

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

September 2025

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the August 19, 2025 General Meeting

Lynne opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

She discussed the success of the booth at the Hunters Fair on August 16th. She thanked the volunteers that helped set up, tear down, make signs and arranged the tables so the booth was more approachable. The volunteers were Audrey, Ginger, Johnny, Charles and Debbie. The proceeds of \$50.25 came from sales and donations.

Johnny reminded us the display cabinet at the Northeast Washington Fair in Colville needs to be filled tomorrow and picked up on Sunday. Jim Peters, Roger and Lynne volunteered.

Betty announced the food for the picnic was ready. A prayer of thanks was given before the club members lined up for the feast. Afterwards, the club members participated in sharing and swapping rocks.

collection including a few items for the November auction. Some of her collection is items she got from our silent auctions a few years ago. THANKS RITA!!

Also, Charles Bourg donated several items (rocks) to be used for door prizes, including some geodes that have the crystals inside. THANKS CHARLES!!

The Fairgrounds asked us to move the club trailer while the Fair was going on, so Gene Fisher and I moved it to Gene's place.

Also, thanks to Lynne and Roger for putting a display in the fair, it's good to get the club name out there so people know we exist. Thanks to Jim Peters for picking up the display after the fair was over!!

Our Annual Picnic

Lynne Calvert

Thirty nine (39) people attended the annual picnic was held on August 19, 2025. The weather was near perfect. We had a great time eating great food and conversations. Gena brought rocks from her collection to show members. Several members participated in the rock swap. Thank you Betty, Sheila, Linda, Jim, and Ginger for your hard work in making this year's event so splendid.

Donations

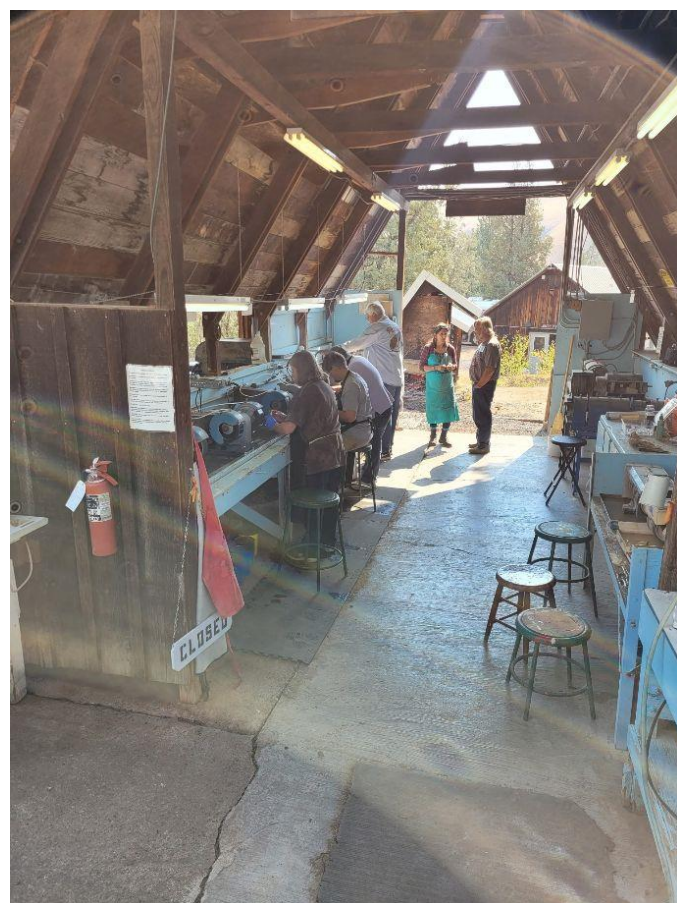
Johnie Pitman

Recently we have had donations of rocks to the club. A long time member of the club, Rita Cordrey is downsizing and wanted the club to have her

The 2025 NFMS Rockhound Retreat

Cyndie Doppler and Glynis Hull

Glynis and I went to the NW Rockhound Retreat the first week of September. There was lapidary, silver/metalworking, intarsia, carving, wire wrapping/weaving, doublets/triplets, and chainmail classes and a lot of camaraderie with old and new people. We were able to learn new skills and hone the skills we already had. It was very hot but we all tolerated it well, some went to the river and cooled off, the rest sat in front of fans! The accommodations were enjoyable, plenty of time to yourself or with others as desired. I am already looking forward to next year! Cyndie Doppler



HFS lapidary shop

A Request from Cyndie Doppler

I am having a table at this year's Relay for Life in October. It is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. I hope that you can donate some polished rocks to put on my table; the theme is "Rockin' for Relay." All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. I will need any donations by October 1st. Thank you!

I spent my time at the retreat in the carving class. I took soapstone to carve which I found out, sadly, has little fissures, barely discernable until one cracks open. My goal was to carve a whale like a

humpback but as I started to carve its head it cracked off. The instructor, Bruce, suggested I make it a baby whale. So we salvaged the rest of the block and I started to work on the tail when another fatal crack appeared. We decided to try some epoxy to head off a full break, but prepared to carve just a whale's tail. Fortunately it worked so the next day I took up where I left off and finally a whale of sorts emerged from a chunk of soapstone.

I did a woodland relief on a small slab I had brought with me to fill in the time while my whale set up.

I then decided to do a spirit bear based on what I had seen in Alaska. In my good luck, one of the instructors had a bear template I could use. I got the chunk of rock all squared up and showed it to Bruce. The rock promptly split in half (sigh). Bruce and epoxy to the rescue we got the chunk back together in a usable form. I carved my little spirit bear and it actually turned out. I finished it Saturday afternoon. I went to my cabin to rest and get things packed up. While I was resting I could smell smoke and it smelled quite close. I walked down to the center of the Field Station. About that time a fire official pulled into camp and asked for our leader. He informed Walt Butler that we had to evacuate immediately because the fire was just beyond the next ridge. Everybody jumped into high gear to pack their stuff and help pack the equipment used in all the classes. The cook left dinner on the trays and shut down the kitchen. Cyndie and I got into Spokane about midnight settling for Wendy's rather than the sloppy joes we were supposed to have for dinner. It was an exciting end to the week but we didn't get to have show and tell or give good-byes.



Smoke over the ridge from the Hancock Field Station

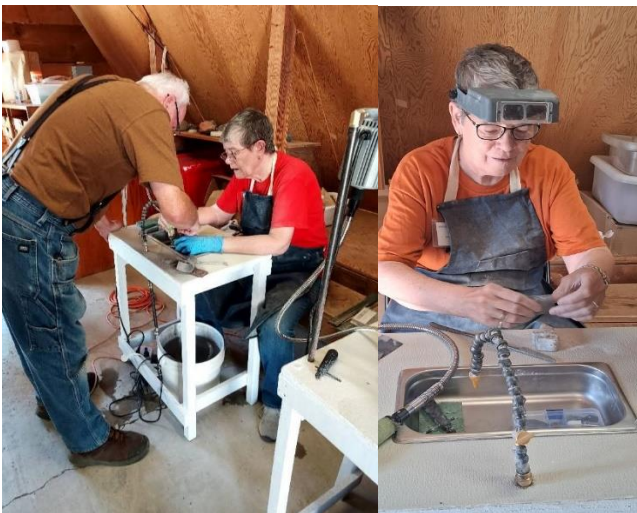
NASA Rover Finds Mars Rocks That May Signal Ancient Life

NASA's Perseverance rover on Mars stumbled upon rocks last year that scientists think may show signs that Mars once hosted microbial life.

Located in an ancient river valley called Neretva Vallis, the rocks are mudstones with unique, textured spots that NASA called "intriguing" and have been nicknamed "poppy seeds" or "leopard spots."

After reviewing images and data, scientists think that the spots could be the byproducts of microbes. Potentially, ancient microbes could have been living in the sediment long ago, munching on organic materials. That process turned the organic matter into these spotted minerals the rover found.

"This very well could be the clearest sign of life that we've ever found on Mars, which is incredibly



exciting,” Sean Duffy, NASA’s acting administrator, said at a press conference on Wednesday.

The microbial option is just one possible explanation, though. The researchers say they can’t rule out the chance that the spots were created by other processes that didn’t involve biological life, which makes it important to study a sample of material from this area in a lab on Earth.

The Trump administration has proposed canceling an ambitious NASA program to transport samples of Martian soil to Earth – a project known as Mars Sample Return – calling it “unaffordable.”

“If we aren’t able to retrieve the samples, then we’ll just be left sort of pondering this question,” Hurowitz said. “Is the answer to that question sitting in a tube somewhere on Mars that we haven’t retrieved yet?”

The 2025 Hunters Fair Booth

By Lynne Calvert

The Hunters Fair Board had asked me if our club could arrange for our booth to have a demonstration this year. I originally told them it wasn’t possible because we needed power and water in addition to already volunteering to run the crosscut saw and nail driving contests. They called me back two days later with a proposal. They could move our booth to existing power and water supplies. The contests would be located next to our booth. I gave it some thought. Since our booth was going to be a demonstration booth we could close it down while Roger and I ran the contests. I agreed to their request. Roger and I began setting up tables the night before the fair to accommodate the lapidary equipment and rocks. I arrived early on the day of the fair to set up portable tables, chairs, canopy tent, and displays. It rained while I worked but did not mind for the cool weather. Ginger, Johnny, and Audrey found the new location of our booth by walking around the entire fairground. Fortunately the fairgrounds are small at Hunters. I did not have our club banner nor did I have any signs. I dug in my tote. I had a large white table cloth from our March show, black markers, and tape. Ginger and Audrey began making signs. We found an unused hinged sign holder in the unoccupied animal pens nearby. This makeshift sign was actually wonderful

for this setting. The Hunters Fair is a country event. It’s rugged. Our booth fit right in.

Roger arrived with the lapidary equipment including a heavy saw. This is when the plans really needed to take shape because I didn’t have any idea how we were going to set up the booth. The large equipment was put in place. It became obvious I needed a time-in-motion study because our booth was now disjointed. Fortunately, Audrey, Ginger, and I insisted we move some tables to guide people to the canopy tent. This required moving all the rocks and identification signs that Johnie had created and then put them all back in place after moving the sawhorses and boards into the new location. A decision was made we were going to sell some rocks and art work in addition to demonstrations. Roger wanted to raffle off a nice rock tumbler. I wasn’t sure we were allowed to raffle tickets as it could be considered gambling. Audrey suggested we have a donation jar. I dug in my tote and found a mason jar! With the determination and skills of our team, we were ready for business just about the time the fair officially started at 8:00 AM.

The rain had stopped. The clouds kept us cool. There were more visitors to our booth than past years. I think the saws and lapidary equipment caught the curiosity of people and inspired them. Charles and Debbie arrived and brought slabs and rocks. They helped sell rocks and shared their knowledge with customers. We were busy all day with a steady flow of people except during the parade. During the lunch hour there was a lull but that didn’t last. I was happy when Audrey said we had large bills in the donation jar and I should move them somewhere more secure. People were very generous and we did sell quite a few rocks. Kids played the plinko-style game we brought and allowed to pick out a free rock from jars of beach rocks that Leigh and Kevin polished for the club.

In the afternoon, the sun came out and it was time to set up for the crosscut and nail driving contests at 1:30. The contests were very fun and had more spectators this year than we have ever seen. Audrey informed me some kids were anxious for me to return to the booth so they could make artwork with some slabs and props I brought. After the contest, I plugged in a glue gun and helped them make their

creations. They paid \$5.00 each for the supplies. This was the first year we had so many activities at our booth. It was challenging and so worth the fun. We promoted our club, made a little over \$50.00 and have two leads of people who may donate rocks to our club. I will follow up with them in September. In addition, the winning ticket for the tumbler went to Casey Brisbois. I am happy with the outcome that exceeded my expectations. I want to express my deepest gratitude to Roger, Johnie, Ginger, Audrey, Charles, and Debbie for making the event so rewarding.



Northeast Washington Colville Fair

Jim Peters met Roger and I met at the fairgrounds in Colville on August 20th. The purpose was to clean the club's display case and fill it with rocks from the club. I washed the glass while Roger and Jim

began to fill it with rocks. We included one of the branded boxes with slabs inside, as well as, a PGMC logo patch and a business card with our club information. We locked it up and turned the light on for people to enjoy the display. Thank you, Jim for driving back on Sunday to remove the rocks!



New Orleans is sinking—and so are its \$15 billion flood defenses

Parts of New Orleans are sinking at alarming rates — including some of the very floodwalls built to protect it. A new satellite-based study finds that some areas are losing nearly two inches of elevation per year, threatening the effectiveness of the city's storm defenses.

New fossils reveal a hidden branch in human evolution

Fossils unearthed in Ethiopia are reshaping our view of human evolution. Instead of a straight march from ape-like ancestors to modern humans, researchers now see a tangled, branching tree with multiple species coexisting. Newly discovered teeth reveal a previously unknown species of *Australopithecus* that lived alongside some of the earliest *Homo* specimens nearly 2.8 million years ago. This suggests that nature tested multiple versions of “being human” before our lineage endured.

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/>

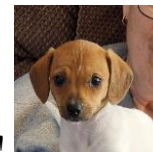
Facebook Group: [Panorama Gem & Mineral Club](#)

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