

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 2, 2008
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan Smathers called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. There were 16 members present and 7 guests present. Staff included Burnham.

MINUTES

The minutes of the general membership meeting are now being emailed to the membership with the meeting reminders. The minutes of the general membership meeting were approved as presented.

GUESTS

Dr. Jeff Hartshorn introduced his wife Wendy, his daughter Kylie and his son Hunter. Nikki Anderson introduced her daughter MacKenzie. Erik Peterson introduced his daughter Claire and his son Winston. Our guest speaker was Biologist Richard Whitten.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chamber wishes to thank Rotary for allowing us to use their trailer with a cooler section for the 4th of July

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5 Relocation and 2 Tourism packets went out in June.

Thanks to all who signed up for a shift at the Beer Garden. It looks like we have enough volunteers to staff it.

Raft Race forms are still available at the Chamber Office and online at www.orofino.com. We do have a few entries at this point.

The Chamber Office will be closed next week for vacation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- No Report.

Promotional- No Report.

4th of July- The 4th of July is this Friday. Lukenbill-Faller is the band and the music starts at 7:30, we have received confirmation on the fireworks which start at 10:10 p.m., the raft race will take place at 2:00 p.m.. Dee Burgett is organizing the parade which starts at 4:30 and entry forms are available at the Tribune or Chamber Office. Bird Goodwin will be singing the National Anthem after the Parade and Pam Cliff's dancers will also provide entertainment. The Rotary Log Drive will take place at 7:00 p.m. and tickets are \$5 each and available from any Rotary member. The Merchant BBQ begins at 5:00. Donations are still being accepted for the fireworks.

Welcome and Membership- We welcome new member Idaho Clearwater Adventures owned by Shane and John Erbst. The business offers guided ATV tours and recreational rentals of waverunners, ATVs, catarafts, river rafts and float tubes.

Economic Development – No Report.

GEM- The GEM Committee will meet July 17th at noon at the Flamingo. The group has identified Riverside area as a priority and will be working with ITD and the Northwest Passage Scenic Byway marketing group.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Smathers updated the membership on Eric Statler’s condition. He will get out of the hospital today or tomorrow. The results from his jaw replacement surgery look positive.

PROGRAM

Programs- July 16, Debbie Manfull with State Hospital North.

President Smathers introduced our program speaker, Richard Whitten. Whitten is a Biologist who along with his wife lived in Costa Rica for 16 years where they still have two museums. Much of their collection of arthropods, the largest in the world are housed in these museums.

Whitten explained that Costa Rica is 50,895 square miles and only 75 miles across. The landscape features mountain ranges and waterways and both are concentrated with micro-species that aren’t found anywhere else in the world. There are more species of butterflies in Costa Rica than in Africa. In Costa Rica, a single tree may contain more beetle species than are in all of North America. 95% of life in the Costa Rican rain forest is not on the ground, but in the trees.

Whitten shared excerpts from “One of a Kind Rain Forest Wonders” a video of his work in Costa Rica. The video showcased photos that he had taken of spiders, ants, moths, thornhoppers, tail-less whip scorpions, orchid bees, butterflies, monkey slug caterpillars, fire beetles, aphids, cockroaches, bees, katydid grasshoppers and elephant beetles. Whitten also had a sampling of his collection to show the membership. After the video, Whitten answered questions from the audience and asked Kylie Hartshorn to show the membership the live dragonfly that she had brought along with her. According to Whitten, dragonflies are very difficult to capture.

Whitten stated that he would love to have a place to move his collection to in Orofino. He needs a space for the displays as well as assistance getting the collection safely and efficiently to the States from Costa Rica.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Smathers adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Ryan Smathers, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director