

Minutes of the 2/19/02 Westside Board Meeting

The meeting was opened Dave Sanders at 7:40PM

There was no treasurer's report

Wagonmaster:

- Lots of maps were sold at the Everett show
- Ed has updated the 2002 field trip list with the Pow-Wow and BC club trips (see Field Trip page)
- Rumor has it that the south part of Saddle Mt. may be closed. We are looking into the rumor
- Ed was asked by a representative of the Darrington Bluegrass Festival to put in a case of Washington state material for display.

Old business:

- Bob Pattie wants feedback on our old one page handout that described the WSMC. We would like to update the handout and distribute them.

New business:

Bill Luke contacted the WSMC and asked if there was interest in forming a new club in the Black Diamond area.

Meeting adjourned,

submitted by Glenn Morita

Food For Thought

- Living on earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun
- Birthdays are good for you; the more you have the longer you live
- How long a minute is, depends on which side of the bathroom door you're on
- If peanut butter cookies are made from peanut butter, then what are Girl Scout cookies made out of?
- If athletes get athlete's foot, do astronomers get mistletoe?
- If space is a vacuum, who changes the bag?
- If tin whistles are made out of tin, what are fog horns made out of?
- If you take an oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?
- Why do the signs that say "Slow Children" have a picture of a running child?
- Why do we sing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame", when we are already there?
- Why do they call it "chili", if it's hot?

Source unknown, from The Petrified Digest, 1/02, via Quarry Quips, 9/01

Shop Tips

TOXIC SOLVENTS: One of the many ways harmful and toxic substances can enter our body is through our skin. We would not reach into an acid solution knowing it would be harmful, but many hobbyists will reach into solvents and cutting oils and think there is no danger.

Solvents will dry out the skin, causing chapping, enter cuts, and be absorbed into the bloodstream. Many of the fast-acting solvents are chlorinated hydrocarbons and can be harmful if breathed or absorbed through the skin. The solvents include carbon tetrachloride, perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, xylene, toluene, and benzene. Each of these solvents is toxic, and the exposure level for breathing is only a few parts per million. When absorbed into the blood through the lungs or skin, they affect the liver and kidneys, and cause anemia and possibly leukemia. Be sure to take proper precautions and wear rubber gloves to avoid these hazards.

from Skagit Gems Jan/Feb 2002, via The Tumbler 1/02, via The Show Me Geode 1/01, The Southwest Gem 9/00, The Stone Chipper 3/97, Stoney Statement 6/96, The Mountain Gem 12/94

DANGER - MEKP

(MEKP is Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide)

An eye specialist has given strong warnings about the grave danger of using the catalyst hardener when mixed with some resins. The specific toxic agent involved is Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide.

A drop of this catalyst in the eye very progressively destroy the tissue and results in blindness! Once started, there is no known way of stopping the destruction or repairing the damage. No known neutralizer has been discovered. Washing the eye with water will only be

effective within four seconds after contamination. Although MEKP is not present in all epoxy glues, it is present in extremely high concentration in most modern fillers, glues, and in the catalyst used as fiberglass hardeners and casting plastic.

(This may be especially important for faceters to be aware of)

from Dust and Grit 1/02, via Skagit Gems 12/01, The Rock Rollers 11/01, The Rock Rattler, via Mountain Gems, Rock Chip Reporter 11/97

A Petrified Wood Fact

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially from the northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated, making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas left between the wood and cast were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood.

from Rockhound special 2/02, via Rocky Trails 12/01, Rock Rollers 11/01, Kiskigen Journal 1/97