

OREGON COUNCIL OF ROCK & MINERAL CLUBS
PRESIDENT'S UPDATE
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2018

Since this will be my last update before the Holiday's, I want to wish everyone a great Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. As I write, leaves are falling and so are the temperatures. Time to head back into the shop and begin working all of the rough you collected this past summer. Maybe a trip to Quartzsite or Tucson are in your plans. This past September, we traveled to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. We saw spectacular geology and wildlife at both parks before heading back through Butte, Montana. Historically, Butte was known as the Richest Hill on Earth as it was located on one of the largest copper deposits in the world. We toured many of the old mine headframes and the World Mining Museum. There is also a great mineral museum at Montana Tech and the Copper King's mansions deserve a visit. Virginia City, an old mining ghost town, is nearby and certainly worth your while. I highly recommend a stop at both places if you are in this area.

Our fall meeting was held on October 13th at the Portland Regional show. The Portland show moved to Canby this year due to construction at the Washington County fairgrounds. Fortunately, the weather was superb as the dealers were housed in a large tent which may not have been completely weather proof. We conducted display case judging for the Oregon Trophy before our meeting. The trophy is awarded annually to the best exhibit of "All Oregon Material". This year's winner was the Mt. Hood Rock Club's Field Trip Group. They had a great case of material collected from McDermitt. Congratulations to the Mt. Hood Club! Maureen Williams reported she has started work on an informational tri-fold to provide organizations with an overview of our mission and describe how we are promoting the interests of recreational rockhounds. She passed around a draft copy for review and several members had excellent ideas to help improve the final product. The goal will be to have the tri-fold ready for distribution with our renewal application mailing. Thanks to Hidemi Kira for suggesting a rehabilitation project at Hampton Butte. He had observed lots of surface disturbance at the site related to rockhound activity. We are developing a plan to work with the BLM on an effort to fill in some of the digs next spring. Please remember to fill in your excavations! Nothing reflects more poorly on our hobby than a cratered landscape.

Lenora Smith and Susie Koppert updated us on their activities with various federal agencies. Susie continues to attend BLM meetings in eastern Oregon (52 meetings so far) and is hopeful she will soon be a member of a Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Our participation on these panels is a great way to ensure that our interests are being considered in federal land management decisions. Lenora had previously reported about openings on the NW Oregon RAC and Ed Anderson stated his interest in applying for one of these positions. Susie also indicated she would explore putting together our newsletter. We will look forward to the first "Susie" edition. Please think about writing your elected representatives in support of our hobby. You can also 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. Thank you Lenora and Susie for keeping us informed on current events!

Vicki Johnson, our Capitol Case Agent, advised that the Lower Umpqua Club from Reedsport will be installing their exhibit in Salem this month. Thanks to the Columbia Gorge Club for their display the past six months. Please call Vicki if you have any questions about the Capitol Case.

In closing, if anyone would like to serve as a Council officer, please raise your hand. We always need new volunteers with great ideas. I hope you can attend our next OCRMC meeting at the Sweet Home Show. Give me a call at 541-677-9341 or email CougDog6@q.com with any questions or suggestions you may have for the Council. Until next time, have a great Holiday Season and safe travels. Dave Williams, OCRMC President.

**NEXT OCRMC MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019 @ 1:00 PM
SWEET HOME GEM & MINERAL SHOW
HIGH SCHOOL GYM, 1641 LONG STREET
SWEET HOME, OR**