## Minutes of the September 15, 1998 Westside Board meeting

President Bob O'Brien called the Westside board meeting to order at 7:30PM.

Glenn Morita read the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were approved as read. He also gave the treasurer's report.

**Committee reports:**

Wagonmaster:
· The Canadian Wagonmasters will organize a trip to the Empire Valley for thundereggs (up to 8" diameter). They need a commitment from a group to go with them on the 12th of October (Canadian Thanksgiving).
· Mountain Loop HWY trip. Several hundred pounds of travertine was collected at Gold Mountain. Sloan Creek - Lots of garnets were collected in Bowser Creek. Many of the smaller ones were gemmy.

**Old Business**:
· The Oregon Mineral Council is still working on the rules for collecting petrified wood. There will be a meeting 10/3 to talk about setting aside collecting areas for petrified wood per the CFRs.

**New Business:**
· We need to make provision to collect $0.25/person on Wagonmaster trips as guest members for insurance purposes.
· A nominating committee is need to select nominees for next year's officers.
· Bob O'Brien presented a proposal to make such a provision.

**Proposed Article XII**
Article XII
Section I. The Mineral Council representatives shall also be officers in the Wagonmaster Association with one individual elected by the members as the wagonmaster to be in charge of organizing and leading all field trips.

Section II. Members of the public may attend any Wagonmaster trip. To do so, there is a per day membership fee, making that person a member of the Wagonmaster Association for a period of 24 hours. At the end of said time, unless such fee is paid again and the sign-in list signed again, the membership ends for that day.

Section III. The moneys collected will be turned over to the Treasurer of the Mineral Council and used to defray the cost of insurance as required on the field trips.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

## Meeting Dates For 1998

West Side Board:
October 20

Quarterly Meetings in Ellensburg:
November 7

**October 20, 1998**
**Westside Board Meeting**
**AGENDA**
**President: Opening of Meeting**
**Bob O'Brien**
**Treasurer's Report**
**Jackie Pattie**
**Committee Reports**
**Wagonmaster -Ed Lehman**
**Old Business**
**New Business**
**Open Comments**
**Adjourn**

**In Search of Bustituppite**

During May of this year a number of members of this society followed a trail worn by many others over many years in Cornwall. For some of us it was the first time and although it may be obvious to the regulars, it may be helpful to others to reveal one of the keys to success in collecting minerals in that part of the world. Success there was aplenty and in many apparently different types of rocks - but, appearances can be deceptive and the simple fact is that these many types of rock are but variations of a single common matrix.

So what is this special rock called? Well, it seems that it is called Bustituppite. How can you recognize it? Well, color is no guide nor is the

precise mineralogy necessarily entirely reliable. Where does it occur? All over Cornwall it seems, in quarries, mine dumps and plain old natural exposures. So, is there any distinguishing features? Yes, there is one - and only one - reliable way to recognize it. Show it to your trip leader and if she says "bust it up" you've found it, but if she says "chuck it" you're wasting your time with Chuckbucketite. (Please note that Chuckbucketite can now be found in piles all over Cornwall just waiting there to confuse the unwary.)

Since returning home to more northerly climes I have found that looking for Bustituppite can be productive outside Cornwall, too. Only last night I found what looked like a typical piece so I promptly bust it up to find the clearest, cleanest brightest fluorites I have ever seen in Derbyshire!

...Acknowledgments to "Microprobe" Spring 97, and "Micro New and Views", Horst Windisch, Editor, via Microbits (Southern California Micro-Mineralogists) 3/98 via The Glacial Drifter 8/98

**Ice Fishing**
It was a cold winter day, when the old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line and began waiting for fish to bite. He was there for almost an hour without even a nibble when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice not too far from the old man and dropped in his fishing line.

It took only about a minute and WHAM! a largemouth Bass hit his hook and the boy pulled in the fish.

The old man couldn't believe it but figured it was just lick. But, the boy dropped in his line and again within just a few minutes pulled in another one. This went on and on for until finally the old man couldn't take anymore since he hadn't caught a thing all this time. He went to the boy and said, "Son, you have been here only a few minutes and have caught about half a dozen fish! How do you do it?"

The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rarrm." "What was that?" The old man asked. Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rarrm."

"Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you are saying."

So, the boy spit into his hand and said, "You have to keep the worms warm."

From the Stone Chipper 7/98
via Hygrader 9/98

**Unmasking Forged Amber**

Forging amber is a thriving industry. Its fascination, colors, and trapped critters make it desirable for jewelry; this has long drawn the attention of forgers. Forgery is a substitution of copals or synthetic polymers for real Baltic amber or other fossilized resins.

The chronology of forgery mirrors the development of synthetic polymers. In 1907, the discovery of Bakelite led to a legendary "very rare Baltic amber." In 1937 the development of polystyrene overcame the disadvantages of dark color in fake amber, and in 1942, polyesters and epoxies made the transparency of real amber possible. Imitations containing a wide variety of inclusions (ants, bees, lizards, mosquitoes) became possible, and commanded a higher price than that of clear amber.

Recently a flood of forged amber inclusions has appeared in major gem and mineral shops and fossil shows and has been purchased for thousands of dollars by collectors.

Norman Baer of NYU recently, in J. Anal. Appl. Pyrolysis, 25, 77 (1993) has unmasked the forgeries with an analysis called gas chromatography combined with other methods and could distinguish all major synthetic materials used as forgeries.

One key to forgery is that the inclusions "look remarkably fresh," whereas in real amber, the tiny invertebrates have a distinctive dehydrated appearance. Typical natural inclusions have groups of fine bubbles near them, probably formed as the trapped animal struggled. Authenticity has become more important because the inclusions are potential sources of DNA. Scientists at the American Museum of Natural History reported recovery of gene fragments from an insect preserved in amber for almost 30 million years.

by Peter Giradot
from The Gem Strata
via Deming Rock Chips 9/98