

# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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

**VOL 70 NO 6**

**June 2010**



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Jason Madsen**  
President  
378-4666

**Willa Renken**  
1st Vice President  
362-3941

**Brent Stewart**  
2nd Vice President  
863-9336

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891-7273

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939-4508

**Ed Moser**  
340-8060

**Rick Corbett**  
383-9930

**Twila Gallaher**  
853-6703

**Dan Phillips**  
585-3019



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**Kathy Griffin**  
467-9286

**NFMS DIRECTOR**  
**Charles McCreath**  
344-5085

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

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

## **President's Message**

As I am sure everyone is aware the extended spring weather is benefiting vegetation and critters. This translates into potential hazards for those taking field trips. Please be mindful of nature when you are out collecting. There have been numerous snake encounters on field trips. In the cooler weather snakes retreat to the sun warmed rocks, and if they are in the brush and grass the thick vegetation may make them difficult to see. Also, the wet weather can quickly turn roads into a slick mess. And a word of caution about the warmer weather (if and when it arrives) drying out the tall thick grass – it can quickly ignite and rage out of control just from a hot catalytic converter, exhaust, cigarette, or other means. Please think things through so you do not cause harm to yourself, others, or the great outdoors. Please respect nature, I feel it is an individual and a collective effort to do what we can, now, to preserve it and our hobby for future generations. Many regulations on non game species and on collecting in certain areas have changed recently. I encourage those that are not familiar with current regulations to consult with the fish and game departments, BLM, and Forestry offices for the localities they are collecting at.

There are two field trips this month. One to Beacon Hill and the second to Bruneau wood pile. The trip to Beacon Hill will be June 12 and 13, weather and dry roads permitting. The agate nodules at Beacon Hill can be scenic, dendritic, and crystal lined. Occasionally one may find nodules with sagenite and some are hollow. The trip to the Bruneau wood pile will be June 19. For details on the Bruneau trip please attend the June meeting on the 17th.

Phil Neuhoﬀ has been working on way to get more interest in the scholarship. He has made some changes with the application and has worked with the Geology department at BSU to promote it.

I would like to thank Bobbi Lickerly and her family for graciously donating some material to the club for the auctions and building fund. I would like to thank her and all the other gracious members for their donations to help the club. The proceeds from the auctions are used to help off set the cost of the annual banquet. The donated items for the auction and the lively participation of the members goes a long way towards subsidizing the cost.

Furthermore, I would like to thank members for the donations of tumbled rocks, grab bags, materials for the Juniors, the silent auction, wheel of fortune, and other programs. Even though the show is still several months away, now is the time to be preparing material for it. These programs are enjoyed by the patrons of the show, they help promoted attendance, help to promote interest in our hobby, and promote interest in the club. If you are not able to donate material, there are opportunities to join the many helping hands to coordinate, administrate, operate, set up, take down, and participate with the many various activities and programs throughout the year. Our club's success is because of you!

If you have not visited the library lately please do so. The library materials are once again available and stocked in our cabinet. There are many interesting books, videos, periodicals, and other great material to check out. Please be mindful of fellow members and return materials in a timely manner so that everyone may benefit. Also, while browsing the library you may take note of the many terrific cabochons that accent the library. Once again I would like to thank all those who participated in helping with the library. If anyone is still interested in making a cabochon for the library it is not too late. Although the outside of the doors are full there is still opportunity to have cabochons attached to the inside of the doors.

*Jason Madsen*  
*President*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING ♦ JUNE 1, 2010

Jason Madsen called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Board members and officers, present were Phil Neuhoﬀ, Dan Philips, Rick Corbett, Chuck McCreath, Willa Renken, Kathy Griﬃn, Deana Ashton, and Brent Stewart. Twila Gallaher and Ed Moser were excused.

Guests that were present were Shirley McCreath and Doug Renken, and Jim Clinton.

Guests:

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Grindings was made by Willa Renken and seconded by Rick Corbett. The motion carried.

Any corrections to the minutes

Motion to accept/2nd Motion

Secretary's report – Deana Ashton reported that the club received some newsletters.

Treasurer's report – Kathy Griﬃn reported on the balances and disbursements of the club.

Federation report – Chuck McCreath reported on the Federation shows being filled for the next two years. They will be at Lewis County Fairgrounds in 2011 and at the Lakeside Club in 2012.

Committee Reports

Field Trip – Rick Corbett reported that the May field trip had some rain at Haystack Butte. There will be a trip to Beacon Hill on June 12 and a trip to Bruneau wood pole on June 19.

Program – Brent Stewart extended a thank you to everyone who donated material and helped with last month's auction. Brent reported that he will be doing a presentation at the June meeting, and an auction at the July picnic. He reported that the July auction will have some Owyhee jasper, plume agate, morrisonite, and willow creek jasper and possibly some used equipment. If members have material that they would like to donate for the auction please let Brent know. Brent also reported that he has done presentations on lapidary and geology for Pepper Ridge Elementary, a rendezvous in Meridian, and a health fair in Meridian.

Juniors – No report.

Editor – Doug Renken asked that submission for the newsletter be sent as soon as possible.

Building Fund – Jim Clinton reported the Building Fund raffle went well last month. If anyone would like to donate raffle items please let Jim know.

Hospitality – Dan Philips reported that all is well.

Workshop – Willa Renken reported that there will be a workshop Thursday, 6:30 pm on June 17. There will be hotdogs and marshmallows to roast. Anyone is welcome to bring something to share.

Scholarship – Phil Neuhoﬀ reported that the scholarship has been submitted to BSU.

License Plate – Jason Madsen read a proposed letter from Charles Osgood to send to sponsoring and non sponsoring rock clubs in Idaho. Willa Renken made a motion to reimburse sponsoring clubs due to the Idaho Transportation Department bill being less than anticipated. Phil Neuhoﬀ seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Willa Renken made a motion to accept the letters as corrected in the meeting to send to the clubs. Phil Neuhoﬀ seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Membership applications were received by William and Caryn Scanlon; Phillip and Melodee Worley; Lance Olson; Dane, Karen, Leslie, Phil, Zack, and Sam Webster; William, Sheryl, Megan, and Nolan Crowe; Kevin Nikki, Matthew and Leah Kelly; Thomas Langford; Michael, Kevin, and Jason Gross and Beverly Johnson; Paul and Cherrell Thomas; Wayne and Theresa Larsen; and Mike, Margaret, and Isaac Stephani.

Willa Renken motioned to accept the applicants. Rick Corbett seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Deana Ashton*

*Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING ♦ MAY 19, 2010

IGC General Meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm by Jason Madsen.

James Cryer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: We had alot of new guests tonight- some from far away!! Connie Vaughan-Nampa, Joyce Clark-Nampa, Michael Grow- Middleton, Linda C. Moss- Mtn. Home, Chuck and Sheryl Crowe- Kuna, Nolan Hawks- Kuna, Ronda Cox- Kuna, Bill Scanlon- Boise, Janice Black- Boise, Dave

General Minutes continued from page 2

AWebster-Meridian, Iris Hesch- Phoenix Arizona, Carey & Terry Rosenpiance, Phillip & Melodee Waley-Boise, and Luke & Carrie Peters- Boise.

Door Prizes were drawn by Linda Phillips. Winners were: Roy Bethel, Tom Lankford, Loren Frances,, Ronald Mummey, Jason Madsen, Brent Stewart, Carey Rosenpiance, Dick Corbett, Diane Stevens, James Cryer, Phillip Worley, Joyce Clark, Shirley McCreath.

Junior Door Prizes won by : Nolan Crewe, Jackson Neuhooff, Ronda Cox, Tenaya Madsen, and Ava Cryer.

Building Fund Prize was led by Jim Clinton and won by Cherrell Thomas.

No changes to the minutes as printed in The Grindings- Motion to accept made by Dick Corbett and 2nd by Tony Griffith. The motion was carried.

New Members were introduced by Jason Madsen. They were Cherrell and Paul Thomas, Kevin Kelly! Welcome! Thanks for your enthusiasm in our club!

Secretary report- Deana Ashton reported that newsletters were added to library tonight from Montana and Oregon. Rock and Gem Magazine also added to library.

Treasure's report- Kathy Griffith was excused tonight- Treasurers report given by Tony Griffith which updated balances and disbursements for our club.

Federation Report- Chuck McCreath was welcomed back! Chuck thanked all who showed care and support throughout his surgery and recovery is going well. Reserve a room now for Federation Show September 17/18/19 - only 25 rooms available. Contact info available in previous Grindings and on the Federation website.

#### **Committee reports:**

Sunshine- Chuck McCreath reported that Ed Moser is still in the Washington hospital and will not return to Idaho until mid June. Otherwise he and his wife are doing well. Please keep him in your thoughts. Valerie Estabrooke is also recovering from surgery- get well soon!

Role- No report.

Librarian- Rick Corbett stood in as acting Librarian while Val Estabrooke recovers from surgery. No report to give tonight. Just come check out the books and magazines!

Field Trip: Tony Griffith reported two upcoming field trips. The first is May 22 to Haystack Butte to look for jasper. The group will meet at the K-Mart parking lot in Nampa on Karcher Rd at 8:00 and will leave at 8:30. The second trip

is to Beacon Hill to look for thunder eggs on June 12. The group will meet between 8:30 a.m. And 9:00 a.m. at the rest area on I-84 just after crossing the Snake River going into Ontario Oregon. Travel west on I-84 to Exit 377 rest area. Pull into the rest area. Equipment needed is a rock hammer, bucket, rock pick or chisel, shovel, safety glasses, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, food for the time you will be there, water, full tank of gas, and any items you need for your personal use. The claim is located on private property so club field trips are the only time we can access the claim.

Workshop- Willa Renken reported that there will not be a workshop this month. Willa had a prior engagement. We will resume next month.

License Plate -Charles Osgood reports that the License Plate count is over 100 plates sold now- we have to meet a goal of 1,000 by 3 yrs time.

Brent Stewart was recognized for his dedication and involvement in doing presentations for educational programs throughout the valley. Thank you for your hard work and for sharing your knowledge with others so willingly.

Idaho Gem and Mineral Society will meet June 4th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for a presentation by Coyote Short and Louis McDonald. Fee is \$10.00 members and \$15.00 non members. Held at Pierce Park Elementary School Library. Limited space so call Louis now to reserve a spot! Louis McDonald can be reached at 208-317-2061.

A note was made about Darrell "Jake" Jacobitz- "A Rock Pioneer" from Boise who is given credit for bringing many new jaspers and agates to the market was recognized in this months Rock and Gem magazine.

With no other new or old business to discuss-Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Many people stayed for the auction tonight- it was exciting to see the many beautiful items presented. Sandy Blodgett, Phillip Stevenson, Chuck McCreath and Brent Stewart all helped with auction tonight. The auction moved briskly and a lot of great buys were made. Tony Griffith and Jason Madsen handled the sales. Sandy and Phil did a fantastic job as auctioneers and really explained the origin and rarity of some species. It was worth staying and watching for the education! As Chuck McCreath pointed out- an auction gets exciting when you see Rockhound veterans like Sandy and Phillip and Tony all bidding on items. Then you know you have something special.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Deana Ashton*

*Secretary*

## Idaho Gem Club Beacon Hill Field Trip

### Beacon Hill Claim: Geodes

**NOTE:** There has been numerous rain showers in the Weiser area this spring. The road is very muddy at the writing of this report. The rancher will be call prior to the trip. If the road has not dried out by the weekend. The trip will be postponed.

**When:** Saturday June 12th & Sunday June 13th; meet between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. We will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m. both days

**Where to meet:** Rest area on I-84 just after crossing the Snake River going into Ontario Oregon.

**How to get there:** Travel West on I-84 to Exit 377 rest area. Pull into rest area.

**Equipment needed:** rock hammer, bucket, rock pick or chisel, shovel, safety glasses, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, food for the time you will be there, water, full tank of gas, and any items you need for your personal use. The claim is located on private property so club field trips are the only time we can access the claim.

*Welcome New Member*

**William & Caryn Scanlon**  
**10022 W. Jewell St.**  
**Boise, ID 83704-9787**  
**(208) 378-1704**

**Lance Olson**  
**7042 Colehaven Ln.**  
**Boise, ID 83704-8516**  
**(208) 392-0458**

**Phillip & Melodee Worley**  
**1951 N. Hampton Rd. Trlr A-20**  
**Boise, ID 83704-6768**  
**(208) 322-1812**

**Chuck & Sheryl Crowe**  
**1241 Owyhee St.**  
**Kuna, ID 83634-2211**  
**(208) 412-3987**

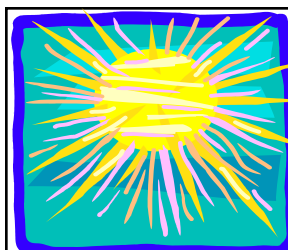
**Dave & Karen Webster**  
**103 E. Havasupai St.**  
**Meridian, ID 83634-6020**  
**(208) 546-4887**

**Michael Gross & Beverly Johnson**  
**10023 Hwy 44**  
**Middleton, ID 83644-5450**  
**(208) 629-0918**

**Thomas Langford**  
**511 W. Pine Ave Apt. B**  
**Meridian, ID 83642-2189**  
**(208) 440-9798**

**Mike Stephani & Margaret Isaac**  
**1234 Echohawk Way**  
**Eagle, ID 83616-5457**  
**(208) 938-0777**

**Wayne Larsen**  
**1964 N. Citrus Ave.**  
**Boise, ID 83713-1114**  
**(208) 658-4488**



### 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.

## May Field Trip Report Haystack Butte jasper

My original plan this morning was to tell the few people that showed up at Kmart the field trip was off due to the heavy rain, which we would reschedule. There were many people that were ready and willing to go, all smiles and acting like they've done this a million times. It was impossible to deny a bunch of hard core rock nuts they had wasted their time coming out this morning. There were 26 members of whom 5 were Rock Rattlers and 7 visitors for a total of 33 rock hounds on this field trip.

Our drive time to Owyhee was right on plan at fifty five minutes from Kmart. From Owyhee to Haystack was a little longer than planned, our travel time was just under forty five minutes due to road conditions.

After arriving at our stop Don and Ilse directed us to where we could find some excellent specimens. We started out heading up the road through a gate, that we made sure was closed, and started finding tumbler size specimens. We spread out, so as not to run into each other grabbing nice pieces and to peruse for locations of larger pieces. We stayed on the west side of the ridge line and the saddle on the higher ridges overlooking our vehicles.

The specimens I saw that were collected by everyone were quite nice. Once everyone started seeing what we were supposed to collect!

No snakes, no bugs or other animals than each other were seen either, it was too cold! I don't think the temperature got any warmer than 40 Fahrenheit. At one point, during a lull in the drizzle we heard a chorus of coyotes. It sounded like a bunch of older puppies yelping at each other until another group of them in close proximity answered the first group's calls. The coyotes talked with each other for a few minutes and then moved on. It was quite enjoyable to listen to them banter back and forth.

This is the first time I've led a field trip in the rain. The forecast said 80% chance of rain, it was correct. It rained at least 80% of the time we were there. Mostly, it was a slow drizzle causing a minor inconvenience with an occasional heavier spurt. Our clothes were soaked threw, boots were sloppy, muddy and difficult to walk in.

After we reached Adrian, on the way home, we stopped at the new Rock Shop owned by Steven Jewell. He has a large collection of rock that he purchased from two or three old collections. His outside boxes of rocks have an interesting variety of local rock including Haystack jasper, Graveyard Point, a local boulder opal, others that I didn't recognize. There is tons of petrified wood, mostly good for yard rock only with an occasional nice specimen. Inside his store we found a few nice specimens from all over the West. His prices are quite decent and he will dicker on a price.

Of all the trips I've led this has to rank near the top of fun trips, for me! I hope everyone else enjoyed the trip as much as I did.

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

**JUNE**

6/1 Robert Drake  
 6/1 Larry Brasley  
 6/3 Keith Chipman  
 6/3 Carolyn Nelson  
 6/8 Pat Kowalski  
 6/11 Robert L. Turner  
 6/12 Teri Hetherington  
 6/13 Connie Greer  
 6/13 Rindy Quijas  
 6/15 Sarah Neuhoff  
 6/16 Chris Blickfeldt  
 6/16 Mathew Kelly  
 6/16 Chuck Crowe  
 6/17 Sandy Blodgett  
 6/18 Margaret Loewen  
 6/18 Gary Scott  
 6/19 Megan Crowe  
 6/21 Laura Lindsay  
 6/21 Glen Hackwell  
 6/24 Gabrielle Loewen  
 6/25 Sharon Allen  
 6/26 Gene Snyder  
 6/27 William Scanlon  
 6/28 Carol Knudsen  
 6/30 Jonathan Barnett

**JULY**

7/1 Mike Jones  
 7/1 Randy Knudsen  
 7/4 Tara Halberstrabt  
 7/7 T Earl Allen  
 7/10 Renee Carpenter  
 7/10 Shirley Scott  
 7/11 Nancy O'Keeffe  
 7/12 Debra Burns  
 7/12 Loren Francis  
 7/15 Gordon Roberts  
 7/18 Kathy Griffin  
 7/20 Pat Bethel  
 7/20 Lynne Davis  
 7/20 Shelly Betz  
 7/21 Stuart Wilcox  
 7/22 Tom Rogers  
 7/24 Maxine Smith  
 7/26 Larry Ridley  
 7/26 Paula Tomberlin  
 7/26 Connie Canon  
 7/27 Zoe Friel  
 7/27 Patricia Wilcox  
 7/28 Philena Thompson  
 7/28 Ron Mawson  
 7/28 Barbara Shearer  
 7/29 Catherine Parsons  
 7/29 Colby Ingle  
 7/29 Michael Gross  
 7/31 Damian Bashon

**June Birthstones**

**Faceted — Alexandrite**  
**Cabochon — Moonstone**  
**Traditional — Pearl**

**July Birthstones**  
**Faceted — Ruby**  
**Cabochon —**  
**Carnelian**

**June Program**

I would like to extended a thank you to everyone who donated material and helped with last month's auction. The June program will be the presentation I give when going around to schools in the valley. It is entertaining for kids of all ages.

*Brent Stewart*

**DATES TO REMEMBER****GENERAL MEETING:**

**3rd. Tuesday of every month**

June 15, 2010

Church of the Brethren

2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho

Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm.

**BOARD MEETING:**

**1st. Tuesday of every month**

July 6, 2010

Church of the Brethren

2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho

Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm.

## June Refreshment Committee

Chair: Debra Burns 841-1321

Ron Mummy 376-4133

Vicki Stark 939-2731

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

Need approximately 15 dozen cookies. Wrapped door prizes are also needed. Arrive early enough to set up the chairs. The chairperson brings the coffee urn, coffee, punch, cream, sugar, cups and napkins. Afterward, put meeting tables & chairs away, clean kitchen and sweep the room. Gather and take all the trash with you. Don't forget it is the responsibility of the chair for the coming month to pick up the coffeepot, take it home and bring it the next meeting.

## July Refreshment Committee

Chair: Open

## Idaho Gem Club June Field Trip

**Where we are going:** Bruneau Woodpile

**When:** Saturday June 19th; meet between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. We will leave promptly at 8 a.m.

**Where to meet:** McDonalds on S. Federal Way, Southeast Boise off Gowan Rd. Or you can meet us on the gravel road just past the three mail boxes near mile post 61 off Highway 51 past Bruneau.

**How to get there:** travel East on I-84 to the Gowan Rd exit that is also Highway 21 exit to Idaho City. Go left on Hwy 21 to the light at S. Federal Way; go left again then right into the Albertsons/McDonalds parking lot.

From McDonalds we will travel east on I-84 to the first Mountain Home exit, this is Old Highway 30; AKA Old Oregon Trail Highway. Veer to the right as this road becomes Sunset Strip aka N. Main St. Business 84 takes you through town on 2nd East St, don't go this way. Stay to the right on N. Main St., it will intersect Highway 51 as N. Main St. turns south. Stay on Highway 51/ West 6th South St. until Elmcrest St. and South 16th West St. This is Highway 51 to Bruneau. We will travel through Bruneau to mile post 61 where there are three mail boxes on the east side (left) of the highway. Turn east on this gravel road to where we will start collecting. Our first stop will be about a mile down this gravel ranch road to where the first dirt road crosses. We will park here and collect petrified wood and invertebrate remains. Our second stop will be farther in on the ranch road to where we hope to find petrified pine cones and petrified wood.

**Equipment needed:** rock hammer, shovel, safety glasses, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, food for the time you will be there, water, full tank of gas, and any items you need

for your personal use. It is tick season, so bring tick spray or wipes! Rattlesnakes are abundant this year also. If you would like more information, please come to our Gem Club meeting. June 15th 7:30 p.m.; at the Mountain View Church of the Brethren 2823 N. Cole Rd. or Call our Field Trip Coordinator:

*Tony Griffin*

*Field Trip Chairman*

*467-9286 home phone*

*250-3857 cell phone.*

*Email: tonygriffin@heritagewifi.com*

## Yesteryear February 1961

Jenny Higby urged the club to have the field trip to her Queenstone Claim so they could get material before it was all gone. Steve Nelson gave a talk and showed the purple crystalline quartz that was found in Idaho and was very valuable until quality finds in Brazil. A Pot Luck Dinner was planned for the next meeting.

The April program would be film strips put out by Life Magazine with Myron Myers's photography. (The Gem History book has one of the first membership cards in it from Myron "Skinny" Myers) Also Bob Cambell would show his \$8,000,000 Diamond Display.

The April field trip would be to Succor Creek. A resolution was made for the N.W.F. to share profits with the Host Club.

The claim papers were removed from the Whangdoodle mine, but Mr. Whipple reported he had worked on the claim for 25 years and the record showed all claims were legal Myron Myers showed some of his photography work which is his hobby and for which he had received several awards from magazines.

Members could order Gem and Mineral Magazine through the club for \$2.00 a year.

*Patsy Bethel*

*Historian*



## Elaine Weeks Estate Sale and Auction

This is to announce the Elaine Weeks Estate Sale and Auction. The sale will be starting on Aug 2nd through the 7th and will be held off of Franklin Road in Meridian. This is one sale that you will not want to miss so mark your calendars. The material that will be available was collected in the early years so know that it is some of the most unique you will experience. The material includes Biggs Jasper, Original Picture Jasper, Wild Horse Jasper, Beacon Hill Geodes, Petrified Wood (logs, limbs, and slabs), Morrisonite Jasper, Willowcreek Jasper, and Bruneau Jasper. There are numerous other varieties and all of it very upper end material. We have included a picture to show the pile of rock that will be sorted as to category for your opportunity to purchase. This is just the teaser add and when I receive the official add that is going to be sent out we will be updating the web site. This is one sale you will not want to miss as there won't be one like it for some time to come. The address where it will be held is 870 W. Franklin Rd. August 2-7 and the hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Save your money and make your plans to attend as you will not be disappointed.





## ROCK'N FUNNIES



## Snake Awareness and Safety

There have been numerous snake sightings in areas we frequent on field trips. Most of us know to keep away from venomous snakes; the occasional snake we come upon will almost always let you know when you are getting too close. In the event you or the snake are startled by each other, keep calm and identify the location and type of snake you have encountered. Move away from the snake only when it is safe to do so! Of course a rattlesnake will make a noise, but baby rattlers haven't developed a button to let you know he is there if he hasn't shed its skin the first time. Quite a few snakes will mimic the tail rattle seen on rattlesnakes.

We encountered two rattlesnakes on our Jordan Craters trip in April; some very nice photos were taken of at least one of these beauties. If the photos I saw weren't cropped for clearness and a better view, the photographer was within striking distance of the one photographed. Remember, we are in their territory! Rodents in the desert are numerous due to the increase in the food they eat. Moisture is high this year causing grasses to produce more seed, which increases the number of rodents and their predators.

All snakes can launch or strike towards their prey and for protection. The distance a snake can strike is determined by many variables, the usual distance is one half to two thirds their body length. On occasion a snake can launch their entire body length.

With this in mind, a four foot snake can launch at least two feet. If you are within that striking distance chances are you are going to get hit. Use caution when approaching any snake or areas that might shelter a snake!

For more information do a Google/Bing Search or whatever your favorite browser search engine is on "striking distance of a snake". An example is listed below:

[http://www.ehow.com/video\\_4992029\\_far-can-snake-strike.html](http://www.ehow.com/video_4992029_far-can-snake-strike.html)

This is a good read for the type of rattlesnake we have in our area. The Great Basin Rattler is quite common in our part of Idaho. Thank you to Jim Clinton for forwarding this information!

<http://www.stoller-eser.com/rattler.htm>

Thank you to Deb Shaffer that forwarded this info: Rattlesnakes are classified as Protected Nongame Species under IDAPA 13.01.06.200.04. Basically this means you can't kill them for sport. <http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa13/0106.pdf>

Idaho Code Section 36-106 sets out the powers and duties of the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title36/T36CH1SECT36-106.htm>

Idaho Code Section 36-1107 addresses wild animals and birds damaging property. <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title36/T36CH11SECT36-1107.htm>

Be safe, train your children and dogs on snake safety and enjoy the great outdoors. Dog and snake awareness/training classes are available in the Treasure Valley area.

*Tony Griffin*

*Idaho Gem Club Field Trip Coordinator*

**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!**

**"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)



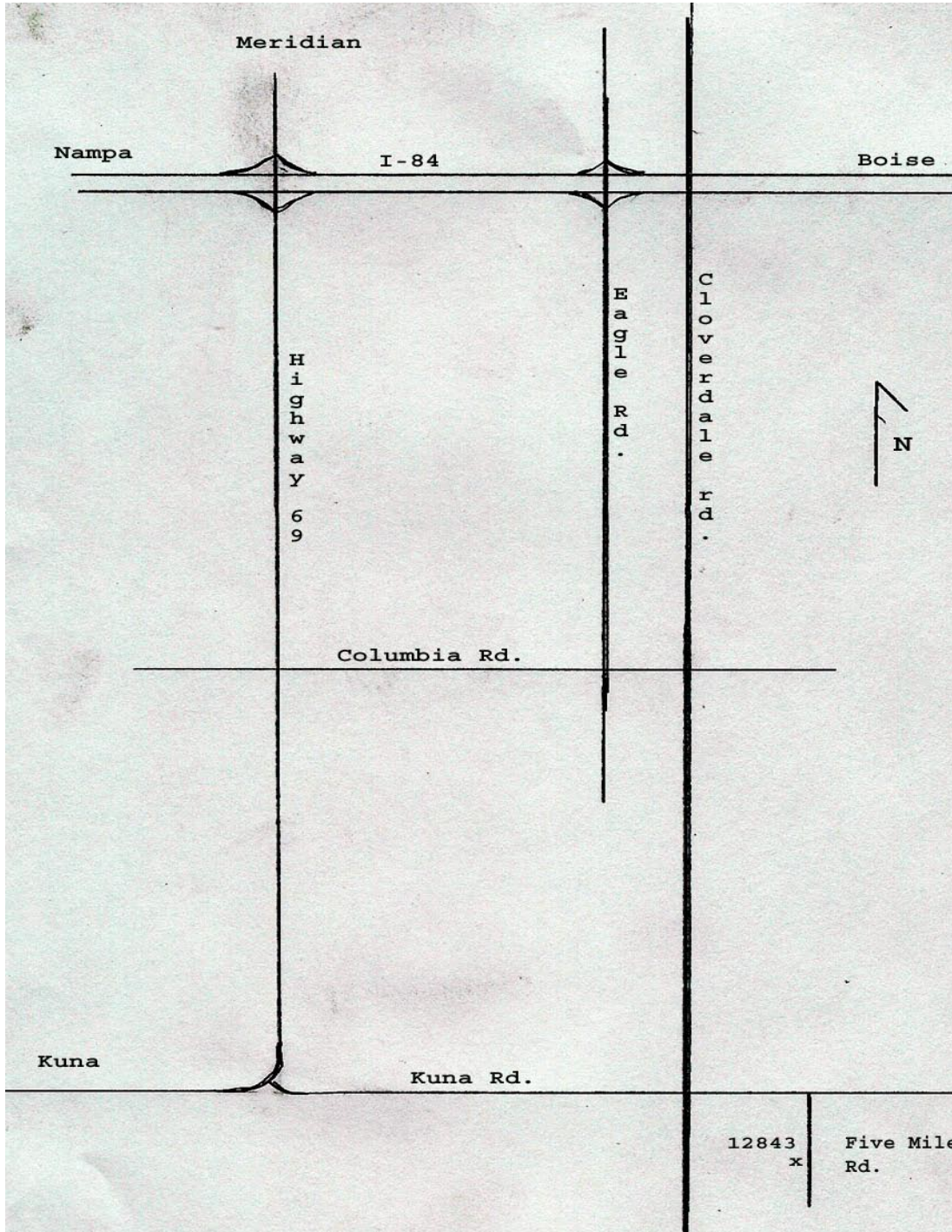
# Workshop Report

We will have another workshop this month. It will be Thursday June 17th. 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

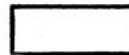
**Subscription:**

\$10.00 per year

**General Meeting:**

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

USTICK

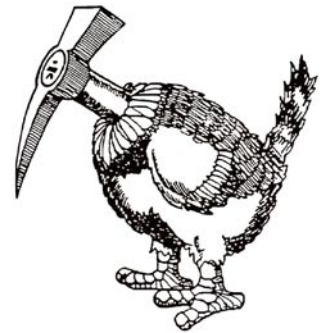


Mountain View Church  
of the Brethren  
2823 N. Cole Road

COLE

NORTHVIEW

FAIRVIEW



The Whangdoodle Bird  
(Often seen on field trips)



**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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