

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

October 2025

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the September 16, 2025 General Meeting

Lynne opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. She introduced a visitor, JoEllen Budweg. She is the secretary for the Hunters Fair.

Due to a plumbing issue at the meeting hall, an announcement was made not to drink the water from the faucet. Fortunately, the club had bottled water left over from the picnic.

The financial report was read. The previous newsletter from August had an erroneous amount from the Hunters Fair booth. The correct proceeds were \$49.59.

The Hunters Fair booth was a big hit with many visitors. The lapidary equipment display piqued the interest of several people and drew them to our booth.

Lynne thanked Charles Bourg and Rita Cordrey for donating rocks to the club. She also thanked Jim Peters for picking up all the rocks in the display case at the fairgrounds in Colville. In addition, she thanked Gene and Johnie for moving the trailer.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Society will no longer be sending copies of their newsletter in the mail. It will be sent out electronically in the future. Lynne read the highlights from their newsletter including an

!!! Important Announcement !!!

The meeting hall in Arden will not likely have water available during our next meeting. The well has gone dry. We will need to bring bottled water to drink and flush the toilets. Please contact Lynne if you are willing to bring bottled water to drink and/or a milk jug filled with tap water from home to flush the toilet after each use.

article on fluorescent rocks. An article was written questioning the viability of rock clubs. Lynne disagreed with the article because our club is active and growing.

New Business:

The Marcus Cider Fest is October 4th. Our club is having a booth. We need polished rocks for the "spin the wheel" game. Volunteers that signed up are Roger, Lynne, Bob, Linda, and Ron.

Brian Martel is selling his house and has rocks for sale from his rock shop. Stop by his rock shop in Kettle Falls. He is selling rocks by the bucket. If you do buy a bucket, consider donating one or two rocks to our club.

Cyndi is promoting a Relay for Life event to raise money for the American Cancer Society. She requested donations of rocks or money.

Trips: Discussed going to Yellow Pine, Idaho. It was mentioned a claim is for sale in that area. A suggestion was made that our club buy it. Lynne will do research on the cost, benefits, and duration of a claim.

The Stevens County Historical Society requested our club do a presentation to the public on gold mining in our area. It will be on October 23rd at 5:00 PM at The Hub (Senior's Center) in Colville. Lynne will create the presentation. Roger will include information on mines along Locke Road. Dave talked about mines at Sheep Creek and Kettle River (Crazy Kid, Chief Joseph). Bob said Stevens County has more deposits than any other place, almost 800 locations. His mineral location program is available. Bob provided a historical fact – Wyatt Earp claim jumped in Elbe along the Flowery Trail. (See article below for more information regarding the presentation on Oct 23rd).

Our November auction was mentioned. Be thinking about what you want to donate. Mr. and Mrs. Todd donated a curio cabinet, storage cabinet, and rocks. These are a sampling of items to be available for bidding.

Lynne talked about projects including putting our name/logo on a sign that can be affixed to the display cabinet at the Colville fairgrounds. The top of the cabinet above the glass doors has opaque plastic sheeting covering an old advertisement. It has nothing to do with our club. In addition, the rock display at the Courthouse needs updating and lighting added. It was mentioned our club has a display at the museum.

Sheila talked about the Oregon Trail and Sumpter Museum from a recent trip to Baker City, Oregon. She met Bill Bo Adams and viewed his store that was full of antiques, dolls, and many interesting items.

The Baker Heritage Museum was a wonderful and educational experience.

Glynis shared her carvings of critters out of soap stone. They are prone to fractures. The bear she made is called Spirit Bear Native Creation. Another piece is from a slice she cut off and looked like a waterfall scene. She used museum grade wax to seal and provide shine to the pieces.

Roger shared native copper from Michigan that our visitor, JoEllen, gave to him to polish.

The Presentation for tonight was on Paleomagnetism in the Pacific Northwest. It is too long to show in one meeting. Lynne ended the meeting at a good stopping point in the video. The meeting ended at 7:30 PM.

A Thank You from Cyndie Doppler

I had a successful table at this year's Relay for Life October 11th. It is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. I raised over \$150 even though it was rainy and cold that day. Thank you to everyone who donated to my booth!

A Golden Opportunity to Promote the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

By Lynne Calvert

Join us on October 23rd at The Hub at 5:00 PM to hear about gold mining in Stevens County and surrounding areas. The Hub is attached to the Seniors Center located at 231 Elep Ave. Colville, WA. This is a golden opportunity to promote our club. Roger and I will be the guest speakers. I will provide information on the characteristics of gold and the geology in our area to include the reason a wide variety of deposits exist. A few slides will discuss the economic boom and development after the discovery of ore. As the presentation transitions from historical events into present day, I will make the audience aware of our club's goals and activities, i.e., scholarships, gem show, booths, educational outreach in schools, and pictures of

recent trips to mines. Pictures of our activities are the hook to entice people to join our club to obtain more detailed information about rock hounding. In addition, I plan to include websites available online to the public and promote Joe's maps and Bob's mineral location software. Roger will bring his energy to the meeting and perhaps the attendees will catch some gold fever. There will be emphasis on mines in areas near Republic, Orient, the Kettle River, Locke Road, Fruitland, Hunters, Chewelah, and more. My objectives are to entertain while educating the public about our unique geologic area, very rich history related to mining, and share what our club has to offer.

Marcus CiderFest By Lynne Calvert

It was a beautiful autumn day but we had a rough start. The vendor gate was closed by the time Roger and I arrived. Then wonderful things began to happen. There was a parking space available near our booth just outside the cordoned-off area. Ginger and Johnie had brought one of the long tables. It was beautifully covered and ready. Bob, Linda, Kevin, and Leigh were also present to help us set up everything as we brought items from our car. Our booth was ready for business in short order. The festival begins at 8:00 AM but attendees do not typically begin walking through the vendor booth area until 9:00. The crowd moves towards the roadway to watch the parade that starts at 10:30. We welcomed the 'lull' in activity during the parade. Our booth had a line of people wanting to spin-to-win a rock or necklace throughout the day. Our supply of polished rocks was low this year. I brought necklaces to sell that Elisha, Lavette, Zayen and Atarah, helped me make during one of our gem meetings months ago. Periodically, we'd put a necklace on the game board. Johnie brought rocks that glistened with iron pyrite. They were a big hit. This enabled the fun to continue as people gathered to pay 50 cents a spin to win a prize. Audrey arrived and began running the game while Roger and I took a lunch break. I know of at least three patrons who said they wanted to come to a club meeting to learn more about our club's activities. We ran out of business cards and rocks. The Spin-the Wheel game was shut down. We sold a few necklaces, petrified

wood, and other rocks. By 3:00 PM we had most of our booth disassembled. The vendor booths close at 5:00 PM. Kevin and Leigh helped us load our car, as well as, assisting Johnie and Ginger break down their booth and load their truck. We discovered it's more expedient to park outside the vendor area to load and unload items to avoid all the other vehicles in the narrow throughways. This works best when you sell most of your wares and rocks at the end of the day and especially having members happy to help carry the items. I very much appreciate everyone who polished rocks, made necklaces, and worked the booth to make this year's event a success.



Arctic Adventures By Bob Bristow

Part 1 – Kenai Peninsula

This story has more to do with fishing and exploring than rock hunting adventures, but it also includes some very interesting geology. It is broken into three parts: The Kenai Peninsula, the Mount Denali area, and the Fairbanks area. Following is Part 1, the Kenai Peninsula.

Linda and I got up at 2:00 AM to catch an Alaska Airlines flight for Seattle. Linda was afraid my bad leg would slow me down changing planes, so she ordered a wheelchair for me. It was a good thing she did. We only had a few minutes in Seattle between flights and our flight from Spokane went to the South Satellite Terminal and our flight to Anchorage left from the North Satellite Terminal. That meant we had to go down to the tunnel system, catch a train to the main terminal, find the right train to go to the North Satellite Terminal, then find our gate. The lady pushing my wheelchair knew right where to go and pushed people aside to get

there. We got to our gate just as the ticket agent was calling my name for boarding.

After getting the rental car in Anchorage, we went looking for a place to eat. After driving all around downtown, we settled for a tourist restaurant that had a fancy menu, but poor tasting food. We then went looking for our motel for the night. At first, we thought it was it was closed. There was grass growing in the entry way and a fence around the stairs to the upper rooms. We were about to leave to see if we could find another motel when a woman came out of one of the rooms with a load of furniture and dumped it in a big trash container. She assured us it was open. We signed in and the owner gave us a key to the room and a code to the gate. When we went in, we almost left. However, I knew from trying to find a room in Anchorage during a previous trip in Alaska, you needed to reserve a room at least a day before. There was only one thin blanket on the bed. No wash clothes and one towel for the two of us for both washing and showering. The baseboard heater was partly torn out and didn't work. There was a small plug-in heater, but it had seen better days. I made the mistake of looking under the bed. There was dust and debris from years of no one living there. The ad had said you would be treated to a view of the city. All we could see was a view of the nearby houses. When Linda complained about the view, the owner said those houses were a part of the city. It was a cold night and we left early the next morning. One nice thing about that location, it was near Merrill Field. I have read many stories about the early days when that airport was the main jumping off place to all of Alaska. I called my old friend Lemmie Rockford, who had spent many years there, and told him where I was staying. He said for years he used to park his plane directly under the big sign "Merrill Field." From there, he flew to places all over the state where he had contracts.

With enough driving around, we found where the natives shopped and ate. We then headed south to spend a few days with Linda's cousin Patty in Soldotna. Patty's acreage was in a development, but was large enough that she couldn't see any neighbors and had moose and other critters walk

through her yard. We stayed with her for several days and in our trips to



Figure 2. Entering Homer

and from Soldotna counted ten moose on or near the road. Patty had made arrangements for all three of us to go fishing for salmon in the Kenai River. Patty lives near the Funny River which is also full of spawning salmon. We met the fishing guide on the Kenai River and he had poles and reels all ready for us. He headed up the river for five or six miles. It seemed like every place there was a foothold on the bank, there was a fisherman. As we raced upriver, we had a good view of the Kenai glaciers feeding the river we were on. The river was interesting. It was one to two hundred yards wide, but only about 15 feet deep. Every place we looked we could see sockeye salmon darting back and forth near the bottom. Patty got the first fish on. The salmon darted in all directions so Linda and I pulled in our lines to keep from getting them tangled. Linda got the second fish. This was a real thrill for her. All her life she had wanted to catch a salmon., Before long, we had eight or nine nice salmon in the boat's cooler. The guide then said, "Let's go up to the lake. Sometimes the fish are biting better there." He meant Skilak Lake, which is about 16 miles long and another two or three miles further up the river. He was right! Twice, all three of us had a fish on at the same time. The skipper then said, "Oh, my gosh! We have to get back on the river! We are only allowed three fish each here in the lake. If the fishery people find us here, they will never believe we caught several of these in the river!" We hurried back and soon had the remainder of our 18 fish limit. Figure 1 was taken by the guide after he had thrown the fish on the bank, but before he cleaned them. The guide cleaned the fish by slicing off the

big steaks on each side. Back in Soldotna, we took our fish to a processing plant where they finished cleaning each fish, cut it up into five by five inch squares, put each square into a vacuum-sealed plastic bag, froze the bags, put them into a box with ice, and shipped them to us by air after we returned home.

Linda and I then headed south down to Homer, the halibut capital of the world. (See Figure 2) Homer is famous not only for its halibut, but for having a sand spit that runs eleven miles out into the bay. We drove out to the end of the sand spit. Both sides of the street were lined with tourist shops. We had lunch at a fancy motel at the end of the spit and went down to the beach to watch the action. A number of people were fishing along the shore for



Figure 1. Patty, Linda, Bob with Their Limit of Sockeye Salmon



Figure 3. Trawler Setting out Net

salmon. Most were using a treble hook with the hooks sticking out of a large sphere of lead. They would cast out and reel the hooks in.



Figure 4, Rock Composed Mostly of Feldspar

There were so many salmon that occasionally, they would hook a salmon. There were also many fishermen using this technique along the Kenai River. There were thousands of sockeye salmon jumping out of the water as far as we could see. We could also see the sea lions that were chasing the salmon and causing them to jump. The sea lions could catch enough salmon in a few minutes to satisfy their hunger all day. However, the sea lions are like cats. They have the instinct to kill and they will continue to kill long after they quit eating. (My personal opinion is that the big push to destroy all dams to save the salmon will not solve the problem. I used to live near a small stream that emptied into Puget Sound. During salmon spawning, the stream was red with salmon. There are no dams or other barriers on that stream, yet the salmon have disappeared there just like in the dammed rivers. There has to be another problem causing the loss of salmon, like allowing the sea lions to multiply all up and down the coast.) The main thing we watched were the trawlers setting out huge fish nets. I walked down to the waterline to watch the salmon trawlers put out nets over a quarter mile in diameter. Figure 3 shows one of the boats preparing to put out the net. I was standing near the shore when a small boat came near the shore to pull the end of one of the big nets into a circle. A fisherman near me asked the fisherman in the boat how many salmon they brought in per net-full. He said it varied, but it usually ran about five tons. I thought, “Wow! They appeared to be able to put a net out and bring it in with a load of fish about once every one or two hours. They are really getting a lot of salmon!”

Of course, I looked at all of the rocks along the roads and beaches. The Kenai River had mostly well-worn rocks from sand size up to several inches in diameter. They were mostly shaped like a disc with the diameter about four or five times the thickness. They appeared to be mostly of igneous origin and probably had worked their way down from the Kenai Mountains 50 miles to the east. There was a mix of sand and rock on the sand spit. Figure 4 shows one of the rocks I picked up. I have seen rocks like that north of Lake Gillette. However, there the feldspar forms partial crystals in addition to globs like shown in Figure 4. Other rocks on the spit were miscellaneous igneous quartz, and other basement rocks.

We then headed the 580 miles north to Fairbanks.

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

NOTE: 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)
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

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