

Place: **Union Hall**
Meyers Street
Next to Campus Life
In Kettle Falls



Time: 7:00 PM
Third Tuesday
Each Month
(Jan.-Nov.)

The Panorama Prospector January 2009

Minutes for the Nov 08 Panorama Gem and Mineral Club by Ginger Pitman

Wow! What a fun meeting. The auction of rocks and a few other things was fast and competitive. We had some very nice rocks and my unofficial count said we raised right at \$600 dollars so great; enough for one of our scholarships. Hope everyone got a bargain.

We did do some business, that of electing officers for the coming year. Johnie Pitman will be our president. Steve White will be vice president. Ginger Pitman is the secretary, with our hard working dual treasurers of Bill and Sylvia Allen. Steve Fox was elected to fill our 3 yr. rotating trustee position. We had 3 visitors at the meeting and they were right in there bidding on the auction items.

Bill gave our show report and we have 2 dealers paid in full.

Johnie and Harold went together and picked up some very good rocks that were donated to the club by Keith Young, the club voted to give him a club hat as our show of appreciation.

Our Christmas party will be Dec 16, a potluck affair starting at 6pm, at the Colville Library Rental room at 195 S. Oak St. entering from the outside staircase going to the basement. If you want to bring a gift to exchange that will be part of the fun. Also Joe is planning on having some of his rock exchanges there for us to see.

Steve White, as all good deer hunters do, was also rock hounding, finding some adits and interesting stuff near the Deer Trail mine, which he said looks to now be active so Rex will do some research for us. Sherry and Dave both brought some crystals from Solo Cr, which were very, very nice, each from a different dig area there so we will put that on our next years field trip schedule for sure.

As if Sylvia didn't have enough to do, Nov. is the month to pay our dues. You can still pay at the Christmas party but than she will be compiling the new mailing list for our newsletter and the Northwest Federation Newsletter and we don't want to miss anyone. If your address has changed please get us up to date. Scott, I think we got yours straight. The dues are \$15 a household for the year.



Mike and Diane Rose in Arizona

By Diane Rose

(Editor's Note: This is a letter and a picture from The Roses. Sorry – they did not send pictures of their rocks, only the flood. So we demand to see their rocks when they get back)

Mike and I have had a couple of adventures on our trip to Arizona so far. We spent 5 days with Jim and Ramona Peterson and went out with them twice. Once to California near Needles finding: Jasper, Fairy Geodes, chalcedony roses and saw some neat country. We also went to Burro Creek just below the mine at Bagdad, AZ. There we found a really nice area along the Burro Creek. We also found some pastelite, some agate, along the way on this trip.

After leaving Lake Havasu City and the Peterson's we went on to Quartzsite for a couple of days. We road our ATV around Bouse, AZ [that is northeast of Quartzsite]. We saw a mining area and had a great ride as well.

We then went on to Yuma for a visit with Mike's Mom and Step-dad Jene that some of you met at the club picnic a couple of years ago.

Mike and I continued our adventures by going to the Proving Grounds north of Yuma to go for a ride and possibly find the area where Jim and Lu told us about to find petrified wood. It was not to happen on this trip though, it began to sprinkle, then rain. It got harder so we turned around as the rain continued getting even harder and the road began to wash and the washes turned into rivers. We were trapped two washes out of Senators Wash behind the raging water for three hours. Once the

water subsided we got across the wash and proceeded on. There was a pickup that met us and advised that the "big wash" was really a "Big Wash". They went down and talked to family and the Ranger and returned to tell us that there was at least a three foot drop off and it would not be possible to go across. We went on to their camp and stayed with them for about an hour. The Ranger opened the gate normally opened only for the service vehicles and allowed us to return to Yuma.

We are now in Sierra Vista until Jan. 8.

Senate Bill Impacts Rockhounding Subtitle D -- Paleontological Resources Preservation (S. 320)

The ‘‘Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009’’. pages 519 to 534 pertain to fossil collecting on federal lands. The actual Bill is over 1200 pages. It is time to start contacting Senators and Representatives about your concerns with this bill!
John Martin

This is a bill actually introduced in 2007 that died in congress as it has every year since it was first introduced. Some rock clubs feel very strongly that this is bad legislation. You can Google ‘‘Paleontological Resources’’ and judge for yourself. Recent emails claim that it has been re-introduced.

Minutes for the Christmas Party Dec. 16, 2008

By Ginger Pitman

Even though it was a cold, cold night we had 37 members at our Christmas Potluck Party. The food was excellent and plentiful; the meeting room was very nice and warm.

We had time to visit and Joe had a place to set out the samples he has been getting from the exchange he is doing with other clubs. Thank you, Joe.

A gift exchange was next and I think everyone was pleased with their gifts and it was fun.

Sitting here now with all this snow, remember it is only 3 months till spring and we can get back to the field trips.

Beginning with the Jan meeting we will, for those interested, be meeting an hour earlier for our show meetings. Our show is March 27 and 28, 2009.



Club Web Page Very Busy

Many of you many not know that the Panorama Gem and Mineral club has a web page. It is not particularly classy and has existed on the Map Metrics web site for many years. There may be no better way to say what is on the site than the lead-in page for rocks:

‘‘Northeast Washington and North Idaho share some of the most complex geology in North America. It is a story of colliding and drifting continents, massive volcanism and cataclysmic floods. Digging into this countryside has made for some good mines, and a lot more bad ones. Our [geologic atlases](#) detail the history, the location and contents of thousands of mines. Links here lead to articles published as Adobe PDFs about the [Geologic History of Ferry County](#), [Stevens County](#) and [Pend Oreille County](#). More atlases are in the works as well as a book on local rock collecting sites.

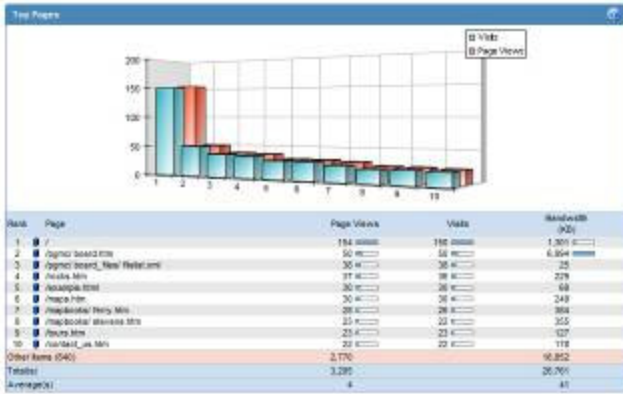
To get the real scoop on rocks, join one of the local rock clubs. In Stevens County, call the [Panorama Gem and Mineral Club](#). In Pend Oreille County, contact the [Pend Oreille Rock and Gem Club](#). Here is a list of Washington Clubs, not up-to-date, but useful from the [Washington State DNR](#).

Check out the [Rock Links](#) page for much more information on Rockhounding and Lapidary.

Also check out the [rock site map](#) on the [Tours Page](#) of this website.

The newsletter page has links to all of the [Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Newsletters](#) since November 2004. These will give you an insight both into the places we go as a mineral club and to the many of the members, the heart and soul of the club.’’

All of the blue text leads to more pages about the club.



In a report for the last two months, the “Rocks” page was seen more times (405) than any on the site, save the home page. Of particular interest was the board of directors listing. The site itself is getting up to 900 hits each day. The most popular newsletter seems to be the one about Dave Paquette and gold mining. (75 downloads in the last 2 months.)

You need to understand that a large percentage of “hits” (about 75%) are actually made by “bots”, robot programs that crawl the Internet and update search engines such as Yahoo and Google. Nevertheless, with 900 hits on the web site on a weekend day (that is today Jan. 10th's count) is a lot of activity. The bots are not all bad. These pages are getting fairly good search engine ranking.

The maps and geology pages get a lot of activity too, and even though the pages are now 2 years old, the stories and pictures from the trip I took with my wife, Cheryl, to Australia account for at least 1/3rd of the activity on the website.

It is interesting paying attention to what people are paying attention to and people are paying attention to rocks. I think the logical conclusion is that the club may want to pay more attention to what it is putting up on this site. These newsletters could be made even more searchable than they are right now. We could do a more aggressive job of advertising the club’s Rock Show and field trip activities. We could provide better links to other Rock Clubs and other organizations in the community. Anyway – just something more to think about.



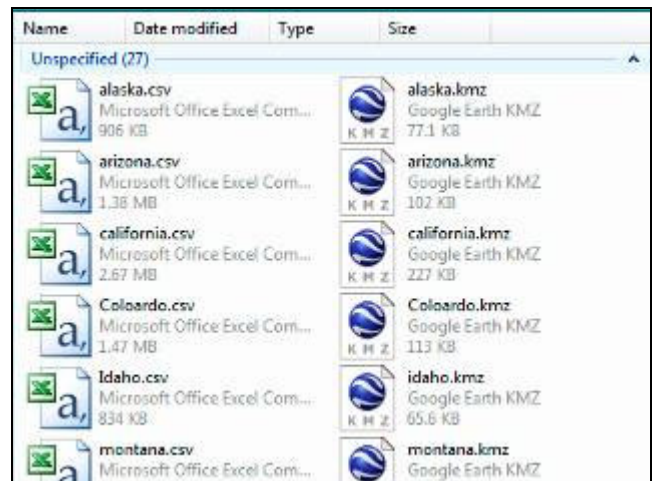
Maps to Mines Now On Line



The picture above is an aerial view of Stevens County just north of Sand Canyon road by Chewelah. It is seen in a program that can be freely downloaded, called Google Earth. Normally you would not see pins indicating where mines are in Google Earth. But today I downloaded an archive file that contained information on thousands of mines in the Western United States. If you have Google Earth installed on your computer, you can open any state file in this archive and it will show thousands of mines in each state in Google Earth. If you zoom into the icons for these mines, you can have Google Earth make a map from wherever you want with driving instructions on how to get to these mines.

Here is the link to the archive file:

<http://www.mojaveunderground.com/media/western.zip>. Those of you who are familiar with computers will recognize that this is a “zip” file, a very common type of archive file that most computers can open. Inside you will find two files for every Western State. One will end with “KMZ” The other will end with “CSV”. So you would have for instance “arizona.csv” and “Arizona.kmz”.



(This is a sample of the files found in Western.zip)

You get the Google Map points from the “KMZ” file. The points don’t really have any information except for the location on the map and the name of the mine. For info on what minerals are in the mine, when it was in operation and many other things, you can open the “CSV” file with a spreadsheet program. This is the “MasMils” database of mining information available from the government. It was a critical component of the Geologic Atlases that Map Metrics made for the counties in NE Washington. The information is not presented as clearly with a series of indexes, and you can’t take it with you unless you print out information piece by piece. But then it doesn’t cost \$50 either. So if you know a little about computers and want to see what is out there, check out the link in the second paragraph and Google Maps.

Klondike Gold Rush Yukon Territory 1897

(This article was taken from an Alaskan State website - see the reference at end for more pictures and stories.)

The Klondike gold rush began in July of 1897 when two ships docked in San Francisco and Seattle carrying miners returning from the Yukon with bags of gold. The press was alerted and papers carried the story to the masses.

Soon, miners of all shapes and sizes, called "stampedeers", were on their way to the gold fields. Within six months, approximately 100,000 gold-seekers set off for the Yukon. Only 30,000 completed the trip.



Most stampedeers knew little or nothing about where they were going, so pamphlets were available to help them on their way. Many of the pamphlets contained little or no real information and made outrageous claims of wealth to be had by everyone. Outfitters sprang up overnight that were happy to sell the stampedeers whatever they needed to get started. This included food, clothing, tools and camping, mining and transportation equipment. Helping the outfitters in this regard were the Northwest Mounted Police who required all stampedeers to have one year’s supply of goods before they allowed them across the border into Canada. This was roughly one ton of goods per person. Towns such as Seattle made fortunes outfitting the miners.

The easiest and more expensive route to the gold fields was by boat upstream from the mouth of the Yukon in western Alaska. The most difficult route was the "All Canadian Route" from Edmonton and overland through the wilderness.

The most common route taken by the stampedeers to reach the fields was by boat from the west coast of the continental U.S. to Skagway in Alaska, over the Chilkoot or White Passes to the Yukon River at Whitehorse and then by boat 500 miles to Dawson City.



The Chilkoot Pass trail was steep and hazardous. Rising 1,000 feet in the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, it was known as the "golden staircase": 1,500 steps carved out of snow and ice worked their way to the top of the pass. Too steep for packhorses, stampedeers had to "cache" their goods, moving their equipment piecemeal up the mountain. Stampedeers who gave up often did it here, discarding their unneeded equipment on the side of the trail. Conditions on the White Pass trail were even more horrendous. Steep, narrow and slick, over 3,000 pack animals died on the trail causing it to be dubbed the "dead horse trail".

Those who made it across the passes found themselves at Bennett Lake. Here, boats had to be built to run the final 500 miles down the Yukon River to the gold fields. A three week trip, the miners had to survive many sets of rapids before making it to Dawson City. Many miners lost their lives or their possessions when their boats broke up in the rapids.

Those who survived the perilous journey mostly found disappointment once they reached Dawson City. Locals had already claimed all of the gold-bearing creeks and claims of "gold for the taking" were grossly exaggerated. Many stampedeers headed home, some worked for others on the claims and still others stayed to work in Dawson City.

The work that was necessary to retrieve the gold was incredible. Most of the gold was not at the surface, but rather 10 or more feet below. To reach it, the miners had to dig through the permafrost - the layer of permanently frozen ground. The ground had to be thawed before it could be dug. Then the dirt had to be sluiced to separate it from the gold. All digging had to be done during the summer as it was impossible to dig in the winter when temperatures could reach -60°F . It was incredibly difficult work.

The biggest boom to hit this part of the world was a huge bust for the miners. The only ones to strike it rich were the merchants and profiteers who took advantage of those who hoped to "get rich quick".



http://www.questconnect.org/ak_klondike.htm