Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA

Club Meetings:

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 PM

The Panorama Prospector

June 2025

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the May 20, 2025 General Meeting

Lynne opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

New members and visitors were welcomed.

The recipient of the 2025 scholarship for Kettle Falls was present. Ricky Hood discussed his future plans and thanked the club for the scholarship.

The financial report was read.

Discussed the successful thunder egg hunt event last month.

The Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual convention is September 6th and 7th in Walla Walla, WA.

Betty Peters demonstrated the grab bags and requested volunteers to help make 800 bags.

Discussed the American Federation of Mineralogical Society program for Junior Rockhounds. The Sand and Sediment Badge is available to be earned.

Discussed upcoming trips.

A group of members plan to go to Stonerose and will coordinate it amongst each other.

Twenty-six people signed up for the trilobite trip

Minutes cont.

on June 14th near Metalline Falls. Details will be sent out to those who signed up.

Discussed the trip to Emerald Creek, Idaho to look for star garnets. Lynne was only able to get four tickets. Lynne, Roger, Charles, and Debi are signed up.

Discussed a trip to Stanley, Idaho but no date has been established.

There will be a guest speaker at our June meeting. Christine DeGeare, Manager of the Community College Foundation, will be discussing their scholarship fund program. Johnie shared some ocean jasper (picture jasper) from Greenwood, B.C. that was traded with Udo from Canada for petrified wood with charcoal inside. Johnie also brought in extra thunder eggs from the hunt last month. Den and Nancy Caster brought in several rocks and one was possibly tungsten.

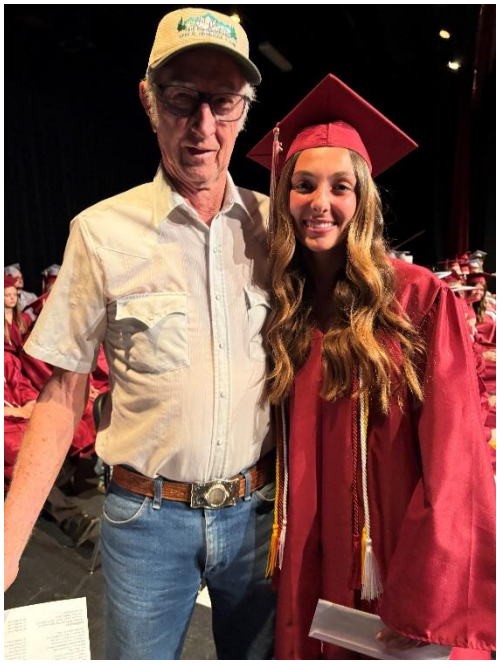
The Kootenay Zone Gem, Mineral & Fossil show is June 6th and 7th, from 10:00 to 4:00 at the Castlegar & District Community Complex. 2102 6th Ave, Castlegar, BC.

Presentation was given by Lynne, Roger, and Charles. It included recent trips to the Cleveland Mine, Merikay Mine, and Copper Queen Mine.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

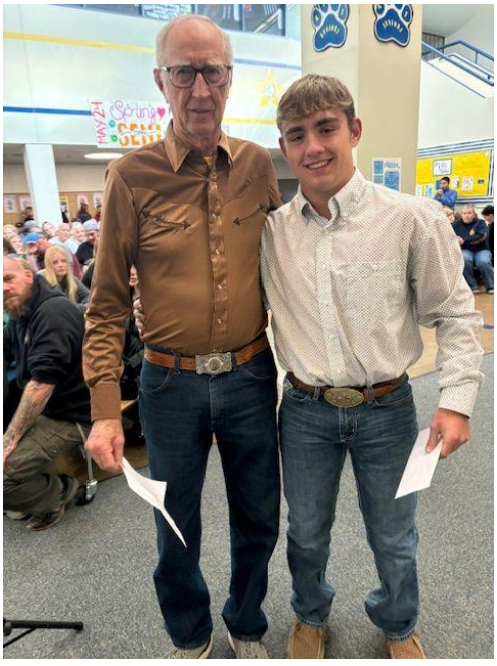
Scholarship Winners 2025

Kalista Malone, Colville High School



Kalista has been accepted at Eastern Washington University. She wants to become an occupational therapist. Her goal is to work fulltime as an OT in an elementary school as she loves to work with children.

Richard Hood, Kettle Falls High School



Richard will attend Spokane Community College. He will study Logical Maintenance and Automation. He wants to give back to the community when he is able with hard work and persistence.

Grace Rettkowski, Jenkins High School

Grace will attend Gonzaga University and major in civil engineering. She is interested in helping people and the environment, to improve people's lives and the community.

Where to Find Dark Amethyst-Lined Geodes

By Bob Bristow

All of you have probably seen samples of the amethyst crystal-lined geodes from South America called "Cathedrals." Think you have to travel to SA to look for some on your own? Well, I have seen some within half a day's drive of our meeting place! I found one myself, but someone else had seen it before me and tried to get it out of the basalt by hammering the inside of the geode with a rock hammer. He or she had, of course, ruined it. I filled the cavity with dirt to hide it so that someone in the future could dig out at least a small piece of a dark amethyst geode. Let me explain: I had stopped at the drive-in in Chewelah and as I got out of my car, a pickup raced in and parked beside me. Out jumped Roy McKelvey who said, "I have got to show you the amethyst geode I just found." I looked and answered, "Wow! I didn't think they had any amethyst that dark in Washington! Where did you find it?" He replied, "Below the lookout on Franson Peak."

I had included Franson Peak in my mineral location CD's, but had never gone there. At the earliest opportunity, I drove over there myself. It was midsummer and the wild cactus was still blooming. (These little cacti have flowers just as beautiful as any in Arizona or New Mexico! However, don't fall down.

They also have spines as sharp as their cousins down south.) Franson Peak is just SW of Curlew on State Highway 21. To get there, I traveled up Hwy 395 across the Columbia River and then over Sherman

Pass to Hwy 21. I followed Hwy 21 north to Curlew and then doubled back to just south of the RR Crossing.

(Figure 1 is a page from Google Earth.) Following the road on the Figure 1 map, I made a very sharp turn onto the lesser- driven road to the South of the junction labeled “A.” The only other tricky turn was onto the secondary road at Point “B.” I drove all the way to the old lookout and parked. Figure 2 shows the lookout on top of the peak.

What a beautiful view! The valley floor is nearly 2000 feet below with Canada to the north and mountains all around. The lookout is on a bulge in lava as can be seen in Figure 3. I didn’t spend much time looking, I had gemstones to find! However, before I stopped looking, I noticed that there were several other lava humps in the area. The nearest one had something amazing on top. It is near “C” in Figure 1. It is a truck-sized block of granite. By itself, that would not be surprising. However, you can see that this block is at least a quarter mile above the river far below. It is amazing to picture what this would have looked like during the ice age: That huge chunk of granite riding on top of the ice flowing down from Canada and finally coming to a stop on top of that hump of lava.

I dropped down over the edge of the mountain to the south to look for geodes. I saw a number of broken pieces, but none were amethystine. I circled around to the east and the steeper part of the mountain. As I climbed back up toward the lookout, I spotted a hole about five inches in diameter. Inside was a very nice amethyst geode. However, the whole back surface was completely smashed. Someone thought they might get the geode out by hammering the inside? Whatever they thought, it was ruined.

Before looking further, I filled the inside with dirt. I tried to hide it so that someone, maybe me, could come back later and dig out the parts that were still intact. Instead of looking around the area below the lookout, I decided to explore other parts of the mountain. I first tried the north side of the mountain with no success. I then tried the west side above the road leading up to the lookout. I almost gave up getting to the top of the basalt mounds. I ran into a thick patch of very healthy wild roses. They must have been ten-feet high with large woody stems carrying thorns a half-inch long. After I got through the roses, the going was steep, but easy. I circled around the largest of the mounds finding a number of portions of geodes. They were all clear and I didn’t have much time, so I didn’t look on the mounds themselves. I came out on the plain shown as “D” on Figure 1. There were more signs of geodes on that plain. I also saw some cattle pens down near the lower edge. I didn’t see any fences, so I don’t know if the property is BLM or private.

Another time, I drove around the north side of Franson Peak on the road shown in Figure 1. I saw numerous outcrops that looked similar to the lava where the dark amethyst was found. I didn’t take the time to leave the car and look for geodes. Since there are a number of basalt mounds that look similar to the one having amethyst geodes, this looks like a good area to prospect. If any of you reading this decide to take up the challenge, please let me know.

Identify the "Rock or Mineral"

By Jim Retzer

Last month's rock or mineral:

Gabbro – It is an intrusive igneous rock with an equivalent composition of basalts. The difference between Gabbro and basalts is that Gabbro formed at greater depths under higher pressure that caused it to cool slowly, allowing larger crystals to form.

Gabbro is sometimes called "black granite" for it too is coarse-grained, but gabbro's larger proportion of iron-bearing minerals make gabbro heavier and dark colored. Gabbro is mainly composed of plagioclase feldspar and augite and can have minor amounts of olivine. The amount of augite makes gabbro heavy and gives it its dark color. When olivine is present it gives the rock a light to very dark green color.

Gabbro is equivalent to basalts in its mineral composition. The difference between the two rocks is their grain size. Since basalt is a faster cooling rock it is a fine to very fine-grained rock whereas gabbro is a slow cooling rock that makes it a coarse grain rock.

Gabbro is the most prominent rock in the earth's oceans. The ocean floors are primarily basalt but under this thin bed is a large layer of gabbro. Large volumes of gabbro are present beneath extensive flood basalts such as the Columbia River flood basalts of Washington and Oregon. This underlying layer of gabbro is due to the slower cooling and higher pressures from their depth under the basalt.

I want to take a moment to thank all of you who have enjoyed my Rock or Mineral of the month articles. I regret that this will be my last one for a while.

Over the last couple of months, I have been concentrating on my photography which has resulted in a position at the Yellowstone Camera store in West Yellowstone, just outside the West Gate to Yellowstone National Park. I will be there until the Park closes the West Gate for the season, usually in October.

If all goes well, I will be returning to West Yellowstone in April next year. If you want to follow my photographic journey, check out my Facebook page – Jim Retzer Photography. I look forward to seeing you all when I return this winter.

Gemologist Guide to Identifying Petrified Wood

https://rockhoundingmaps.com/how-to-identify-petrified-wood/

Petrified wood is a type of fossil that forms when minerals replace the cavity left by the original plant. These conditions require an oxygen-deprived environment, essentially devoid of bacteria. Usually, this is triggered by forests getting covered by water and peat moss quickly, preventing decay. Or volcanic activity that covers the wood in oxygen-depriving ash, thus preserving it.

Some of the best examples of these preserved forests can be found in the American South West and Australia. The Petrified Forest National Park and Gilboa Fossil Museum are some of the best places to do this for yourself.

Most petrified wood is made of quartz crystal (or silica) and is highly marketable and popular among gem enthusiasts. However, petrified wood can also be made from opal and calcite.

Physical Properties of Petrified Wood

Let's take a look at the physical properties of petrified wood. Knowing what to look for will help you more easily identify what you're looking at.

Color: Pink, Yellow, White, Red, Purple, Grey, Black, Blue, Green, Brown, Orange, Multi-Color, Bi-Color

Clarity / Transparency: Translucent, Semitransparent, opaque

Luster: Vitreous, Greasy

Cleavage: None

Fracture: Conchoidal, Granular

The Streak Test

This is a destructive test, so you need to ensure that you're allowed to damage the specimen or stone if you choose to use this method. Once you've developed robust knowledge in identifying rocks and minerals, you won't be using destructive tests.

A mineral streak test involves scraping the stone against a harder surface to see what color remains. Petrified wood produces a white streak.

Tumbled specimens are tested by scraping a specimen across a piece of ungalvanized porcelain, typically known as a streak plate.

The only minerals that will produce or leave a streak have a hardness level of less than 7. This is because a porcelain streak plate has a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale, meaning anything harder than the plate will scratch the plate instead of leaving a streak.

Magnet Test

Some petrified woods are slightly magnetic, so they may or may not respond to common magnets. However, there are exceptions to the magnet test.

Hardness Test

I don't recommend actively testing the hardness of a stone because it's destructive in nature and doesn't really provide a definite answer to what type of stone it is. That said, petrified wood has a hardness of 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs hardness scale.

Refractive Index Test Determining the refractive index, or RI as it's referred to by gemologists, for petrified wood is fairly straightforward, but you'll need a specific piece of test equipment and the RI fluid to go with it. Before you place the stone on the refractometer, you want to make sure you have a flat, somewhat polished surface to take a reading. Each gemstone has its own RI, so discovering a sample's RI can help you figure out what sort of stone it actually is.

Single or Double Refraction

Petrified wood is doubly refracting, so it will produce a bi-refraction.

For this test to be accurate and beneficial, the stone needs to be transparent in nature. If the light won't pass through the stone, then there is no way to test for single or double refraction.

Check for single or double refraction. Use this test on translucent and transparent stones. You can determine whether the stone is only singly refractive (SR) or doubly refractive (DR) to help identify it. Some stones can also be classified as aggregate (AGG).

Turn on the light of a polariscope and place the stone face down on the lower glass lens (polarizer). Look through the top lens (analyzer), turning the top lens until the area around the stone looks darkest. This is your starting point.

Turn the analyzer 360 degrees and watch how the light around the stone changes.

If the stone appears dark and stays dark, it is likely an SR. If the stone starts out light and stays light, it is likely AGG. If the lightness or darkness of the stone changes, it is likely DR.

Checking The Diaphaneity

Diaphaneity refers to the mineral's ability to transmit light. For instance, some minerals are transparent or translucent. When they're thick, a small amount of distortion might occur, but light will pass through them relatively freely.

Petrified wood is translucent. However, its translucency depends on the form it has taken. While occasionally petrified wood is opaque, it is sometimes completely transparent. (*For more information on petrified wood visit the website address above*.)

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, ***please*** *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 2025

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:		gghull@comcast.net	
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton		509-207-8503
Trustee 1:	Kevin Youngblood		509-680-0207
Trustee 2:	Jim Peters		509-992-6921
Trustee 3:	Cyndie 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