Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA

Club Meetings:

Third Tuesday of the Month
at 6:00 PM

The Panorama Prospector

June 2026

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the May 19, 2026
General Meetings

The meeting was opened at 6:04 PM. The financial report was read and accepted. Lynne welcomed new members and visitors. Extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate all the attendees.

Johnie brought in 15 blue rocks and provided a challenge to identify the rocks. Nearly everyone present took a multiple-choice answer sheet to participate. The correct answers will be revealed at the end of the meeting.

Lynne discussed the scholarship program. This is our first year with the new changes. We will be monitoring and evaluating the benefits to our club, students, and community.

Lynne discussed the challenges with sending out mass emails to the membership resulting in scam emails. Frank informed the group that he is the only one who approves disbursement of funds. He provided a handout to the group on how to recognize these scams. Lynne updated the group on the mentorship program.

We have two people interested in being mentored in the Treasury and Hospitality duties, respectively. Let Lynne know if you are interested in volunteering to "shadow" an executive team member.

Two opportunities were discussed for any members who might be interested in purchasing a rock collection or purchasing jewelry settings during a sales event at a major chain store, at which, one of our member's works. In addition, there were flyers available for anyone interested in going to Stonerose Interpretive Center & Eocene Fossil Site.

Lynne said she is proud of the club and things members do for each other and community in addition to club activities.

Discussed the recent trip to Metaline Falls and the success in digging for trilobites. It was a great outing. We did not get confirmations from any of our members to go to the Blue Forest in Wyoming. The Yellow Pine trip to Idaho is cancelled. Roger will continue researching gold claims that we can visit. Lynne explained there is a benefit for the club to look at the feasibility of purchasing a claim. Based on our current standings as a non-profit entity, there is no reason to rush into a decision. Due to the price of gas we will be focusing on day trips this year. The following trips were scheduled:

June 13th. Meet at the Safeway parking lot at 9:30 AM in Chewelah to go to Red Marble and Keystone Mines.

June 20th. Meet at the Safeway parking lot at 9:30 AM in Chewelah to go to a location near North 49 Resort. Continued on page 2

July 11th. Meet at the Safeway parking lot at 8:30 AM in Chewelah to go to Wild Turkey Mine.

***Updates:** June 19TH. Meet at the Safeway parking lot at 9:30 AM in Chewelah to go to Merikay Mine and Calispell Peak.

Lynne will send an email to the members with more details of the trips.

Johnie provided answers to the multiple-choice answer sheet for the blue rocks he brought in. This activity was so much fun he is bringing more in next month.

Why do most mineral names end in "ite"?

By Sharon Borgford

I was recently asked why so many mineral names end in "-ite", and I did not have a very good answer, so here is a summary of the information I found. My main source is an article on the Carnegie Museum of Natural History website, by Debra Wilson. If you check out the article, it contains beautiful photographs and more details: https://carnegiemnh.org/how-do-minerals-get-their-names/.

In chemistry, the suffix "ite" names an ion or compound form that includes oxygen. The "ate" suffix means the substance has more oxygen atoms than the "ite" form. "Sodium Nitrite" and "Sodium Nitrate" are familiar substances listed in many food labels.

In GEOLOGY, the "ite" ending derives from the Greek word "ites", a form of "lithos", which means rock or stone. A few ancient minerals had an "ite" ending to their name, but the suffix began to be used for newly named minerals mostly from the 1700's forward. It provides minerals with a universal naming system that can avoid confusion across different languages, with a few exceptions.

"Today new minerals, including the proposed species name, are approved by the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC), under the purview of International Mineralogical Association (IMA), which was formed in 1958. As of November 2021, the IMA recognizes 5,762 official mineral species."

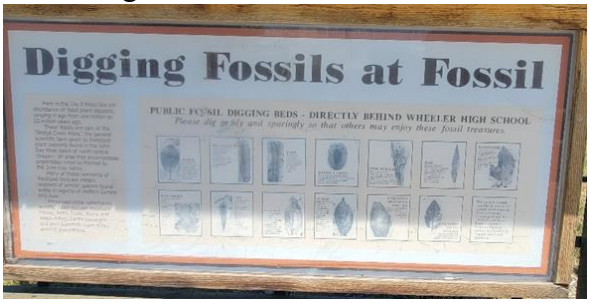
5/20/2026

Ron & April's Ochoco Rockhounding Trip

By April Swigert

Day 1

Ron and I departed from Colville with a destination of Ochoco Divide Campground in the Ochoco Mountains in Prineville, Oregon. Along the route we were blessed with beautiful scenery abounding. Mid-day we stumbled upon a small quaint town called Fossil, OR. Ron and I both said hmmm, let's look this up really quick. Why would the town be named Fossil? I googled it and found out that it is known for plant life fossils, and it has a dig site behind their local High School. We decided to take a quick detour and see if we would have any luck. At the head of the trail is a box that requests $5 payment per person. We paid and proceeded. Within 10 minutes of finding a spot, Ron and I were both finding leaf fossils. Very similar to Stone Rose; but the only difference is the material is more moist and brittle. We made it to our campground, found a site and got set up. We had enough time to set out on finding Whistler Springs Dig Site. Unfortunately, the directions were not great, and we drove all around the various Forest Service Roads looking for the site. Unable to locate it, we headed back to camp for the night. Sign at the entrance to the Fossil Dig Site in Fossil, OR



Day 2

Up at the first sign of light, we ate breakfast and set out again. Destination Whistler Springs Thunderegg Beds. We decided to take a different route listed in one of the books/pamphlets as an optional route. This route took us past the Lucky Strike Mine, which is closed and took about an hour and a half. But lo and behold we found the site for Whistler Springs. It is on Forest Service Road 500 which takes you past a trailhead and to an open area with some campsites. There are some large boulders blocking further travel. We parked and walked a short distance and found the dig sites. We found a couple of nice holes and started to dig. Both Ron and I found a lot of nice material. Filling a 5-gallon bucket half way before I said it's time to move on to the next destination.

White Fir Thunderegg Beds was the next destination. This was just a short distance off the main road Hwy 26 up another Forest Service Road. This site was easy to find, but the road up to the site was heavily rutted and only suitable for high clearance vehicles. Ron and I decided to drive the very rutted road to get a little closer. We found a spot to park and hiked a short distance to the dig sites. Again, we found some nice holes and started digging. We both pulled out a lot of nice material. Won't know how nice until we cut the thundereggs.

White Fir Thunderegg Pile

Jasper/Agate Nodule from White Fir

Day 3

We woke up early, broke down our camp and moved down the road to Elkhorn Campground on Maury Mountain about 35 miles away. There are only about 3 camp sites there. No water but they did have vault toilets but no toilet paper hence why we always carry wipes. After setting up Ron and I headed out to find the Maury Mountain Agate Beds. We found them and were unimpressed. Found a couple surface find pieces but were so small that they really weren't even worth bringing home. Others were digging huge holes, but nobody was having much luck. Beautiful view though. So instead, we spent the rest of the day driving around different Forest Service Roads looking for any signs of agate. We stopped and walked around various areas. I did find some rocks that looked like nodules. On one the end was exposed and it appears to have pink agate. We had to run into town to get ice and fill up on gas. While there I watched some YouTube videos of someone I follow in the area who finds awesome agate, jasper and petrified wood in the Maury Mountain area. I began reading all the comments to see if I could find a hint on where to look. Lo and behold he told someone a Forest Service Road where he starts and where he finishes. So Ron and I decided we would go to that location on the last day to see if we could find any material.

Beautiful Sunset from the Maury Mountain Agate Beds

Day 4

Ron and I set out to Glass Butte & Little Glass Butte in search of Obsidian. Just past the pond we took a right and drove down a ways and found a dig area. We looked at the various holes until we found a nice

big hole that had lots of material around it and decided this would be a good spot. So, the digging began. I found the layer that the obsidian was in and started pulling out some nice material. Then Ron began finding nice material as well. We ran into members of the Kitsap County Rock & Mineral Club there. They were not having much luck and so when we decided we had plenty of material we told them they should go dig the hole we were in. They ended up going over and digging that hole and finding some good material. Ron and I drove back out and up to Little Glass Butte in search of Rainbow Obsidian and Mahogany. To our surprise, there were large pieces everywhere. Then when we got close to the top we parked and started walking and found two really nice dig sites. One had a boulder size piece of obsidian that people have been chipping away at. Ron found a beautiful piece of Rainbow Obsidian that has a beautiful rainbow prism effect on it when held up to the sun. We also found some nice mahogany as well. We decided we had enough Obsidian and decided to move onto the next location, which was Hampton Butte which would be on the way back.

Large Boulder of Obsidian that people were chipping away at

We turned onto the Road to Hampton Butte; it's a long stretch of dirt road driving through open cattle range and yes there were lots of cows about. We went to one spot and didn't have any luck. Then we went back to the initial dig area when you first arrive to Hampton Butte. Parked and began looking around for a spot. Ron met a nice man that was there digging and talked to him a bit. He gave us pointers and was nice enough to give me a

Rainbow Obsidian

piece of Green Petrified Wood. Ron and I began digging a hole that was big enough for both of us. I pulled out two really nice limb casts that are red/pink/green. Ron and I also both pulled out some nice pieces of the highly sought-after green petrified wood. We were both spent as it was hot and we'd been digging a lot, so we called it a day and headed back. I took Ron on a little detour to see some more of the beautiful scenery (I missed the turn…lol). He wasn't too happy about the extra driving as we were both tired and hungry, but it all worked out in the end 😊

Beautiful Limb Cast from Hampton Butte

More Material from Hampton Butte

Day 5

Ron and I packed up camp trying to make room for all the material we found. We got it all in. Then we decided to spend half the day looking at the location on Maury Mountain where the You Tuber gave hints. Ron and I stopped in an area with some rock outcroppings and started walking around. I began finding all kinds of small agate fragments. I knew we were in the right area. So we decided to start looking on the other side of the road and walked up kind of a wash area. Ron and I both started finding agate pieces everywhere. I found a large, beautiful piece of green jasper with quartz veins through it. I went back to the car to get the rock hammer to dig it out and then couldn't find it again…Darn it. We spent until 1 pm looking at various spots before heading out and heading home.

It was a great trip but we need a vacation from the vacation.

Massive Lithium Reserve Identified at Nevada–Oregon Border

A remote stretch of land straddling the Nevada–Oregon border may be far more significant than it appears. According to new geological research, the McDermitt caldera—an expansive ancient volcanic crater—could contain between **20 and 40 million metric tons of lithium**, putting it among the **largest known lithium deposits** on the planet.

Based on the recent U.S. contract price for lithium carbonate, roughly **$37,000 per ton**, the estimated value of the deposit runs into the **trillion-dollar range**, underscoring the potential impact this discovery could have on the global energy landscape. If developed, the site could become a major contributor to the supply chains that power electric vehicles, smartphones, and renewable-energy storage systems.

The McDermitt caldera stretches approximately **28 miles** from north to south and **22 miles** from east to west. This enormous basin formed about **16 million years ago**, when a powerful volcanic eruption emptied part of the underground magma chamber. As the chamber collapsed, it left behind a vast crater that gradually filled with layers of volcanic ash and sediment.

Research led by **Thomas R. Benson, PhD, of Lithium Americas Corporation (LAC)** has closely examined how the caldera's geological structure trapped such an immense lithium reserve. After the initial eruption, ash deposits hardened into rock at the basin floor. Over the years, a lake developed within the crater, collecting fine ash and mud that later formed claystone layers. These layers became key to holding the lithium-rich minerals now attracting global attention.

Long after the eruption ended, the magma beneath the caldera continued releasing **hydrothermal fluids**—hot, mineral-laden water that moved through underground fractures. These fluids dissolved lithium from volcanic glass deep below the surface and transported it upward into the lakebed sediments.

This process triggered a complex sequence of mineral transformations. The sediments first became **smectite**, a clay capable of absorbing lithium within its layers. Over time, with exposure to hotter fluids, parts of the smectite altered into **illite**, a potassium-based clay that traps significantly higher lithium concentrations.

At **Thacker Pass**, one of the most studied sections of the caldera, the illite layer forms a band almost **100 feet thick**, lying close enough to the ground surface to be reached through open-pit mining. Studies have shown that this clay holds **1.3% to 2.4% lithium by weight**, roughly twice the levels seen in typical claystone lithium deposits. Some analyses have even recorded concentrations around **1% by weight** across parts of the basin, highlighting its unusually rich composition.

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:	Betty Peters		509-992-6921
Secretary:			
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