

## Ogden-Gram #8

By all accounts, "Gemstone Junction 2015" in Ogden was Golden Spike's best show in many years. Attendance was up significantly, largely due to the attraction of the NFMS meetings and exhibits. Due to Dick Parks, Patty Amos and the Mt. Hood crew, the Silent Auction income was TRIPLE last year's amount. In addition to our own publicity efforts, Brad Larson (NFMS Webmaster) and Beth Heesacker (Newsletter editor) did a superb job of keeping the Federation membership up to date. We much appreciated the individual club editors copying information and entry forms into their own bulletins.

The ALAA meeting on Friday was well attended, and Casey Snider from the staff of Chairman Rob Bishop (U.S. House Natural Resources Committee) gave an excellent presentation on the intriguing "Public Lands Initiative" by Mr. Bishop. The NFMS Annual meeting went smoothly, and a new slate of officers is ready to take office in September. The Bulletin Aids breakfast meeting had 21 editors and webmasters receive awards and listen to Bob Jones, Editor of "Rock & Gem" magazine. The Officers and Past Presidents' luncheon was its usual convivial event; 31 old timers were there. Highlight of the Awards Banquet was Bob Jones describing his adventures in visiting the caves in Mexico containing those enormous selenite crystals. That was after a supper of "Million Dollar" scalloped potatoes, spicy chicken and BBQ ribs. The number of competitive exhibits was up from last year, and even "First Timers" managed to garner Master trophies from Joe Slouber, Lauren Williams, and Dee Holland.

Field trips to Topaz Mountain, Eureka, and Wendover were led by our sister clubs: Mineral Collectors of Utah, Cache Rock & Gem, and Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Society. It was a joy to see one lady from the Topaz trip come bubbling into our Hospitality room at the Comfort Suites Hotel, proudly showing off her hoard of amber topaz! On Saturday morning it was fun to hear Garry Warren of the Cache club describe how he edited the book "Rockhounding Utah". Later that day, Dr. Paul Bybee gave a great talk on the latest findings in Dinosaur research. Sunday was the day for a tour of Eccles Dinosaur Park and Museum by Director Casey Allen.

**NOW, EVERYONE COME TO ALBANY FOR THE 2016 AFMS/NFMS SHOW!!!!!!**