

Minutes of the SW Chapter meeting on February 17, 2016

President Bill Biesele welcomed the 25 attendees, especially new members, thanking those who had renewed their memberships already, and that extra patches were available at \$2 each.

The Minutes of the January meeting were delayed till the following month, as Elisabeth, the secretary, had the flu.

Mike Santella gave his treasurer report: Beginning balance of \$ 703.91. Membership dues totaled \$ 415, and 2015 office supplies amounted to \$54.03. The balance as of 1/29 was \$ 1,064.88.

Bill mentioned the book authored by Jerry and Andrew "*Tracks in Deep Time*" which was now available at the SGDS Museum gift shop and also on Amazon.

Friends of Rusty who also were UFOP members gave Rusty two goodbye presents with many goodwill wishes for her retirement and one of them was a copy of this book. He asked members to sign it for her before leaving. The other present was a chain with a brontosaurus both dipped in gold.

Bill also mentioned a presentation by Dr. Martin Lockley on February 29th in Grand Junction. More information @Dino Journey.

Dr. Gerald Bryant was supposed to give a presentation, but ceded his time to a visiting colleague from Germany, Dr. Jens O. Herrie, now a professor at Eberhart Karls University after having done post doctoral research at Tübingen, National Oceanographic Centre University of Southampton in the United Kingdom, and working as an assistant professor at the Universities of Liverpool, U.K. and Alberta, Canada.

The topic of his presentation was the mid Cretaceous climate as recorded at Axel Heiberg Island in the Canadian Arctic. Below follows the abstract of his paper:

Over the past decades, much research has focused on the mid-Cretaceous greenhouse climate, the formation of widespread organic-rich black shales, and cooling intervals from low- to mid-latitude sections. Data from the High Arctic, however, are limited. In this paper, we present high-resolution geochemical records for an -1.8-km-thick sedimentary succession exposed on Axel Heiberg Island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago at a paleolatitude of -71°N. For the first time, we have data constraints for the timing and magnitude of most major Oceanic Anoxic Events (OAEs) in brackish-water (OAE1a) and shelf (OAE1b and OAE2) settings in the mid-Cretaceous High Arctic. These are consistent with carbon-climate perturbations reported from deep-water records of lower latitudes. Glendonite beds are observed in the upper Aptian to lower Albian, covering an interval of -6m.y. between 118 and 112 Ma. Although the formation of glendonites is still under discussion, these well-dated occurrences may support the existence of cool shelf waters in the High Arctic Sverdrup Basin at this time, coeval with recent geochemical data from the subtropical Atlantic indicating a drop in sea-surface temperature of nearly 4° C.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. SW Chapter
March 12, 2016

