

Field Trip Committee Meeting – 4/11/2023

The field trip committee met on 4/11/23 at the Mazatlan restaurant in Redmond. We decided on the dates and destinations of our field trips. Ken Lawson, John Moreau, Barb Thompson, Patricia Moreland and Peggy Mancuso and I were there. The only committee member not present was Bruce. We were fortunate to have additional input from Jules and Jan Wetzel, Nan and Steve Johnston and Tonia Smith.

Sunday, 4/16/23, Richardson's Rock Ranch. This is a change from the original destination of Bear Creek petrified wood and Camp Creek jasper due to weather and poor road conditions. We are meeting at 9:30 AM at the Safeway parking lot in Madras.

Saturday, 5/13/23, Wasco fee dig. We have a limit of 25 cars. We plan to not restrict the field trip but instead meet at 6:45 AM at the Safeway parking lot in Madras where we will sort out the carpools. We are going to request that club members who have previously been on this trip allow others to experience Beers Mtn. jasper and China Hollow agate/jasper. The Wasco people take checks or cash. Ken will check on the current pricing. They have a rock shop now in Rufus for those who just want to buy rocks. The field trip involves digging. Camping is available in the area for those interested.

Weekend of 5/20-21 - Overnight trip to Rome for snakeskin agate. John Moreau is coordinating this trip.

Sunday, 6/11/23, Pole Creek petrified wood and crystals. This trip is exactly the same as last year and is targeted for new members and those who could not go last year.

The next two are not club trips but are listed as FYI

Plush free dig weekend for sunstones 6/17-6/18 at Spectrum Mine. We are going to ask Ed Taft for more details.

June Rock Shows are: Prineville PowWow 6/15-6/18 and Madras 6/22-6/25

Saturday, 7/15/23 Fire Opal Dig between Bly & Lakeview. This is about a four-hour trip each way so some may wish to camp in Lakeview or stay in town. We will be going to the mine owned by Jamie Lant. This involves hard rock mining. We plan to ask for a donation from each participant - amount not yet set. Jules mentioned opals need to be stored in dark places or they may turn color and lose their "fire".

August date TBD - Club Picnic

Sunday, 9/10/23 White Fir thundereggs. Jules knows of some additional areas to explore in the area. A scouting trip is needed.

Saturday, 10/14/23 Club claim in the Ochocos for agate. We plan to also visit the Mitchell rock shop and end with an optional visit to TigerTown brewery.

November date TBD - Club holiday party

Overnight Trip date TBD to the Black Rock Desert in northern NV. John Moreau is coordinating this trip for late summer/fall.

Ideas for 2024 trips include a visit to Sweet Home to see Joe Kota's rock shop and Holleywood Ranch petrified wood, and Bear Creek for petrified wood.

We discussed asking other field trip leaders to consider taking additional trips per month. In order to make the trips more educational, the committee decided to purchase colorful nylon vests to identify themselves to help the less experienced members. Tonia was going to investigate. Patricia announced she has 50 more whistles and I have 25 to hand out on field trips. We decided to mention at the safety meetings if you are carpooling to please donate to the driver \$10-\$20 for gas depending on the length of the trip. The bullhorn is working perfectly (some great comments were made in reference to Ken with a bullhorn!). We also reminded any trip leader to be sure to take walkie talkies for the first and last cars in the caravan. For long trips perhaps setting a destination close to the dig to meet might work best.