

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

August 2024

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the July 16, 2024 General Meeting

Lynne opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

She gave a description of how meetings go for the new people.

Tonight was a membership drive and we would be having a sapphire dig.

Financial report and Jim P is owed money for his mileage associated with the scholarship program.

The secretary is the single point of contact for club emails. Need more articles for the newsletter.

Bob B. said his new book: A Hobo's Son and an Orphan Girl is now available for purchase.

Jim P redid the shelves for the library. Books are available for check out from Betty.

Club picnic is next meeting (8/20). Will be at the meeting house, 6 pm, early set-up. Club will provide the meat. Need salads, desserts, chips, etc. Bring your own chair, drinks other than water or lemonade.

Program was about sapphires: what, where, what it looks like, looking for small stones. Gene spoke and Bob told a story of how he got sapphires. Jim R. said it is part of the corundum set. Pan the sands like you do for gold found mostly in sand deposits. You have to send them in to get them

Gene Fisher donated a vibratory tumbler to the club. More details will follow.



Minutes cont. fired for the blue color then facet them.

Executive board meeting 8/12: Items discussed:

NFMS Bulletin will be delivered electronically from now on. Lynne will spearhead the change.

Frank presented financial statements, discussed valuing current rock holdings as assets.

Betty talked about the picnic. Members committed to food assignments.

Trailer moved from fairgrounds, put items in showcase at fair.

See about setting up showcases at local libraries and fix the one at the courthouse.

Minutes cont.

Gene donated a vibratory tumbler to the club.

The website is having issues and is currently down.

Club purchases: Bluetooth speaker and microphone, club to furnish grits for people tumbling rocks for the show activities, a security camera for the show, rough rock from guy in Addy.

Remaining bags from the sapphire dig will be auctioned in November.

Trips in Sept.

Marcus Ciderfest, Oct 5.

Keep kids out of kitchen until break time.

Make the newsletter electronic delivery.

Scholarship or not? Take to club membership for decision

Mileage reimbursement set at \$.20/mile.

Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

By Jim Retzer

Last month’s rock or mineral:



Lepidolite – It is a rare lithium-rich form of mica belonging to the trioctahedral mica group with a structure similar to biotite, occurring in stacks of sheets, sometimes referred to as “books.” Lepidolite develops in late-stage magmatic crystallization forms in geochemical environments such as pegmatite bodies, granite, and high-temperature quartz veins, where high concentrations of lithium are available. The lithium ion is very small and does not readily substitute in other minerals. It is usually one of the last ions to form minerals during the crystallization of a subsurface magma. As other ions are depleted the ratio of lithium ions increases resulting in lithium rich magma. If the level of lithium ions is high enough during the final stages of crystallization discrete lithium minerals can form. Lepidolite is a rare mineral because these geochemical situations rarely occur.

It is the most common lithium-bearing mineral and serves as a minor ore of lithium metal, with rubidium and cesium sometimes being byproducts. When it is impregnated with quartz it forms a more solid material that is used as a minor gemstone for making cabochons and beads.

Lepidolite is usually pink, red, or purple in color. It sometimes has a dark tone, which gives it a grayish appearance. Rare specimens of lepidolite are colorless or yellow. Many people have believed that the color of lepidolite is caused by its lithium content, but lithium rarely serves as a chromophore in minerals. The pink, red and purple colors are caused by

Many people assume that lithium produces the color of lepidolite; however, lithium rarely serves as a chromophore in minerals. Small amounts of Manganese in the lepidolite is the cause of its pink, red and purple colors.

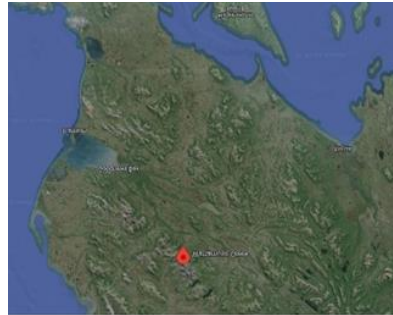
The properties of lepidolite make most specimens easy to identify. If you find a pink to purple mica mineral, it is probably lepidolite. Having a chemical composition of $K(Li,Al)_3(Si,Al)_4O_{10}(F,OH)_2$, Lepidolite has a hardness of 2.5 – 3.5 on the Mohs hardness scale and a specific gravity of 2.8 – 2.9, it is in the Monoclinic crystal system, with a Vitreous –

Pearly luster, and gives a white streak on an unglazed streak tile.

This month's rock or mineral:



servicing equipment, and maintaining supplies. They encountered creeks too deep to cross due to melting snow, snow drifts, and limited radio contact with pilots, low fuel, and breakdowns. With pure determination and grit they made their destination in 12 working days. If there wasn't so much snow and work to do there would have been time for some rock hounding and prospecting – especially near Platinum. Well, in fact, he told us about his mining days with Alaska Gold – but that is another story.

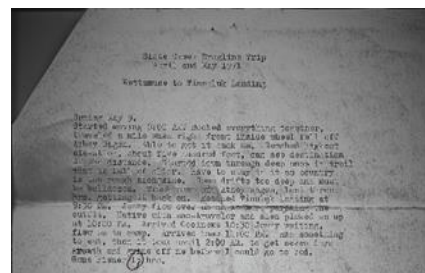
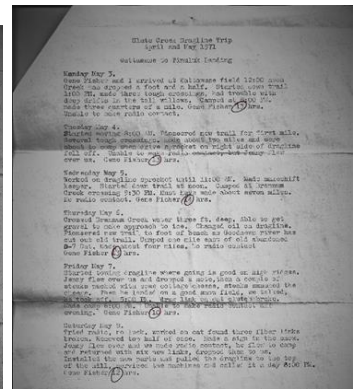
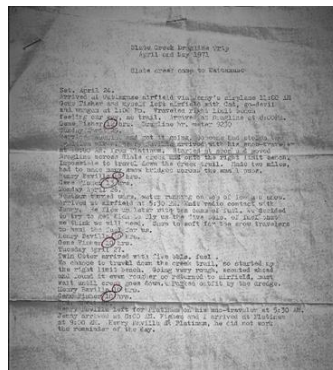


A Miner with a Heart of Gold

By Lynne Calvert

On August 1st 2024 Roger and I were out running errands and decided to visit a friend. He told us about his adventures in Alaska in the early 1970s – like the time a helicopter crashed on top of him. He worked for the telephone company installing antennas and communication equipment to remote areas. It was not practical to transport multiple people and supplies via helicopter and airplane to each worksite. Therefore, the employees chosen for the job had to have multiple skills beyond their job description. New access trails had to be made using tracked vehicles to reach their destinations. More than once progress was delayed due to challenges beyond their control. Working conditions were austere in treacherous terrain and fraught with challenges to overcome. The wildlife and food sources were abundant – as long as you weren't particular about what's for dinner.

Below is a copy of the logbook of one of his escapades traveling from Slate Creek to Tinnuluk Landing (near Platinum, Alaska). Currently, no passenger car roads exist to the camps and locations they traveled 50 years ago. They labored 168 hours blazing new trails, building multiple bridges,



Crystal Locations I have Known

By Bob Bristow

Following is the first segment of a series of articles covering some of the locations where I have found crystals of collectable minerals.

Everyone is fascinated with crystals, especially when they dig them out of the ground themselves. They are beautiful, rare, and have very strict rules. (With many exceptions!) I have often been asked where to find crystals. I decided to write an article about some of the locations I have visited. Figure 1A shows some of the crystals I have had faceted. The gem on the left is a large blue-green sapphire, The big one is a very large topaz. The third gem is an amethyst, and the one on the right is a clear sapphire. I have found crystals in pegmatites, mirolitic cavities, open veins, vugs, in solid rock, and in dirt.

One of the most exciting places to find crystals is in pegmatites. Pegmatites are defined as any igneous rock having extra-large grains. Generally, when rockhounds talk about “pegmatites,” they refer to a deposit that is formed from the remaining liquid after a molten igneous rock has cooled. Mirolitic cavities are similar, but they form from bubbles in molten igneous rock. The most spectacular deposits are the cavities that form from gas bubbles at the contact zone between a granite and limestone. These cavities are called vugs by rockhounds. I am also including crystals that form directly within a molten igneous solution. Crystals can form within the cracks of already solid rock. Many of the crystals I have found were loose in soil after the rock they formed in had disintegrated. Crystals can be found in placer-type deposits, but they are rare because they quickly get broken down by being smashed between rocks.

By the way, I have noticed that when I talk about finding garnets, people get very excited. That is because they associate the word “garnet” with expensive gems. The truth is garnets are very common and most people have seen some without recognizing them. Often, they are simply a red blob on a rock. Also, they come in many colors. The most common may be red, but the most expensive garnet

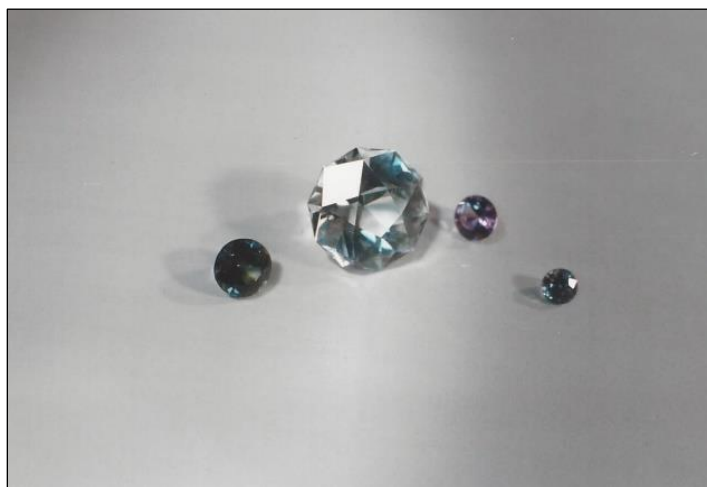


Figure 1A. Faceted Crystals from Washington, Montana and Colorado

gems are not red. Green uvarovite garnet can be more expensive than diamond. Almandite, spessartite, grossularite, and andradite are common in North America. I have found all but the uvarovite garnets.

Following are crystal deposits listed in no particular order. Since there so many locations, the list will be broken down and included in several newsletters.

Dallas (Polk County, Oregon) I will start with my first crystal. I was seven years old and was wading in the creek that flowed through my parent’s farm in the Coast Range of Oregon. I spotted a white rock with a hole in the top, pulled it out of the stream bed and broke it open on the shore. It was a geode with quartz crystals. The crystals were all grown together, but to a seven year old, it was the most beautiful thing on earth. This was the start of my prospecting and rock hunting passion, a disease I am still suffering from.

Figure 1-1 shows the hole and the next figure shows the inside.



Sedimentary Rocks (A series)

(<https://geologyscience.com/rocks/sedimentary-rocks/boji-stones-shaman-stones/>)



Boji Stones, also known as Moqui Marbles or Shaman Stones, are small, round, naturally occurring stones found in the Navajo Sandstone formation of Utah and the surrounding areas. These stones are primarily composed of iron oxide, with a unique spherical shape resulting from the natural processes of erosion and sedimentation over millions of years.

Geological Composition: The primary component of Boji Stones is iron oxide, specifically hematite and goethite, which are formed through the oxidation of iron-bearing minerals in the sandstone. Over time, these minerals undergo a process of weathering and concretion, resulting in the formation of these distinctive spherical stones. Boji Stones often have a smooth surface with a metallic luster and may vary in color from dark brown to black.

Historical Significance: Boji Stones have been revered by indigenous peoples for centuries due to their purported metaphysical properties. Shamans and healers in various cultures have used these stones for spiritual purposes, including energy balancing, grounding, and healing rituals. They are believed to possess a powerful energy that can help align the body's energy centers, promote harmony, and

enhance spiritual growth. In modern times, Boji Stones continue to be sought after for their metaphysical properties and are used by individuals interested in alternative healing practices and crystal therapy.

Overall, Boji Stones are not only captivating geological specimens but also hold cultural and spiritual significance for many people around the world.

Ringin Rocks



Ringin Rocks is a fascinating place where ordinary-looking rocks produce the sound of a bell when struck by a hammer. Located 4 1/2 miles off I 90 near Butte, MT, Ringin Rocks is on BLM land. Ringin rocks are only found here and in Pennsylvania so take advantage and plan a visit.

Ringin Rocks is a unique geologic feature – a big pile of boulders that the sound of a ringing bell when struck with a hammer. It's uncanny hearing the metallic sounds of a bell being struck while you stand with a hammer hitting a rock.

It's not just a few rocks that peal when struck. In fact, the large boulder field covering the hillside is full of these incredible stones. While not every rock rings, about 1 out of 3 do and some will give different tones depending on where they are struck. Visitors can explore all of the boulder field and there is a rack with hammers of different sizes and you can try as many as you want.

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)

Thank you to those who contributed to this issue. If you have a special story to share, contribute to OUR newsletter! Send ideas for articles, internet finds, jokes, pictures, adventure stories, science articles or your own articles to me.

gghull@comcast.net



Guinevere says “Hi”!

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		559-906-5923
Vice-President:	Bob Bristow		509-935-4375
Secretary:	Glynis Hull	gghull@comcast.net	509-981-9714
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton		509-207-8503
Trustee 1:	Kevin Youngblood		509-680-0207
Trustee 2:	Jim Peters		509-992-6921
Trustee 3:	Cyndi Doppler		509-216-5473

Committee Chairs

Program Coordinator:	Sheila Stratton		509-207-8506
Hospitality:	Betty Peters		509-992-6921
Historian:	Sheila Stratton		509-207-8506
Newsletter:	Glynis Hull	gghull@comcast.net	509-981-9714
Show Chair	Johnie Pitman		509-684-8887