



Timber Measurements Society
Intermountain District Spring Meeting

MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN CHAPTER
APRIL 5-6, 2006, COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA

After a 4 year absence, the Intermountain district held its spring meeting on April 5-6 in Columbia Falls Montana. Thirty three people were in attendance. Jerry Youmans, the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Timber Measurements Society, opened the meeting with a welcome to the attendees, and a few words regarding the inactivity of the chapter since 2002 which occurred because of job displacement and relocation of the former officers. He discussed that aside from the primary purpose for this meeting of providing training and professional interaction amongst log scalers and other measurement professionals; we would be electing officers who would take on the responsibility of organizing and conducting TMS (Timber Measurements Society), Intermountain District meetings for the next two years.

The first speaker of the day was Ernie Bauer, Executive Director of the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices. Ernie presented the National Cubic Log Rules. He covered some of the background in the development of the rules via the cubic log rules committee (of which Ernie was a member), as well as discussed the fact that currently only a few companies in the intermountain region are currently using it to account for roundwood volume (Plum Creek and Pope and Talbot). Ernie covered the technical rules of determining gross volume as well as the procedures for deducting defect volume. There was also some discussion regarding the decision by the forest service in region 5 and 6 to go back to Scribner scaling (board foot). More conversation revolved around the cumbersome cull determination procedures from the handbook as well as the difficulty of determining large-end diameters on large, thick-barked, butt-cut logs. Ernie brought up the fact that pitch ring deductions take a much lower relative volume under cubic rules vs. the Scribner rules, while the cubic rules are far stricter on cross grain (cubic deducts volume when slope of grain exceeds 1 in 3, while the state of Idaho interpretation on cross grain for the board foot rule is 3 in 3 (12" slope of grain per foot).

Russ Hogan, Check Scaler, Idaho Board of Scaling Practices, was the next speaker and gave a presentation on the U.S. Forest Service Board Foot Scaling Rules (Scribner decimal C, region 1). He presented the scaling rules from the handbook as well as the board of scaling practices interpretations. There was also some discussion regarding diameter measurements on "half-logs" as well as some discussion about sweep & crook and the occasional vagueness of the handbook regarding procedures. Russ mentioned that there was a USFS committee that met in 2004 to update the board foot handbook, and that the revisions were said to be ready by 2005. Russ's presentation was done via PowerPoint, and there was much interest expressed in obtaining access to it via the web. Hopefully something will be arranged as it is very informative and would be a great tool for training new scalers and as a refresher for the experienced.

Next on the agenda was the business meeting. Nominations and election of officers were taken for the Intermountain chapter as well as a meeting site for next year's meeting. The new officers are:

Chairman:	Rick Schroeder	rschroeder@rileycreek.com
Vice Chairman:	Randy Queen	queenbee@povn.com
Secretary Treasurer:	Russ Hogan	rhogan@ibsp.idaho.gov

Next year's meeting will be held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in early April.

Ron Nail, Head Scaler, Plum Creek Columbia Falls, was the next speaker and gave scaling and logistical instructions for the next day's log roll-out. Ron gave the scaling specs (non-revised Scribner volumes, national cubic log rules, standard taper, 33.33% minimum merchantability, 4.5" minimum top-size).

The final speaker of the day was Matt Fonseca, Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Timber Measurements Society, who demonstrated a website he has been working on, which has information and links on measuring roundwood. The site has lots of links to scaling sites and publications, and also carries announcements for upcoming meetings (www.roundwood-measure.com).

The second day's session was spent on a log rollout and review. The rollout consisted of fifty very defective logs, selected based on the presence of very difficult to assess defects and diameters. Despite a steady rain, everybody seemed to enjoy scaling the logs, and especially the ensuing review. As always with TMS roll-outs, the school solution for the logs would be developed one log at a time by bucking the log if needed to determine the extent of the defects and only after the group is in agreement with the solution. Once all the logs were reviewed and the scale settled, the school solution for the logs was ascertained. The agreed-upon school solution for the fifty logs was:

Scribner:	Gross 14,110 BF	Net 9,480 BF	(33% defect)
Cubic:	Gross 2,120.2 CF	Net 1,518.7 CF	(28% defect)

Awards were given for the closest Scribner scale (a scaling hatchet), and the closest cubic (a book on measuring roundwood). There was also rumored to be a cash "pot" as well. Bob Ewert, a scaler at the Plum Creek, Columbia Falls complex won everything (closest Scribner and cubic) with Scribner volumes of: gross – 14,090 BF, net – 9,460 BF; and cubic volumes of: gross – 2,119.8 CF, net 1510.3 CF. Excellent job Bob – congratulations!

The scaler BF average was: gross – 14,170 BF, net – 9,570 BF; and cubic average was: gross – 2,137.8 CF, net – 1,530.9 CF.

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:15 on April 6, 2006. Thanks to Plum Creek for hosting this year's meeting by providing a meeting room, coffee, a log roll-out, and the bucking services of Sean Pickton. Also the Idaho board of Scaling Practices deserves a big thank-you for providing the excellent teaching services of Ernie Bauer and Russ Hogan. See you in Coeur d'Alene next year.

The following pages contain a photographic journal of the TMS log rollout and a list of the attendees.



The 2006 Intermountain district scaling champion, Bob Ewert of Columbia Falls Montana with his prizes.



Jerry Youmans, Chairman of the Central Committee of the TMS.



Left to Right; Bob Ewert, Ernie Bauer (adding up his numbers), Ron Nail (behind Ernie), Lyle Thornton, David Dean and Bob Bostrom chatting after completing the scaling. Bob Ewert and Lyle seem to be thinking that Ernie should get a hand-held, and Ernie seems to be very focused on getting his extensions done.



Left to right; Stuart Nieman, Ron Yager, Del Glazier, Terry Simcox, and Russ Carrier discussing the relief of making it through so many difficult logs.



Fifty logs, ten species, small end diameters from 5” to 34” and every defect known in the Rockies – the last scalers out there want to be sure that they did not miss anything.



Left to right; Russ Hogan, Denny Pomerleau, and Randy Queen discuss the odds that the big Doug fir will open up (once bucked) rotten in the middle given the extensive quinine rot in the top and a bit of dry rot in the butt (but nothing else to indicate what is hiding inside).



The 2006 Intermountain attendees (left to right); Al Blankenship (black cap), Cove Oregon; Kevin Klein (tan cap), Columbia falls Montana; Terry Blankenship (Black coat), Pendleton Oregon; Ernie Bauer (white hard-hat), Lewiston Idaho, Russ Hogan (purple cap), Worley Idaho; Russ Carrier (green hard-hat), Kettle Falls Washington; John Bolles (blue hood), Columbia Falls Montana, Jerry Youmans (blue hard-hat), Lewiston Idaho; Denny Pomerleau (orange hard-hat), Payette Idaho; Ken Siwerka (yellow cap), Hayden Idaho; Bob Bostrom (orange cap), Desmet Idaho; Lyle Thornton (trappers hat, red coat), Orofino Idaho; Doug Hoerner (gray hood), Columbia Falls Montana; Rick Schroeder (camo hood), Rathdrum Idaho; Ron Yager (blue hood), Rathdrum Idaho; Tim Olson (tan cap, obscured), Martin City Montana; Bob Ewert (CAT cap), Columbia Falls Montana; Matt Carson (dark cap, in back), Townsend Montana; Terry Simcox (dark cap, moustache), Oldtown Idaho; Randy Queen (camo hood), Oldtown Idaho; Brad Lee (dark cap, orange collar), Ronan Montana; Eric Nordgarden (grey cap), Laclede Idaho; Ron Nail (orange raincoat, camo cap), Whitefish Montana; Maureen West (tan coat, black baklava), Laclede Idaho; Dennis Ovitt (blue coat, sunglasses), Plains Montana; Stuart Neiman (white cap), Spokane Washington; Dave Schutt (tan cap, back), Kalispell Montana; David Dean (far right, sunglasses), Jerome, Idaho.

Not pictured: Buster Richards, Bonners Ferry Idaho; Del Glazier, Laclede Idaho; Tim Gravelle, Kalispell Montana; Ken Campbell, Bigfork Montana; and Matt Fonseca, Whitefish Montana (the photographer).

