

March/April 2001 Newsletter

Minutes of the 3/31/01 Combined Board meeting

Meeting called to order at 9:40AM, by Tom Johanson.

We got right down to business. Passing of the gavel. Nominations from the floor, as follows:

Pres: Stu Earnst

Vice Pres: Dave Sanders

Treas: Kathy Earnst

Sec: Marcy Kleckner

Trustees: Bill Snell, Dean Angstrom, Vi Jones, Dave Ekert, Mary Foster

Pat Weber, wants to still stay active for the East Side.

Wagon Master: Ed Lehman

All Nominations seconded and approved by the council.

Stu accepted the gavel, and the meeting was under way.

Treasurer's report given.

- One bill turned in for postage of the newsletter. Will need more postage for the next printing. Motion made to set up a petty cash for the printing and postage for sending out the newsletter. Motion seconded and approved by the council.
- Ed Lehman has the new bill for our insurance, Our premium has gone up from 185.00 to 259.00. Ed talked to the insurance agent, we are getting the best rates that we can. We will need to raise our rates from .50 a day to .75 cents a day to join the Mineral Council field trips. Motion made to up our prices from .50 cents a day to .75 cents a day. Motion seconded and approved by the council. Motion made to pay the bills. Motion seconded and approved by the Council.

Wagonmaster Report:

- George has been helping with the school program.
- Marcy has been helping with samples that we have been handing out to the kids.
- Kalama trip had 93 people sign in, people very happy with their finds.
- We have heard that the gate at Racehorse Creek has been removed. Always call before going on any trips, just to make sure the dig is still on.
- No contact yet from the Yakima on the Lake Wenatchee trip.
- Need up date about the pegmatite north of Spokane. (heard was paved over.)
- Last week Thursday (3/28) they blasted Walker Valley for the material for making roads. Ed reported that no contact was made to the Mineral Council of the plans. However it will be about a month before they bring in the crusher. Lots of material to crack.

The pit area has been covered up from the blast. (Rumor has it that we might not be able to renew our lease, we will keep our ears open) The survey crews have put up their markers for the clear cut they are planning. (do we want to find out why we were not told of their plans at Walker Valley, for the blasting.)

Walker Valley is for recreational rock hunting, hand tools only, and non-commercial. Also we need to think about renewing the lease in May. We paid \$338.00 last year.

- The new Map packets are ready. The Four color \$9.00, The Deluxe \$6.00. Do we want to sell the Map Packets to the Clubs so they can sell them at their meetings? One person reported that some people take them apart and make their own copies. Can they or do we try to stop them. Our map sales are our moneymaker or just to give out information? Do we put on the front some thing perhaps like (May not be reproduced in whole or in part in any way with out the permission of the WSMC) to be printed on the front cover. Some times land is exchanged so we try to keep people informed of the changes. One suggestion is that we charge \$50.00 to the clubs who want to make their own copies. We update our map packets every couple of years anyway.

A Motion was made that we should sell maps to the clubs in combinations of five. If they make their own we will make our own adjustments. Motion was seconded, and passed. Any clubs who would like to have us bring maps to sell, we don't take that up that much room.

Correspondence:

- Five letters received, will send information to Longview, Spanaway, California, Maine, and Brunswick, ME.

Old Business:

· Bob O'Brien gave Kathy Environmental Statement on Plum Creek, Timber, mostly north of Rainier. Land is being swapped to consolidate the areas, DNR and so forth. Kathy has the information.

New Business:

· Saddle Mt. June and July we have plans on removing the old out house.
· Bob has contacted the Fish and Gold, people have been asking questions about how we collect agates from stream beds, without going against the book? Do we contact the AALA to check things out?
· Stu is checking into how we can see how Oregon Mineral Council does their state. He believes they have divided the state in to sections and clubs in that area, cover that area, for field trips. Looking for helpers to set up areas for research, areas like Crystal Park, Glass Butte. Stu thinks would be something we should do. More information will be talked about at the next meeting.

Now we have the who, what, where, when and all to work on now. Lets all work together on getting old hunting places checked out, make a list. If everybody does this we can show the State, areas we would like to keep open.

Let's look at the old Maps from 1983, and see what's up. Let's see who has what now to start our new state wide map update.

DNR, Forest Service, State, private, and Game land. Rules do apply we must read them.

Environmental Pack on Red Top, have things changed. Stu to get info.

Bob input from WSMC 20 pages, environmental impacts, reevaluations as a rock hound access area.

Bill Snell reports Red Top has roads closed, can't get in.

· We lose areas sometimes because people litter where we like to look for rocks, just last weekend down near Salmon Creek someone dumped a mattress and box spring and a chair. The next weekend the chair was gone. Let's try and keep our State clean and green. No wonder they put in those big gates.

· Have the New bylaws been signed by the new officers yet? Have been in two newsletters now.

· Question to Kathy, are we getting all the club dues? Answer: Several clubs have paid for this year and last together.

Meeting Adjourned

Marcy

Minutes of the 4/17/01 Westside Board meeting

Vice President Dave Sanders called the meeting to order at 7:45PM

There was no Treasurer's report.

Committee reports:**Wagonmaster:**

· Access and roads to Racehorse Creek look good. There are lots of mushrooms and good fossil collecting.
· Walker Valley - The DNR blasted the black rock. It seems they over estimated the amount of explosive to use. Bob O'Brien will talk to the DNR about their plans for the locality.
· Saddle Mt. - Bob Bockman reported that he removed the old outhouses.

Old business:

· Stu wants to build up a new catalog of collecting sites in the state. Bob Pattie brought his old maps to the meeting for Stu to use in his research.

New business:

· If you are taking a group to collect at Red Top and don't want to have to pay the parking fee, contact the Forest Service office in Ellensburg prior to your trip. The rangers will not fine you as long as they have adequate notice.

Meeting adjourned,

Marcy

Once again the Wagonmasters organized a field trip to the Kalama area for agate, geodes, and jasper. This year's trip was held March 24 & 25. 93 people in 38 vehicles attended. A number of crystal plates and agate nodules were collected, most people were pretty happy with their finds.

The traditional Saturday evening potluck dinner was held but due to bad weather the Sunday breakfast was cancelled.

Sunday, the collecting party moved on to Salmon Creek for coprolites, jasper, carnelian, and petrified wood. Once again the collecting was good and most went away happy with their finds.

Bill Snell found a particularly nice carnelian agate nodule.