

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

October 2023

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes of the September 19, 2023 General Meeting

Vice President Bob Bristow facilitated the meeting. He also gave the presentation.

The trip to Lafarge to dig for trilobite fossils is scheduled for Thursday, October 5th. The Selkirk Club from Canada would like to participate.

The Marcus Cider Fest is October 7th. Our club has had a booth in years past. Nobody signed up to help with the booth this year.

A discussion was held regarding the administration of the scholarships. A suggestion was made for the executive committee to have a special meeting to address the comments and suggestions from the members. More to follow on this topic.

to make our booth stand out. Most fortunately we had help. Johnnie, Ginger, and Jim Retzer had their own booths nearby and were able to guide and assist us. I began running the “spinning wheel” game about 15 minutes after the festival start time. That wheel was spinning most of the day as waves of customers wanted to play. Many kids had smiles on their faces. Roger talked to customers about the rocks we were selling and provided information about our club. It was a wonderful break when Simon and Dexter showed up with their parents, Scott and Kelly. Simon took over the spinning wheel game while Dexter helped Ginger and Johnnie. I was so grateful to get off my feet while they were there. A while later, Kevin and Leigh showed up with more rocks to sell at the booth. They also brought one of the wooden crates they made. Leigh took over the wheel game to give me some time to rest. As evening approached, the shade from the canopy faded with the sun low in the sky. Satisfied with our efforts, we closed the booth about an hour early to avoid the mass exit of vehicles and people.

Marcus Cider Fest Booth

By Lynne Calvert

Roger and I were working on a roofing project and finished it earlier than expected. That freed our time to set up the Club’s booth at the Marcus Cider Festival on October 7th. We arrived 45 minutes before the festival officially started. We hastily set up the canopy, made signs, covered tables, unloaded boxes, displayed rocks aired up balloons with helium



Lafarge Trilobite Dig

By Lynne Calvert

I received a phone call from Sharon Borgford reminding me of the trip to Lafarge to dig for trilobites. Several phone calls later to Johnie, Bob, and Rick, I had authorization to dig and access across private landowner's property. Coordination with Ron Nielsen of the the Selkirk Rock and Mineral Club was made. On very short notice, eighteen people met early on October 5th to caravan to the quarry. We arrived a little after 10:00 AM. We were surrounded by trees in all their Autumn glory. The weather was perfect. Sharon and Doug provided valuable information that explained the geology in the area. I want to give Ginger and Johnie a huge **"Thank You"** for showing us where to go inside the quarry. They taught us how to split the rocks to find the fossils before departing as they both were not feeling well. Due to their dedication, everyone found a trilobite. We had the added benefit of meeting a wonderful group of people to share information and the love of rockhounding. It was really a great time and one couple joined our club! Our new Canadian friends expressed interest in going again next year. We agree! Hopefully, with better planning, longer lead time, and meeting on a Saturday more people can attend and experience the thrill.



Identify the "Rock or Mineral"

Last month's rock or mineral:



Rhodonite – it is a manganese silicate mineral that is usually found – in metamorphic rocks in association with other manganese minerals. It is also found in rocks that have been altered by contact metamorphism hydrothermal and metasomatic processes. Rhodonite comes in shades that vary from pale pink to deep red. It has a vitreous luster and is composed of other minerals such as calcite, iron, and magnesium. It has a triclinic crystal system but usually occurs in a massive to granular form, rarely is it found as red triclinic crystals.

Rhodonite, a manganese inosilicate has a chemical formula of $(\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Mg}, \text{Ca})\text{SiO}_3$ and is a member

of the pyroxenoid group of minerals. It commonly occurs in cleavable to compact masses with a rose-red color that can trend to brown due to surface oxidation. The rose-red hue is caused by the manganese cation (Mn^{2+}).

Rhodonite is sometimes confused with rhodochrosite, which is softer and effervescent in hydrochloric acid, or thulite, which is usually not associated with black manganese oxides. Rhodonite can be identified by its pink to red color with a Mohs hardness of 5.5-6.5 and a specific gravity of 3.4-3.7. It has a perfect, two direction (90 degrees) cleavage with a vitreous luster, in some instances it has a pearly luster on the cleavage faces. On a streak plate rhodonite produces a white streak.

It is found at many locations throughout the United States even being the official gemstone of Massachusetts. It has been noted in several location in Washington state, including Hurricane Mine, Clallam County; Great Western Mine and Moore Mine, Okanogan County; French Creek Area, Snohomish County; Skunk Creek 19 Mine, Grays Harbor County; Elkhorn Prospect, Jefferson County; Black and White Mine and Triple Trip Mine, Mason County.

This month's rock or mineral:



Little Finland

By Lynne Calvert

Roger and I met my cousin from Vermont in Las Vegas, NV last month. We tried to go to Death Valley but all roads were closed due to storm “Hilary”. We drove to Little Finland in Gold Butte National Monument. It is eroded Aztec Sandstone formations that look like narrow fins.

The real adventure was the drive. The roads were washed out. We might not have found this obscure site had it not been for a jeep club that recently drove out. We followed their tracks for miles in our SUV through the desert sand, mud, and gravel. Upon arrival we discovered most of the elaborate formations had practically eroded away. However, the intriguing scenery was the lush palm trees growing out of the sandstone mountain – in the middle of the desert! It was astounding. How were they irrigated?

We headed back the way we came as rain fell. We worried about being able to get out of this remote area. Suddenly, a road runner ran past some brush. We jumped out of the car to see this rare bird. It was long gone but we searched the nearby bushes anyway. As luck would have it Roger found a very unique rock (see picture below). We were all excited about his find. I was also very happy when we finally drove on to an actual road I recognized and not stranded!



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 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	jpgpitman@outlook.com	509-684-8887