

Place:
Arden Community Hall
636 Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

August 2026

PANORAMA GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Minutes for the July 21, 2026
General Meetings

No minutes submitted.

Don't forget, the club picnic is Tuesday at the grange hall (where we meet). The club will provide the main dish and bottled water. Everyone else should bring a side dish or dessert. Bring chairs to sit on while we socialize. Afterwards there'll be tailgating exchanges for anyone interested in sharing.

Two Donations Received!

By Johnie Pitmann

The Club has received two donations of rocks lately, one from Gimmie Morgan and one from Brian Martell. Gimmie is downsizing and moving so she donated her excess rocks, she is taking her equipment with her. She will still be cutting slabs and doing some polishing. Her donation includes some nice slabs and a variety of lapidary type rocks that will be very good to work with (about 200 pounds). Thanks Gimmie!!!

Brian Martell's donation is mostly tumbling material including some nice Montana Agates, some jaspers, end cuts, and small slabs, a total of five buckets (about 120 pounds). Thanks Brian!!!

Breaking Free from the Smoke and Fires

By Lynne Calvert

The air was thick with smoke as the Lessig Fire broke out very near where we live. I developed an evacuation plan and started staging essential items. Fortunately that fire was put out fairly quickly. I have to thank our firefighters and many of our wonderful club members that called us to offer help and a place to stay. A few days later the Modrite and Bradeen Fires broke out and continued to grow as high winds fanned the flames. The Hudspeth fire started and we evacuated from our place for one night. Grim news reports were coming in about more fires and arsonists setting some. Many homes were destroyed. People and animals are displaced.

Although there were many tragedies this summer, there were miracles as well. Friends of ours have a home within the Bradeen Fire footprint. They were completely shell shocked while they stayed in our motorhome for four days not knowing if they had a home to return to. Fortunately it was saved and nothing short of a miracle. More of our friends and club members were evacuated or on alert to 'go now'. The fire danger had everyone on edge. It seemed no matter where we went everyone we talked to had a story.

My 65th birthday was coming up soon with plans to camp at New Hogan Lake in California with family where we all grew up and played as youngsters. I was apprehensive about leaving but one thing I learned was the firefighters do an incredible job saving homes and assets if at all possible. With the poor air quality, I wore a mask as we worked outside to finish our sprinkler system in our orchard. It doubles as fire suppression. We finished packing for the trip and departed. On our way down HWY 395 we saw an area with fascinating blue rocks. We stopped but not for long as I was so antsy (actually uptight) to see my family. We put a pin on Google Maps to go back and check this location. Before going to California we stayed a few days in Yerington, NV with our daughter and son-in-law, Christa and Eric. We learned that a fire started near Lake Hogan where we had reservations. That fire grew rapidly and people were being evacuated from the lake and surrounding areas. We cancelled our reservations and stayed in Yerington ... in the Great Basin Desert ... where it's very hot. This is the first summer for Eric and Christa in Yerington. The home they purchased needed a new roof and air conditioning. A new roof took precedence. Every day we found places to go to avoid the heat of the day at the house. My grandson and his wife were coming up to visit from Indian Springs, NV to celebrate my birthday. Roger and I went to Walmart in Fallon to get a super soaker squirt gun. Our plan was to use it as a prop to simulate putting all the candles out on the cake as a joke. Not in any hurry to get back, we took our time in town. On our way home I texted my grandson's wife to get their ETA. If it worked out all of us would be in the tiny town

of Schurz about the same time. There is a really neat rock shop called the Rock Chuck there. My son's wife would love going in that shop. To get in you have to call the phone number on the door and they come over from their house. We arrived first and decided to finish our Arby's sandwiches and drinks at a picnic bench under a tree. Mind you, it's blazing hot, but enough of a slight breeze to make it bearable - barely. I planned to call the number when we finished our lunch. However, my grandson and his wife saw us and pulled in. They couldn't believe their eyes. Hugs and laughter filled the warm air. I called the number but it went to voicemail. We departed to Christa's house. Not long after, we went to swim in the Walker River. Oh YAY!

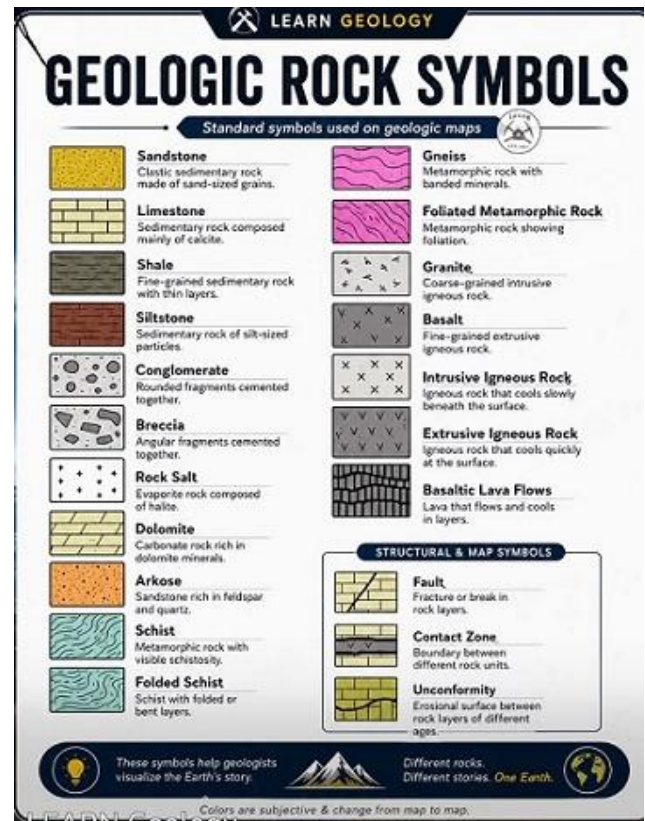
We swam, played, sunbathed, and rock hounded. We discovered the soil is clay with some sand. The clay made it difficult to walk in some areas because it caused a suction effect around our feet. There was a rock with green crystals partially submerged. Roger began removing pieces and the inside was better. He decided he wanted the entire rock. Three very strong men could not move that rock. The weight of it sunk in the clay soil as if it were anchored to China. Efforts to remove the dirt around it to let the water backfill were futile. Fortunately, we were all in the shade of a tree. Eric backed his truck up and Roger helped him rig up cargo straps around the rock. They were really DETERMINED. Wouldn't you know instead of the rock moving the strap broke? It was time to get the big guns and use a towing strap. Oh that rock was gonna come out. Too heavy for one man to pick it up, Waylon rolled it up the bank as Roger positioned our truck for loading. Eric and Waylon were able to safely lift it into our truck. Off we went to go have cake and ice cream. The cake was brightly lit and our super soaker prop prank was hilarious.

The next day, Roger and I headed back to Washington. Well, there really was no hurry in going home to a smoke-filled location. We decided to take a little detour and visit his son at his new home in Paradise, CA. Boy, was he surprised to see us. We waited for his girlfriend to finish work and had a lovely dinner together in the college town of

Chico. After our goodbye hugs we drove to Interstate 5 onto HWY 97 through Oregon. We stayed in Klamath Falls and resumed our drive north the next day. We passed a rock shop near Redmond that was open! Over 5 years we drove this route at least four times each year and they are always closed. Roger turned our truck around and we pulled in hoping to find a place in the shade to park. There were many cars and people at *Madani Rock World*. Everyone was having a great time. The rocks were absolutely beautiful. A dark-skin man began talking to us who we learned is the new owner. Mr. Madani is excited that we are such enthusiastic customers. We hit it off and tell him all about our club. He tells us he is Iranian and from the ancient Persian people. We discuss the current conditions in Iran. He proceeds to give us a private tour of an area not yet open to the public. His vision to expand the rock shop is inspiring. To use the term “rock shop” is a misnomer. Most of it is outdoors. There are fountains that he plans to use to make it cooler to browse through walkways to enjoy the rocks. To make our experience even more special, he trusted us to feed the Koi in his fish pond in his back yard. What a treat, for us and the “free-loading fish” – quoted by Mr. Madani’s words in Farsi. LOL. We walked back to the rock shop to get his business card. He explained to us that his business card includes the Farsi slang word, *dehote*, that describes him as a “hillbilly.” A plastic baggie with beautiful sparkling black sand was shown to us. It is from Iran. Special permission had to be given to collect it – let alone bring it to America. Apparently collecting sand and rocks is not allowed in Iran. I feel privileged to get to see it and learn about Iran. The entire experience was extraordinary. The name of the rock shop is *Madani Rock World* and it does not disappoint. I hope the rock shop is successful. We will go back there again to see the improvements while enjoying the hospitality. Roger and I traded driving duty and arrived home safely with our green rock from the Walker River. If you attend our club picnic in August you will get to see it. See you there!

Q. Native Americans used obsidian to make arrowheads, knives and mirrors. Archeologists have found Yellowstone obsidian as far away as Ohio, Illinois and Mississippi. How can scientists tell that the obsidian came from Yellowstone?

A. Every flow of obsidian has individual characteristics that can be recognized like a fingerprint.



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/>

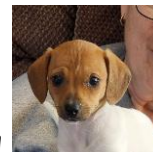
Facebook Group: [Panorama Gem & Mineral Club](#)

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 2026

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	Johnie Pitman		509-684-8887