

Minutes of Oregon Rock Clubs Council July 18, 2015

We had 8 members attending from 4 of our OR Clubs: 2 from Ompqua Club, Maureen & Dave Williams; 2 from Clackamette Club, Hidemi & Tomoko Kira; 1 from Farwest Club, Don Innes; and 3 from Mt Hood Rock Club, Susie Koppert, Troy & Lenora Smith. Brenda and John Buford from Sweet Home Club were unable to attend the meeting today due to John's recovery from recent heart attack. John is improving and at home, but still weak. Brenda is treasurer and has reported that only 12 clubs have sent their membership fees and renewals in. Don said there are 20 known clubs in OR.

Our meeting started with the discussion of Shirley Leeson's announced decision to retire from ALAA as President. She has been the driving force behind the ALAA. Hidemi told us that John Martin ALAA Web Master, and Loren Williams current ALAA VP & Past President of AMFS/NFMS will be stepping up to help with the ALAA at Shirley Leeson's retirement. Hidemi also said he would like to have the OR Council Newsletter sent via email to all clubs and be sent out to all members. That way all members would know what the OR Council is. Also Hidemi thinks there may be similar organizations in other states and it will be good to create a relationship & exchange information. Also we need to use the ALAA & NFMS to discuss or give us help as needed.

Minutes were read & approved. Our Web Site was discussed and recommended to be updated more. We need to remove old minutes and other outdated things on the site. Don will discuss with Karl, our Web Site Master.

Our rotating trophy was discussed and recommended to keep using, but also purchase a plaque to be given each year at the Awards, which the winner may keep. That way names will be added to the rotating trophy and the winner gets to keep until the next fall meeting show.

When to have the next Fall meeting was discussed. Hidemi recommended, we have the meeting at the Portland Regional Show again this year, since the NW Federation Meeting will also be at the Portland Regional time. He also recommended that we go to the NW Federation Meeting and push the importance of the Council and the Capital Case for the Rockhounding Hobby. NW Federation meeting will be at the Rice Museum on Oct. 9 Friday morning @ 10am. So our meeting will be on Friday at 2pm at the Portland Regional Show. We will need 3 OR Council officers to judge the all OR Material Exhibit Cases. (The rules and judging information will be available for all 3 judges) If we don't have time before the meeting, we can do after the meeting.

Lenora reported no response from Tualatin Valley Club after her visit to the club meeting earlier this year. TVClub has been an active part of the OR Council in the past years. We hope they will consider rejoining us to help keep our hobby before the public in the OR Capital Building Case and in working with BLM, Forest Service and Private Ownership Lands, which have rock & mineral collecting areas. Don recommends that we also contact Prineville Rockhound PowWow Association in Prineville, OR. as potential members of the OR Rock Council. They seem to have a good relationship with BLM and US Forest Service in Prineville Area.

Troy mentioned the Range Magazine and how all the rulings pushed by environmental groups are affecting the ranchers and their ability to earn a living from their ranches. Lenora brought up the group that had insisted that BLM have a planning meeting in Portland. The BLM had not planned to have a meeting in Portland as the attendance last year was quite low. Also Lenora just got an email from BLM that the planning time would be extended to August 21, 2015 due to requests from over 30 organizations, elected officials, counties and others for extra time to review the Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Western OR. www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon

Don noted an article by John Martin, CFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair from March 2014 AFMS Newsletter. "I have studied and read nearly every proposed piece of legislation affecting the use and access of our Public Lands held in trust for the citizens of the United States of America by the BLM and the USFS land Managers. The one thing they all have had in common is no mention of Rockhounds

or Amateur Rockhounding as a Recognized Recreational Activity! After further research into this political oversight, I discovered other forms of recreational activities on our Public Lands that are recognized. These include Hiking, Camping, Hunting, Fishing, Swimming, Skiing (water and snow), Bicycling, Snowmobiling, Motorcycling, OHV traveling and even Mining. Not one word is mentioned about ROCKHOUNDING or Rockhounding being a recognized recreational activity on public lands. It is now time for a change and we, the American Rockhound, must now speak up with the loudest voice we can and proclaim our right to be Amateur Rockhounds and take our rightful place along side of all the other Recognized Recreational Activities. This year I am challenging all American Rockhounds, all seven regional federations and the AFMS to become proactive in the process, get politically involved and to exercise your right to be recognized as a Recreational Activity. Each and every one of your elected officials at the national and state levels need to be contacted and request they add Amateur Rockhounding in any new and pending legislation as a recognized recreational activity. Contact the Public Land Managers and request they include Rockhounding in the Land Management Plans being implemented by current Public Land Managers. Now is the time to raise our voices in a united spirit and proclaim our rights as American Rockhounds.”

For the Capital Case, we think FARWEST CLUB will be next in Nov. 2015 and May 2016 UMPQUA CLUB if remodel of building not occurring. Vicki Johnson has been the Capital Case Agent for several years and has resigned that position after this year. Lenora and Don have sent a letter to the members of Willamette Agate & Mineral Society thanking them for the past years of service to protect and direct the showing of all our beautiful Oregon rocks, minerals, gems and fossils. We realize that the exhibiting of our beautiful Oregon specimens is very important to let everyone who sees them in the Capital know that we have a hobby of Rockhounding in OR. WAMS Club is the closest club to the Capital Building. We hope someone will be able to take over the Capital Case Exhibiting Agent Job. Meeting was adjourned. Lenora Smith, Secretary

Note: Received an email Treasurer Report from Brenda Buford:

Balance from last meeting was	\$2236.44
Dues received from Farwest Club	\$22.75
Dues received from Umpqua Club	\$42.25
Membership dues to ALAA	- \$50.00
Total @ present	= \$2251.44

Second Note: Don sent email that Rick Morganstern (WAMS Club) came down to the show and asked about the meeting. He was given the wrong information and missed our meeting. I think we should have announced over the loud speaker the time and place at the Show of our meeting! Sorry Rick!