

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

January 2026

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the December 16, 2025 General Meeting

There are no minutes from the December meeting. The club had its annual Christmas Dinner and gift exchange.



Arctic Adventures Part 3

By Bob and Linda Bristow

This is the third and final part of a series describing Linda's and my outing to Alaska last summer. The first part covered our adventures in "southern" Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula. In Part 2 we drove from Homer to Denali, with excursions to Talkeetna and the long valley south of the Alaska Range.

After checking out the area around Denali, we headed further north to see how things had changed since I was there 40 years ago. When I say 40 years, it seems like a very long time. However, when I think about what I did and the adventures we

had, it seems like yesterday. The road north from Denali was different from the heavily travelled highway south of Denali. There was only a fraction of the traffic and there were rest stops about every 15 to 20 miles. South of Denali, we didn't see a rest stop from Wasilla to Denali, a distance of 168 miles. However, one thing



Figure 1. The Alaska Pipeline

we noticed was the same. There were numerous fires both new and old along the highway and we could see them in the distance. Every few miles there were signs on the highway to go slow and watch out for firefighting equipment. Luckily for us, all current fires were under control. We did have one long stop on the highway. However, it turned out to be due to highway construction rather than fires.

We bypassed Fairbanks and drove further north to see the famous Alaska Pipeline. The pipeline looked quite different now. I remembered it being clear of brush and trees near the pipe. Now it is thick brush everywhere and it is hard to see the pipe except at designated viewing areas. We then backtracked a ways and went east to North Pole. Within the town of North Pole is a very large building where you can buy Christmas presents all year. One attraction there is a service where you can deposit a note from Santa to your child. They will place the note in an envelope and send it to your child with a return address of "North Pole, Alaska."



Figure 2. At North Pole

For me, a "must see" location was the Malemute Saloon. (My teacher in grade school had read us sections of Robert Service's book which included a section on the Malamute Saloon.) We found that the saloon looked like it had 40 years before, including a broken moose antler on the entryway roof. I had my book and it contained a picture of the Malamute Saloon from before with that same antler. That

picture shows the same antler laying there today. When I showed the book to the owner, he about had a fit and wanted a signed copy (Figure 3). The owner and other patrons were not in the saloon, but outside under canvas awnings drinking beer and singing songs. We joined in and had a great time.

At the end of two weeks, we returned to Anchorage to catch a plane home. We left the car at the

airport and took a van to a motel for the night. The next morning, we got in the motel's van for the ride to the airport. There was only one other couple in the van and the lady asked Linda where we were going. Linda told her we were going to Seattle to catch plane to Spokane. The lady said they were going to Portland on their way home on the lower Columbia River.

Linda said, "We have some friends in that area, do you know anyone by the name of Rockford?" The lady burst out with, "Lemmie? He's coming to the airport in Portland to take us home!" Lemmie has been one of my best friends since he moved to

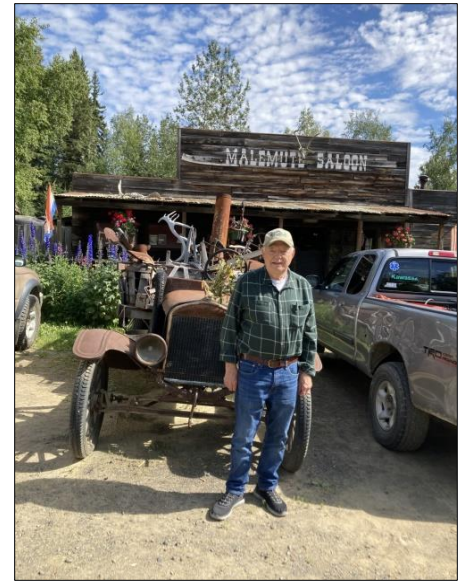


Figure 3. Front of Malemute Saloon



Figure 4. Fun on the Malemute Sun Deck

Oregon in 1945 and we lived in the same house for several months. The rest of the trip to the airport we talked about Lemmie and his home. Lemmie is 86 years old, but he still works seven days a week. His location on the river is unique. He owns the only large basalt dike that extends out into the river. His house is literally rock solid sitting on that big dike. The dike had been planed off just above high water level and it extends about 100 feet out into the river. At the end is as wide spot that had been turned into a little park with grass and trees. The boats coming up and down the river go right past his house since there is an island that splits the river and forces the boats to come near Lemmie's place. Our new friends talked about staying in the guest bedroom and being awakened by a huge boat shining a very bright light in the window. Linda and I were awakened in the same way. (Lemmie had met the captain of the boat in Portland and the captain said he would light up Lemmie's house every time he came up or down the river at night.) We also talked about the huge grizzly bear rug hanging on the wall that Lemmie's wife Wanda had bagged. The last thing we talked about was Lemmie's dock in a small bay just upstream from the house. To make sure the dock didn't move, Lemmie used two 24-inch heavy-walled steel pipes driven three feet into the solid rock.

What a small world we live in!

Mohs Hardness Scale

Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
Diamond	10	
Corundum	9	Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
Topaz	8	
Quartz	7	Steel Nail (6.5)
Orthoclase	6	
Apatite	5	Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
Fluorite	4	
Calcite	3	Copper Penny (3.5)
Gypsum	2	
Talc	1	Fingernail (2.5)

↑ Increasing Hardness

HOW DO STALACTITES AND STALAGMITES FORM?

Rainfall

Airborne moisture absorbs carbon-dioxide (CO_2) through contact with atmosphere, forming a weak acid.

CO_2 -rich groundwater seeps through cracks and fissures dissolving limestone.

CHANGING TIMES...

'From 1924 to 1988, there was a visitor's sign above the entrance to Carlsbad Caverns that said Carlsbad was at least 260 million years old. In 1988, the sign was changed to read 7 to 10 million years old. Then, for a little while, the sign read that it was 2 million years old. Now the sign is gone.'

Jerry Trout (cave specialist with the Forest Service), Descent, Arizona Highways, pp. 10-11, Jan. 1993.

Stalactites form on ceilings as the water deposits its dissolved limestone. As it drips it gives rise to stalagmite formation on floors as calcium carbonate deposits build up. Many factors influence the rate at which this happens: such as amount of water, dryness of air, and how much limestone exists. After the Flood, there would have been much more moisture around.

Don't forget, the show is coming up March 13 and 14th!! Set up will be March 12.

The Life of Agate

Forms in lava rock and soils that have been set for millions of years.

@thehealinggem

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/>

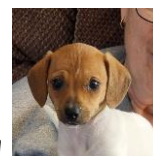
Facebook Group: [Panorama Gem & Mineral Club](#)

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