

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

November 2025

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the October 21, 2025 General Meeting

Lynne opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. She greeted two guests, Lavonne Webb and Brenda.

There was no financial report tonight.

Johnie and Ginger were called up front to be presented with the American Federation of Mineralogical Society's 2025 Rockhounds of the Year! A prestigious award and well deserved.

More good news was shared that the water is working tonight but it was recommended not to drink it. Lynne thanked those who brought water.

Lynne informed the club that Larry had a medical procedure. A card was circulated for members to sign to wish him well.

Lynne is giving a presentation on October 23rd at The Hub in Colville about gold mining in the County and vicinity. It starts at 5:00 P.M. She plans to promote our club and resources that Bob, Joe, and Dave have created for purchase. Lynne thanked Gene for all his support to the club including lending her books and core samples from a nearby mine to use for her presentation. Dave and Bob expressed their interest in participating based on their mining expertise.

The Arden Hall is having a fund raiser on November 1st from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

They likely need to raise money to offset the unexpected costs associated with the well running dry. Members were encouraged to attend.

Lynne talked about the Marcus Cider Fest booth. She thanked Ginger, Johnie, Bob, Linda, Kevin, Leigh, and Audrey for their help. It was greatly needed because Lynne and Roger were late showing up. Overall, it was a fun day with many smiles. The final amount of proceeds was not provided because Lynne gave the funds to Frank just before the meeting.

A rock hounding retreat in Montana was discussed. Lynne said she researched the possibility of *buying* a gold claim in Idaho that we discussed last month. It is possible to rent a place to go gold panning on a claim. It was unclear if the cost included camping. Lynne will get more information. There was high interest in both these trips by the members.

Betty discussed the bags that are being sewn for the rock show. She needs them brought to our November meeting. This gives her time to get a count and get them ready.

Note: We discussed the auction next month (November) and reminded people to bring items they might want to donate and bring money to purchase some treasures.

Dave shared several rocks including purple apatite, gold, and hematite that can cause water

to turn red. Lavonne shared her beautiful lamp shade she made with Montana agate slabs and glass. Roger shared native copper. Bob shared a large jade rock.

Johnie gave the presentation on how to make a sphere.

The meeting was adjourned.

Johnie and Ginger Awarded the Rock Hounds of the Year from the American Federation of Mineralogical Society.

During our October club meeting Johnie and Ginger were presented with the award. They had no idea they were nominated, let alone, won! Everyone in the club would agree with me they are highly deserving of this esteemed award. They accomplish many tasks and activities for us with sustained superior performance. Here are just a few examples: Gem show chairman, hosts of the thunderegg hunt at their house, providing rocks for the monthly door prizes, tumbling rocks year round for the games, AND they bring apple cider/juice to every meeting! Their expertise and guidance is freely given and greatly appreciated. They are truly a large part of the foundation that keeps our club so vital and exciting. Congratulations, Johnie and Ginger!

Election of Officers and More Information Regarding the November Meeting.

We will be nominating and voting on officers during our November meeting prior to the auction. Pizza will be delivered at 6:30 to compliment the refreshments. The pizza is provided by an anonymous donor and we greatly appreciate it. Plan on attending for a night of fun after the brief business meeting.

Stevens County Historical Society Gold Mining Presentation

By Lynne Calvert

The Stevens County Historical Society (SCHS) asked if I would do a presentation about gold mining in the county and vicinity. The agreed upon date was set for October 23, 2025. The SCHS provided the advertising, venue, and refreshments. Roger and I arrived at the Hub (Seniors Center) in Colville to begin setting up. The TV was not working. Fortunately, I brought my 'old school' projector. We used two table cloths as a make shift screen. These are the same table cloths we use to cover the long tables at our gem show. I don't recall where the duct tape came from but the table cloths were affixed to the TV that hung on the wall. Problem solved.

Attendees began to arrive and nearly every chair was filled. Sixty-five (65) people attended. Members from our club included Bob, Linda, Frank, Sheila, Gene, Dave, Ed, and Charlie. I really appreciated the support! It was Charlie who initiated this whole event. He is the Vice President of the SCHS. Gene had previously provided three books for me to borrow on gold mining so I could do more research. Dave, Bob, and Roger added stimulating commentary during the presentation. Dave brought in samples of gold and other minerals. Gene brought core samples from a high-output gold mine (First Thought Mine). All of these contributions resulted in a lively evening of education and entertainment while promoting our club. There was a reporter, Meredith Carroll, from the Statesman Examiner present. She wrote a nice



article the following week that included details about our club and meetings.

The discussion on gold mining panned out into other ores and mines that exist in our area. Geologic information was shared. Jokes were told. Stories about gold robbers were told. Historical facts were discussed including the socio-economic impacts to our area. We busted out in singing “Oh My Darling, Clementine”. If you were at the presentation you will know why we sang that song. Don’t worry, if you were not able to attend. I plan to show the presentation at our January club meeting. Certain topics will be shortened because most everyone in our club already has knowledge of the characteristics of gold and how it got here. If not, it’s easy to look it up online. The presentation will focus on information that is hard to obtain. You won’t want to miss it because some of it is scintillating.

Arctic Adventures Part 2

By Bob Bristow

Part 1 described Linda and my journey from home on our mountaintop above Chewelah to Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula where we explored the areas around Soldotna and Homer. After catching our limits of salmon, we headed north toward Fairbanks(Figure 1).



Figure 1. Road to Denali

Along the way, we made several stops. The first was a side trip to Talkeetna. We wanted some lunch and someone had said we should go to a certain café because it was about the only thing left over from the early days. We found the café, but the only things it now serves are sweets. When I was there 40 years ago, the town was used only as a jumping off place for people planning to climb Mount Denali. A plane equipped with skis in addition to tires would take off from the dirt strip and head north toward a glacier on the side of the mountain. The glacier has a flat spot between the highest peak and the next highest that looks on photos to be at least a half mile wide. That is enough for a small plane on skis to set down and take off. Now, the tourists outnumber the climbers and there are flights to the mountain whenever the weather allows it.

The town is now a tourist trap. We managed to get there just as a tourist train had stopped. We bought some sweets and left as fast as we could. Figure 2



shows typical scenery. The second stop was in and

Figure 2. Typical Road South of Denali around Denali Park (Figure 3). They now call the town “Denali Park,” but most maps still say “McKinley.” When I was in Alaska 40 years ago,



Figure 3. Entrance to the Park

we stayed in and around this little town for two or three days. At that time, there were only a few businesses plus the old railroad station and lodge. We found that now there are stop lights and every

square inch of usable land is taken up by tourist businesses. To get away from all the people, Linda and I drove another six miles and found a room in Healy. Last time, there was only a service station and motel. It hasn't changed much except the motel is much larger and a big general purpose store has been added to the service station.

While sitting in a nice restaurant in Healy waiting for our food, the first big geology question arose. There are big mountains all around and one had a big white spot on the side way up, but not high enough for snow in the summer. I wondered if it could be a deposit of white quartz or some other rock. Most white quartz rock outcrops I have examined have dark shades in places where the quartz is stained. This one was white all over. We stayed three days here and every day, that white spot was kept bothering me. We had a tour scheduled into the Park, but it was the day after next. We therefore decided to drive out on the road that runs south of the Alaska Range from Hwy 3 to Hwy 1. I had been told it was a very scenic drive. The map showed it as Hwy 6 with the note "Road closed in winter." Looking closer, the map called it the Denali Highway. Scenic it was, but highway it wasn't! The road leaves from the little town of Cantwell and travels East for 134 miles to Paxson on Hwy 4. The first three miles is a nice paved highway, but the pavement ends at the Cantwell airport. We only drove about 35 miles east, which is quite a way on a gravel road. There was a vehicle on the road about every three or four miles. One surprising thing happened as we came up over a hump: two big eighteen wheelers taking up the whole road and going about 35 mph. The road was



Figure 4. Linda Looking at Bear

definitely a one-laner, but we managed to get off the road and out of their way.

Figure 4 is typical of the view from about seven or eight miles east of Cantwell on east at least 40 miles. We stopped on a rise and Linda spotted a grizzly about a mile away down in the brush in Figure 4. It was too far away to get a picture. At one point, we came over a rise and there was an arctic fox. It had the fox shape, but was much smaller than our foxes.

In the mountains to the north, there were more patches of white rock. Then I noticed that the hills we were passing through had the shape of sand dunes. We stopped at the end of one and I found that the whole dune was pure white sand. I didn't take a picture. I expected to get a better spot later on. It turned out I didn't get a picture at all. The whole area above the river appeared to be white sand dunes covered by brush making it difficult to see the sand.

The next day we climbed on a nice new bus for a scenic drive up into Denali National Park. I took this same trip 40 years ago and it was great! I saw moose, bear, caribou, mountain goats, beaver, ground squirrels, arctic terns, and ptarmigans. This time we only saw an arctic ground squirrel. It turned out that several years ago they had a major slide that took out the road into the interior. I had heard about it, but assumed it was fixed by now. They informed us it would another couple of years before the road was repaired. Instead of driving 80 miles like before, the bus turned around after about 20 miles. We didn't see any bears, so the driver showed us a plaster cast he had made of a very small bear. The bus driver was the tour guide and he talked a lot about the geology. I thought this would be a good time to find out about the white sand and the white spots on the mountains. Alas, he had never noticed the white patches on the mountains and had no idea there were white sand dunes nearby.

I had hoped to take Linda on a float trip down the Nenana River like I had done 40 years ago. That trip was in

September with low water and this trip was in July with high water.

That meant the Nenana River was too high for boats.

We did get to see if the coal-fired generating plant in Healy was still operating.

Forty years ago, I had driven past the generating plant

and on through the areas dug up

for coal. Where the veins had been at the surface, long thin lakes were left.

There were plenty of trout jumping for mosquitos in those ponds. Linda and I had our fishing poles with us and I was looking forward to some good fishing.

Alas, the old road was blocked by a big iron gate with a big “keep out” sign. The plant was still running. We could see a conveyer belt carrying crushed coal into the plant’s processor.

We didn’t get to see many of the things I wanted to show Linda. That’s not all bad. It means there has to be a next time. (To be continued)



Figure 5. Plaster Cast of Grizzly

Geology Resources I’ve Found

By Glynis Hull

I spend more time on Facebook than I should and often get caught up on cute Dachshund posts, but sometimes I find sites that are actually worth spending time on. I’ll share a few you may find interesting.

Earthquakes Worldwide, Mike Milks: This is a daily post about all the earthquakes around the globe. He gives locations, magnitudes and depths.

Mike Milks: He also has a post about the sun’s activities. Shows pictures of the sun under different filters with information about flares, solar winds and coronal mass ejections and what the effects are on the earth.

Above the Norm News: Covers news that others don’t. Some a little wacky, like UFOs, but they have good coverage of earthquakes, volcanoes, extreme weather, and new scientific discoveries.

Lee Wang Chin: Showcases beautiful specimens to drool over.

Gemstone and jewelry: Cool jewelry and unique specimens. Another drool site.

Know Your Planet: “Explore fascinating facts, stunning visuals, and untold stories from around the world. Know Your World brings you closer to the wonders, mysteries and beauty of our incredible planet!”

I also get a daily email from a group called “**The Watchers**” that posts articles on earth activities like volcanoes, storms, earthquakes and disasters. It sends a brief blurb that you can click on to get full articles. Sometimes the articles get technical beyond my understanding but they are still very informative.

The Smithsonian Magazine sends out an email called “**the Daily**” which highlights magazine articles. Here is a cornucopia of interesting subjects like one expects from the Smithsonian.

Geology Degrees Combine Science and Business at Idaho State University

At a Glance:

- Idaho State University introduces a geology management master’s degree
- Program combines geology coursework with business and leadership training
- Students replace thesis work with targeted MBA courses
- Graduates are prepared for geoscience management and consulting careers

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/>

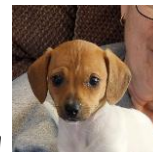
Facebook Group: [Panorama Gem & Mineral Club](#)

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