

Rock-It



FEBRUARY 2002

Officers

President.....	Alva Richardson	Federation Director.....	Jim Scheirbeck
Vice President.....	Steve Armstrong	Board Member.....	Sam Riggs
Secretary.....	Patty Amos	Board Member.....	Steve Nelson
Treasurer.....	Dick Parks	Past President.....	Keene Clay

Committee Chairpersons 2002

Show Co Chairman.....	Steve Armstrong	Regional Advisor.....	Jim Young
Show Co Chairman.....	Patty Amos	Regional Advisor Alternate.....	Randall Vessels
Registration.....	Adele Casad & Laura Berry	Greeter.....	Keene Clay
Sunshine *****254-2621****	Leona Conwell	Regional Trip Coordinator.....	Terry Ensell
Juniors.....	Adele Casad & Joanna Gordon	Weeklong Trip.....	Keene Clay & Tim Fisher
Refreshments.....	Lenora Smith	Club Publicity.....	Keene Clay
Club Historian.....	Esther Lively	Oregon Council Rep.....	Lenora Smith
Librarian.....	Steve Armstrong & Joe Holas	Oregon Council Rep.....	Betty Bohall
Program.....	You got one see Alva	Oregon Council Rep.....	Troy Smith
Display Table.....	Ken Thomas	Traveling Cases.....	Helpers Wanted
Lapidary Shop.....	Randall Vessles & Steve Armstrong	Custodian.....	Randy Vessels
Membership....	Velna Dunn360-573-2769	Editor	Victoria Vessels
6815 NE 137th Street Vancouver, WA 98686			(503) 254-4843 pajntsa@qwest.net
Regional Advisor.....	Randall Vessels		

The "ROCK-IT" is the official club Publication of the Mt. Hood Rock Club. The news deadline is the Monday before the first regular meeting of the month, for that month's publication. The contents of the "ROCK-IT" may be reprinted if credit is given to the "ROCK-IT" and the author.

MT. HOOD ROCK CLUB meets the second Tuesday and the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the basement of the United Methodist Church in Gresham. The Church is located at 8th and Norman. Regular meetings start at 7:00pm. Juniors are welcome!!

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL Rock Room is open October - May Wednesday Nights 7-9pm Non members & members. Thursday nights 7-9pm Members only. \$2.00 Fee covers Saw & Polishers, Instructors. Jewelry Classes October to April Wed nights. School is located off of 181st between Division & Powell.

MT Hood Rock Club PHONE NUMBER 503-760-1825

Monthly Social Notes & Comments

The January Social was held at Elmer's in Gresham and 26 people (23 club members and 3 guests) were present. The evening started slowly for a couple of us who thought the social started at 6:00 p.m. The tables were set up in a sort of "U" shape with the ends opened towards the front of the restaurant. I enjoyed sitting all by myself and was quite contented with the warm crackling of the fireplace behind me. Randy later joined me and then it did not take long for the rest of the crew to arrive.

The guests and the conversations were interesting. One guest came all the way down from Alaska and the other two, a husband-and-wife pair, came over from Portland to join us for the evening.

The service was quick and polite. Our server was a very perky young woman who was just a delight. It was more like telling your daughter to go get you something from the kitchen and she did it with a pleasant smile, contented with making you happy. (I've dreamed about that kind of service for my own dining room at home too.) The discussions around the table were rather confusing. Maybe it was only confusing because we were having so much fun. Notice how good company gets you believing whatever you say sounds good?

Talk about good, the most-ordered dinner plate was the Prime Rib and Shrimp Special. The plate consisted of a large serving of prime rib and several shrimps of varying sizes with steamed vegetables. Raise your hand if you are one of those nice and

proper people who don't want to pig out at socials so you order a conservative dish only to find out that those who ordered the Special had a much more satisfying dinner? ☺ Yeah, me too. Now, I'm not saying the meatloaf plate was not satisfying, but sitting side by side with that plate of bar-b-que'd prime rib with it's dripping sauces and succulent aromatic shrimps just makes that plate of meatloaf kind of plain.

By the end of the evening, Barbara Brant decided to take over Mary Bolton's duties in arranging for the monthly socials. So please see Barbara if anyone has a place in mind. Barbara can be reached at (503) 658-3690. Barbara has made the following social dinner reservations for February, March and April. Don't worry, I will put it in next month's issue of Rock-It so you don't forget.

February 15, 2002 at 5:30 p.m.

Izzy's Restaurant in Gresham
on Burnside

March 14, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.

Sir Lion's Restaurant

April at 6:30 p.m.

King's Restaurant
on 169th Avenue & Stark

I look forward to seeing everyone again at the next social. This time, I think I'm going to go along with the dish that everyone wished they had ordered. Until then, stay safe and healthy!!

Happenings in February

February 5	Board Meeting at Dick Parks place.
February 22	Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show Association Meeting
February 12	Regular Club Meeting
February 15	Club Social at Izzy's in Gresham at 5:30 p.m. * They are not able to accommodate us as a club at our usual time.
February 19	Critter Party at Leona's from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
February 25	Regular Club Meeting POTLUCK at 6:00 p.m. and fill grab bags for the Club Show

MHRC Exhibits for the 2002 Show

For this year's show we would like to celebrate our 50th year as a club. We would like to have a display of rocks, fossils or minerals from all 50 states.

We still need some more material from a few remaining states so if you have any nice specimens from any of the states, would you consider putting them in our display case? We would like to also use these cases as our traveling cases so the specimen will be used all year before you will get it back.

Please contact Patty Amos or Alva Richardson as soon as possible since this will take time to set up.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!!!!

Another reminder: If you have not already sent your dues to Velna Dunn(Membership) or Dick Parks (Treasurer), please have cash or checks (payable to Mt. Hood Rock Club) ready when you come to the meetings. For those who will not be able to attend the meetings, please mail dues to Velna Dunn, 6815 NE 137th Street, Vancouver, WA 98686.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I just want to remind everyone that although I am the Editor, *Rock-It* belongs to the club. I welcome and appreciate any suggestions or articles you would like to submit. If you have anything you would like for me to add to the *Rock-It*, please let me know by phone: (503) 254-4843, by e-mail: pajntsa@qwest.net or pvyang@yahoo.com; or by postal mail: 1348 N.E. 160th Avenue, Portland, OR 97230.

I am slowly working on getting the equipment that will allow me to keep a modified form of the newsletter published on the Internet. This way, information about Mount Hood Rock Club can be accessed by anyone with a computer that has Internet connection. The website for the electronic version of *Rock-It* is <http://www.geocities.com/mtrockclub2000/>. The club's website is located at <http://community.oregonlive.com/cc/mthoodrockclub>. Anything that would be included in *Rock-It* that is not received in time for it's monthly publication will be posted on the website and included in the next month's *Rock-It*.

R o c k h o u n d D i s c o v e r i e s

Do you know

....that according to ancient Native American legend, when the Thunder Spirits were living in the highest recesses of snow-capped Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson, they became angry with one another for one reason or another, and amid violent thunder and lightning storms they would hurl masses of these spherical rocks at each other. The hostile gods obtained these weapons by stealing eggs from the Thunderbirds' nests, thus the source of the name "Thundereggs".

...and that Oregon's first deposit of thundereggs was recognized in 1893 when Dr. George F. Kunz, Tiffany's famed gem authority, estimated as much as \$20,000 worth of opal-filled eggs from one Oregon deposit had been marketed in 1892.

....and that the Thunderegg was made into Oregon's official state rock in 1965.

....and that today, Thundereggs are made into beautiful jewelry, especially bolo ties and pendants, pen stands, bookends, and decorator pieces. Their value ranges from about \$1 per slice or half egg to well over \$100 per slice or single cabochon.

....and that a Thunderegg is not actually a rock. It is a structure, sometimes a nodule, sometimes a geode, occurring in rhyolite, welded tuff, or perlitic rocks. However, without question, the Thunderegg is still by far the most popular "rock" in Oregon.

....and scientists do not agree on the processes forming Thundereggs. Some insist that the characteristic and unique internal pattern of typical Thundereggs is due to expansion and rupture of rock by gases. Others claim the pattern is due to desiccation (drying) of a colloid or gel. Whatever the process, after the cavity that contains the egg is formed, further development is extremely variable in the amount of time needed to complete the egg, degree and type of infilling, and physical characteristics.

....and, finally, Thundereggs can be collected at many sites in Oregon. Some localities occur in beautiful forested hill country (western Oregon), others in dry, desert-like terrain (eastern Oregon). Some are "free sites," while others are "fee sites." As Thundereggs have been collected in Oregon for fifty years, collectors on "free sites" must expect to dig and work for the eggs. Proper equipment, including shovel, pick, and bar, makes the job much easier. The "fee site" will almost always have some preparatory work (overburden removal) done. Eggs often may be purchased and equipment rented at the site office. Conditions change, so collectors should contact sites for current fee status and appropriate authorities for permission to dig.

.....?????????

A special thanks to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Vale, Oregon for providing this information to be included in this month's edition. This was a definite discovery for a newbie such as myself.

Let's see what new rockhound discoveries I will encounter for next month's edition.