

## Bellevue Rock Club Meeting Minutes 3 January 2023

Aldersgate Methodist Church, Bellevue, WA

The meeting was called to order by President Bobbi Premo at 7:00 pm. There were 17 persons attending, and we had four guests: Michelle St. Aubyn; Brisa Gao, and her father Yi Gao; and Cameron Hawkins. Welcome!

Secretary's Report – It was reported that a good time was had by all that attended the dessert potluck and Christmas Bingo party at the December 2022 meeting.

Treasurer Report – Treasurer reported on the club's finances. A new PO Box was acquired as the USPS has begun charging an exorbitant amount.

Old Business – Bobbi talked about the need to arrange a work party to go to Dave Scott's house and work on clearing out the sheds on the property that have BRC items stored there. There are 33 buckets of material that need to be gone through, there is a black slight set up, a drum wheel, tables, lighting, floor mats, sign boards, and various grades of grit (which will be bagged in 10# lots for sale).

New Business – Emery Bayley reminded the club that 2023 is an 'odd' number year and therefore elections will need to be held. Please consider which position you might volunteer for as the life of a club is only as good as its members make it. Dave Scott is in contact with the EKingCo show chairman and will let that person know we will help set-up and take down, as well as have a table to sell our wares. We had a show of 6-7 hands willing to participate. The EKingCo show at Pickering Barn in Issaquah will be set-up on Fri, 3 Mar, show on Sat and Sun 4/5, and take down Sunday evening, 5 Mar.

Field Trips – It was proposed looking into doing an Ellensburg Blue field trip (Rock n Tomahawk Ranch & on state property); Red Top for (calcite?); and Saddle Mountain. Trips sponsored by the Wagonmaster arm of the Washington State Mineralogical Council will be looked into.

Door Prize – Winners tonight were Emery Bayley, Alex Emerald and Pam Fox. Guests were invited to choose from a selection of polished rocks provided by Dave Scott.

Show and Tell – **Emery Bayley** talked about two books that provide good perspectives on the Oregon Trail, by author Will Bagley, *So Rugged and Mountainous: Blazing the Trail to Oregon and California 1812-1848 (volume 1 of 2)*, and *South Pass: Gateway to a Continent*. He also presented white quartz with gold from the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Colomo, California, where gold was discovered on 24 January 1848. **Veda DePaepe** brought several pages of information on the 'rarest' minerals found in Burma.

Treats – Provided by Emery Bayley. Thank you! February treats by Bobbi Premo.

Gotta Have It auction table – Some nice jaspers and quartz were displayed.

Tonight's program was presented by Art and Sharon Storbo. It is the continuation of their Oregon Trail trip, the first half shown at the November 2022 meeting. In this

segment we begin at South Pass, WY southwest of Lander. The fall colors going into the hills leading to South Pass were spectacular. After visiting the stone markers commemorating Narcissa Whitman and Eliza Spalding being the 1<sup>st</sup> women over the Continental Divide in 1836, we saw the monument placed by Ezra Meeker in 1906 on his historic trip to retrace and mark the entire Oregon Trail for future generations. We then passed Simpson Hollow, the Green River Crossing, Pilot Butte, and at Ft. Bridger took a small self-guided tour.

Watching a cattle drive was up first thing next morning as we wended our way from Wyoming towards Idaho, crossing and re-crossing the serpentine Bear River. During the Pleistocene era, the Bear River flowed into Lake Bonneville, eventually becoming part of the Bonneville Flood, 14,500 years ago. As we entered Idaho we viewed the Oregon Trail from Big Hill, then at Soda Springs, a favorite stopping place for the emigrants, we watched the 'geyser' erupt. There were many cemeteries along the Oregon Trail with countless sad stories about the families buried there. One was the Wagon Box grave where the entire family was buried in the box of their wagon, having been killed by Indians. After Soda Springs was Lava Hot Springs, and then Pocatello for the night.

We visited the Bannock County Historical Museum, where a replica of Hudson's Bay Company Ft. Hall is located, and learned of two Mormon handcart groups where many members froze to death during an early October snowstorm before help from Salt Lake City could rescue them. Next up was Massacre Rocks, then Register Rock.

With sunshine and 40 F (strong winds making it about 25 F), we walked 2 ½ miles along the Milner Ruts just outside Burley. Then on to Filer, ID to visit the Twin Falls County Museum. There we encountered a docent of Japanese descent whose parents were from the Enumclaw, and Auburn areas but were sent to Camp Minidoka during the panic after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Three Island Crossing at Glens Ferry, ID is where Eddy Allen decided he had to float the Snake River (with three wagons tied together) to Fort Boise as his ankle was so bad he was afraid he would be permanently disabled. The book *Our Faces are Westward* tells the story of his Oregon Trail journey

Going on, we visited the Hagerman Fossil Beds and the Snake River Overlook where massive basalt flows of 10-15 million years ago occurred. Following Meeker's route we went by Teapot Dome and on to Mountain Home, ID. Starting out the next day we followed the Backcountry Byway (paralleling Meeker's route over and around the foothills at the edge of the Snake River Valley) we came across only one deserted ghost town, Mayfield. It was a desolate 20 plus miles of dirt road, not always 2-cars wide.

After Boise, we traveled to La Grande, OR, seeing the Ward massacre site, then a replica of Ft. Boise, Farewell Bend State Park and the Blue Mountains where we encountered snow. In Pendleton we visited the Idaho Heritage Station Museum, and then the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute to get the Indians' perspective. At this point we had to head homeward. We are hoping to finish the last 280 miles sometime in 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. Submitted by Sharon Storbo, recording secretary