



July 2021 Newsletter

**"It's in our name . . .
It's what we do . . .
We collect rocks!!!!"**

The **CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS** (CORC) is an informal group dedicated to sharing the rock hound hobby. We meet for field trips, collecting rocks, monthly programs, and related activities. You do not have to be a member to attend meetings. However, you **MUST** be a member to participate in field trips. Yearly memberships are \$20 for individuals, or \$25 for households. A membership form is on our website, which includes a liability release for field trips.

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Club Website – <http://corockcollectors.com>

Welcome: Rockhounding is best when it is shared. We welcome visitors to our meetings, anytime. If anyone has any interesting adventures or unusual materials that they would like to share, we would love to hear about them.

The Club normally meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, March through October, except for the month of the summer picnic. The November meeting is a potluck holiday get-together on a Sunday. There are no winter meetings (Dec-Feb). The Club address is CORC, PO Box 6265, Bend, OR 97708.

Regular indoor meetings are held at the Redmond Grange, 707 Kalama Avenue, Redmond, starting normally at 7:00 pm until 8:30 or 9:00 p.m.

Please note: Regular meetings have been rescheduled to an outside location due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Club Meeting in Person is July 21 at 5:30 p.m.

We are planning to meet in person on Wednesday, July 21, once again at the American Legion Park in Redmond. The address is 850 SW Rimrock Way. There is ample parking, as well as restrooms. We will be meeting on the amphitheater stage. We plan to start socializing around 5:30 and have the actual meeting begin at 5:45 p.m. We plan to finish around 7 – 7:15 p.m. Please bring folding or camp chairs. The program for this meeting will be Tumbling Tips for Obsidian by Eric Badzinski.

The June meeting had a very informative program on Tumbling Tips presented by April Anable and Ken Lawson. Susan Roemhildt from CigarBox Lapidary also provided helpful information. April Anable was elected as Club Vice President. We still have need of a club secretary, so please consider volunteering.

The drawing at the end of each meeting is always fun. Please, if you received a rock at the last meeting, bring one for the drawing at the next meeting.

Club Picnic is Sunday, August 22

Our annual CORC picnic is one of the highlights of the year. We will hold the picnic again at the American Legion Park. The picnic provides members with the opportunity to sell any rocks or related items. If you plan to sell, please bring your own shade and tables. Please also plan to bring rocks you would like to donate for the Silent Auction. The auction is our only fundraiser of the year, and many bargains will be available. Set up starts around 10:30 a.m. Shopping starts around 11 a.m, and we plan to eat around 12 noon. The club will provide the main course and drinks as well as paper products. We are not yet sure if COVID regulations permit a potluck, so final details will be announced in the August newsletter.

Millican: Population Zero by Patricia Moreland

Over the last several of years, driving through Millican on my way to the Brother's rest stop to meet up for a CORC field trip, I've wondered about the story of Millican, and why it's now a ghost town.

The strange story of Millican began in the 1880s, when George Millican carved out a ranch 25 miles east of Bend. With little else nearby, a small township bearing his name grew up around it. By 1913, Millican's Post Office was established, making it an official town.



Cattle was the original industry, but settlers also moved into the area under the Homestead Act (1862-1976) and were given a 160 acre plot of land where they farmed dry land wheat. After several years of drought, the homesteaders abandoned or sold off their land to larger landowners and left.

At Millican's height, the population was around 60, and a school was established between 1913 and 1916. By 1920, the population had whittled down to one, the postmaster Billy Rahn. Rahn enjoyed being the sole resident of Millican and appointed himself the Mayor, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Chief of Police and Chief Air Raid Warden along with his duties of postmaster and storekeeper.

US 20 was built north of the community in 1930 so the town of Millican was moved to its current location next to the highway. In 1942 Rahn retired from being the postmaster after he turned 70, which at the time, was the age limit of a postmaster. The post office was briefly run by George Petty before it was purchased in 1946 by the next longtime owner, Bill Mellin, who bought Millican and ran the gas station, store and post office. The post office closed in 1953, but the store and gas station remained open for 35 more years.

The Mellin family ran the store successfully for the first twenty years, but a series of tragedies would whittle the town back to down to zero. His daughter was killed by a drunk driver in 1971. A few years later his wife, Helen, died of a heart attack and his son, who was a pilot, died in an airplane crash in 1980.

Mellin considered selling the 75 acre community, but was reluctant and priced the town at three times the assessed value. In 1988 Mellin was robbed and murdered by the only store employee who was a parolee from the Oregon State Prison.

The town never recovered from Mellin's murder, and Millican was sold several times before it was purchased by Bruce Resnik in 2002. The store was reopened in 2002, but closed for good in 2005. Millican lasted as long as it did, because at the time, wagons could only travel about 15 miles, and cars less than 100. Millican provided gasoline on the highway between Burns and Bend.

In 2017, the town was back on the market for the price of 1.5 million, but so far, it isn't a price anyone is willing to pay.

Sources: Wikipedia, Source Weekly, Vol. 25, Issue 22, and Oregon State Archives.

Field Trip Report from June

The June field trip to Glass Buttes had over 20 club members finding lots and lots of obsidian. Eric Badzinski guided the group to four of his favorite spots.



Upcoming Field Trips

Sunday, September 12 – Maury Mountains for jasper

Saturday, October 9– Ochoco Mountains for blue agate and crystals

Fall – Date TBD, Trip to Fallon, Nevada for wonderstone

Who's Who on the Executive Board: April Anable

April Anable is our newly elected Vice President and Social Media/Webmaster. Here is April's introduction that she wrote:



My name is April and I am privileged to serve as your vice president. I am a native Bendite and lifelong rockhound! I was the kid who would drag their entire rock collection on the school bus for show and tell each year (and the adult that brings a 90 pound rock for the club show and tell!). In addition to rockhounding, I enjoy gardening and bow hunting.

I will also be serving as the social media manager/webmaster. As the club continues to grow, so does the Facebook group at nearly 6,000 members. I see this growth as a great opportunity to recruit new members, as well as an opportunity to create a supportive, family-friendly online community. I will be continuing to add content and am open to any suggestions! I encourage our members to share your finds and wisdom, ask questions, and be good representatives of CORC

Northwest Federation Newsletter

Our club is a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Please check back monthly at their website for the Federation newsletter, which normally lists many of the rock shows taking place in the Northwest. The link is <http://northwestfederation.org/newsletters.asp>

The link to the current newsletter of May 2021 (same as in June newsletter) is found at <http://northwestfederation.org/documents/NorthwestNewsletter/NW0521.PDF> The last pages list some upcoming rock shows in the Pacific Northwest. Rock shows are starting to return!

Business Cards:

We are more than happy to include members' rock-related business cards in this section.



*Canutts Gems is offering a 5% discount to members showing a CORC membership card. * This store is currently closed.

Classified Ads: If you have a rockhound-related item you wish to advertise, send the announcement to Suzie Meeker at suziej49@gmail.com



Jim also cuts slabs.

