

# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

P.O. Box 8443 ▼ Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

VOL 70 NO 8

August 2010



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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378-4666

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362-3941

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467-9286

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Charles McCreath  
344-5085

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Doug Renken  
362-3941  
WLR\_DKR@MSN.COM

**CLUB WEB SITE**  
www.idahogemclub.com

## President's Message

Like most summers, July was packed full of activities and events throughout the Treasure Valley and rock hounding community. But August has finally arrived with plenty of heat.

I have heard a couple of stories about some rock hound safety this month. Please remember to stay hydrated in the arid heat. If you are thirsty, have a headache, or have dry lips then you may be becoming dehydrated. Drink plenty of water.

Use a hammer or something other than your hand when turning over rocks. Snakes, scorpions, spiders, and other critters may be hiding under there to escape the heat. And just like people, they can be grumpy if their nap time is interrupted.

Use good judgment when on field trips. If you are getting the thought that you may not be doing something unsafe, chances are something is about to go wrong.

The August picnic will be at the Old Timer's Shelter at Ann Morrison Park at 6:30 pm. Please bring a hot and cold dish to share and table service for yourself. The club will provide cool drinks and ice cream. There will be an auction after a brief meeting on club business. This is an opportunity to pick up some choice materials. Donations are welcome too, and it can be fun to see how much your donation auctions for. Money from the auction is used to offset the cost of the annual banquet.

If you have not taken advantage of the ROLE Program yet it is a good opportunity to learn some lapidary skills making cabochons. To earn novice status, you must submit two cabochons to the Evaluation Committee. One shall be 40x30mm in size, and one shall be 30x22mm in size. One cabochon shall be of agate and one of jasper. The combination of size and material is at the discretion of the participant. The cabochons will be judged on choice of material, sanding and grinding, polish, and symmetry.

See you at the picnic!

*Jason Madsen*  
President

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
BOARD MEETING ♦  
AUGUST 3, 2010**

Called to order 7:30pm

No changes to the minutes and motion to accept made by Willa Renken and 2nd motion, Ed Moser.

Excused from this meeting were Phil Neuhoff and Brent Stewart

Secretary's report: New Rock and Gem Magazine...Owyhee newsletter in mail.

Treasurer's report: Some minor revisions made for the June report. Dealer Deposits increased the totals. All reviewed by board and ok'd.

NW Federation Report: Chuck had nothing new to report.

Juniors report: Ed Moser said more tourmaline was donated- so the Juniors can sort it out . Carefully- as the edges are very sharp!

New person is to be working with NW Fed. Jrs- Rick Bower- he is familiar with the merit badge program and will help contribute to our Junior's program.

Jason said there is conversation about using some of the license plate funding towards state-wide merit badge programs for the kids- more to follow.

Field Trip Report: Rick Corbett reported there were 30 people who turned out for the field trip. Had a good time- lots of specimens were found and one large snake was discovered.

Next field trip is to Silver City !

August 21st, 2010

Silver City/Ghost Town Tour

Meet at Kuna Paul's IGA- follow Meridian Road straight into Kuna and Paul's is on the right. 7:30am-leaving promptly at 8:00am.

The caravan will not go through Wagon Town on the way to Silver City but rather after the Silver City Tour and Dig.

See list of items to bring and prepare for heat!! Lots of water!

Workshop: Willa said we will have one this month as planned- anyone trained on equipment who is willing to show up and help beginners and enjoy the company is welcome- always need teachers/instructors! Marge will be there for the wire wrap class! Thanks to Rick for offering to teach last time.

Bring hot dogs if you want! She has tons of buns!

License Plate Committee: Charles Osgood reports DMV has sold 130 plates to the first of July. No current July total to add yet. He has distributed nice 8 x 10 stand up cards for advertising at Nelsons RV's, lots of Chinden Blvd businesses. It is really an honor for our club to have Charles contribute so heavily to the success of this program. He does encourage help in any way there is a chance to get the plate advertised. The Western Idaho Fair is coming, and I volunteered to pass out flyers and cards and promote this plate on one day of the fair. If anyone else is interested in volunteering, let Chuck know! He can use our support!

Board Meeting Minutes continued on page 3

Board Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

Twila reported that Spring Creek Retirement Center contacted her and inquired about having a spokesman present a program for the seniors at the center. The McCreaths volunteered. What an excellent way to gain interest in Idaho Gems!

Mining Claim Report: Cheryl reported that Idaho Power has requested a hearing to get approval on placing new power poles at the entrance area of the Queenstone Claim. Tom was going to attend the 3pm-6pm hearing on clubs behalf and take notes and questions to ask Idaho Power. More to come...

New business.. Inquiry on the whereabouts of the Idaho Gem Club owned showcase that was removed from the State Capitol Bldg. at time of remodeling- reported to have been moved to Mining Museum. We are checking into this to verify the case is safe and sound.

Our August meeting will again be held in Ann Morrison Park- Old Timers Shelter. 6:30pm. An auction is planned again. Special thanks to the Lickley family for donation of blacklights and slabs for last months auction. The Stewarts also donated a lot of items - thank you very much. Lots of nice tumblers sold at really low prices! Special thanks to Sandy Blodgett for his amazing performance as the auctioneer. It is mind-boggling how he can raise so much money for our club just by being full of facts and energy! I think its fun to watch the auction in full swing. Its a vast array of knowledge gained hearing the origin of a lot of specimens and items sold. Way to go Sandy!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Deana Ashton  
Secretary*

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING ♦  
JULY 20, 2010**

The picnic began at 6:30 with members and guests welcomed by Jason Madsen.

A blessing on the food was offered by Kathy Griffin.

After some time to eat the meeting proceeded with Door Prizes presented by Linda Philips.

Jim Clinton presented the Building Fund prize.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Grindings was made by Sandy Blogett, the motion was seconded by John Barnett, and the motion was carried.

Kathy Griffin presented the Treasure's report.

Rick Corbett gave the Fieldtrip report. The club has been invited to join with the Magic Valley rock club fieldtrip to Texas Springs to look for petrified wood, agate, and Jasper. The club will be going to Graveyard Point to look for plume and moss agate.

Ed Moser was welcomed back and he gave the Junior's report thanking everyone for their support and help during his absence.

Willa Renken reported that there will be a workshop for July. Please bring something to share for roasting hotdogs and marshmallows.

Sandy Blogett reported on the Elaine Weeks estate sale.

Following the meeting was an auction led by Brent Stewart.

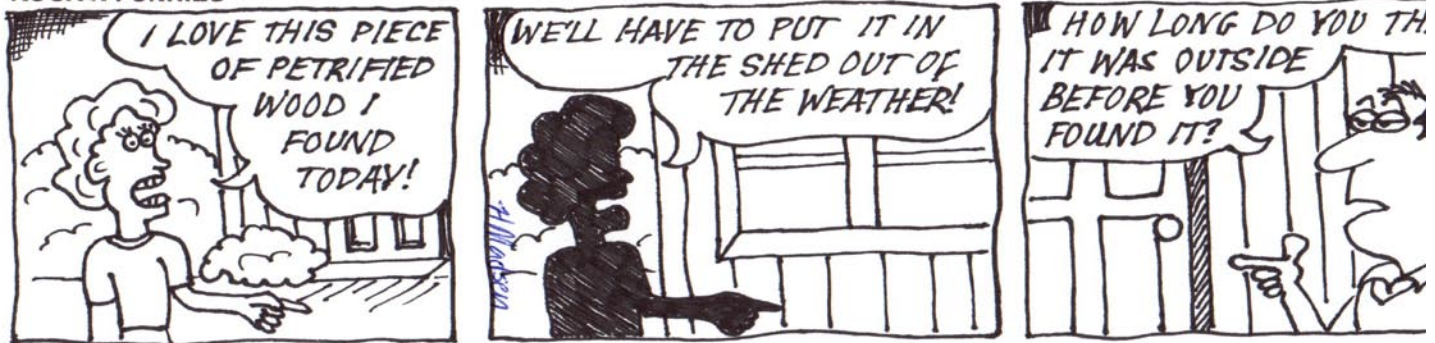
*Respectfully submitted,  
Deana Ashton  
Secretary*

## Map To Picnic

The July and August meetings are both picnics. They will be held at the Old Timers Shelter at the East end of Ann Morrison Park. If you drive from 9th Street turn right on Royal Blvd. and shortly after entering the park turn into the parking lot on your right and you will see the shelter next to the River. If driving from the south turn left on Ann Morrison drive then turn right on Lusk St then left on Royal Blvd. and go to the parking lot. The picnic begins at 6:30 p.m. and is a potluck. Bring your favorite dish, plates, and silverware. The club will provide soft drinks and ice cream.



## ROCK'N FUNNIES



## July Field Trip Report Graveyard Point

Our field trip was definitely on the warm side. Even at 7:30 a.m. the warm morning air was a portent of what to expect today, breezes throughout the day made the heat more bearable. Graveyard Point is relatively close to Boise allowing for shortened travel time. There were thirty one of us on this trip; twenty three adult members, three adult guests, and five Rocky Rattlers of which three were guests.

Our first stop, just over the border into Oregon, produced an abundance of darker plume agate and jasper. One rather large rattlesnake made its presence known quite noticeably. Most of us didn't see the snake, but it had rather noisy rattles. Just before we left for our second stop one of the rock hounds was able to get the snake to move out into the open for our inspection. Goody!

The second stop was our claim arriving there about 11:00 a.m. A few new digging sites near where we parked had been found prior to our arrival today. These looked like good places to start looking and indeed produced an abundance of quality plume agate. Hopefully, everyone found something of worth to take home.

At about 2:15 p.m. a majority of rock hounds were hot, tired, and ready to go home. Some die hard rock hounds decided to checkout locations for green and red plume agate along the road going north in the valley towards Sagenite (Million Dollar) Hill.

*Tony Griffin*  
*Field Trip Chairman*  
 467-9286 home phone  
 250-3857 cell phone.  
 Email: [tonygriffin@heritagewifi.com](mailto:tonygriffin@heritagewifi.com)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## AUGUST

8/1 Cody Jackson  
 8/2 Laura Scott  
 8/5 Tyler Wakefield  
 8/6 Michael Gartman  
 8/6 Isaal Baillargeon  
 8/7 Gene Thompson  
 8/10 Dan Conley  
 8/12 James Cryer  
 8/13 Brian Stewart  
 8/16 David Snyder  
 8/16 Carla Arnold  
 8/18 Gary Cole  
 8/19 Cameron Betz  
 8/20 Cyrese Lyngaurd  
 8/22 Christine Ansel  
 8/22 Betty Hare  
 8/23 Steve Allen  
 8/23 Chester Carpenter  
 8/23 Suzanne McCorkle  
 8/23 Pam Mawson  
 8/26 Deana Ashton  
 8/26 Kim Tumell  
 8/27 Linda Phillips  
 8/27 Christine Neuhoff  
 8/27 Miers Johnson  
 8/28 Nancy Reed  
 8/28 Mettie Clay  
 8/28 Misty Parker  
 8/28 Carol Da Silva  
 8/30 Connie Duke

**August Birthstones**  
**Faceted – Peridot**  
**Cabochon — Jade or**  
**Sardonyx**

## SEPTEMBER

9/1 Jason Kowalski  
 9/1 Vern Tumell  
 9/2 Britani Waltz  
 9/4 Roy Bethel  
 9/5 Steve Hetherington  
 9/5 Conner Betz  
 9/7 Diane Friel  
 9/10 Carol Schmitz  
 9/11 Vicki Stark  
 9/12 Sue Witschen  
 9/12 Myrtle Trevithick  
 9/15 Ronald Mummey  
 9/15 Celeste Jackson  
 9/16 Dana Robinson  
 9/16 Robin Solt  
 9/16 Aaron Wanner Jr  
 9/18 John Stillinger  
 9/19 Chuck Marsh  
 9/20 Clarence Trebilcock  
 9/23 George Shearer  
 9/24 Melodee Worley  
 9/25 Deklan Allen  
 9/27 Delorese Dewayne  
 9/30 Les Murray

**September Birthstones**  
**Faceted - Sapphire**  
**Cabochon - Lapis Lazuli**

Editor Note: If your birthday was not listed last year then I do not have it on my list. I do apologize but if you would like it listed give me your name and birthday and I will make sure it is listed.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**GENERAL MEETING:**  
**3rd. Tuesday of every month**

August 17, 2010  
 Old Timers Shelter  
 Ann Morrison Park  
 Royal Blvd.  
 Picnic Starts at 6:30 pm.

**BOARD MEETING:**  
**1st. Tuesday of every month**

September 7, 2010  
 Church of the Brethren  
 2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho  
 Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm.

## August Refreshment Committee

Chair: Fred Friel 484-5852  
 Jean Dingley 867-9892  
 Carol Da Silva 938-7728  
 Marge Conley 375-8935

### REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

1. Have tables covered with paper obtained from Statesman and ready by 6:00 p.m.
2. Bring door prizes
3. Order ice cream and arrange for pickup.
4. Serve ice cream

When picnic is finished, clear all paper from tables and deposit all litter and debris in trash containers

## September Refreshment Committee

Chair: Tony Griffin 467-9286  
 Melody Worley 322-1812  
 Mary Ostrander 342-3424

## Idaho Gem Club August Field Trip

Silver City, Idaho

**When:** Saturday, August 21st, 2010; meet between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.; leave promptly at 8:00 a.m.

**Where:** Vern and Kim Tunnel have graciously invited us to collect crystals and other mineral specimens in and for a tour around Silver City for our August field trip.

**Plan for the day:** There is no gas in Silver City. After we collect crystals we will eat lunch in the Masons Hall. You can bring your own or purchase lunch at the hotel restaurant to go and bring it there. We will visit some of the buildings that are open to the public to get a feel of what life may have been for these early Idahoans.

**How to get there:** Take the Meridian Rd. exit off I-84; travel south to Kuna where we will meet at Paul's Market on the north side of E. Avalon behind the Arctic Circle. Meridian Rd. intersects E. Kuna; this is just past the curve as the road turns west going into Kuna; Kuna Rd becomes E. Avalon just after the curve. From here we will travel to Walter's Ferry off Highway 45 south of Nampa. From Walter's Ferry we will travel on Highway 78 through Murphy to the intersection that will take us to Silver City.

Depending on how many vehicles in our caravan we will stop at Ruby City rest stop if many cars; if only a few cars we will go into Silver City and park at the camp ground. Vern will meet us at one of these two stops and take us for a tour of Silver City then for places to collect crystals. Time permitting we may travel to Wagontown for opalized wood and bog wood.

**Equipment needed:** rock hammer, chisel, shovel, pick, safety glasses, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, water, fuel, and any items you need for your personal use. If you plan on camping, please bring your own camping gear, food for the weekend, also the campgrounds are primitive although there are outhouses. It is tick season, so bring tick spray or wipes! Rattlesnakes are abundant this year; be aware and careful of snakes and areas that have snakes. If you would like more information, please come to our Gem Club meeting, August 17th, 6:30 p.m. at the Old Timers Shelter in Ann Morrison Park at the end of Royal Blvd or call our Field Trip Chairman

*Tony Griffin*

*Field Trip Chairman*

*467-9286 home phone*

*250-3857 cell phone.*

*Email: [tonygriffin@heritagewifi.com](mailto:tonygriffin@heritagewifi.com)*

## August Program

We will be having an oral auction after the picnic. Please bring rocks, slabs, jewelry, etc. to be auctioned on the club's behalf and money to buy that one of a kind thing that you really need! See you there!

*Brent Stewart*

## ROCK SALE

September 10,11,12

8am--5pm

Slabs, rough, cabs, findings, driftwood & misc.

3515 Kingsland Way

342-7521

IDAHO... OHIO.... IOWA  
 Sound Similar ???  
 There is only one GEM STATE



Buy the new Earth Science and Lapidary Special Interest Plate and make it clear that you LIVE IN IDAHO ...THE GEM STATE!

### Gem and Mineral show

Please come visit our annual Gem and Mineral Show at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds, Walla Walla, WA. The show runs Saturday and Sunday September 11-12, 10am-5pm. Adults \$2.00, kids under 12 get in free. We will have 14 dealers selling gemstones, agate, jasper, minerals, fossils, sunstones, handmade jewelry and used lapidary equipment.

Demonstrations include wire wrapping, gold panning, cabbing and knapping. A wonderful kids section that includes a mine dig for treasures and a spin-a-wheel. The kids will want to come back each year.

Our display cases this year will be stunning. We will have some special displays of intarsia, Roosevelt wood, free-forms, meteorites, polished dinosaur bones and much more. A bountiful silent auction, door prizes, a taco wagon and continuous fun and excitement. Contact Warren Rood (509) 522-2330 or warrenrood@yahoo.com for more information.

We would love to have you join us.

### Anyone have an old computer to donate?

"Anyone have an old computer to donate? Ted Channel (208-286-4787) helps schools build seismographs (he has one ready to donate) and needs a donated computer to make it work to record earthquakes. Most any fully functional desktop computer - with Windows XP, will work. (Older units are a pain to upgrade.) If a simple (basic) printer is available, along with the install disks, even better. To see an example of this retired engineer's hobby, visit the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology or the 1st floor hallway of the Geo-Science Building at BSU. Several area High Schools now have units as well as the Challis School System just received a unit to install."

*Welcome New Member*

**Bob Chen**  
**2395 N. Hickory Way**  
**Meridian, Idaho**  
**83646-8049**  
**(208) 908-2306**

New Members continued on page 9



New Members continued from page 8

**Linda Mess**  
**550 E. 2nd St.**  
**Mountain Home, Idaho**  
**83647-3035**  
**(208) 587-2853**

**Tom and Shelley Shearer**  
**393 N. Shady Grove Ct.**  
**Kuna, Idaho**  
**83634-2169**  
**(208) 891-0127**

**Aaron Wanner**  
**217 Smith Ave.**  
**Nampa, Idaho**  
**83651-2324**  
**(208) 794-9474**

**Lysle and Teri Gaylen**  
**9192 Zuni Crt.**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
**83704-2968**  
**(208) 968-3628**

## ***Yesteryear*** ***April 1962***

The Gem Club met at the Campus School for a pot luck supper, 60 members and their families attended. The Committee reported that Homedale had started a rock club and if any member was asked to help them not to refuse. A field trip for Wilakite would leave from the Collister shopping center on Sunday at 8:30 AM. Rock had been exchanged with a Rock Club in California which was used for door prizes, 18 members won a rock.

The May field trip in to Jack Pot and the Rose wood will be a two day trip.

After lunch discussion it was decided to make the next field trip to Love Lake for sagenite nodules leaving at 7:30 AM. This was cancelled due to closing of the access road. Instead the club went to Beacon Hill.

The Owyhee Gem Club sent an invitation to join them in a picnic at the Caldwell Park in July.

The checking and saving account totaled \$1895.11.

Two member of the Club met a claim jumper on the Whangdoodle claim. He said he planned on bring in a Bull Dozer to work it. They informed him that the club owned the claim and it was valid.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the August picnic at the Municipal Park. There had been a fire that burned the posts down at the Whangdoodle and someone had mutilated the can. A new notice was wired to the burned posts naming the claim "Chucker Hollow Claim" signed Ernest and Clare Jackson, Scotty Withers and Theila Gester. After much discussion it was decided that the Whangdoodle claim was not worth protecting, but it was a good place for the club to go, so they decided to replace the markers, do assessment work on the claim, restake the property and file the assessment work with the proper authorities.

*Patsy Bethel*  
*Historian*

### MINERAL IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Sponsored by  
 The IDAHO MUSEUM of MINING  
 and GEOLOGY  
 a Geo-Science Education Program

Thursday night, October 28, 6:30pm  
 Cynthia Mann School Library,  
 5401 W. Castle Dr., Boise.  
 (between Pierce Park & Collister)

Cost : \$10 IMMIG Members,  
 \$15 non-members.

Bring identification supplies: streak plate,  
 jackknife, magnifying glass (loupe),  
 penny, glass chip, file (or nail), and  
 mineral book or buy supplies on site  
 at 20% off Gift Shop prices.  
 Some loaners available.

Students will receive a mineral box  
 with 15 specimens.

Teachers: Coyote Short and Lois  
 McDonald. Class size limited, call Lois  
 (713-2061) to reserve space and  
 obtain further information.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

The deadline for articles is the board meeting, if it needs to be typed. If the article is sent via e-mail the deadline is the Saturday after the board meeting.

**Phone: (208) 362-3941**  
**E-mail: WLR\_DKR@MSN.COM**  
**My mailing Address is:**  
**Doug Renken**  
**12843 S. Five Mile Rd.**  
**Kuna, ID 83634**

**Electronic Grindings**

Thanks to those who signed up for the electronic Grindings. Not only does this save the club money it helps save me time putting on labels and postage. Currently it costs around \$1.70 per issue or \$20.40 per year to print and mail each newsletter.

If you would like to receive the Grindings newsletter through e-mail let me know. Please send an e-mail to WLR\_DKR@msn.com and I will add you to our e-mail list. The Grindings will be sent in PDF format.

**SAVE STAMPS**

Just a note to remind people to save their postage stamps to donate to the Federation. The stamps are sold and the proceeds are donated to cancer research. Cut at least 1/4 inch margin around the stamps. You can turn them into Chuck McCreath at our next meeting. THANK YOU!

**Sunshine Lady**

Arlene Bailey is the club sunshine lady. Her job is to send some cheer to members who are ill or just need some cheering up. But she needs your help in doing this job. If you know of someone who has been recently ill let her know so she can send them a card. Her phone number is 562-8030. Thank you in advance for your help.

**"CODE OF ETHICS"**

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officer, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", I will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

**THE GRINDINGS**

is the monthly newsletter of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc., associated with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Permission to copy is freely granted when proper credit is given to both the publication and the author. Articles without bylines are written by the Editor or President.

**CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!**

[www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)

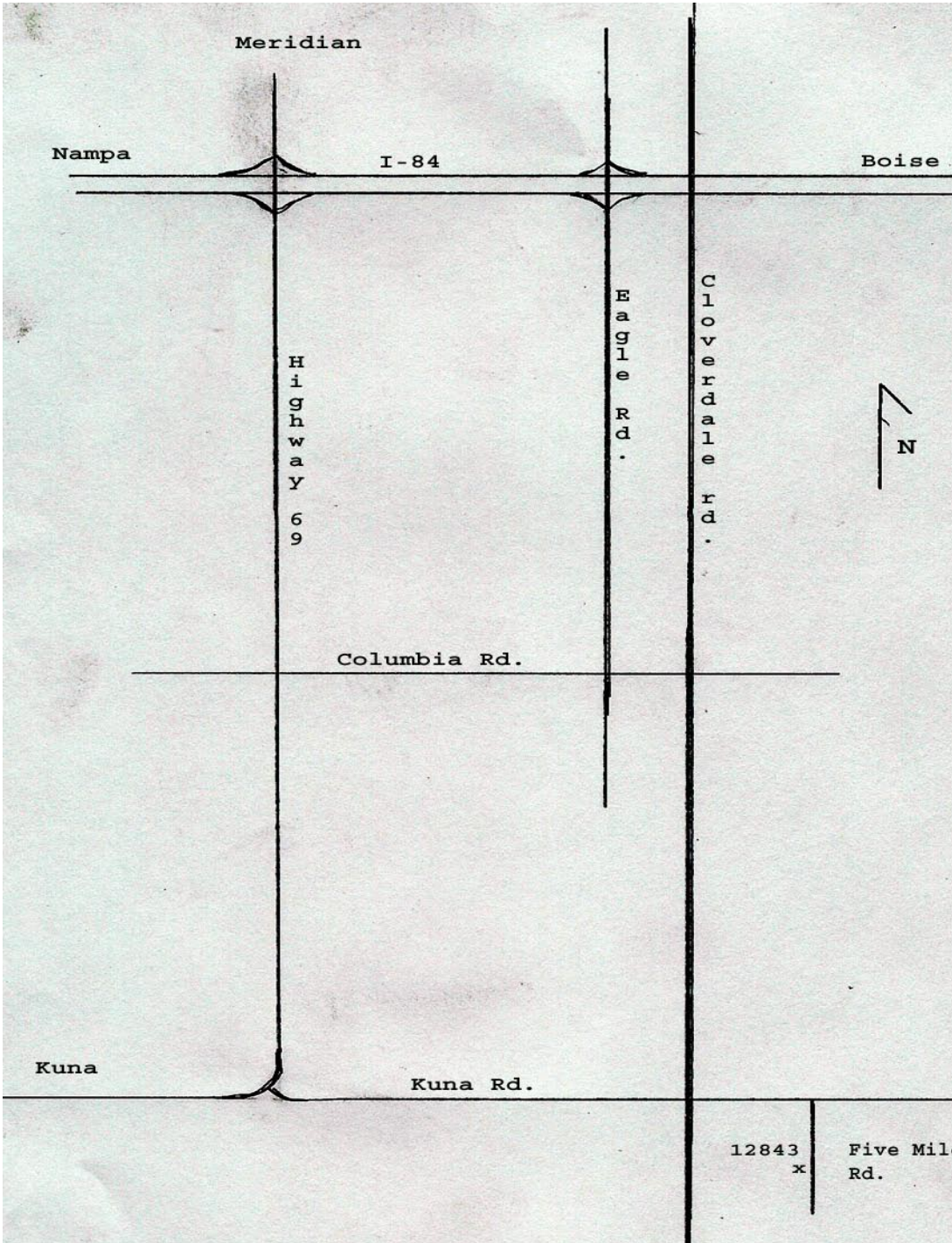


# Workshop Report

We will have another workshop this month. It will be Thursday August 19th. The shop will be open at 6:30pm and run until 9:30pm. If you are interested please sign up at the meeting or call me at home. We also offer wire wrapping which carries a small charge for the wire. The address is 12843 S Five Mile Rd off of Kuna Rd. I will need instructors so please step forward and volunteer. It usually takes about five to seven depending on the interest. If you aren't able to make this month we will be having them throughout the year so everyone who wants should get a chance to learn how to cab. All we ask

is that you please help clean up the machines at the end of the evening. Hope to see you all there.

*Willa Renken*  
*Workshop Chairmen*



Workshop address:  
12843 S. Five Mile Rd.  
Phone 362-3941

The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of its members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences.

**Dues:**

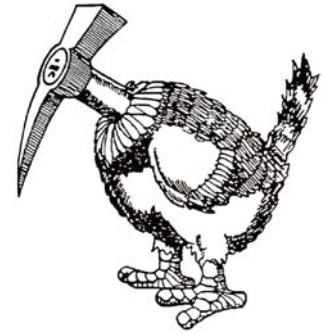
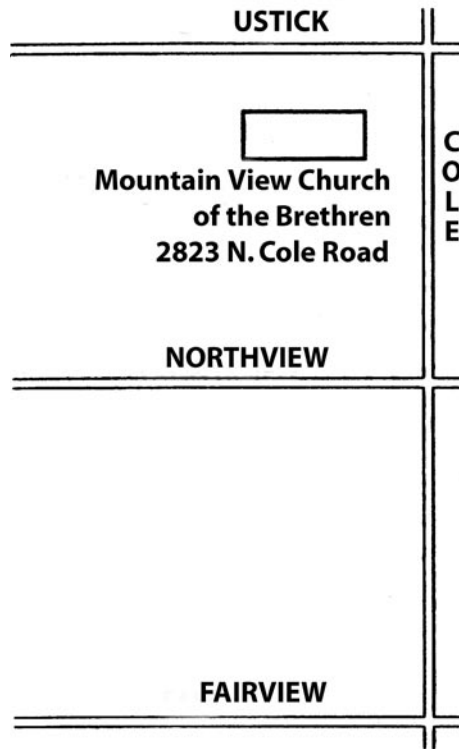
\$12.00 per person  
\$15.00 per couple  
\$17.50 per family

**Subscription:**

\$10.00 per year

**General Meeting:**

3rd. Tuesday of each  
Month at 7:30 p.m.



The Whangdoodle Bird  
(Often seen on field trips)



**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

P.O. Box 8443  
Boise, Idaho 83707-2443