

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

July 2026

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the June 16, 2026 General Meetings

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by President Lynne Calvert

Mary introduces her friend Scott

Of mention: The website is down temporarily. Roger & Frank are working to get it back up.

Financial Report:

Hall Rental Expense

Club hats \$10

All IOUs show being paid in full

Scholarships: SCC has not asked for money at this time

Purchase considerations:

The club is considering the purchase of Lapidary Equipment for club use possibly in the Fall or Winter.

Tamara will prepare an article on the Field Trip to Keystone and Red Marble.

Judy Ann & Grady just joined the club when they told us about a setting sale at Fred Meyer. Thank you for sharing this info. Lynne was able to take a stone and have it set into a beautiful ring.

Library: Don't forget you can check out books

from Lynne or Audrey

****Thank you Glynis for your book donation.**

Betty & Jim will be stepping away for the Club to focus on some health-related things. Will need to find someone to take over as Vice President & Hospitality. They will be staying through August and hope to still be able to come in the future.

Fall Quarter Quilt: Donate to VFW \$1 each 2nd Tuesday. Fabric will be kept with Library.

Current open positions: Secretary (April Swigert has been assisting with this and may be interested), Vice President and Hospitality.

Cindy – Volunteered for Hospitality

Glynis Volunteered for Vice President

Sheila Volunteered for Vice President & Hospitality

Regional Federation – Rock Exchange throughout Country. The club needs to reach out to them to get back on their email list for their Newsletter.

April Offered up two Emerald Creek Star Garnet tickets. (Sadly notified day after meeting they closed site due to material for the year being exhausted)

Colville Fair in August – the Club has a display cabinet and we are looking for donations of rocks and help setting it up. We meet the day before the start of the fair.

Friday 6/19/26 Field Trip to the Mary Kay Mine. Meet In Chewelah at Safeway at 0800

Looking for a New Show Chairman

By Johnie Pitmann

[Editor's note: PGMCM has been in existence for a long time. Many older members have been in leadership positions for a long time and are reaching a point where it's time for them to retire and let the younger set step into those leadership positions. Please give consideration as to what YOU can do to keep the club vibrant by serving where help is most needed.]

Show Chairman Job Description:

Anyone can be show chairman, it's not difficult and I will work with you to get it done.

The first thing is to arrange for the building. This is best done during the show each year for the next year. The Ag Trade Center is booked solid all year, so we always ask for the second weekend of March each year, that is Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

During the summer months check with members concerning tumbled rocks for the 800 grab bags (1/2" to 1 1/2") and for the Wheel of Fortune (1 1/12 to 3"), each grab bag is 1/3 pound of rocks. Also, someone to sew the grab bags, Betty Peters has done this in the past and has us well supplied.

Keep an eye out for a suitable Grand Prize, the club has always allowed \$100 for this, you may need to purchase it and then get reimbursed.

Oct.-Nov is the time to get the Dealer Contracts mailed, most dealers like to schedule shows a few months in advance. The contracts are the same each year just change the dates and any other minor adjustments.

Jan-Feb meetings are show planning time where jobs are assigned and who will fill the 22 display cases. It's also time to check with last year's food vender and let them know the exact dates of the show.

After the dealer contracts are back in your hands you can then draw up the floor plans.

(minutes continued from page 1)

Saturday 6/20/26 Field Trip with Dave to USK for Agate, crystals, etc. Meet in Chewelah at Safeway 0800.

Kalispell Mountain you can find pegmatite. Bring water and sunscreen and first aid kit.

Wild Turkey Mine July 13th. Meet at Chewelah Safeway at 0830 in order to get there by 0900. This is kid friendly.

4th of July Cedonia Church free food.

After Break the club had the opportunity to go to different tables and take their guess at the type of rocks. Later to determine a winner. Great educational opportunity.

Then it's show time and I'm always amazed at the work the members all chip in and get done during setup and teardown.

That's all there is to it!! YOU CAN DO IT

Johnie

Trip to Red Marble and Keystone Mines

By Tamara Beltz

On June 13, 2026, which was a beautiful early summer day, approximately 15 of us ventured to Red Marble and Keystone mines located near Huckleberry Mountain west of Waitts Lake, WA.

We stopped at Keystone mine first, picking up rocks that we liked; to go into tumblers, window sills and gardens. Most of the rocks that made it into buckets were *magnesite* with a few pieces of *serpentine*. I also know of a few large pieces* that went to good homes.

*a big thank you to the brawn that participated in helping load said large specimens into waiting vehicles.

We moved on to a ruin left-over from the original mining endeavor. There wasn't much to see, just a concrete pad and some boards with nails.

On to Red Marble mine, where we found more *magnesite* that had different color variations than Keystone. Lunch and conversations were enjoyed among boulders and under trees for shade. It was interesting to see and admire all the rocks from other places that came out of pockets during the break! My favorite question answered was, Q: where is that crystal from? A: a box.

There were lots of butterflies and a few bothersome wasps, but no mosquitos. And I don't know anyone that brought home a nasty tick.

The outing broke up after lunch and before it got hot. A big shout-out to Lynne and Johnie for leading the way and identifying all of the lovelies we found! And another big hurrah for all of us that showed up, it was a great excursion!

Tamara Beltz, reporting



Tamara's Rhubarb Squares

$\frac{1}{2}$ C butter
 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C brown sugar
 1 C yogurt or sour cream
 2 eggs
 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ C Flour (I use 1/2 whole wheat)
 1 t soda
 $\frac{1}{2}$ t salt
 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ C rhubarb, chopped into $\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces

Oven 350°F
 13x9 55 min
 2 8x8 40 min
 (200°F internal temp)

Topping:
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C sugar
 1 T butter
 1 t cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C chopped walnuts or pecans

Cream butter and brown sugar until well mixed, add yogurt and eggs, cream, scrape down sides and cream. Add flour, soda, salt mixture and mix. Add rhubarb, mix until chunky cake-like batter. Pour into pan(s). Sprinkle topping mix over batter in pans. Bake until interior temp is 200° or clean knife. Center will be springy to touch. Freezes well.

Crystals from Seashells

By Joe Barreca

While driving along the Columbia River north of Marcus you will pass many old quarries and outcrops of generally white rocks. It is a limestone belt, a remnant of the old Windemere Rift, a stretch of ocean water that rushed in where the ancient supercontinent of Rodinia started to lose the terrain on its western edge roughly 780 to 570 million

years ago. That opening would eventually become for a while the Pacific edge of North America. The rift ran from the Yukon all the way to Southern California. As sea life and rivers in that basin of ocean water deposited sediment, the Windermere Supergroup of rocks formed. In the area north of Marcus and into Canada shells and bodies of sea creatures built up the limestone rocks we see today. I often marvel at the thought that those hundreds-of-feet-thick layers of rock were once living creatures.



Two Quarries above Evans

A main component of limestone is calcium carbonate, CaCO_3 . You may recognize it as a common dietary supplement for bone health, a popular over-the-counter antacid (e.g., Tums) to relieve heartburn, and a vital industrial raw material. Limestone has played a big role in the economics of Stevens County. Our first stop is the Evans Quarry. You can't see much of the upper quarries from Highway 25 North but the aerial photos reveal two large quarries above the highway (mile marker 89) and one right off the highway. An even larger one sits just off Evans Cutoff Road.

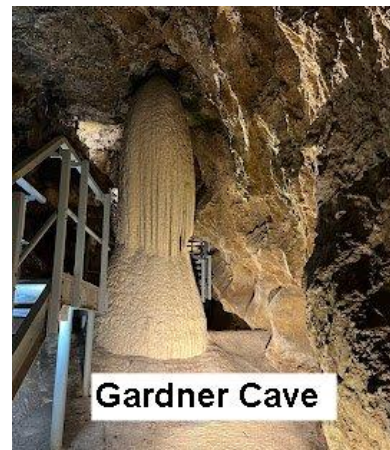
These quarries have been a popular field trip for the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club because they have calcite crystals. There are two caves in the quarry with crystals on the walls of the quarry nearby and on the slopes leading up to the caves. Calcite is a relatively soft crystal that comes in many varieties. At Evans, you can find dogtooth calcite on the slopes and in some vugs (holes) in the quarry walls. They are fun to collect but just the tip of the crystal as it goes for calcite.

Calcium carbonate is stable in water but add just a bit of acid and it starts to fizz and break down. Acid from roots accounts for the large caverns associated



Dogtooth Calcite

with limestone. There is one outside of Metaline in Pend Oreille County, the Gardner Cave State Park. It has stalactites and stalagmites made from calcite water dripping into the cave. There are tours and it is worth a look.



Gardner Cave

Because calcium carbonate neutralizes acid, it is used as a soil amendment for fields that are deemed too acid. While forests typically have an acid soil, vegetable and field crops prefer a more neutral or even base soil. The limestone at Evans was made into agricultural lime. That process heats the powdered rock to drive off the carbon and make the rock into quicklime which is much more active in neutralizing soil. The heat for the kilns used to cook the limestone came from firewood cut from a wide area around Evans. It stripped the forest of trees.

An even more intense process is used to create cement from limestone. Cement is produced by crushing and blending limestone with materials like clay, sand, and iron ore, then heating this mixture in a high-temperature rotary kiln to form "clinker." This clinker is finally ground into a fine powder and mixed with gypsum to create the binding agent used in concrete. (Google) The Ideal Cement Company

in Metaline Falls produced cement used to build Grand Coulee Dam. If you look at concrete under a microscope, you can see the calcite crystals that bind the particles of rock together.



Tiny yellowish calcite crystals
in a microscopic view of concrete

I have to note here that concrete processing is one of the most detrimental activities associated with high carbon levels in the atmosphere and global warming. It accounts for an eighth of all carbon added to the air. The fossil fuels used to heat the calcium and drive off the carbon are one factor. But the carbon in limestone is one of the earth's largest stores of sequestered carbon. There are newer ways to make cement without heat using natural microbes that produce a product 3 times as strong. However, they take longer and cannot be poured and formed as easily. A lot of study is being done in this field.

Calcium carbonate has even more intriguing properties. Further up Highway 25 between mile markers 94 and 95 is the Bureau of Lands property of the Young America Mine. That mine was a large source of income for Bossburg. It produced almost a million pounds of lead, a couple tons of copper, some gold and almost 70,000 ounces of silver by 1958. Lead, zinc and silver often mix into limestone. The area along the Columbia north of Evans, on over to Metaline Falls and north into Canada is the second largest lead producing formation in North America. One in Missouri is larger.

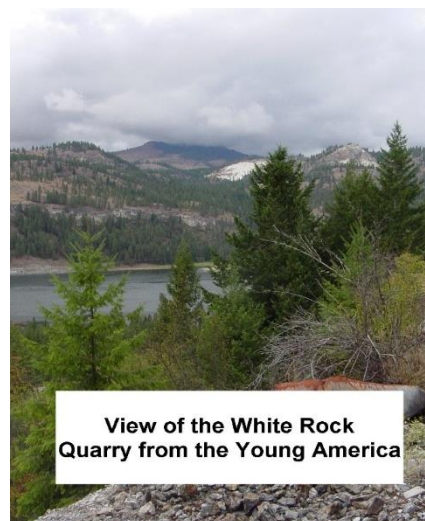
Of interest to rockhounds however is the propensity of calcium carbonate to also incorporate minerals that respond to ultraviolet light. The most common reaction around the Young America is an orange color in response to shortwave UV light. But inside the mine I have seen multiple colors in response to UV. The mine is now surrounded by private

property and somewhat dangerous to enter. Proceed with caution and discretion if you want to explore.

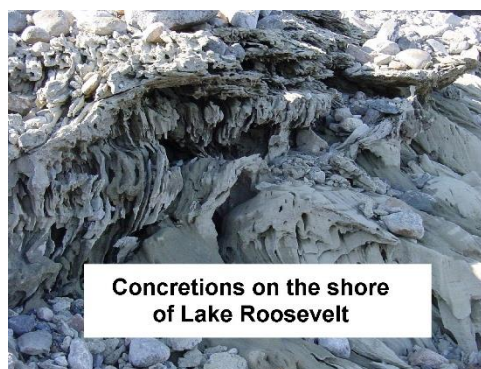
Across the river from the Young America Mine you can see the White Rock Quarry. It is an example of another form of calcium, tremolite.

"Tremolite is a calcium-magnesium silicate mineral belonging to the amphibole group. It is formed by the metamorphism of silica-rich dolomite and quartz sediments. Tremolite occurs in two forms: flat, crystalline structures and brittle, needle-like fibers. Its fibrous variety is classified as a regulated type of asbestos. $Ca_2Mg_5Si_8O_{22}(OH)_2$ ". (Google). Fortunately, the White Rock Quarry does not produce the asbestos variety. It is, however, very white and can be used on driveways, roofs and other structures. Outside the quarry itself there are some large boulders of a more common form of calcite crystal.

Calcium is largely responsible for making well-water hard. If you have heated well-water in a pan, over time you can see it build up on the sides of the pan. An extension of that effect is the production of concretions. These intricate and interesting formations can be as simple as a round ball or complex as a rock carving.



View of the White Rock
Quarry from the Young America



Concretions on the shore
of Lake Roosevelt

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 Johnnie Pitman, 701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 991114.

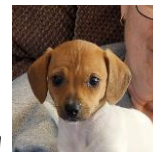
Webpage: <http://panoramagem.com/>

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:	Glynis Hull		509-981-9714
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:	Cyndie Doppler		509-216-5473
Historian:	Sheila Stratton		509-207-8506
Newsletter:	Glynis Hull	gghull@comcast.net	509-981-9714
Show Chair	Johnnie Pitman		509-684-8887