

OREGON COUNCIL OF ROCK & MINERAL CLUBS
PRESIDENT'S UPDATE
JANUARY – MARCH 2019

Temperatures here in Roseburg are climbing into the low 70's and spring is set to officially begin in three days. Quite a change from three weeks ago when we received about 14 inches of very wet snow bringing down lots of trees and power lines. We were only without electricity for 48 hours, but many parts of the county were powerless for several weeks. Makes you wonder what would happen in the event of a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake. With the change in season we can look forward to the beginning of a full schedule of shows. Our show is set for the first weekend in May, so we are in the full preparation mode. I'm hoping to make it to a couple of the shows down in the Rogue Valley and of course Sweet Home. We are also planning a road trip to the Southwest in April to take in the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater and the Petrified Forest to name but a few of our destinations. Should be lots of great geology and plenty of rocks. Most of these sites are at fairly high elevations, so will have to gamble on the weather continuing to improve. On a more local level, we just traveled up to Cottage Grove and visited the Bohemia Mining Museum. If you have a couple extra hours and are in the area, it is certainly a worthwhile stop. Those old "Sourdoughs" were an incredibly tenacious group of folks. We certainly stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and made our modern conveniences possible.

Now on to some Council business. We are finishing our annual membership drive and have 13 clubs who have signed up with another two clubs pending. In total, the 13 clubs have 1,264 members and four of the clubs are new in 2019! It really helped to have our informational tri-fold to send along with the Council application. Thanks to Maureen Williams for organizing our membership effort and putting together the tri-fold. We need to update this document with new pictures for the next printing. It turns out that 50 copies didn't last long, so we need to place another larger order. If you have any great rockhounding pictures, please let us know. We will need permission from the people in the picture to use their images in our publication.

In an effort to keep our elected officials informed about the interests of recreational rock hounds, I sent a letter to some of our state and federal legislators describing the Council's organization and mission. Hopefully this will make them more aware that lots of folks enjoy collecting rocks, minerals and fossils on our public lands. A copy of my letter for your review is posted with this report. Please consider writing your

representatives in support of our hobby. Remember that personalized letters sharing your experiences always receive the most attention. In the absence of advocating for our concerns, better funded groups with other interests will certainly have the most influence.

Lenora Smith continues to keep us current on federal land management issues through her emails. Hopefully you have someone in your club who helps disseminate this information for timely responses to regulating agencies. The ALAA website is also a good resource for updates on proposed policies and regulations affecting access to our public lands. I am looking forward to catching up on BLM RAC activities with Susie Koppert and Ed Anderson at our upcoming Sweet Home meeting. Both have been active in seeking positions on different RAC's (Resource Advisory Council's) to help promote recreational rockhounding. I am continuing to pursue a field trip to the Hampton Butte area to do some mitigation work on the petrified wood dig sites. I'll have a progress report at our next meeting. We are also continuing to investigate getting some fixes to our website. There are some old and very out of date links which we are trying to address. Our Webmaster, Karl Granzow, is working on these issues so please bear with us. In the meantime, you can always access our current site at the following address www.OCRMC.org. Thanks to all of the above who are actively engaged in making the Council relevant.

Our thanks also to the Lower Umpqua Club from Reedsport for their current exhibit in Salem. Vicki Johnson, our Case Agent, advises that the South Douglas Club from Myrtle Creek will be installing their display in May. The Capitol Case serves as a great reminder to our legislators about the pursuits of recreational rock hounds. Please call Vicki if you have any questions about the Capitol Case.

Finally, if anyone would like to serve as a Council officer, please let us know. We always welcome new volunteers with fresh ideas. I hope you can attend our next OCRMC meeting at the Sweet Home Show. We will post a notice about our meeting room location at the entrance table to the show. Give me a call at 541-677-9341 or email CougDog6@q.com with any questions or suggestions you may have for the Council. Until next time, Happy Trails to all! Dave Williams, OCRMC President.

**NEXT OCRMC MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019 @ 1:00 PM
SWEET HOME GEM & MINERAL SHOW
HIGH SCHOOL GYM, 1641 LONG STREET
SWEET HOME, OR**

Oregon Council of Rock & Mineral Clubs

March 4, 2019

Senator Kathleen Taylor
900 Court Street NE, S-423
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Introductory Letter

Dear Senator Taylor,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs and describe our purpose. The Council represents a large number of clubs from around the state which engage in recreational rockhounding. You have probably seen our Capitol Case exhibit where member clubs display the wide variety of material which can be collected in our state. Our Council is a non-profit 501 (c) (4) corporation whose mission includes:

- Promoting the study of mineralogy, geology, paleontology and the lapidary arts.
- Stimulating interest in the collection, preservation and display of rock, mineral and fossil specimens at local and regional club sponsored events. We award the Oregon Trophy annually to the best case display of "All Oregon Material".
- Adherence to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics in order to minimize any surface disturbance resulting from our activities. I have enclosed a copy of the Code for your review.
- Establishing effective communication with legislators to advise representatives about the need to access publically owned lands for recreational rockhounding.

The pursuit of our hobby necessarily means being able to use state and federally managed lands. Without the ability to collect in these areas we will be severely limited in the enjoyment of our avocation. The Council interacts with the BLM and Forest Service to advocate for resource policies which allow for access and a variety of uses. We would ask that you keep our interests in mind when proposing any legislation or in your communication with federal agencies regarding land management decisions.

I have included an informational tri-fold for your reference. If I can be of any assistance to you or your staff regarding policy discussions on natural resources, please give me a call at 541-677-9341 or drop me an email at lgneous80@q.com. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Williams, President
Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs
1480 NW Vallejo Drive
Roseburg, OR 97471