

## Minutes of the 04/15/03 Westside Board Meeting

VP Stu Earnst opened the meeting.

Stu presented the treasurer's report. Bob Pattie submitted a bill for stamps

### Old business:

- Walker Valley - The Mineral Council will be putting up a new sign. Need to submit a letter to the DNR explaining how big the sign will be, where and how it will be posted. It was recommended that the GPS co-ordinates of the sign location and the distance from the middle of the road be included in the description of the sign location.
- At team should mark the lease corners and locate a spot for the sign
- Bruce Hinko presented an example of of the sign material and size. It was suggested that the mineral Council e-mail address be placed on the sig. A motion was m/s/p to have Bruce make about 40 - 20" x 28" signs at a cost of \$200.
- Peter Burns road (the way to Walker Valley) has been posted as being closed. The reason given is the large amount of loose rock above the cliff at the collecting site. This rock was moved there by the logging company.
- Rockhound locality books with GPS co-ordinates are available from Gem Guide Books at [gemguidesbooks.com](http://gemguidesbooks.com)

Received a letter from Bob O'Brien who is serving in Iraq. He's in good spirits. Bob's birthday is soon so you may wish to send him a card. His overseas address is:

SFC Robert O'Brien  
TF 12th AVN  
A/5- 159  
APO AE 09302-1390

### New business:

- A motion was m/s/p to have Ed make more B/W map books
- Delorme has a new map program out for \$100. The map displays 2D and 3D information and can be used with a GPS unit
- The Tacoma Agate club has not been receiving the newsletter. Stu will check to see if their dues have been paid. The Maplewood club also, an address correction will be made.

### Wagonmaster Report:

- The collecting at Walker Valley is great right now since a lot of road fill has been removed from the collecting area
- Cherry Creek road has been closed by the county due to solid waste spraying
- The DNR seems to be responding to our issues regarding Walker Valley. The gates on the road are still a major concern however.

Meeting adjourned,  
submitted by Glenn Morita

## Dinosaur Visit

Gary Hinderman

For thousands of years Chinese people called the huge bones they found in their fields Dragon Bones. They were collected and used as ingredients for Chinese medicines claiming to ward off evil spirits and to promote fertility and health. In the mid 1930's, modern scientific excavations began in China. Slowly the, just as fantastic, tales of ancient dinosaurs replaced the tales of dragons. China has proven to be one of the World's great sources for dinosaur fossils both in quantity and variety, especially in recent times.

Form March 16 through September 15th this year, a wonderful exhibit titled "Dragon Bones: When Dinosaurs Ruled China", will be at the Royal B.C Museum, Victoria, B.C. This 10,000 square foot exhibit includes over a dozen dinosaurs from China's Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology. Most of these will be actual skeletons, not casts. Fossils from British Columbia from the same time period will be included to expand the exhibit and give it some local appeal.

All three periods of the Mesozoic era will be represented - the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous. The Chinese fossils offer a great variety. There will be a young velociraptor of Jurassic Park fame as well as the huge sauropod Mamenchiasaurus, which is over 70 feet long. Of

particular interest will be some of the feathered dinosaurs that have been recently discovered and that have created so much controversy. From B.C. there will be undersea creatures and plants from the time of the dinosaurs.

Advanced tickets are recommended, purchase online or call 1-800-663-3883. Browsing around online using the key words Dragon bones and Victoria, I found all sorts of tourist packages being offered. One included a stay in a mansion with a limo ride to the exhibit and a dinner that included a Dino lecture and Dino keepsake. All this and more for only \$500 per couple US. With Victoria being the great tourist destination it is, I'm sure we can all plan a great visit to the Royal B.C. Museum and "Dragon Bones: When Dinosaurs Ruled China".

from Rockhound Special 2/03

## **Dinosaurs**

### **Top 10 Misconceptions**

#### **Dinosaurs represent failure and extinction**

Rather, dinosaurs are the best example of success and adaptation. They ruled the Earth longer than any other animals (over 150 million years), and gave rise to birds.

#### **Dinosaurs and humans co-existed**

The death of the last dinosaur and the appearance of the first human (genus Homo) was separated by about 62 million years.

#### **Dinosaurs were either all hot-blooded or cold-blooded**

Mesozoic dinosaurs were not cold-blooded like modern lizards. Most specialists believe that dinosaurs were dinosaur-blooded, a condition that combines certain aspects of warm-bloodedness with a changing metabolism over the animal's lifetime.

#### **The word dinosaur means terrible-lizard**

Actually it was originally defined to mean fearfully-great lizard by Richard Owen in 1842. The Greek word deinos, when used as a superlative, means fearfully-great (as used by Homer in the Illiad). It became simplified over time as a simple adjective, to mean terrible. Dinosaurs are neither terrible nor are they lizards.

#### **Dinosaurs all lived and died at the same time**

The distance in time between Tyrannosaurus and Apatosaurus (formerly called Brontosaurus) is more than the time between Tyrannosaurus and your parents, about 65 million years. Of the (approximately) 900 named species of Mesozoic dinosaurs, on two or three dozen species faced the final extinction in North America.

#### **Mammals arose after the dinosaurs, and helped drive the dinosaurs to extinction by eating dinosaur eggs**

Mammals and dinosaurs both appeared in the Late Triassic Period. There is no evidence that dinosaurs went extinct because of predation of their eggs.

#### **An asteroid (or comet) killed the dinosaur**

The controversy over the cause of the dinosaur extinction continues among paleontologists. However, evidence from a deep sea core drilled off the coast of Florida proves that an asteroid hit the Earth at the end of the Cretaceous which caused the dinosaur extinction.

Most dinosaur specialists are willing to accept that an asteroid hit the Earth, but do not think that it was the sole cause of the Mesozoic extinctions. Instead, the fossil record reveals that dinosaurian diversity was already in decline by the end of the Cretaceous. The asteroid impact may have been the straw that broke the camel's back.

#### **All big reptiles from the prehistoric past (Monsters) are dinosaurs**

Dinosaurs represented less than 10% of the 40 groups of reptiles from the Mesozoic Era (Pterodactyls, sea-serpents, giant lizards, pelycosaurs, and other big prehistoric beasts are not dinosaurs). monsters and dragons are the products of fiction and mythology. Dinosaurs are better because they are real.

#### **Archaeologists dig up dinosaurs**

Archaeology and Paleoanthropology (subdivisions of anthropology) only deal with man and covers the last 3-4 million years. Paleontology (a combination of geology and biology), deal with all fossils and covers 3.5 billions years!

Compiled by M.K. Brett-Surman, Donald F. Glut, and Thomas R. Holtz 1996; Museum of Natural History Smithsonian Institution.

from Breccia 11/01, via Rock Rollers 2/02

## **Glass Mountains**

In northwest Oklahoma, six miles west of Orienta, you can weave 24 miles along US Highway 412 through mountains that glisten like

diamonds. They are referred to as the “Glass Mountains”. Their eroded buttes and mesas send flashing lights across their valleys like signal lights from a ship.

Around 1821, the earliest known explorer, Thomas James, in one of his journals, called the region “one of the greatest curiosities of our country”. He referred to them as “Shining mountains”.

The reflection’s quality is attributed to layers of gypsum that thread through the hills. Three types of gypsum are stratified here. (1) alabaster, which may be pink, gray, or black, (2) selenite, which is clear and colorless, giving the mountains their glassy reflections, and (3) satin spar, a more fibrous gypsum that creates miniature diamond-like sparkles.

The gypsum strata here were deposited millions of years ago when the region was an inland sea. The sea evaporated, the land heaved upward, and erosion began to carve the forms we see today. Wind and water working over the eons have revealed the layers of gypsum. Some of the pinnacles are horizontally striped like a layer cake. In others, the exposed rock reflects the light with blinding intensity. Depending on the type of rock the rays strike, you see a pure flash of light on the mountain that looks like a rainbow of colors.

from The Tumbler, via The Petrified Digest 2/03