

**Place:**  
Arden Community Hall  
636 Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## **The Panorama Prospector**

September 2023

### **PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB**

#### **Minutes of the August 15, 2023 General Meeting**

By Glynis Hull, Secretary

President: Lynne Calvert opened the meeting at 6:10 pm.

The club annual BBQ started with a moment of silence and then the eating was on!



### **Johnie's Jabbers**

#### **By Johnie Pitman**

Remembering members from the past: First it was great to see and visit with Brenda Kroeger-Piper at the August picnic, she now lives in Missouri. She donated \$100 to the scholarship fund for next year. Thanks Brenda!!

I got a call from Daniel Lundy on Aug 15 giving us some bad news concerning Tina, she had undergone surgery to remove a cyst from her brain, there were some complications and has had other surgeries. Prayers are requested, Daniel and the kids are fine

and will keep us posted on her condition. They now live in Texas.

Marty and Sherryl Whitney have decided to move from Chewelah to Maine, Marty is a disabled veteran and there is a V.A. hospital there. Thanks for your service Marty!!!

The Hunters fair booth went off well thanks to Lynn and Roger Calvert and a few other members that came to help. Sold a few rocks and got the club banner out to let people know that we exist, and some people showed interest in becoming members. Good job Lynn and Roger.

The decision to put a display in the Stevens County Fair wasn't decided on in time to get items from everyone for the display, but thanks to everyone that did loan items on short notice. Thanks to Jim Retzer for his help setting it up and taking it down and getting items back to their owners.

The Club trailer had to be moved from the fairgrounds during the fair and then put back again. Thanks to Gene Fisher for finding a place to park it and for moving it both ways.

## **The 2023 Northwest Federation Rockhound Retreat**

**By Glynis Hull**

Cyndie Doppler and I attended the Northwest Federation Rockhound Retreat this year. It always starts off Monday evening with a traditional spaghetti dinner. That is, after greeting old friends you haven't seen since last year and getting acquainted with new cabin mates as you prepare your bunk for the next six nights.

Classes begin Tuesday morning. You can pick from lapidary, silversmithing, metalsmithing, carving, intarsia, doublets and triplets, and wire wrapping. Cyndie chose lapidary and I chose wire wrapping. We both stayed in the same class all week, Cyndie because she loves making cabs and me because I desperately needed brushing up on my wire wrapping skills. I tried wire weaving also but I don't think that's my forte. Too many wires and not enough fingers!

On Tuesday evening we had a "Stump the Experts" session. Since I recently bought some Howardite I asked about how to stabilize it. That brought a lively discussion about what Howardite is and how to stabilize it. I think I got a satisfactory answer and will try the method that sounded most logical on a small piece before I do all the slabs I bought.

Thursday evening we had a swap meet. I swapped some of my optical quartz for several pieces of Peruvian (I think) turquoise and two custom glass beads which also have a special name that I didn't bother writing down either. I'll learn!

Friday night was auction night! We all love that and there is a lot of lively, good-natured bidding. I won two chunks of Arizona petrified wood and a really big chunk of Mexican crazy lace. My pocketbook is definitely lighter but I look to get many good cuts off all of my purchases.

Saturday evening we did "show and tell" and displayed our work from the week. I had four wire wrap pendants and two rings to share. Cyndie had multiple cabs to show. There were a lot of beautiful items on display, from carvings to intarsia, rings and set stones to cabs, showing the depth of talent available at the retreat.

Sunday morning meant packing up and saying good-bye to friends, newfound and long-time, wishing them a safe trip home and a promise to see them next year. One downer of the week was watching one of the past instructors suffering from dementia wander the retreat. Many of us took time to spend with her, listening to oft repeated stories but keeping an eye on her and keeping her safe so her husband could teach lapidary classes. We probably won't have her at another retreat so it was a sad good-bye for all of us.

I asked Cyndie what was best about the retreat for her. She liked seeing her friends again and all the camaraderie of being with like-minded people. She enjoyed being able to spend a whole week doing what she liked to do without life interfering. For me it was learning new techniques and developing skills I can use to promote my business. And the friends, people who love and care about me and our hobby.

## Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

By Jim Retzer

Last month’s rock or mineral:



"Larimar" is the tradename given to a variation of Pectolite discovered in 1974 in the Dominican Republic. Larimar is a form of the mineral Pectolite, an acid silicate hydrate of calcium and sodium. Pectolite is found in many locations, but larimar has a unique volcanic blue coloration and is only found in one location in the world. It only comes from a one square kilometer area in the mountains above Baoruco in the Dominican Republic.

Pectolite is normally gray or white but in Larimar traces of copper substitute for calcium, resulting in its blue color tones.

With colors ranging from white to various shades of blue, pectolite from the Dominican Republic is the most sought after.

Pectolite usually forms in a radiating fibers form but if the fibers grow intertwined in becomes jade-like in toughness and appearance. This is the case with Larimar, giving it the ability to be formed into outstanding cabochons.

Larimar has a chemical formula of

$\text{NaCa}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8(\text{OH})$  and is in the Triclinic crystal system and forms in a tabular to acicular, radiating fibrous, spheroidal, or columnar crystal habit. Its luster is usually silky or subvitreous and is opaque. Larimar has a Mohs scale hardness of 4.5 to 5 and a specific gravity of 2.74 – 2.90.

This month’s rock or mineral:



*Obsidian is named after a man named Obsius who discovered and described the mineral in Ethiopia about 2000 years ago. His work was mentioned by Pliny the Elder.*

**From Jim the Jokester:**

Two men go on a prospecting trip. They buy all the equipment: the prospecting permit, gold detectors, expensive hiking boots, all the maps, a 4WD, and even a cyclone-proof tent. They spend a fortune!

The first day they went prospecting. They didn't find anything. The same thing happened on the second day, and on the third day. It goes like this until finally, on the last day of their vacation, one of the men finds a geode.

As they're driving home they're really depressed. The one guy turns to the other and says, "Do you realize that this one lousy geode we found cost us fifteen thousand bucks?"

The other guy says, "Wow! It's a good thing we didn't find anymore!"



## 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](mailto: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 write them up and 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