

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Spring is here and with it a full slate of shows to attend. It is, also, that time of the year when cleaning the house becomes a priority for some. This, of course, results in the realization that one has accumulated a substantial tonnage of rough rock which just could not be passed up. So much for your New Year's resolution to start cutting back and only collect quality material. It seems almost every rock is of exceptional value, it is just a matter of discovering its hidden secrets. I have therefore decided to contribute to our club's silent auction. I only hope I come back from the auction with less than I donated. Anyway, breaking up with your treasurers is hard to do, so I will have to work on my separation anxiety. Perhaps going to the next rock show will lift my spirits. Sounds like an excellent plan to me. My advice, avoid spring cleaning at all costs!

On a more serious note, we just returned from our Sweet Home meeting so thanks to all who made the time to attend and provide their ideas. We had excellent discussions about writing to our legislators and Susie Koppert provided some great insights on getting your voice heard. She noted that "one size fits all" form letters and petitions were far less effective than letters, preferably hand written, sent by individuals. An approach including some personal experiences is much more likely to get your correspondence read and counted. Some points worth mentioning might include:

- 1) identifying yourself as a **recreational rockhound** interested in the surface collection of rocks, minerals and fossils using hand tools;
- 2) rockhounds subscribe to **a code of ethics** in order to minimize impacts to other resources;
- 3) access to public lands (BLM, USFS) is **an essential element in the enjoyment of our hobby** and collecting should be allowed under any multiple use management plan;
- 4) **membership** in the BLM RAC's (Resource Advisory Councils) **needs to be finalized** to bring more local input into federal land use decisions. Please consider writing your elected representatives in support of our shared interests. You might also want to check out the ALAA website for current updates on federal actions.

Remember, if we don't speak up, our message will certainly not be heard!

Susie, also, updated us on her activities at various BLM RAC events. She sponsored a tour of the Plush area so BLM staff could experience firsthand the excitement of finding sunstones. To date, she has attended 41 agency meetings to promote our views with federal land managers. Thanks to Susie for keeping us so well informed and engaged.

Thanks to all our member clubs who have sent in their 2018 dues. Let me know if your club still needs to enroll and I will send along a membership application. Please plan on attending our next OCRMC meeting at the Madras show. Give me a call at 541-677-9341 or email CougDog6@q.com with any items you would like to have included on the agenda. Until next time, happy trails and leave no stone untumbled.

**NEXT OCRMC MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018 @ 1:00 PM
MADRAS ROCK, GEM & MINERAL SHOW
JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
430 SW FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
MADRAS, OR**