

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

May 2023

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes of the April 18, 2023 General Meeting

By Glynis Hull, Secretary

President: Lynne Calvert opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

From Lynne's agenda:

- 1) Welcome new visitors and newest members (Provide newcomer's packet to new members)
 - a) Introduction of Officers
 - b) Present Remaining Awards **from show**
- 2) Rock hounding Trips –
 - a) Donation of rocks to the club at local farm. (Setting is at an old barn. Terrain is uneven. Access on and off the truck bed may require climbing up and down a step ladder.)
 - i) Decide on final location to offload the rocks. (Calvert farm is an option short-term or long-term.)
 - ii) Decide on date and time to meet.
Friday 4/21 Bring boots, gloves, hat, chair, sack lunch, and beverage. If you plan to buy something, bring your own bucket. (Circulate the signup sheet.)

(cont. on page 5)

The April 2023 Meeting Presentation!

During our April club meeting, Simon Stubbs gave a presentation on geodes. He included two videos and a *power point* show. Simon did an exemplary job explaining the geology and formation of various types of geodes. His brother, Dexter, provided information from a library book. They brought geodes for the club to enjoy. Thank you Simon and Dexter!



The Big Donation (or now that we have it what do we do with it!)

Sixteen club members traveled to a local barnyard on April 21st and 22nd to remove rocks that were donated to the club. The gracious donor is Dean Robinson whose father bought rock collections prior to his passing. Approximately 60 man-hours were spent to remove, load, and unload an estimated seven (7) tons of rocks. Thanks to Leigh Youngblood, four (4) teenage boys from the Johnson Christian School provided much needed help the first day. We are exceedingly grateful to Coen Balis, Anthony Creech, Ryan Dore, and Ryan Ordway. A huge thank you to the club members who donated their time and hard

work. The camaraderie was great and it was loads of fun! The members who participated were Lynne and Roger Calvert, Kris Davis, Larry Engle, Scot Jackson, Jim Peters, Ginger and Johnie Pitman, Jim Retzer, Frank and Sheila Stratton, Kelly and Scott Stubbs, Kevin and Leigh Youngblood.

conversations with the hosts who answered our questions. They gave each of us couples some garnet sand and a miniature decorative bottle for crafts. If you want to go on your own you will need to make reservations. Parking spaces are very limited. The cost is \$5.00 per person plus \$40/LB.



Teens Volunteering



The Crew Having Lunch



Dean Robinson



Taking a break



Rinsing pond in background



Sorting our loot

The Huckleberry Garnet Dig

During our last club meeting, an invitation was announced to go to the Huckleberry Garnet site near Clarkia, Idaho. Leigh Youngblood made reservations. Leigh, Kevin, Roger, Lynne, Fran, and her companion, Mike, traveled to the site. We donned our gloves to begin playing in the dirt with a little breeze in the air. The proprietors had brought soil from their mountain to be gleaned for garnets. The pile of soil was divided into buckets and placed on tables. We screened out the dirt and rinsed off the excess. The remaining contents were poured out to sort and find garnets. Fran chanced her luck by directly digging in a dirt pile and did very well finding garnets. We all quickly learned how to pick out the garnets and discard other rocks. This process was repeated until our time was up. Each of us poured our loot onto a table for the expert to sort into four piles – (1) quality (2) less quality (3) particles and (4) not garnets. We only paid for the garnets in category 1 and allowed to take piles 2 and 3 for free. Leigh was deemed the winner by finding the biggest one! We had great

This Trove of Fossils in Wales Is Revealing Secrets of Early Animal Life



“Paleontologists have uncovered a trove of well-preserved fossils in Wales that date to around 462 million years ago. Already, scientists are speculating that this site could become as important to our understanding of Earth’s early life as some of the most famous fossil beds, like Canada’s Burgess Shale.

“Called Castle Bank, the site dates to the Cambrian Period, when many of the groups of animals that exist today first appeared in the fossil record. At the start of this era, around 540 million years ago, a wide variety of life forms evolved in a relatively short span of time, so that period has been dubbed the Cambrian explosion.” (Smithsonian Magazine, 2023)

My Yellowstone Discoveries (cont.)

By Glynis Hull

In my previous article I talked about my fascination with Yellowstone National Park from the time of my first visit when I was a youngster.

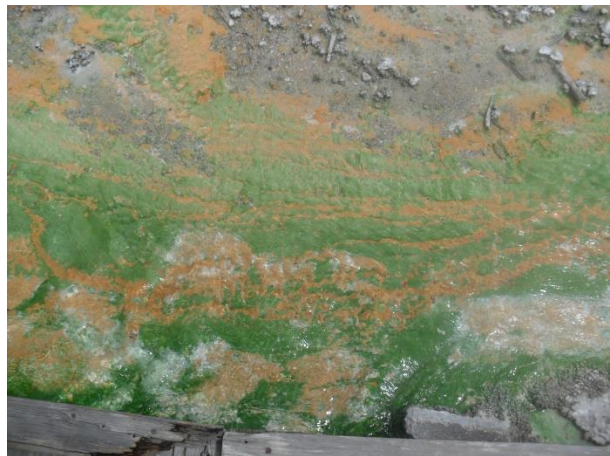
I went to work at WSU in 1998 and had the opportunity to work with a microbiologist and learn about what are called “extremophiles.” I became interested in extremophiles because at this time the first expeditions to Mars were taking place. The Mars expeditions are trying to find indications of life on Mars. The harshness of the Mars environment is extreme so scientists are looking for extremophiles or indications thereof. So, what is an extremophile and what does it have to do with Yellowstone?

“People who explore Yellowstone’s geyser basins are often fascinated by the bright colors found in and around the thermal features and their runoff channels. These colors contribute much to the spectacle of Yellowstone. Some of the colors come from mineral deposits or from sunlight reflected from pools rich with dissolved or suspended chemicals, but many are due to pigments found in the **microbes** (extremely tiny organisms) that thrive in these remarkable habitats. The microbes, each too small to be seen without a microscope, form brightly colored **mats**, large communities of microbes growing together in layers of organic “slime.” Some microbes intertwine to form long, hairlike filaments called **streamers**. The heated water, dissolved gases, extreme alkalinity or acidity, and/or harsh chemicals found in the hot springs prevent the growth of most other organisms that in less extreme environments would compete with and keep the microbes from proliferating. The microbes that are able to live in hot springs with temperatures between 113F and 176F are called **thermophiles** or thermophilic microbes.

“Hot springs in Yellowstone with temperatures at or near the boiling point harbor many species of thermophiles and **hyperthermophiles** (microbes that grow above 176F). These organisms grow in some of

the harshest environments on Earth and have challenged basic ideas of what is required for life.” (Seen and Unseen: Discovering the Microbes of Yellowstone, 2005)

Pictures of examples of thermophiles I found in Yellowstone. These were not located within the hot springs but rather in runoff rivulets from the hot springs.



Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

By Jim Retzer

Last month’s rock or mineral:



Fluorite (also called fluorspar) is the mineral form of calcium fluoride, CaF_2 . It belongs to the halide minerals. It crystallizes in isometric cubic habit, although octahedral and more complex isometric forms are not uncommon. Most commonly octahedral and cubic; seldom in dodecahedral crystals. Crystals may also be a combination of octahedra and cubes, and dodecahedral growths may also be present, forming complex and interesting crystals.

Fluorite is quite easy to identify if you consider cleavage, hardness, and specific gravity. It is the only common mineral that has four directions of perfect cleavage, often breaking into pieces with the shape of an octahedron. It is also the mineral used for a hardness of 4 in the Mohs Hardness Scale. Finally, it has a specific gravity of 3.2, which is detectably higher than most other minerals.

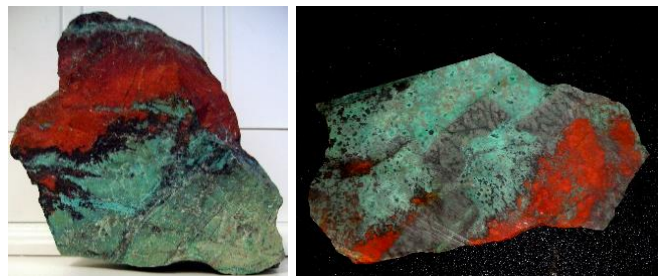
Fluorite is found as a common gangue mineral in hydrothermal veins, especially those containing lead and zinc minerals. It is also found in some greisen’s, granites, pegmatites, and high-temperature veins, and as a component of some marbles and other metamorphic rocks.

Pure fluorite is colorless and transparent, both in visible and ultraviolet light, but impurities usually make it a colorful mineral and the stone has ornamental and lapidary uses.

Many samples of fluorite exhibit fluorescence under ultraviolet light, a property that takes its name from fluorite. Many minerals, as well as other substances, fluoresce. In fluorite, the visible light emitted is most commonly blue, but red, purple, yellow, green, and white also occur.

Fluorite is allochromatic, meaning that it can be tinted with elemental impurities. Fluorite comes in a wide range of colors and has consequently been dubbed "the most colorful mineral in the world". Every color of the rainbow in various shades is represented by fluorite samples, along with white, black, and clear crystals. The most common colors are purple, blue, green, yellow, or colorless. Less common are pink, red, white, brown, and black. The color of the fluorite is determined by factors including impurities, exposure to radiation, and the absence of voids of the color centers.

This month’s rock or mineral:



A Bit of Bling

An American lady entered a jeweler’s shop and said, “You sold my husband a diamond ring yesterday but it’s the wrong size.” “Not a problem madam, we can adjust the finger size easily.” “Oh, you don’t understand, you sold him a five-carat size, and I take a ten-carat size.”

Northwest Federation Rockhound Retreat

September 4-10, 2023, OMSI Hancock Field Station,

Classes offered: intarsia, faceting, silversmithing, metalsmithing, wire wrapping, wire weaving, lapidary, doublets and triplets, carving.

Cost: \$425 Payable to the NW Rockhound Retreat.

Contact: Walt Butler, waltercbutler@comcast.net

Island Agates

By Glynis Hull

For the past couple of months I have participated in Highland Park's live auctions. I've bought several cylinders of optical quartz, varigated tigereye, Alimajo agates, Botswana agate, charoite and Island agate.

Island agates caught my fancy when I found one amongst the offerings of the silent auction at the Spokane show—which I got for dirt cheap because I was probably the only person in the building who knew what it was.

Island agates come from one specific island in the South Pacific that the owner of Highland Park keeps secret to prevent people from coming in and buying all the stock and running the prices up. I appreciate that!

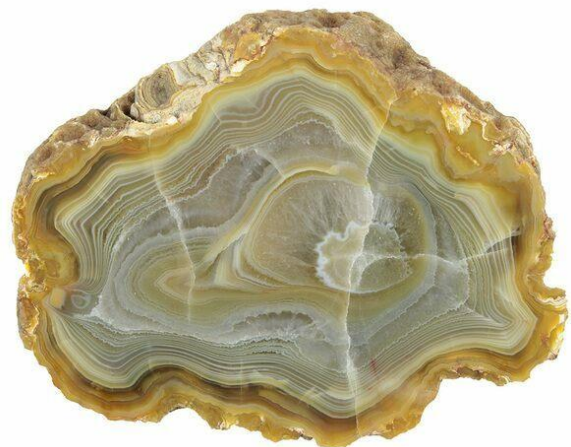
I have purchased several and am in the process of cutting them now. I plan on sharing them with the club so everyone can see how beautiful they are.

From the Internet:

This is a beautiful cut and polished agate nodule half that was collected from an unidentified island in the South Pacific Ocean. The agate is banded, has orange to yellow coloration with white bands. The mystery island that these agates are collected from is being kept secret, though it's believed to be from one of the many islands near Indonesia.

Minutes cont.

- a) Please print/sign and include phone number on the liability form and return to Lynne.
 - b) (Circulate cell phone form) Maintaining contact while on trips.
 - c) Stonerose – decide on date, meeting time and location. **May 20**
 - d) LaFarge – decide on date, meeting time and location. **June?**
 - e) Wild Turkey Mine – Open for digging one weekend a month. Decide on date.
 - f) Richardson Ranch Agate Field discussion. **Closed for digging**
 - g) June 10th field day to organize gem show trailer. BBQ/Potluck? **Discuss next month**
 - h) **Huckleberry Garnets, Clarkia ID, Sunday, 4/23, 7am, \$5 person, \$40lb.**
- 3) Share a rock – Erin Mallette **Black opal from Royal Peacock Opal Mine**
 - 4) Identify the rock/mineral (Show/Tell, Open Mike)
 - 5) Raffle for door prize; amethyst sphere **Won by Sheila Stratton**
 - 6) Break/Refreshments
 - a) Silent Auction
- Presentation:
- 7) Closing
 - a) Volunteer for next month's presentation
 - b) Go over any other action items with due dates and who has the lead.



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)

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. If you don't want to write a whole article, send me pictures with a brief note about them and I'll be happy to put them in this newsletter. Remember, “a picture is worth a thousand words”!

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