

C.O.R.C.

Central Oregon Rock Collectors

April 2015, Newsletter

“It’s in our name... it’s what we do... we collect rocks!!!!”

The **CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS** is an informal group dedicated to sharing the rock hound hobby. We meet for field trips, collecting rock, and related activities. You do not have to be a member to attend. However if you are interested in joining, yearly memberships are only \$20 for individuals, or \$25 for families. At the end of this newsletter is a form for joining the C.O.R.C.

PRESIDENT: Jerry Brown

VICE PRESIDENT: Al Liebetrau

TREASURER: Debbie J. Reynolds

SECRETARY: Sue Liebetrau

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE CHAIR: Jules Wetzel

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR: Mike Betsch

Northwest Federation Representatives: Del and Clara Walker

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Welcome: Rockhounding is best when it is shared. We welcome visitors to our meetings, anytime. If anyone has any interesting adventures they would like to share, we would love to hear about them. Our next meeting will be the third Wednesday of April (April 15th) at the Redmond Senior Center at 7:00 PM. We will be in the conference room at the east end of the center. Club officers meet at 6:00 pm.

Jewels of Knowledge:

- We want to thank The Cigar Box in Bend, Oregon, for donating a box of tumbling grit and polish to the club. In our September meeting, we will be raffling off a homebuilt vibrating tumbler (12 to 15 lb capacity). Whoever wins the tumbler will also get this box of grits and polish.
- Dr. Cheryl Byrd, DVM, from Tender Touch Vaccinations salutes everyone who takes your dogs along when you go rockhounding. Remember that your pet probably does not get out into rough terrain any more regularly than you do. So Dr. Byrd suggests when you return take a minute to check your dog for cuts, scrapes and other injuries... pay extra attention to your pet’s feet.
- At the April meeting, CORC will elect a President and Vice President. Please think about volunteering, or suggesting someone, for these positions.
- We encourage everyone to pay their 2015 dues by the end of April.
- One of our past club members, Katie MacDonald is selling the rocks and equipment that she and Larry have accumulated in their years of rockhounding. She has several hundred pounds of Montana Agates, Brazilian Agates, thunder eggs and Oregon and Washington petrified wood. She is selling all the rocks at a \$1/lb). She still has a very heavy duty tumbler (\$125), and a titan diamond capping unit (\$1300) that appears to be in mint condition. Katie lives in Crooked River Ranch. Call her to make an appointment to come by... her phone number is 541 548-8930.
- If you have not read the April edition of Rock and Gem magazine, I recommend it. It has an excellent article about the huge annual gem, mineral and fossil show in Munich, another article about the jade, gold, turquoise and obsidian treasures made by the ancient Mayans, and an article telling about the “Wildacres Retreat” that the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies holds in North Carolina. Oregon tube agate found at

the Keegan Ranch near Ashwood, and around Coyle Butte in the Ochocos is highlighted as an especially fine cutting material. The same article talks about the historic Central Oregon rockhound and prospector, 'Shirts' Quant, who is credited with discovering the famous Carey Plume agate, Eagle Peak plume agate, the limbcast area along the South Fork of the Crooked River, and the Ochoco tube agate deposit.

- **The Club is getting re-acquainted and up-to-date with our local rock and mineral related businesses...**
- **Saturday, April 25, 10-12(noon);** Canutt's Rock Shop/Museum on HWY 97, south of Redmond. Club members get their first 5 pounds of materials off 'the hill' free. You pay for whatever other treasures you decide you can't live without.
- **Saturday, May 23, 9-12(noon);** Quant Rock Shop/Museum in Prineville. Club members get the first 10 pounds of thunder eggs, petrified wood, obsidian or anything in the 'goody pile,' free. You pay for whatever other treasures you decide you can't live without.
- **Wednesday, June 10, 10-12 (noon);** The Cigar Box in Bend. See where they refurbish classic old lapidary equipment to original factory spec's. Also, they keep on-hand a wide assortment of lapidary supplies and parts.
- **Saturday, September 19, 9-12(noon);** Richardson's Ranch/agate beds/Museum, north of Madras. Club members get their first 5 pounds from the 'goody pile' free. You pay for whatever other treasures you decide you can't live without.
- **The Club now has a new projector to use when presenting its programs. It should be able to support almost any computer input.**

Our Upcoming Programs :

- Our program on 15April will be about making home-built lapidary equipment... with the focus on a 10 inch trim and slabbing rock saw. The saw being explained and demonstrated will be donated to the club. It will be raffled off at the meeting. All proceeds generated go to support the club's future activities.
- May – Roger Whitehouse will be explaining 'Lost Wax Casting.'
- June – Debbie Simon will give a program on Rockhounding in Nevada.
- July – Julian Gray, Director of the Rice Museum, will speak about the Museum.
- August – Picnic and silent auction.
- September – Don Ross will be continuing his series about making homebuilt lapidary equipment. This time he will be discussing the building of a vibrating tumbler. The tumbler used in the program will be raffled off at the meeting. A home-built cabbing unit will also be discussed, and raffled off.
- October – Bill Quant, son and co-pro prospector with Central Oregon legend, Shirts Quant, will informally discuss their rockhounding and prospecting adventures.
- November - The CORC end of the season banquet.

Field trip information: We will try some new things this year. In addition to our scheduled (single day) field trips, we are attempting to add additional options which include joint field trips with other clubs, and some longer trips to more distant sites. As we get these finalized, we will be passing the specific information to everyone.

We contacted a Clackamette club that in most years makes prospecting trips to Succor Creek in the spring. We hoped to tag along, but they will not be making the trip this spring. Some of our club members are making the trip anyway, in late April, early May. Those going would be camping there about a week. Anyone interested can meet there. Succor Creek is a couple hours south of Vale, Oregon, or a couple hours north of Jordan Valley Oregon. So, it would be at least

a long weekend trip. If you are interested in making this trip, Jules Wetzel is probably the best person to get up to date information on it.

We had our first 'special' field trip on March 22. Six intrepid CORC's met outside Bandon, Oregon, for a collecting trip along the Southern Oregon beaches. The tides cooperated. The rain and hail did not. AND the winter winds had not uncovered the gravel beds enough to get to the beach agates. The members found some marine fossils, probably from the Miocene epoch, and some pretty pieces of jasper. Anyway, our hats are raised in tribute to our hardy (and somewhat waterlogged) CORC adventurers.

Bill Quant from the Quant Rock Shop offered to take our Club on an extra field trip; a special guided field to either the Quant tube agate site, or to a site for banded jasper. We can discuss this at this month's meeting.

Our Upcoming Field trips :

- **April 12 - Peterson's Rock Garden and museum**
- **May 3- Red, gold, and occasionally, green opalite from east of Madras... Tumbling sized pieces of this colorful material can be found on the ground, but you will need to dig at least 12 inches for larger pieces. The ground tends to be fairly soft and easy to dig, but I have found that a prybar tends to help to get larger pieces out of the ground. I have found pieces as big as a medicine ball at this location.
*We will meet at 9:00 am at the Safeway parking lot in Madras.***
- **June - Whistler Springs and Ochoco Agate thunderegg beds**
- **July - Hollywood Ranch for petrified wood, and possible agate**
- **August - Pat Blue Heron has arranged with the BLM geologist to view the fossil collection tucked away in the BLM office in Prineville. The tour is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 10:00 AM. The BLM folks won't work a weekend, and mid-week was best for them, so that is the best we can do.**
- **September - Pole Creek to look for petrified wood, agate, jasper and stilbite**
- **October - Tentative trip to the Sunflower Flats area of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation for red, orange and green jasper**

Upcoming Shows and Events in this area:

[April 17-19 Rickreall, Oregon: Willamette Agate & Mineral Society; Polk County Fairgrounds; 520 S. Pacific Hwy West; Fri 9-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4:30; contact Etheleen Flippo, \(503\) 623-4241; email reflippo@hotmail.com](#)

[April 24-26 Grants Pass, Oregon: Rogue Gem and Geology Club, annual show; Josephine County Fairground Pavillion; 1451 Fairground Road; Fri/Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; contact Mary \(541-862-2989\) or Janet \(541-415-1720\)](#)

[April 24-26 Portland, Oregon: Mt Hood Rock Club, 58th annual Rock and Gem Show;](#)

[Kliever Memorial National Guard Armory; 10000 NE 33rd Drive; Fri/Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4; contact L. Smith \(503-760-1825\); email \[mhrc-show@gmail.com\]\(mailto:mhrc-show@gmail.com\); website \[www.Mthoodrockclub.com\]\(http://www.Mthoodrockclub.com\)](#)

[May 2-3 Roseburg, Oregon: Umpqua Gem and Mineral Club, 45th Annual Show; Douglas County Fairgrounds; I-5 exit 123; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; contact Sue Woodman, \(541\) 391-3347; email \[suew1952.sw@gmail.com\]\(mailto:suew1952.sw@gmail.com\)](#)

May 16-17 Lakeview, Oregon: Tallman Rock Chippers; Lake County Fairgrounds; 1900 N 4th, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4; contact LeRoy Johnson, (541) 947-4267; email lostmymarblesor@yahoo.com

May 16-17 Hermiston, Oregon: Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, Annual Show: Hermiston Conference Center; Highway 395 South; Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4; contact Mike Filarski, (541) 571-2593; email stonemorlin1@netscape.net

June 12-14 Newport, Oregon: Oregon Coast Agate Club, 52nd Annual Show; National Guard Armory; 541 SW Coast HWY, HWY 101; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4:30; contact George Mazeika PO Box 293, Newport, Oregon 97365; web www.coastagates.org

Rock-Crazy Tidbits for the Totally Frivolous:

- **Heading deep into the northwestern Canadian Rockies on his first extended prospecting trip, Chip was confident that he could handle any emergency. He explained to his native guide rather smugly, “I know that carrying a lighted torch will keep the bears and mountain lions away.”**

“That is usually true,” the guide replied. “But sometimes it depends on how fast you carry the torch.”

- **What is the favorite ice cream among CORC members? *Rocky Road, of course...***
- **Rocky: My mom has the worst memory.
Chip: She forgets everything?
Rocky: Worse, she remembers everything.**
- **How many rock hounds does it take to screw in a light bulb?
*None. We got better things to do with our time.***