Minutes of the 03/26/05 Combined Board Meeting

President Stu Earnst called the meeting to order in Ellensburg, WA at 9:30am on March 26, 2005.

Treasurer Kathleen Earnst gave the treasurer's report and it was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

Submitted by Gael Guerard

Old business:

- Walker Valley lease is paid.
- Some blasting is going on at Walker Valley and a large section of our dig area has been affected.
- A motion was m/s/p to pay the entire $400.00 for the map books though we have only received half of the order because the other half of the order will be delivered in the next two weeks. A check was issued to Bob Pattie so he could pay for the maps.

New business:

- The club was told that the outhouse at Red Top was in need of repair. Apparently the club put up the outhouse and the Forest Service was going to maintain it. Apparently, it is time to replace the pit toilet. Steve Townsend of Ellensburg, WA, is going to check out the outhouse issue and contact the DNR District Ranger, Rodney Smoldon, then report next meeting.
- JoAnn Homouth of the Cle Elum Forest Service has been working on a grant to educate the public on responsible rock hounding.
- Bob O'Brien has requested a one-day access to Mt. Higgins from the DNR but so far has not gotten any cooperation.
- Bob O'Brien has been trying to get the DNR to give us recreational use of the DNR land in Skagit County. So far there has been no satisfaction.
- Bob wants to know if he has the backing of the club/members to pursue the land availability issue. The WSMC members are asked to go to their individual clubs and get feedback. Members can contact Bob O'Brien through email: BobRock10@juno.com.
- Mike Messenger is going to research the WACs on the legal aspects of rock hounding on DNR state land and report back.
- Vi Jones proposed possibly getting together a petition. A decision will be made when we have more information and know what kind of support the members want to offer.

- A motion was m/s/p to accept and turn over the club to the new officers.
    - President: Ed Thomas
    - Vice President: Mike Messenger
    - Wagonmaster: Ed Lehman
    - Treasurer: Kathleen Earnst
    - Secretary: Gael Guerard

- Vi Jones read a letter pertaining to Idaho members. She would like members to contact the Idaho Governor about some proposed wilderness legislation, which would affect Bruneau and Owyhee, which could prevent rock hounding.
- There was some discussion about the Golden Age Passport. Currently used for "lifetime" access to some government sites. Apparently it will be cancelled and null starting next year. Some thought preexisting cards would still be honored. No one knew for sure.
- Ed Lehman will be going up to Walker Valley on Tuesday, March 29, 2005 to install/weld the chain and lock. Members are welcome to join him.
- Ed Thomas donated door prizes. The two winners were Vi Jones and Bob Bockman.Ed will be selling maps for the Everett show. He is asking for volunteers to give him a break during the weekend-long show.

Wagonmaster's:

- Ed Lehman said this year even more than other years it is important to call and confirm that field trips are still on. Due to possible draught some areas may be closed due to fire risk.
- U. S. Timber Lands is limiting the number of people and vehicles allowed at First Creek & Longview is doing the same at Kalama.Ed discussed the gate lock for Walker Valley. He said some have used it incorrectly. Members wanting to use the Walker Valley site might want to contact Ed regarding the locks correct usage if they have any questions.

Meeting adjourned
Submitted by Gael Guerard – Gael.Guerard@gmail.com

Public Advisors Sought for East Cascade Resource Councils - BLM

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking applicants for seventeen positions on Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) in Washington and Oregon. These RACs advise and recommend management strategies for federal lands east of the Cascade Range

administered by the BLM and the US Forest Service. Five terms are expiring on the Eastern WA RAC and on the Southeast Oregon RAC, the John Day-Snake RAC is seeking seven applicants. The nomination period ends April 18, 2005.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires RACs to be balanced and represent the various interests concerned with public land management. Vacancies and expired terms this year include: commercial recreation and/or Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV), dispersed recreation, national or regional environmental groups, Indian tribes, commercial timber, archaeological and historical interests, energy and minerals, transportation and rights-of-way, public-at-large, state resource employee, and wild horse and burro.

Individual may nominate themselves or others, and current members whose terms will expire in September may be renominated. Candidates must reside in the State where the council has jurisdiction. For a nomination form or additional information, please contact Pam Robbins, Bureau of Land Management (pam_robbins@or.blm.gov) P. O. Box 2965 Portland, Oregon, (503) 808-6306, or your local BLM District Office, More RAC information is on the internet at http://www.or.blm.gov/orRAC/index.htm

Nominations must include a completed background information nomination form, letter(s) of reference from the interest category to be represented, and any other information that demonstrates the nominee's qualifications. Nominees will be evaluated based on their experience working with the interest area they choose to represent, and their knowledge of the Council's geographic area. Nominees must also have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making. Completed application packets should be sent to Pam Robbins, P. O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208-2965

RAC Fact Sheet: The RACs are an integral part of land management for the federal agencies. Local RACs provide valuable advice on developing management plans and alternatives. Their expertise helps to refine project initiatives for issues as varied as grazing, forest health, land exchanges, and recreation management.

Council members are unpaid but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. RACs usually meet quarterly within their geographic area. Appointees serve a three year term. Current recruitment and specific RAC information follows:

- Eastern Washington RAC Position
- Geographic area - Resources located in whole or in part within the Spokane District
- Archaeological and historic interests
- Energy or mineral development of the BLM and the Colville and Okanogan National Forests
- National or regional environmental organizations
- Transportation or rights-of-way
- Commercial recreation or OHV

- John Day-Snake RAC Position
- Geographic area - Federal lands in the northeastern portion of Oregon including the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area lands in Idaho, and the Snake River drainages in Southeast Washington
- Commercial timber
- Energy or mineral development
- Transportation or rights-of-way
- Public-at-Large
- National or regional environmental organization
- Indian tribes (term expires 2007)
- State Resource Employee (term expires 2006)

- Southeast Oregon RAC Position
- Geographic area - most federal lands in Southeast Oregon
- Wild Horse & Burro
- Transportation or rights-of-way
- Commercial/developed recreation or OHV
- Dispersed recreation
- Energy or mineral development

Scientists Solve Mystery of Meteor Crater's Missing Melted Rocks

From Lori Stiles, UA News Services,
520-621-1877 March 09, 2005

Scientists have discovered why there isn't much impact-melted rock at Meteor Crater in northern Arizona. The iron meteorite that blasted out Meteor Crater almost 50,000 years ago was traveling much slower than has been assumed, University of Arizona Regents' Professor H. Jay Melosh and Gareth Collins of the Imperial College London report in the cover article of Nature (March 10).

"Meteor Crater was the first terrestrial crater identified as a meteorite impact scar, and it's probably the most studied impact crater on Earth," Melosh said. "We were astonished to discover something entirely unexpected about how it formed."

The meteorite smashed into the Colorado Plateau 40 miles east of where Flagstaff and 20 miles west of where Winslow have since been built, excavating a pit 570 feet deep and 4,100 feet across ? enough room for 20 football fields. Previous research supposed that the meteorite hit the surface at a velocity between about 34,000 mph and 44,000 mph (15 km/sec and 20 km/sec). Melosh and Collins used their sophisticated mathematical models in analyzing how the meteorite would have broken up and decelerated as it plummeted down through the atmosphere. About half of the original 300,000 ton, 130-foot-diameter (40-meter-diameter) space rock would have fractured into pieces before it hit the ground, Melosh said. The other half would have remained intact and hit at about 26,800 mph (12 km/sec), he said. That velocity is almost four times faster than NASA's experimental X-43A scramjet -- the fastest aircraft flown -- and ten times faster than a bullet fired from the highest-velocity rifle, a 0.220 Swift cartridge rifle. But it's too slow to have melted much of the white Coconino formation in northern Arizona, solving a mystery that's stumped researchers for years.

Scientists have tried to explain why there's not more melted rock at the crater by theorizing that water in the target rocks vaporized on impact, dispersing the melted rock into tiny droplets in the process. Or they've theorized that carbonates in the target rock exploded, vaporizing into carbon dioxide.

"If the consequences of atmospheric entry are properly taken into account, there is no melt discrepancy at all," the authors wrote in Nature.

"Earth's atmosphere is an effective but selective screen that prevents smaller meteoroids from hitting Earth's surface," Melosh said.

When a meteorite hits the atmosphere, the pressure is like hitting a wall. Even strong iron meteorites, not just weaker stony meteorites, are affected.

"Even though iron is very strong, the meteorite had probably been cracked from collisions in space," Melosh said. "The weakened pieces began to come apart and shower down from about eight-and-a-half miles (14 km) high. And as they came apart, atmospheric drag slowed them down, increasing the forces that crushed them so that they crumbled and slowed more."

Melosh noted that mining engineer Daniel M. Barringer (1860-1929), for whom Meteor Crater is named, mapped chunks of the iron space rock weighing between a pound and a thousand pounds in a 6-mile-diameter circle around the crater. Those treasures have long since been hauled off and stashed in museums or private collections. But Melosh has a copy of the obscure paper and map that Barringer presented to the National Academy of Sciences in 1909. At about 3 miles (5 km) altitude, most of the mass of the meteorite was spread in a pancake shaped debris cloud roughly 650 feet (200 meters) across. The fragments released a total 6.5 megatons of energy between 9 miles (15 km) altitude and the surface, Melosh said, most of it in an airblast near the surface, much like the tree-flattening airblast created by a meteorite at Tunguska, Siberia, in 1908. The intact half of the Meteor Crater meteorite exploded with at least 2.5 megatons of energy on impact, or the equivalent of 2.5 tons of TNT.

Elisabetta Pierazzo and Natasha Artemieva of the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Ariz., have independently modeled the Meteor Crater impact using Artemieva's Separated Fragment model. They find impact velocities similar to that which Melosh and Collins propose.

Melosh and Collins began analyzing the Meteor Crater impact after running the numbers in their Web-based "impact effects" calculator, an online program they developed for the general public. The program tells users how an asteroid or comet collision will affect a particular location on Earth by calculating several environmental consequences of the impact. The program is online at http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/impacteffects running the numbers in their Web-based "impact effects" calculator, an online program they developed for the general public. The program tells users how an asteroid or comet collision will affect a particular location on Earth by calculating several environmental consequences of the impact. The program is online at http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/impacteffects