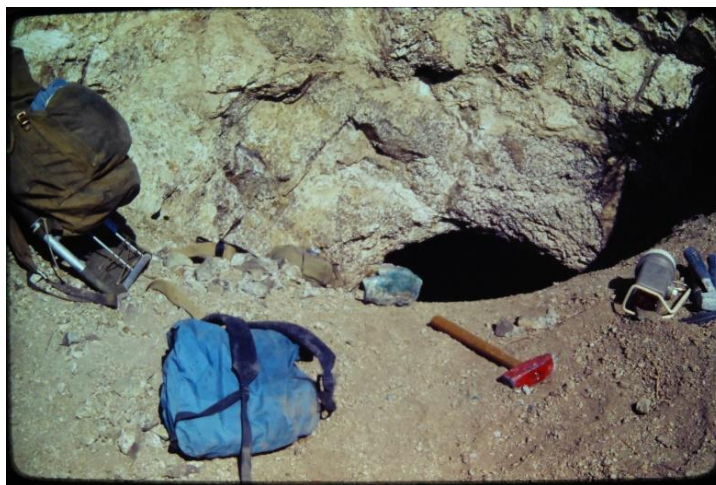
Looking From Main Part of the Mine Toward Acton, CA

After digging enough howlite we departed Tick Canyon and headed back to Acton and the Emma Mine. During this visit to the mine my partner and I located a small opening to a short adit north of the main operation. The opening was not large, and we had to dig it out to access the adit.



Adit On North Side of Mine

The work was well worth the effort. About halfway in we located a large seam of Chrysocolla with marcasite. This was a very stable hard material that made excellent cabochons. We revisited this deposit several times over the next year, taking out several large pieces of this material.



Opening To Adit with Large Piece of Chrysocolla

The Tick Canyon Howlite site and the Emma Mine are still visited regularly by rockhounds and explores from the Los Angeles Area. Both are worth checking out if you are in that area.

Summary of Biblical Rock Presentation in Nov. 2021

By: Johnie Pitman

This presentation was not intended to be religious but to show what rockhounds were looking for 4000-2000 years ago.

Genesis 1:1 in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, which leads us to look at the periodic table. The periodic table shows all the elements of which the earth is made. Some elements can be found pure in nature, gold, silver, mercury, and carbon. Carbon is found everywhere and is associated with everything that lives (plants and animals). Diamonds are made up of pure carbon. We also looked at problems with the biblical names of some stones; the difficulty is determining exactly what they were.

4000 years ago, there wasn't technology to determine the chemical makeup of each stone, they used color, weight, hardness and feel. Anything deep blue was called sapphire as an example. Then there were problems with translations from languages, The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the New Testament was written in Greek, translated to Latin, to modern languages.

The list of rocks mentioned in the Bible indicated that a value was placed on each of them, therefore rockhounds were actively looking for and collecting them. A list of those identified: Sadius (Carnelian), Topaz, Carbuncle (Garnet), Emerald, Sapphire, Diamond, Ligure (Jacinth/Zircon), Agate, Amethyst, Berly, Onyx, Jasper, Ruby, Turquoise, Chalcedony, Sardonyx, Chrysolite (Olivine), Chrysoprase, Hyacinth, Amber, Pearl (Aragonite), Coral, Crystal (Quartz), Alabaster.

They were used for jewelry, for bartering items and money.

Identify the "Rock or Mineral"

Last month's rock or mineral:



Sodalite - A member of the feldspathoid mineral group having a chemical composition of $\text{Na}_4\text{Al}_3\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}\text{Cl}$. The feldspathoid mineral group includes nepheline, leucite, nosean, hauyne, lazurite, cancrinite, tugtupite, and melilite. These are rare aluminosilicate minerals that contain abundant calcium, potassium, or sodium. Sodalite occurs in igneous rocks that crystallized from sodium-rich magmas. This is the origin of the name "sodalite." These magmas also contained so little silicon and aluminum that quartz and feldspar minerals are often absent.

It is usually found in massive opaque samples but when found in its crystal form it is usually transparent to translucent. Well-formed crystals are rarely found but, when found as a crystal it forms in the isometric (cubic) crystal system and Hexoctahedral class. In its usually massive habit it has poor cleavage and when fractured it produces small conchoidal fragments.

Sodalite is known for its bright-blue color but may also be grey, yellow, green, or pink and is often mottled with white veins or patches. It can sometimes be found intertwined with White Calcite.

Sodalite produces a white streak and has a Mohs scale hardness of 5.5 – 6 with a specific gravity of 2.2 – 2.3. Its main diagnostic properties are its blue color and association with other feldspathoid minerals, especially nepheline. It often produces a weak orange fluorescence under shortwave or long wave ultraviolet light.

Although somewhat similar to lazurite and lapis lazuli, sodalite rarely contains pyrite (a common inclusion in lapis) and its blue color is more like traditional royal blue rather than ultramarine. It is further distinguished from similar minerals by its white (rather than blue) streak.

First discovered by Europeans in 1811 in the Ilimaussaq intrusive complex in Greenland, sodalite did not become important in modern times as an ornamental stone until 1891 when vast deposits of fine material were discovered in Ontario, Canada. Samples of ornamental stones and trade items can be found as early as 2600-2000 B.C.

This month's rock or mineral:



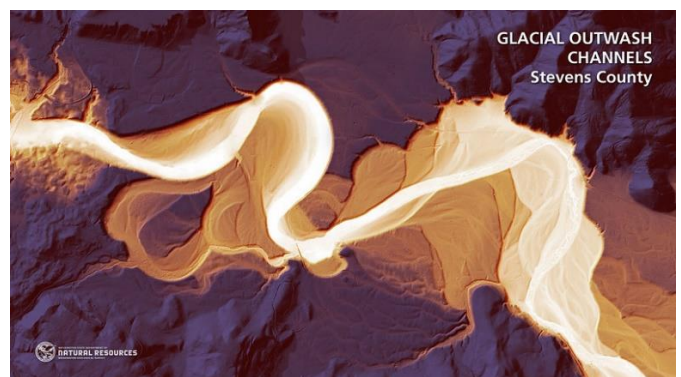
High-resolution lidar images of Washington's geology now freely available

From: WASHINGTON STATE GEOLOGY NEWS
[High-resolution lidar images of Washington's geology now freely available – WASHINGTON STATE GEOLOGY NEWS \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.washingtonstategeologynews.com/)

The Washington Geological Survey (WGS) has released 50 high-resolution lidar-derived images of the State's geology and geomorphology through the Washington State DNR's Flickr page. The images are available in 16:9 format (7,200 x 4,050 pixels) and 4:3 format (7,200 x 5,400 pixels). Ten of the images are new (see below) and 40 of them were previously available as screen wallpaper (at a lower resolution). Additionally, WGS has released several full-resolution lidar image series that reveal the State's geology.

These images are great for earth science presentations, learning about lidar, and for using as digital wallpaper. They are also large enough to support large-format printing.

The images are licensed under the **Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license**. You may use these for any purpose, commercial or non-commercial, with or without modification, as long as you attribute us. For attribution, please use 'Image from the Washington Geological Survey (Washington State DNR)' if it's a direct reproduction, or 'Image modified from the Washington Geological Survey (Washington State DNR)' if there has been some modification. You can also access Washington's lidar data directly from the Washington Lidar Portal: <https://lidarportal.dnr.wa.gov/>



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 | 509-999-9074 |
| 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 |