

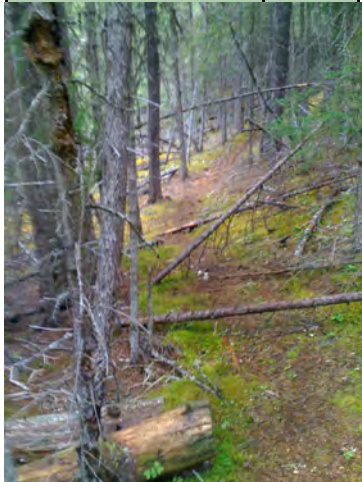


# WET'SUWET'EN VOICE

SUMMER/FALL  
2012

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Wet'suwet'en trail at  
Parrot Lake

(See page 5 for more  
information on staff  
development.).

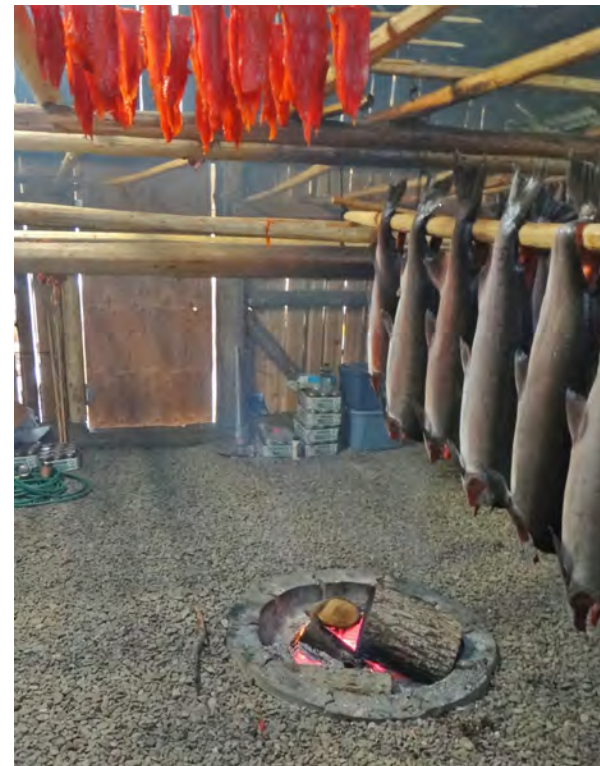
## THE "SMOKEHOUSE" PROJECT

*Submitted by: Walter Joseph, Fisheries Mgr.*

Wet'suwet'en Fisheries was eager to jump on board with ANABIP's request to complete a renovation of the smokehouse located below the Handicraft stand in Moricetown.

The project planning and supervision were overseen by Fisheries Manager, Walter Joseph and Sheri Green. Construction was performed by Fisheries labor crew; Rene Tait, John Mitchell Sr., Robert Pierre, Wilfred Alfred, Gary McKinnon Sr. and student workers.

Funding for the project was provided by ANABIP.



Traditional of smoking Coho in the  
community smokehouse



Mabel Forsythe sharing her  
knowledge

The response from the community upon completion was positive and the smokehouse has been in use with Wet'suwet'en families working together to preserve their salmon for winter.

Fisheries staff were quite excited to see that with one particular family, four generations were smoking salmon, with elders passing their knowledge down to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## ANABIP (Anuk Nu' At'en Ba'glh'iyi z'ilhdic)

*Submitted by: Gretchen Woodman, WCFS Program Coordinator*



Announcement Feast; (LtoR) Back: Chief Samooh, Chief Namoks, Chief Wah tah K'eght  
Front: Chief Nunan, Chief Madeek, Chief Yagalahl

It has been a busy summer for the traditional decision making program, ANABIP. An Announcement Feast was held in May 2012 to introduce the staff of the ANABIP program and to announce the program was ready to accept referrals. The ANABIP program is currently available to Wet'suwet'en Nation members residing in Smithers-Moricietown-Hagwilget. Eventually we want to provide services to all Wet'suwet'en, regardless of where they reside.

The ANABIP program is about using traditional Wet'suwet'en customs, laws, principles and values to address issues relating to children, youth and families (for example, utilizing family meetings and conducting Smoke feasts and All Clans feasts). The ANABIP team is responsible for providing community cultural events that are open to everyone. The ANABIP team is also committed to working with families who are involved with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

The ANABIP team is working with Wet'suwet'en families residing in the Smithers-Moricietown-Hagwilget area. Anyone can

make a referral to the ANABIP program by calling 250-847-3630 and speaking with any member of the ANABIP team.

Reasons for referrals so far have ranged from seeking advocacy with MCFD (i.e.: advocacy during open investigations and safety planning, helping with getting visitation with children/grandchildren in care, becoming involved in case planning, assisting with expanding cultural activities for children in care); family self-referrals seeking assistance with facilitating family meetings to address conflicts relating to children; and support to deal with trauma.

We are learning that many of the clients accessing our services are seeking direct support and assistance working with MCFD. Our current focus is on engagement and relationship building with our clients. We are working through a process of engagement, visioning, practical support for day-to-day needs, and building in culturally relevant protocols and activities to the extent the families are comfortable.



Performance by Kitsagukla Dancers



Regarding our community wellness and cultural education activities over the summer, here are some of the activities we have done this summer:

Soapberry picking

Birch Bark Harvesting

Community Smokehouse Renovation

Assisted with the Moricetown Coming Home Celebration in July

Youth Engagement and Empowerment Camp

Huckleberry Picking Camp at Kiniskan

Local Huckleberry Picking

Smoking and Canning Salmon at the Community Smokehouse in Moricetown



Birch bark  
harvesting.



BERRY PICKING

Turning to the upcoming months, the ANABIP team has the following events planned:

Youth and Elders Cultural Camp

All Clans Feast with all Human and Social Services programs at the OW

Community engagement events to assist with ongoing Wet'suwet'en Agency planning

Starting in September, ANABIP staff will be in Hagwilget on Fridays – stay tuned to additional events taking place in Hagwilget on Fridays!

The ANABIP team welcomes your feedback and input regarding community wellness and cultural education activities. If you are a knowledge holder and want to share, please contact us! If you are a community member who wants to learn more about cultural practices please let us know. The ANABIP program is still very new and we are committed to becoming as relevant and meaningful to the community as possible.





## LIFE OF A BANNER...



In August 2011, we decided to bring the 15 meter banner to Main street to join the Fall Fair Parade, before getting it secured under Moricetown bridge, last October.



A first picture was taken in November on a very cold day. Another picture (above) was taken with a large crowd, the day we celebrated the return of the salmon in the canyon, last July. And finally we brought a more humble banner of that picture (below) in the fall fair parade, last august...



**What's next now?**



## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—JULY 6, 2012

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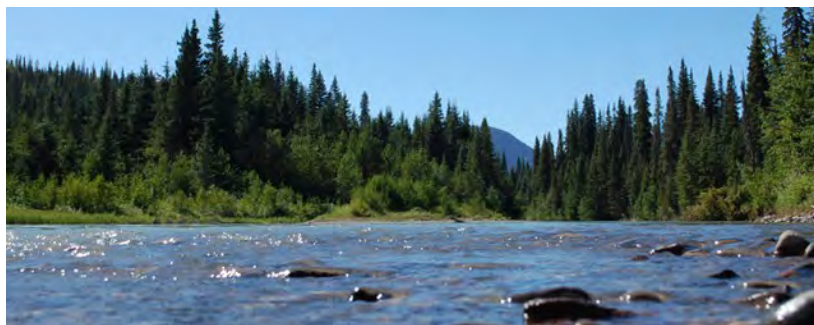
HUDSON BAY MOUNTAIN



SILVERN LAKE SHELTER

Our first stop was up the ski hill road to Prairie Road (Cas Yex House of the Gitumden) to a viewpoint. We travelled down to McDonnell Lake Road and lunched at the Silvern Lake shelter that recently opened June 23rd, 2012 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Mike Ridsdale lead the team on a trip through a hiking trail where there was food trees, blazes, kindling tree sites, wildlife sign identification and valley bottom ecosystem.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—August 10, 2012



JOE NASS—TELKWA RIVER

OW STAFF UP ON THE MICROWAVE  
LAKSILYU (HAGWILNEG) TERRITORY



## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—SEPT. 7, 2012

On September 7th the staff began their day by lunching at Owen Lake (Bi wini; Gitdumden territory). The staff observed the remains of a pit house and went to Owen Creek Bridge. David Belford, Minerals Liaison gave an overview of exploration taking place at the south end of Owen Lake by New Nadina—Silver Queen prospect.

Our next stop was Nadina Spawning Channel (Yextsowilkas Territory of the Gilyan Clan) and we received information regarding the spawning process of salmon. We saw many healthy salmon in the channels and creeks and rivers around the channel. Apparently there has only been one grizzly visiting the channels this year and it is felt that because the salmon are so healthy, they are faster and the bears have difficulty capturing them.



NADINA SPAWNING CHANNEL



There are currently six Fraser River sockeye hatchery and or spawning channel facilities in operation: the Gates Creek Channel, Weaver Creek Channel, Horsefly Spawning Channel, Nadina Spawning Channel, Inch Creek Hatchery (Upper Pitt River stock) and Cultus Lake Lab Hatchery.

Our final rest stop of the day was at Nadina Lake and we then made our way back to the OW.



NADINA LAKE

## ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS (ECDA) WITH THE PROVINCE OF B.C.

*Submitted by: David deWit  
Natural Resources Manager*

On June 5, 2012 the Province of BC tabled a framework for negotiating an Economic Development Agreement (ECDA) on sharing Crown revenues from the expansion of the Huckleberry Mine. Huckleberry Mine is a copper/ molybdenum mine located on Kayex (Birch Bark House) territory at the Tahtsa Reach that began operation in October 1997, two months prior to the 1997 Delgamuukw ruling on Crown obligations to consult and accommodate First Nations title, rights and interests.

Huckleberry Mines expansion project was approved in January 2012 extending the life of the mine from 2014 to 2021. This mine began operation prior to

there being government legislation to share revenues with indigenous nations. As such, it has been a long road to get government to negotiate accommodation of First Nations title, rights and interest in regards to this project.

Within Wet'suwet'en Territories, there are many companies who develop businesses such as exploration camps, mines, forestry, tourism and many more operations on the lands. When companies develop relationships, they are encouraged directly between the company and FN's Secondly, the Governments' have a legal duty to consult with Indigenous groups and accommodate the indigenous groups when the Province makes decisions that infringe on Indigenous groups rights and access to lands.

On this specific file, the Huckleberry Mine Expansion, the province has invited five indigenous groups to explore a "one table approach" to an accommodation agreement to share the Mine Taxes commencing from the date of operation of the expansion only, not on the life of the mine.

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en attended a meeting in Burns Lake to hear from the Province and their proposed process for revenue sharing. Those who were in attendance, with the exception of one FN represented by their legal counsel reserved their comments.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

Confirmation that the indigenous parties have agreed to internally develop a mechanism of sharing or dividing any revenue shared by BC prior to or before completion of the ECDA negotiations.

Confirmation of a "Single table" negotiation structure, including:

1. Approach to negotiation representation and confirmation of mandates
2. Leadership &/or community ratification process(es)
3. Consultant support/ advice



**BLASTING AT HUCKLEBERRY APRIL 2011**

- ([seatoskyreport.wordpress.com](http://seatoskyreport.wordpress.com))



## 2012 MINERAL EXPLORATION & MINING FALL UPDATE

*Submitted by: David Belford, Minerals Liaison*



Demand for Wet'suwet'en mineral resources has dropped due to investor uncertainty in global financial markets which has slowed mineral exploration activities on clan territories this year.

*Photo: Gil\_seyhu (Yextsowiten)-Gold Reach Resources  
Ootsa claims across from Huckleberry Mines.*

To date, 20 mineral exploration companies have applied for Mines Act permits on clan territories in 2012. Twelve of these company's are negotiating, plan to renew or have signed, or plan to renew Communications & Engagement Agreements (CEA) with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and affected Houses.

These include:) – **Metal Mountain Resources Ltd.** (Onion), **Thompson Creek Metals** (Davidson) – Gitdumden (Casyex), **Rich Rock Resources Inc.** (Serb Crk) – Laksilyu (Ginehklaiyex), **Huckleberry Mines Ltd.** – Gilseyhyu (Kayex), **Lions Gate Metals Inc. (HBM)** – Gitdumden (Casyex) and Laksilyu (Tsekalbaiyex), **Deer Horn Metals Inc.** (Linguist Lake **Gold Reach Resources, Guardsmen Resources Inc., Callinex Minerals Inc., New Chris Minerals Inc.** – Gil\_seyhu (Yextsowiten), **New Nadina**-Gitdumden (Keexwinits) and **Quartz Mtn. Resources Inc.** (Buck) – Gilseyhyu (Kayex), Gitdumden (Anaskaski) and Laksilyu (Ginehklyex). Four companies refused to negotiate CEA's, and four companies did not renew CEA's due to financial constraints.

Communications & Engagement Agreements (CEAs) assert title, rights and interests, provide House members an opportunity to raise concerns, cover clan meeting costs, and supports OW Natural Resources review, and response to Mines Act applications for mineral exploration.

New mineral exploration companies to the territories in 2012 include;

**Rich Rock Resources Inc.** very early heli-based prospecting in Serb Creek head waters on Laksilyu (Kwenbaiyex) territories. *CEA negotiated*



**DRILLING ON OOTSA CLAIMS**



**Golden Tiger Mineral Resources Inc.** early heli-base drilling and IP Surveys in the Reiserer Creek, Spring Mountain area on Laksilyu (Ginehklaiyex) territories. *Due to financial constraints withdrew application for Mines Act permit.*

**Grande Portage Resources Inc.** early heli-base prospecting, mapping and sampling on the Telkwa Pass Project located on Laksilyu (Ginehklaiyex) territories. *Company refused to negotiate CEA*

**International Samuel Exploration Corp.** is conducting a heli-based drill program on Gitdumden (Anaskaski) territories. *Company refused to negotiate CEA*

**New Chris Minerals Ltd.** will be conducting heli-borne geophysics surveys, soil sampling, and prospecting program on Gil\_seyhu (Yextsowiten) territories on the western shore of Nanika Lake. *CEA negotiated.*

**Guardsmen Resources Inc.** (Silver Bay) plans a limited exploration program on Gil\_seyhu (Yextsowiten) on southeast of Whitesail Lake (Chikimin Mtn. Range). *CEA negotiated.*



## 10 2012 “FIRST SALMON CEREMONY” CANYON OPENING



*Submitted by: Walter Joseph, Fisheries Manager*

The 2012 “**First Salmon Ceremony**” Grand Opening of the Moricetown Canyon was a huge hit with both community members and visitors alike. An estimated 400 people turned out for the event. Highlights of the activities included a Salmon Barbeque, a tour of the newly renovated smokehouse, a presentation by Archeologist Rick Buhdwa at the Moricetown Interpretive Center reviewing artifacts uncovered in canyon area and a community photo was also a part of the day’s activities. The photo was taken on the Moricetown Bridge to capture the Wet’suwet’en’s stance on Enbridge’s pipeline proposal.

## FOOD FISH DELIVERIES

Wet’suwet’en Fisheries was able to meet some of the Wet’suwet’en communities food fish needs by securing a donation of food fish from a fleet of Prince Rupert’s commercial fishermen. A total of 4400 salmon from this agreement were distributed to the Moricetown and surrounding areas. The agreement was to conserve sockeye in Moricetown in order to allow the run to be rebuilt. The commercial fishermen donated 4,400 sockeye to help address our food fish needs.

Due to a shortage of fish, Wet’suwet’en Fisheries secured an additional amount of food fish from the Babine nation, which was also distributed to the Wet’suwet’en membership.

Due to high waters and lack of access to the canyon fishing sites we had a late start to our fishing season. This limited the amount of food fish we were able to access locally. Coho was the primary harvest for 2012 and community members were very supportive and understanding of the shortage and were quite patient as fisheries staff worked diligently to distribute food fish in a fair and equal manner.



Fisheries personnel delivering fish to one of over 450 households served in 2012.



## 2012 TAGGING PROGRAM

We are in our 18th season of our Fisheries Tagging Project. The Tagging Project was introduced in 1996 to gather data that would give both DFO (Department of Fisheries) and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en an indication of future population estimates that help determine management of Fisheries. Annually we employ 20+ Wet'suwet'en within the project.

The 2012 tagging season began in late July and is expected to run through until mid-October.



FISHERIES STAFF

## CULTURE CAMP 2012



In August David deWit went with all participants (elders, councilors and youth) to the alpine in Laksilyu Clan— Ginehklaiyex house territory, in the Microwave mountain range and David shared his natural resources knowledge with them. Sandra George was the successful coordinator of this Culture Camp.

## “TERRITORY ON FIRE”



The OW Natural Resources Team was back from a Cultural Heritage Inventory project and flew above Morice Lake on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Atna Bay fire was still smoldering. A few days later the fire spread even more through the provincial park. *(Photo: Morice Lake, looking South –OW/NR) .*



The fire eventually stopped by the end of September and close 2400 ha of forest had burnt on the north west side of Morice Lake within the provincial park in Gil\_seyhu and Gitdumden clan territories.

*Photo (on the left) contributed by Mark Parminter (BC Parks).*



# WET'SUWET'EN CHARTER OF GOVERNANCE

*Submitted by: David Belford, Minerals Liaison*

## What is it?

The Wet'suwet'en Charter of Governance (WCG) will be a written document accurately expressing the Wet'suwet'en hereditary system of governance based on the Inuk N'et'en (Our Law), including the specific laws, practices and customs rooted in the Wet'suwet'en House, Clan and Feast system.

## Who's involved? - All Wet'suwet'en!

Over the next several months, the WCG project director will be meeting with hereditary leaders, elders, House, and community members to outline the steps to a Charter of Governance.

Clan leaders, elders, members, clan runners, researchers, legal experts, translators, and all Wet'suwet'en will participate in the creation of the Charter of Governance.

## When? Now and over the next two years.

The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary clan leaders have mandated the Office of the Wet'suwet'en to establish a Advisory Committee to direct a Governance Charter Team to coordinate preparation of a Wet'suwet'en Charter of Governance by 2014.

**WHY?.....because Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Clan governance and authority must be of the people, by the people, and for the people.**

A Wet'suwet'en Charter of Governance will strengthen Wet'suwet'en governance and will be an important instrument in fostering a new relationship with the CROWN; a relationship based on reconciliation, recognition, and respect.

## How?

Since 2007, Wet'suwet'en hereditary leaders have asserted the collective title, rights and interests held by all Wet'suwet'en on the territories.

A Charter of Governance clearly stating how Wet'suwet'en hereditary governance authority is the next step toward recognition, respect and reconciliation from the Crown.

Wet'suwet'en hereditary leaders negotiated funding through an interim agreement with the Crown (Canada/BC) to create a Charter of Governance expressing the collective will of all Wet'suwet'en. Inclusive communications, engagement of clan and community members, and consultation with Clan leaders, elders, and Band Councils will involve **all Wet'suwet'en** in the development of the Charter of Governance.

Wet'suwet'en laws and Institutions will guide development of the Wet'suwet'en Charter of Governance. This is a strategic direction identified and supported by the Hereditary leaders', Band Councils, and other Wet'suwet'en organizations.

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR Motions Carried

### May—July, 2012

#### May 2012

##### June 5th meeting in lieu of May meeting.

**Motion 2012-039:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve S32914 Treaty Related Measure contribution on Governance over a two year period of 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 in a total amount of \$160,540.00.

Moved by: Namoks                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Madeek  
Motion Passed: June 5, 2012

**Motion 2012-040:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approves the staff to proceed with exploratory discussions with MaRR to seek agreements that are consistent with the Wet'suwet'en Visions and Mandates.

Moved by: Namoks                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Samoooh  
Motion Passed: June 5, 2012

**Motion 2012-041:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve a designate to attend the bi-monthly Chief Negotiator meetings.

Moved by: Madeek                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Namoks  
Motion Passed: June 5, 2012

**Motion 2012-042:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approves the staff to proceed with exploratory discussions with the Regional District of the Bulkley Nechako and the Village of Telkwa and appoint respective chiefs to sit on a working group.

Moved by: Namoks                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Madeek  
Motion Passed: June 5, 2012

#### June 2012

**Motion 2012-048:** Motion to accept Executive Director 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report as presented with recommendations.

Moved by: Wihaliy'te                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Lay'oh  
Motion passed: June 29, 2012

**Motion 2012-049:** Motion to accept 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Human and Social Services Report as presented.

Moved by: Samoooh                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Namoks  
Motion passed: June 29, 2012



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**Motion 2012-051:** Motion to accept 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Natural Resources Report as presented.

Moved by: Samooh                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Lay'oh

Motion passed: June 29, 2012

**Motion 2012-052:** Motion to accept 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Fisheries Report as presented.

Moved by: Samooh                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Namoks

Motion passed: June 29, 2012

**Motion 2012-053:** Motion to accept 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Finance Report as presented.

Moved by: Namoks                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Samooh

Motion passed: June 29, 2012

## July 2012

August 1st meeting in lieu of July meeting.

**Motion 2012-055:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary chiefs accept the Confidentiality Agreement between the Office of the Wet'suwet'en (the "OW") and Pacific Trails Pipelines Limited Partnership ("PTP LP") as presented and approve the Executive Director to sign the agreement on behalf of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

Moved by: Madeek                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Namoks

Motion passed: August 1, 2012

**Motion 2012-056:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve the Communication & Engagement Agreement with changes between the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and Pacific Trails Pipelines Limited Partnerships. The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs give authority to the Executive Director and 5 clan reps to execute the Communication & Engagement Agreement.

Moved by: Madeek                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Namoks

Motion passed: August 1, 2012

### **Motion 2012-059**

Whereas:

A. the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs ("the First Nation"), has been accepted by the British Columbia Treaty Commission to enter into negotiations with Canada and British Columbia as contemplated by the BCTC Agreement ("the Treaty Process");

B. the constituents of the First Nation have given their approval to the request by the First Nation for loan and contribution funds for the Treaty Process for the 2012/2013 fiscal year ("the loan and Contribution Funding");

C. the First Nation wishes to use Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society ("the First Nation Association") as its agent in receiving and disbursing the Loan and Contribution Funding.

Moved by: He'wa                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Namoks

Motion passed: August 1, 2012

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### July Motions continued

**Consensus:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary chiefs agree that the OW should post the position for Governance Project Coordinator.

**Motion 2012-060:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs agree to appoint Debbie Pierre, David deWit and Judy Walton to attend meetings with MARR, Skin Tyee, Nee Tahi Buhn, Wet'suwet'en First Nation & Cheslatta regarding the Huckleberry Mine Expansion.

Moved by: Namoks                      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Samooh

Motion passed: August 1, 2012

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## **Upcoming Chief Meetings**

**October 30, 2012**

**November 27 & 28, 2012**

**December 11 & 12, 2012**

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**All members are welcome to participate in the chief meetings. The meetings are held at the OW and are from 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Minutes of meetings are available upon request.**

#### **MORE CONTACT INFO:**

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