

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

July 2023

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes of the June 20, 2023 General Meeting

By Glynis Hull, Secretary

President: Lynne Calvert opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

There has been a development with one of the club trustees that requires this person to be put on hiatus for the foreseeable future. This requires the position to be filled by a volunteer trustee until elections in the fall. Darla Clowser has volunteered to fill the position.

We're still working with the large donation of rocks we received in May. There will be a work day on June 24 to clean and organize the donation. Some of it was sold in Colville at the local market earning the club \$243.

Another rock collection has been offered. Lynne will contact the man that has it.

The Northwest Federation wants representation from our club at the meeting/show in Billings in August. Kevin and Leigh will go for our club.

The club will have a field trip to Wild Turkey Mine on July 8. There will be another field trip the end of July. LaFarge/Metaline Falls trilobite trip will be in September probably.

The club annual BBQ will be the meeting for

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Storage Trailer Organization

By Lynne Calvert

Our club's storage trailer needed organizing to streamline the process for setting up for our future gem show. On June 10th, Johnie, Ginger, Kevin, Kris, Jim Peters, Roger, and Lynne met to remove unused items to reduce clutter. The remaining contents were arranged in an orderly method. Thank you for the help and vision to plan for the future!



I may be obsessed with rocks, but that's my pre-rock-ative.

Rock Stockpile Organization

By Lynne Calvert

On June 24th, we had a work party to sort rocks that were donated to our club. Prior to the donation, we lacked variety in our existing stock to offer for our auctions and door prizes. Glynis, Cyndi, Jim Retzer, Johnie, Ginger, Greg, Gene, Fran, Roger, myself, Betty and Jim Peters met Kevin and Leigh at their house to sort and organize rocks. The underlying purpose was to reduce the amount of space these rocks were taking. However, the rocks were in much need of cleaning. We were unable to do any organizing, consolidating or identifying of the rocks without washing. A wash station was set up with a wire table tops and power washer. Glynis used the power washer to wash rocks. The remaining members moved containers between the storage area to the work stations while others identified and segregated. The work began at 9:00 AM. Leigh and Lynne picked up pizzas for lunch. After lunch we had a discussion on our progress. Due to the dedication and eagerness of this crew, we kept working. We finished the task to wash all of the rocks – a nasty but necessary endeavor. We segregated, identified, and consolidated 80% (estimated) of the rocks. The members who were present were able to purchase rocks. We made \$204.00. I would like to extend gratitude to the crew for their hard work. I am inspired by your energy. This club is lively and viable because of our awesome members!



Livingstonite

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 American Indians. 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 and placed it in the X-ray put it on scan. 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.

My Continuing Saga (Love Affair) with Yellowstone: Tourons (Tourist Morons)

By Glynis Hull

I was in Yellowstone National Park this past Memorial Weekend for a photography class. I stopped at one of the souvenir stores on my way in and almost bought a shirt that said "Don't pet the fluffy cows." It seems stupid people check their brains at the gates of our national parks nowadays and assume going into the wild makes it okay for them to become even stupider. I recently saw a picture of a woman standing by the head of a relaxing behemoth bison trying to get just the right selfie. Fortunately for her the bison wasn't too interested in how she looked and allowed her inanities to continue. Cyndie showed me a brief clip of a woman (mother?) holding a young child's hand edging him toward the cliffside of one of the large falls (and in the spring they're ALL large!). They were illegally past the guardrail put in by the park service to protect people from doing exactly what she was doing. I don't know about you but she would not get my vote for mother-of-the-year award. Or perhaps you recently heard about the young woman who stuck her hand and foot into one of the ponds and ran away screaming how hot it was.

I bought a book at the souvenir store titled "Death in Yellowstone" by Lee H. Whittlesey. Rather morbid

yes, but I like reading about things that make me feel more intelligent than the subjects of the book. Page after page the author goes back from the earliest days of Yellowstone until the time of publishing and recounts the behaviors of people who failed to survive their poor choices of behavior. And it isn't just in Yellowstone either. Recently a woman was trying to get a picture of her family at Grand Canyon and stepped back one too many steps and went over the side. Was the picture worth it? They didn't say whether they retrieved the camera when the rangers finally retrieved her body. Needless to say, the family will always remember that family vacation. A man "fell" off the Grand Canyon West Skywalk about a month ago and plunged 4000 ft to his death. Possibly suicide, but once again park rangers got to retrieve what was left of him.

People are going over the falls at Yosemite and Rocky Mountain National Parks and I'm sure there are way more incidents at far more parks than we come close to hearing about. I feel for the park rangers who I'm sure signed up for their dream job just so they could collect dead bodies from ungodly places to return to grieving families who don't understand why the "accident" happened to their loved one in the first place.

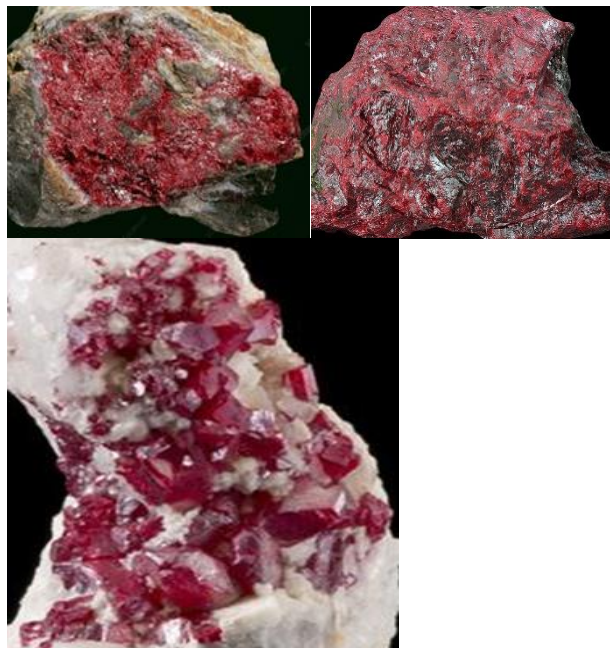
So as we go about our travels to partake of the grandeur this country has to offer, make sure we leave our "stupid" hats at home and respect what God gave us to enjoy. Don't pet the fluffy cows, don't play in the pretty, steamy water, don't try to walk the edge of the cliff, don't try to hug a cub or a calf. These sound like lots of don'ts but think of all the "do's" you get to do by heeding the don'ts. If we want the "wild" experience then we can't fall prey to our "stupid" to try to get it. End of rant!



Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

By Jim Retzer

Last month’s rock or mineral:



Cinnabar is a toxic mercury sulfide [mineral](#) with a chemical composition of HgS. It is the most common mercury mineral and is the chief [ore](#) of that [metal](#). For thousands of years, cinnabar has been mined for mercury. It is heated in a furnace until the mercury escapes as a vapor that is then run through a condensation tube to form liquid mercury.

Because of its bright red color people have used it as a pigment and carved it into jewelry and ornaments for thousands of years. In recent times its pigment and

jewelry use has almost been discontinued due to its toxic nature.

Cinnabar has been mined and used as a precious resource by many cultures around the globe since at least the 10th millennium B.C. Cinnabar is also known as "vermilion." The two terms are used interchangeably, by both ancient authors and modern scholars, because chemically the two substances are the same, HgS - mercuric sulfide. But "cinnabar" refers to the mineral, while "vermilion" is the pigment.

Cinnabar has a chemical formula of HgS and has a metallic luster. It is transparent to translucent and is primarily red, brownish red in color but sometimes it can be from silvery dark red to silvery grey in color. It produces a red-brown to scarlet streak, has a Mohs hardness of 2 – 2½, and a Specific Gravity of 8.176. It belongs to the trigonal crystal system and occurs as thick tabular or slender prismatic crystals or as granular to massive incrustations. Crystal twinning occurs as simple contact twins. It has a perfect cleavage and an irregular/uneven, sub-conchoidal fracture.

This month’s rock or mineral:



Never-before-seen ‘crystal-like matter’ hidden in a chunk of fossilized lightning is probably a brand new mineral. The fossilized lightning chunk, or fulgurite, was created when lightning struck a tree and discharged through the ground, melting and fusing nearby soil, rock, sand, and organic debris into a singular metallic-looking lump. Cutting the fulgurite open revealed a previously unknown material consisting mainly of calcium phosphate (CaHPO₃).

*Why wasn't the geologist hungry?
He lost his apatite.*

(cont. from page 1)

August. It will be combined with an auction of the new materials donated. Since most of the donated rock is at Kevin and Leigh's home we will have the BBQ there.

Johnie did the Share-a-Rock. He had petrified shipworms, or *Teredo navalis*. They live on dead wood. There was a brief debate as to whether they should be considered petrified or fossilized.

The presentation was a video about doing mineral identification by applying various testing techniques.

Wild Turkey Mine Field Trip

Members of our club met on the 8th of July to go to the Wild Turkey Mine near Valley, WA. The access road to the mine was easy to miss but we found it. Kris and Fran led the way up the narrow, steep, and rutted road. There were people already digging at the site and parking spaces were filling up. We parked and walked up an incline over chunks of serpentine. Some people were breaking off pieces from the embankment. Jim gave us advice to look for pieces with blue coloration within the green and yellow serpentine. The best place to look was low on the hill by sorting through the rubble that people had discarded. That made me happy to hear. I sat on the rocky ground in the cool of the morning shade. I turned over rocks to collect the ones I wanted. Roger and I filled two buckets in less than 2 hours. The mine owners hold a free drawing at 11:00 AM. They charge \$1.50 per pound. We departed with our loot. The ride out was an adventure as we maneuvered and squeezed past on-coming vehicles. The trip was a fun and spirited endeavor.



Island Agates (cont. from May issue)

Here are a few pictures of the island agates I wrote about in the May newsletter. Each one is such a treat to cut because of the magnificent banding inside. Bands range from clear (with great shadowing) to creams, tans, reds, light browns and sometimes blue.



Camping for the AFMS/NFMS Show in Billings.

We have leased a spot next to the show location for dry camping for August 2-8th. Lots of room and good shade areas, \$20 for one night or all nights, First come, first served.

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)

Next month: Back to Yellowstone (unless you send me your articles!). 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:	Darla Clowser		
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