

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

November 2023

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB **Minutes of the October 17, 2023 General Meeting**

By Lynne Calvert, President

October Meeting Notes

Lynne opened the meeting at 6:08.

Lafarge Trip was put together last minute. The gem club from Canada participated. Sharon shared about the geology in the area before we began digging and breaking apart rocks.

Marcus Cider Fest. We made \$256.50. People wanted to donate rocks.

November Auction will be held during our regular meeting. Bring rocks and other stuff to be sold. The meeting will be shortened to elect new officers and discuss the Christmas party.

Positions needed to be filled are President and Treasurer.

Financial Report was passed out. Get your reimbursable receipts submitted to Frank Stratton by the end of the year.

The Executive Board will be meeting soon to discuss the scholarship program.

October newsletter was put together by Lynne. She thanked Joe for mailing copies to members.

Cont on page 3.

Bring Your Money! November is Auction Month!

Johnie's Jabbers

By Johnie Pitman

Looks like outdoor rock hounding is done until next year, at least around here, but there are a lot of fun things to keep us occupied until spring.

First is the November rock and other donated items auction, should have some good rocks and whatever you want to donate, it's always fun. We will also do officer elections (not so much fun)!! Remember November is when Dues are due, still \$20 per family.

Then the Christmas Party in Dec., lots of good food and gift exchange. That is on Dec. 19th, the club furnishes the meat and everything else is potluck (more fun).

Then there is show preparation, like deciding what to put in your display cases. The dealer contracts have been mailed out. The show dates are March 8-9 with set up on the 7th. Thanks to everyone that is tumbling rock, we really need more of the 1-2" size for the Wheel-of-Fortune because we used most of what we had when we took the wheel to the Marcus Cider Fest. I think we need to charge \$.50 for a spin on the wheel next year.

After the show is usually scholarships, this year there has been a special one-time scholarship donation to be given to a student from Northport High School. It

is for \$1000 and was donated by Brenda Kroeger-Piper in honor of “3 Good Men”. Gary Piper, Eddie Weilip, Dean Everson. Pipers were club members for many years and lived in the Northport area. Thanks Brenda!!

A Brief Report on Crystal Park Montana

By Glynis Hull

On my recent trip one of my stops was Crystal Park in Montana near Dillon. I was appalled and dismayed when I got there. I shouldn't have been surprised but what I saw could be described only as a rape of the landscape. Holes were everywhere, trees left with bare roots, rivulets where there was no vegetation to hold the water. I only saw the front of the hill because it was too treacherous for me to walk over the hill to the other side. Maybe that's where the crystals were because I found very little on the front side.

We've talked about going to Crystal Park for a field trip as a club. Unless you just enjoy the drive, in my humble opinion I would mark this off the list of possibilities so we don't waste time, money and effort for little to no return on our investment.

Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

By Jim Retzer

Last month's rock or mineral:



Carnelian – a brownish-red mineral commonly used as a semiprecious stone. It ranges in color from yellowish orange to an orangey brown and varies from semi-opaque to highly translucent. It can be easily heat treated to darken the red tones from iron impurities in the mineral. The heat treating causes the iron to oxidize and darken. Being a variety of Chalcedony, it has a chemical formula of SiO₂ with a hexagonal crystalline structure and is found in a microcrystalline form and has an uneven, usually conchoidal fracture, fracture. In some cases, it has a fluorescent luminescence of blue-white. Its physical properties are similar to other silicate minerals with a Mohs hardness of 6.5-7 and a specific gravity of 2.63-2.65 with an uneven cleavage. It is translucent to opaque (though light can still be seen through it) with a waxy to dull luster.

Much of the Carnelian imported from India has undergone some sort of treatment. One popular method is to leave it out in the sun for months. The sun's warmth transforms the colors to a deep red.

This month's rock or mineral:



From Jim the Jokester:

Postal Worker delivering package from Highland Park Lapidary to woman: “What have you got in here? Rocks?” Woman: “Yes!”

UPS Worker delivering package from Highland Park Lapidary to woman: “What have you got in here? Rocks?” Woman: “Yes!”

FedEx Worker delivering package from Highland Park Lapidary to woman: “What have you got in here? Rocks?” Woman: “Yes!”

4,568 Miles of Mountains, Amusements and Miseries

By Glynis Hull

I recently returned from an extended trip to Albuquerque to enjoy the Balloon Fiesta. What a trip it was!

I spent the first night in Deer Lodge MT and toured the old Montana State Prison the next day. Talk about a good place to practice “scared straight”! From there I went on to spend two nights in Dillon, visiting Crystal Park—see my article above.

I drove on to Kemmerer WY, hoping to dig fossils. Seems things start shutting down after Labor Day so I didn’t get the opportunity but I did visit Fossil Butte National Monument which is worth a stop if you’re passing through the area. It was at Kemmerer the first misery happened. I blew a tire on the trailer. A good Samaritan saw it happen and pulled over to help me. Angels can come in the form of a hefty guy in a work truck with a giant heart.

I drove on through the mountains and canyons lit with fall foliage of Utah and Colorado to Cortez. I visited the Four Corners, which is actually 1,800 feet west of where it should be, but close enough. The only day it rained on the whole trip was the day I went to Mesa Verde. My visions of great photographs kind of melted. Nonetheless, it was quite the place to visit. That night the second misery struck. My little dog, Kitsu, started having seizures in the night. I decided to press on to Santa Fe to get veterinary help for him. It was a long stressful drive, for both of us. That evening I got in to see a kind vet and we decided Kitsu needed to be put to sleep. Within 24 hours I was left alone for the balance of the trip.

Minutes cont. from page 1

Share a rock –

Johnie met a young man that has property in Northport. He was on leave from his duty station at the Embassy in Zimbabwe. He had green petrified wood and agates from Zimbabwe. He gave Johnie a couple of samples of the green petrified wood and the beautiful agate to share with the club.

Bob shared a piece of picture jasper.

Sharon shared several trilobites including two separate species. She explained that they had a hard shell. They molt starting at the head. She showed pictures.

Susan shared trilobites and fossil from Lightning Strike, Louisiana. She brought a fossilized bone and a Neanderthal club.

Sheila gave a presentation on the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend, Iowa. The priest who built the grotto was a geologist. He used rocks from all over the world to build it. A couple of major organizations helped him complete his vision.

Lynne closed the meeting at 7:35.

The next day I visited Los Alamos. It wasn’t exactly what I expected but I found an extremely interesting museum about the atomic industry in the area. For all the havoc they created “Little Boy” and “Fat Man” weren’t very large bombs—scary.

I drove on to Roswell (sorry, no aliens!) then Carlsbad where I visited Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The caverns were cool but since I had seen many others, I wasn’t so awestruck as I might have been. Of course, my joy level was considerably diminished.

Next stop was Alamogordo, a very nice community with the world’s biggest pistachio. I drove out to White Sands National Monument to photograph the sunset, which decided to accommodate me with a little splendor. The next day misery number three

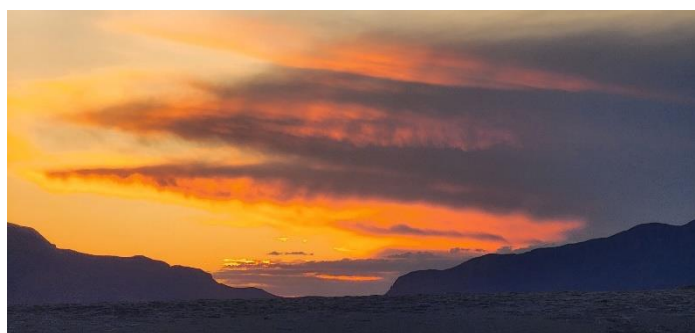
struck: I got food poisoning! I got very familiar with my trailer bathroom most of the day. They say bad things strike in threes so okay, I was done!

I headed to Deming and stayed at a nice RV park Jim Retzer had recommended. Following his directions, I found some nice rhyolite I'll be cutting soon.

On to Albuquerque and the Balloon Fiesta! It was windy when I drove in so I assumed there would be no activity that evening. I went to bed and was reading when KAWHOMP! Lights lit up the trailer like the 4th of July! Right behind my trailer they were setting off the fireworks! I got a close up show all three nights I was there. The next morning I was awakened by a SHHWISSSHHH sound and I realized the balloons were right overhead! There were so many of them—about 150 altogether. What an incredible sight! No, I didn't get to ride in one—it's still on my bucket list—but I did get to see the balloons up close. There were character ones and the more traditional shaped ones. There was an early morning launch with the national anthem and an airplane flyover that was pretty spectacular. All the balloons lit up their gas flames at once making a mosaic of color against the early morning light. In the later afternoon they would launch the different styles of balloons, characters one day and traditional the next. The only one that never got off the ground was Darth Vader, and even Jesus was there!

Albuquerque was ground zero for the annular eclipse October 14 so even though I hadn't planned on it in the trip I was there to see the entire eclipse. I can now say I've seen a full eclipse and an annular one. Not many can say that!

It was time to head home. I moved on to Flagstaff, stopping at the Petrified Forest National Park, then turned my nose north for four days of hard travel. Going home was hard knowing I'd be going home to an empty house but I had ever so many memories that I can't begin to share them all. I still have hundreds of photos to sort through but here are a few I'd like to share:



Strange Spires

By Bob Bristow

This fall, Linda and I had a meeting to attend in Vancouver. We normally drive down I-84 on the south side of the Columbia River. Instead, I suggested we go down the other side of the Columbia River on Highway 14. It would be slower, but we would see some different country. (I had been that way only once before, way back in 1959.) I really didn't expect to see much difference since I could look across the river from I-84 on earlier trips. However, we saw some geology that I didn't expect. A little downstream from Biggs, what had looked like some eroded lava between the river and the cliffs on the north side turned out to be spires from inches to over 20 feet high. The surrounding rock had been worn flat due to the Bretz Floods, so these spires had to have come up since that time. There were patches of these rocks scattered along the flat areas for several miles. We had a meeting to make and so did not stop to examine the formations up close. I have seen similar formations several places before. In several of these, hot springs have come up through soft rock and left hard deposits. The surrounding rock then eroded away leaving rugged spires. The other similar formations occurred when what appeared to be either hot water or lava worked its way through an ash formation. The ash (tuff) then eroded to leave the spires. The first example looked similar to the Columbia River spires, but they were formed by hot springs minerals, not lava. The second example might have formed from hot springs. If so, it too would have been different. Even if the strange spires formed from lava that worked its way up through tuff, the lava in the area of the second example was rhyolite, not basalt. This means I have not seen anything comparable to those spires along the Columbia.

As I write this, I'm thinking that next time I go down the Columbia, I will take I-84 down to Biggs, cross over to HWY 14, check out the spires, and then cross back to I-84 at The Dalles.

PGMC Executive Board Meeting

November 13, 2023

By Glynis Hull, Secretary

Main topic of discussion was what to do about scholarships. There were several questions concerning amounts, impact, choice of recipients, expansion to homeschoolers and private schools. If we cancel the scholarship program the next question is what would we do with the money. Potential tax issues could result but Glynis will check on that. It was suggested we could give to a local charity or send someone to the rockhound retreat. The board voted by a narrow margin to stop the scholarship program but it was decided to refer it to the whole membership for final decision.

Officers: Lynne would like to have a new President who would serve one year obligation. A third trustee is needed. Frank agreed to be treasurer again but would like to have someone take over the webpage duties. Do we continue to mail the newsletter or email it or just post it on the webpage? Do we keep the webpage?

Johnie said Brian Martell will be the auctioneer.

There's an opportunity to move up the start time of the meetings for winter. Decision deferred.

Lynne and Roger need their crates back from the rock sale at the BBQ this summer. Kevin is making more boxes and Kevin and Roger are working on a brand to put on them. The idea is to fill them with rocks from our supply and sell them at shows. We will try it as a "beta" test.

December is our Christmas Party!

We discussed the meal. Betty checked on prices at Costco that proved to be reasonable. We will have turkey breast with all the trimmings. Members will be asked to bring salads or a few desserts although there will be pumpkin pie from Costco. A list of needs will be passed around at the next meeting. See you there, at the auction!!

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 dedicate this issue to my valiant little traveling companion who left for the hereafter while we were in Santa Fe. It was a hard trip home. RIP Kitsu (2010-2023)



Refreshment Schedule for 2023

Last names that begin with the letters posted bring refreshments for that month

January – H, I, J
 February – K, L, M
 March – N, O, P
 April – Q, R, S, T
 May – W, A, B, C
 June – D, E, F, G
 July – H, I, J
 August – Club Picnic
 September – K, L, M
 October – N, O, P
 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