

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

January 2023

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes of the December 8, 2022 Board Meeting

By Glynis Hull, Secretary

President: Sheila Stratton opened the meeting at 10:50 am, welcoming everyone, including Cyndi Doppler and Glynis Hull via video link.

Several items were discussed:

Lynne Calvert will be initiated as president on 12/20/22.

Betty and Sheila are heading up the Christmas party. Dinner will include hams from Costco and side dishes from the members. \$15 max was set for the gift exchange, set up to start at 5 pm.

January will start work for the show, set up on 3/9 and the show is 3/10-3/11. Grab bags will be \$2 again. (Donations always accepted! Betty has fabric for the bags.) Betty and Sheila will handle the front desk. January and February meetings will discuss logistics. We will try to hire the young men to help again as the was very cost efficient last year.

Looking for a theme for the show. Perhaps recycle old one. Suggestions wanted.

For the newsletter: reuse old articles that are still timely, better website access, SSD drive to store all club information, pictures, newsletters.

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From the New President (Lynne)

We were grateful to all those who braved the unusually cold and snow weather to attend the December Meeting and Christmas party.

Roger Calvert shoveling snow to make walkways prior to guests arriving.



The meeting was brought to order at 6:00 PM.

Introductions were made.

The former and present President (Sheila Stratton and Lynne Calvert respectively) passed the gavel to signify the change in leadership.



Pictured left to right, Betty Peters, Jim Peters, Bob Bristow, Scott Jackson, Lynne Calvert, Sheila Stratton, Frank Stratton.

Bob Bristow greeted everyone with Holiday wishes.

Frank Stratton provided the financial report. (There is enough money to do scholarships this year.)

Johnie Pitman discussed the upcoming gem show, 10/11 March including set up on 9 March. There are 22 cases to fill. One dealer backed out. Therefore, we are looking for another dealer.



The Hospitality team, Betty Peters, Ginger Pitman, Sheila Stratton, did a wonderful job decorating and setting up the Holiday buffet.



Johnie Pitman brought in petrified wood to decorate the tables.

The gift exchange was fun with 17 people participating.

Dave Paquette brought in a black light, depression-glass from the 1930s, and many fascinating crystals, gems, and rocks for the display table.

The meeting was adjourned, thereafter, to allow safe travel home.

What did the geode say to the thunderegg?

You're full a gat(e).

Garnets and Epidote

By Lynne Calvert

In July, 2012 Roger and I drove up HWY 88 past the quaint town of Sutter Creek, CA with its antique stores and tea house to explore. We stopped in Jackson to buy groceries and loaded the camper fridge and pantry. Continuing on our journey, the Jackson Rancheria Indian Casino was nearby. We continued east on HWY 88 and then onto HWY 26. We turned off the highway and began a long decent down a dirt road (Ellis RD) towards Salt Springs Reservoir. Not a soul or car in sight. We could see an old water flume meandering down the canyon not too far off in the distance. We drove for miles and finally came to the Mokelumne River. There were places to dry camp near the river. I was surprised to see so many people at such a remote location. We drove past the river and wanted to continue exploring the area before settling on camping around so many people.

There was a group of people ahead of us who were target practicing. They were a bit too close to the camping area we thought. They were courteous and stopped shooting as we drove on. Not much further we found the road was not passable, at least not in our truck and camper with its long wheel base. That explains why the group hadn't gone far to practice shooting. We got out of our truck and started hiking up the steep road that had switchbacks and hairpin turns. It was very hot so we walked slow as we looked around for rocks. Unbelievably, Roger found an orthoclase! This was exciting as it meant there were likely other gemstones to find. Our quiet hike was interrupted by a car coming down the mountain. We were sure surprised – how did they get up this road? The four occupants stopped and we told them we didn't expect anyone on this road and it was unpassable. Moreover, we left our truck in the way. We could see their tools and rock hammers. It was obvious they were also looking for rocks and gemstones. Why else would anyone be up this mountain? We told them we would walk back and move our truck. Since the road was so windy, they couldn't drive fast. We were able to walk straight down the mountain and arrived at our truck about

five minutes after they arrived. All four of them were out of their vehicle. They had to move big rocks to get the car past the obstruction in the road. They looked dirty, tired, hot, and hungry. One guy proceeded to scathingly scold us about the rules of the road as we arrived within earshot. He was very upset our truck was in the way. We had come down that mountain as fast as we could and I kept up my pace – right towards him. The driver was the oldest of them and he looked at Roger and said, “This isn’t going to end well, is it?” Roger said, “She can’t lose.” The driver asked Roger if we’d like to see what they found. That stopped the antagonizer midsentence as he couldn’t believe it was suggested to show us ‘idiots’ the results of their hard work.

To our delight, they had dug out garnets and epidote with iron pyrite embedded in granite. I had never heard of epidote nor seen such an amazing sight. They must have worked for hours. Our enthusiasm was contagious and we had a nice conversation with them. We showed them the orthoclase we found and that intrigued them. It turns out at least two of the gentlemen were geologists including the mouthy one. We moved our truck so they could get by. As we pulled into a spot by the river, we saw them swimming to cool off. I know that water is extremely cold. I swam in the Mokelumne River many times but I was younger and it was further downstream. We both changed into our suits and went swimming to relive our childhood. A snake nearby must have also been too hot in the summer heat as he swam past us across the river. We ate lunch and some young guys showed up with ice chests and booze. We decided to depart and find a quieter place to go camping. We most certainly want to go back but will bring our ATVs. (Pictures below.)



Garnets, epidote, iron pyrite found in the Sierra Mountains in CA.

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Scholarships: all three high schools received \$1000 this last year. If donations go down we could drop the amount awarded. The money comes from the silent auctions, November auction, donation jar at the show, money from Marcus CiderFest and other donations.

There was a lengthy discussion about limiting who could apply for the scholarships. Consensus was that it should be for students wanting to major in the geology and earth sciences. That the qualifications would be based on our established guidelines so it’s not always the kids who already qualify for many scholarships that get them. It would be put back on the schools to find the students who could qualify. The invitation letter will need to be re-done.

Field trips: no one is in charge, people are responsible for their own liability, do we need a release form?

Survey members for what they want to see and do.



Water flume and road GPS Snapshot

Upcoming Events in Our Area

February 2023

2/11/2023 2/12/2023

Sweetheart of Gems Show

Whidbey Island Gem Club

The Center in Oak Harbor

51 SE Jerome St

Oak Harbor, WA

March 2023

3/4/2023 3/5/2023

East King Co Rock Club

Pickering Barn

1730 10th Avenue NW

Issaquah, WA

Website: EastKingCo.org

August 2023

8/2/23 8/6/23

AFMS Show in Billings (more to come)

This month's rock or mineral:



Identify the "Rock or Mineral"

By Jim Retzer

Last month's rock or mineral:



Indian Paint Stone – Also called Indian Paint Rock or Death Valley Paint Stone. From Death Valley California. The location for this material is now within the boundaries of the Death Valley

National Park so collecting is no longer allowed. There is still some particularly good material that comes up for sale fairly regularly, but there is also a high demand for this material.

Indian Paint Rock is a sedimentary sandstone type material. The red, yellow, and black patterns are created by manganese and iron working its way through minute cracks in the sandstone.

Being a softer material of a type of sandstone the material takes a muted to satin shine but the black hematite running through it will give a high shine.

This material should not be confused with Indian Blanket Stone which is a jasper. Indian Blanket Stone is also called Indian Blanket Jasper. Occasionally, you will see Indian Paint Stone listed as Indian Blanket. When you see this look closely at the price as it may be a good buy as Indian Blanket Jasper is quite cheaper than Indian Paint Stone.

When Death Valley changed its status from a National Monument to a National Park this material became uncollectable.

Over this last year I was lucky enough to have gotten several slabs at rather low prices, but most of what I have seen gets rather expensive. The value of this material, as with most other lapidary material, varies according to its coloration and design.

Did You Know?

Overall, 44 volcanoes were in continuing eruption status as of 19 December 2022. An eruption marked as "continuing" does not always mean persistent daily activity, but indicates at least intermittent eruptive events without a break of 3 months or more. Detailed statistics are not kept on daily activity, but generally there are around 20 volcanoes actively erupting on any particular day; this is a subset of the normal 40-50 with continuing eruptions. Countries with most active volcanoes now are Chile, Russia, US, Indonesia and Japan. Some of the most active are well-known: Mauna Loa, Kilauea, Krakatau, and Etna.

Tis the Season for Snowflakes....

by Sharon Borgford

Did you know that snowflakes and naturally formed ice are minerals? "A mineral is defined as a naturally occurring, homogeneous solid, inorganically formed, with a definite chemical composition (or range of compositions), and an ordered atomic arrangement. Water does not pass the test of being a solid so it is not considered a mineral although ice; which is solid, is classified as a mineral as long as it is naturally occurring. Thus, ice in a snow bank" (or glacier) "is a mineral, but ice in an ice cube from a refrigerator is not."
(www.minsocam.org)

The beginning scientific study of snowflakes is credited to William Bentley, a Vermont farmer who began photographing snowflakes in the late 1800's. During his lifetime he photographed over 5000 snowflakes, and 500 of those photographs are housed at the Smithsonian Institution. To make the photographs he stood outside in the winter, using a microscope and a camera.



(William Bentley, c. 1910)

A review of his life can be found at this website:
<https://publicdomainreview.org/essay/the-snowflake-man-of-vermont>

Much has been learned about snowflakes (ice crystals) since then. Currently considered the world's expert on snowflake formation is physics professor Kenneth Libbrecht of Caltech. He has

published numerous books and has maintained a website exclusively about snowflakes and ice for over 20 years. <http://snowcrystals.com> is a major source of photos, videos, and explanations. He is able to create snowflakes in his lab, and not only create them, but direct the shape in which they form, based on his control of moisture and temperature. I found it to be fascinating reading and watching.

An excellent 20 minute You Tube video available on his website is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ao2Jfm35XeE>
or <https://youtu.be/ao2Jfm35XeE>.

Interesting fact about ice: "Minerals are usually denser in their solid phase than in their liquid phase. But ice is the opposite. It is less dense than water. This is why ice floats on the surface of ponds, helping aquatic animals survive the winter in the water below. If water behaved like most liquids when it froze, its solid form would be more dense and sink. Because of ice's special properties, the ice layer forms at the surface and insulates the water below, preventing it from freezing. The two hydrogens and oxygen atoms that make up each water molecule form weak "hydrogen bonds" with neighboring water molecules and connect in a hexagonal framework that is more open, and less dense, than the molecule's liquid structure."
(<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2020/12/21/why-scientists-find-snowflakes-cool/>)

From Johnie Pitman

Our annual show is scheduled for March 10-11 with setup on the 9th at 8:00 AM. We will be going through our Show Planning process at the Jan. meeting, so be considering what jobs or areas you want to help with. I'll also need to know how many display cases you want to fill, we have 22 total cases. We will be deciding on a theme for the show so that the posters can be printed before the Feb. meeting.

Looking forward to another really good show, please come and help us plan. Johnie

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 (Glynis)

I have some big shoes to fill following in Jim’s footsteps. It may take me a while to get the hang of producing a newsletter as nice as the ones Jim has made over the years. Be patient and feel free to send me suggestions as you think of them!

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 gghull@comcast.net

Refreshment Schedule for 2023

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:	Lynne Calvert	lynnecalvert501@gmail.com	559-906-5923
Vice-President:	Bob Bristow	bristow71@outlook.com	509-935-4375
Secretary:	Glynis Hull	gghull@comcast.net	509-981-9714
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	frstratton@outlook.com	509-207-8503
Trustee 1:	Scot Jackson	free2rockhound@yahoo.com	509-680-4896
Trustee 2:	Jim Peters	jimnbetty17@gmail.com	509-992-6921
Trustee 3:	Cyndi Doppler		509-216-5473

Committee Chairs

Program Coordinator:	Sheila Stratton	skstratton@hotmail.com	509-207-8506
Hospitality:	Betty Peters	jimnbetty17@gmail.com	509-992-6921
Historian:	Sheila Stratton	skstratton@hotmail.com	509-207-8506
Newsletter:	Glynis Hull	gghull@comcast.net	509-981-9714
Show Chair	Johnie Pitman	jgpitman@outlook.com	509-684-8887