

February 14, 2015

OREGON ROCK COUNCIL MEETING

Our meeting was held in Portland, OR at Oregon Mineral Society Institute (OMSI) at the Oregon Agate Mineral Society Show at 2pm. President Don Innes called the meeting to order. The minutes were read and approved from 10-11-2014 Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show in Hillsboro, OR.

Brenda Burford sent the Treasurer Report by email as they could not attend the meeting today: 6 clubs have returned their dues so far: OR Agate, Trails End Gem & Mineral Society, Columbia Gorge Rockhounds Club, Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society, Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club and Lower Umpqua Gem & Lapidary Club. Balance of \$2309.40 Paid out to State \$50.00 Paid out to Don Innes \$22.96 for bulletin expense. Leaves Balance of \$2236.44

Email report from Vicki Johnson: She has a replacement for OR Council Representative, Richard Morganstern from Willamette Agate Mineral Society. Rick is at the Capitol Building to support issues of legislation, lobbying or whatever for Rock Hounders or Mining activities. This legislative session there will be a discussion about renovating the Capitol Building to make it earthquake resistant. If they renovate, it appears it will not start until 2016. They will move everyone out and it is not expected to be done until 2019. That would make the case that goes in May 2015 and coming out Nov. 2015 safe and out before the renovation. She says she will keep up on this. Tualatin Valley Club was last in the case in May 2006, if they have paid their dues they would be #1. 2. Rogue Gem & Geology was in May 2008, 3. Mt Hood Rock club in Nov. 2009, 4. Clackamette May 2010, 5. Sweet Home Nov. 2010, 6. Far West Club May 2011, 7. Umpqua Club Nov. 2011, 8. NARG May ,2012, 9. 30 Year Reunion of the Capitol Case (all clubs) Nov. 2012. 10. Oregon Agate May 2013, 11. Columbia Gorge Nov. 2013, 12. Springfield May 2014, 13. WAMS Nov. 2014. So if Tualatin Valley does not care to rejoin then Rogue Gem & Geology will be next. We will have to see what Tualatin Valley would like to do very soon!

Rick Morganstern was introduced to the group and he told us what he has been trying to do at the Legislature. And he is indeed passionate about lobbying for Rock Hunting and Mining.

We discussed our Junior Groups in our clubs. It seems most of us are having loss of Juniors. OR Agate Club has been able to start a good group of juniors led by Jim Urbaniak. He has taken them on field trips and has a short session with them at their regular meetings. Rick said the WAMS club has an active group which is led by several retired teachers and all the "old timers" in the club help also. They set aside about 30 minutes for the Junior activities.

The OR Council Trophy was discussed and this group of members was unsure of getting a bought Trophy instead of using our rotating beautiful Clock Trophy. Looks like may need to be discussed more in next meeting. (If you want to see it, go to Rice Museum and look for the Mt Hood Rock Club Case in the hall of the main building. The display is the one that was exhibited at the Portland Regional Rock & Gem Show 2014.)

We had a general discussion of the problems we are having with the Public and Private Lands for Rock & Mineral Hunting. Don said that in the Coos Bay Area the BLM & Forest Service seem to be constantly changing employees and they seem to be young environmental leaning people. We brought up the Roger Mt. Wood Area and how we had met with 3 BLM employees 2 years ago. They were very impressed with the wood specimens that had been found there and were even looking for specimens with some of us. They told us that they would work with us and the geologist to create an area for us to hunt. Then the gold miner put a claim on the whole area. Which has stopped that totally for now, and the 3 BLM people have been moved to different areas. We will see if we can contact the Gold Miner again to see if he is still mining.

We also talked about our Lap Shops or teaching of our new members. WAMS club has a unique situation in that their meetings and Shop is in the Senior Center in Salem. The rest of us are not so lucky, rent is very high and also the upkeep of the equipment. Some clubs still do individual teaching in our homes. One member said when she checked with her insurance company they did not want to cover anyone working with saws and equipment in her home.

Mitch Metcalf from Tualatin Club had a question about a quote in Lars Johnson's Book on Rock Hunting in OR. Evidently Lars said that OR has the most amount of Agate in the ?states or world?. Then Rick brought up the Newport Blue Agates and how they were formed along the coast. We all agreed that OR has a lot of good material.

Then the article by Shirley Leeson ALAA President about the collecting area in Lolo Hot Springs Quartz Crystal collecting area that is now closed down by US Forest Service in Missoula, Montana due to people who left huge holes, pits, & trenches. This makes us all look bad and we will all be blamed. Then more areas will be closed down!

Another article to follow up on is the one by John Martin in the Feb. 2015 AFMS about the 113th Congress and who to contact. Read the article "Rockhound Soapbox on New House Committee Chairs." Three House Committees are of interest: 1. The House Natural Resources Committee; 2. The House Agriculture Committee, and 3. the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Mr Martin recommends that we all need to contact these elected Representatives. Let them know we enjoy Recreational Rockhounding on our Public Lands and our concerns about access & preserving for us now and in the future all our rockhounding areas. I think John Martin is planning on attending the ALAA meeting in Ogden, Utah at the NWFED Meeting on April 10th.

We discussed where to have our next two meetings. Don wants to have the summer meeting at the Far West Club Show in North Bend August, and maybe the fall meeting at Clackamette Club Show in October. We will have to get the definite dates and approval for those meetings and email the clubs of those dates. Meeting adjourned. L. Smith, Sec. (Note, I will attach the Rockhound Soapbox article)

Those attending were: Richard Morganstern from WAMS Club, Mitch Metcalf from Tualatin Valley Club, Don and Terry Innes from Far West Club, Leilani Pittman and Craig Prier from OR Agate Club. Greg Gentry, Linda Frenette, Wayne King, Susie Koppert, and Lenora Smith from Mt. Hood Rock Club.