

Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 70 NO 9

September 2010



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CLUB WEB SITE
www.idahogemclub.com

President's Message

There are some exciting events coming up this month.

The Northwest Federation show will be September 17-19. Rooms are available at the Comfort Inn, 503-648-3500. It will be held in conjunction with the Portland Gem and Mineral Show at the Hillsboro Fair Complex across from the airport.

The IGC has been invited by the Magic Valley Gem Club to a field trip to Dismal Swamp area on September 11 and 12. Dave Hughs from the MVGC says we will meet in Featherville at the Rocky Bar turn off at 9:00 am and will leave there at 9:15am. The field trip will involve looking for smoky quartz and topaz.

The September field trip will be to Carey, Idaho on September 25 to look for green Carey moss agate. There are some rare finds of tube agate, some jasper, and black moss agate in this area also. Many people who attended this trip last year said they had a great time and found wonderful specimens! And it is a very scenic area to enjoy nature.

Just a reminder that this months meeting will be at the usual spot on 2823 N. Cole Road at the Mountain View Church of the Brethren. The meeting time is 7:30 pm on September 21.

See you there!

Jason Madsen
President

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
BOARD MEETING ♦
SEPTEMBER 7, 2010**

Jason Madsen called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Board members and officers that were present were Dan Philips, Brent Stewart, Chuck McCreath, Rick Corbett, Twila Gallaher, Willa Renken, Jim Clinton, and Jason Madsen. Deana Ashton, Phil Neuhoff, and Kathy Griffin were excused. Guest attendees were Shirley McCreath, Doug Renken, and Charles Osgood.

Twila Gallaher made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Grindings, Willa Renken seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Secretary's report – No report.

Treasurer's report – No report.

Federation report – Chuck McCreath discussed the Northwest Federation show in September. The ballots from the general membership were counted for the Federation Delegate and the majority were in favor of Kathy Moedl for 2nd vice president.

Committee Reports

Field Trip – Rick Corbett discussed the August field trip to Silver City. He reported that many specimens were found and people had a fun time.

Mining claims – Tom Rogers attended a meeting on a proposed power line project that may pass over the Queenstone claims. The project should

not inhibit access to the claims.

Juniors – On behalf of Ed Moser, Chuck McCreath discussed that there was an anonymous donation made to purchase a gift certificate for the Northwest Federation Junior Rockhound of the Year. Willa Renken made a motion for the club to match the donation, Twila Gallaher seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. Brent Stewart discussed that Stewarts Gem Shop will also make a contribution to the gift card.

Editor – Doug Renken reported that submission for the news letter need to be in by Thursday.

License Plate – Charles Osgood reported that the plate sales are continuing at a steady rate, but the projected sales are below the goal. There was some advertising in the Idaho Statesman, and letters are being mailed out to various businesses with "Gem State" in the name.

Workshop – Willa Renken reported that there will not be a workshop this month. There was some discussion by Brent Stewart that he and Gene Stewart will be doing a presentation on cutting star garnets for the workshop in October.

Old Business

The club has not received any qualifying scholarship applicants again this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

*Respectfully submitted,
Jason Madsen
Acting Secretary*

Oregon Sunstones

reprinted from February, 1987 Oregon Geology article by Ron Geitgey, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Oregon sunstone, also known as heliolite, is a transparent feldspar with colors ranging from water clear through pale yellow, soft pink, and blood red to (extremely rare) deep blue and green. The color appears to vary systematically with small amounts of copper and may depend on both the amount and the size of individual copper particles present in the stone. Pale yellow stones have a copper content as low as 20 parts per million (ppm) (0.002 percent), green stones contain about 100 ppm per million (0.01 percent), and red stones have up to 200 ppm (0.02 percent) copper. Some of the deeper colored stones have bands of varying color, and a few stones are dichroic, that is, they show two different colors when viewed from different directions. Many stones appear to be perfectly transparent at first, but when they are viewed in just the right direction, a pink to red metallic shimmer flashes from within the stone. This effect is called "schiller" or "aventurescence" and is caused by light reflecting from minute parallel metallic platelets suspended in the sunstone. When viewed along their edges, the platelets are invisible to the naked eye; when viewed, however, perpendicular to their surfaces, they reflect light simultaneously from each platelet, creating a mirror effect. Earlier studies of the Lake County feldspar suggested that the platelets were hematite (iron oxide), but the most recent research concludes that they are flat crystals of copper metal. The terms "sunstone" and "heliolite" (from Greek helios, meaning sun, and lithos, meaning "stone") have been used for at least two centuries for feld-

spars exhibiting schiller. The Lake County occurrence was first reported in 1908, and the presence of the schiller effect was the original reason for naming the stones sunstones. For decades, however, the term "sunstone" has been used for these Oregon gem feldspars both with and without schiller. Oregon sunstones are a calcium-rich variety of plagioclase feldspar named labradorite, a common mineral in basaltic lava flows. All three known sunstone occurrences are in small basalt flows that superficially resemble basalt flows elsewhere in the state that contain large feldspar phenocrysts or megacrysts. However, feldspars in those flows are typically cloudy to opaque and relatively small compared to those in the sunstone flows, which are clear, glassy, and can be up to 2 or 3 in. in one dimension. No detailed information has been collected on the geology, petrography, or chemistry of the known sunstone flows, so no meaningful comparisons can be made between them or with other flows in the area. The sunstone flows appear to be small; the Lake County occurrence covers about 7 sq. mi., and the two Hamey County occurrences are probably less than 1 sq. mi. each. Considering the regional geology and the wide separation between the flows, it is probable that there are more sunstone occurrences in the area. Sunstones are mined from the soil and partially decomposed rock formed by weathering of the lava flows. The surface debris is dug with pick and shovel and sieved through a quarter-inch screen, and the sunstones are separated from rock fragments by hand. In some local areas, the lava flows are weathered to a depth of several feet, and good stones have been recovered from pits dug into these zones. Hard-rock mining tech

Oregon Sunstones continued from page 3

niques have been used on un-weathered parts of the flows, but the sunstones are often shattered along with the lava, and recovery of large unbroken stones is difficult. Except for part of the Lake County occurrence, all three producing areas are held by mining claims and are not available for collecting without permission of the claim owners. About 2 sq. mi. of the Lake County flow have been withdrawn from mineral entry and established by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a free public collecting area. This sunstone area is located off the northeast flank of the Rabbit Hills about 25 mi. north of Plush and 80 mi. northeast of Lakeview. Maps, directions, and information on road conditions are available from the BLM District Office in Lakeview. Varieties of feldspars used as gemstones are valued for their colors or optical effects. Being typically translucent to opaque, they are normally cut in rounded forms or cabochons. Transparent gem feldspars, particularly calcium-rich varieties, that can be cut as faceted stones are rarer. Occurrences of transparent labradorite have been reported from Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Utah, but few gems have been produced from those areas. Oregon sunstones are uncommon in their composition, clarity, and range of colors, and they occur in sufficient abundance to permit sustained production of faceted gems.

ROCK SALE

Slab sale from the green genie- AKA Joe Nielson

When: October 1st, 2nd, & 3rd (Friday, Saturday, & Sunday)

Where: My house 8345 Stetson Dr., Boise

A minimum of 500 slabs available. They include the following:

Bruneau Jasper
 Original Owyhee Picture Jasper
 Oxhead Reds Jasper
 Morrisonite Jasper / Green
 Biggs Jasper
 Bloodstone Jasper
 Haystack Butte Jasper
 Plume Agate
 Brazilian Agate
 Mexican Lace Agate
 Moss Agate- Green & Gold
 Grassy Meadow Wood
 Sycamore Wood w/rays
 Blue Forest wood / holly
 S. Dakota Wood

These slabs are exceptional. The Original and Owyhees reds are top of the line. Pattern and color is exceptional. The Bruneau is very good. Some slabs are 5 inches in diameter. The Morrisonite is not typical but is very good. The Biggs is "Old Biggs". These pieces have enough pattern on each slab to get 3 cabs. The Mexican Lace is beautiful. The Sycamore wood slabs are such that I have not seen before and I am told is rare. All the rest of the available slabs are very good also. There are other varieties as well. The sale will commence at 9 am and conclude at 6 pm each of the three days.

Call me at 869-6325 for additional information or questions.

Joe Nielson

August Field Trip Report Silver City

One of our best turnouts for a field trip this year! A total of 78 made this a very successful trip; 39 adult members and 20 adult guests, with 11 Rocky Rattler members and 8 future Rocky Rattlers. It is very exciting to see parents getting their kids out of the house on a weekend expose them to nature, geology, and fellowship with like minded individuals. Lot's of grandma's and grandpa's use this as an opportunity to spend quality time with their grandkids. We may have rocks ion our heads, but our hearts are warm towards each other.

Vern was a very gracious host taking us to one of the very best spots to find a variety of crystals. Vern was able to give us a lot of safety tips and precautions. War Eagle mountain has numerous old mines and adits (vertical mine shafts), most of the old openings are covered over to prevent entry by unsuspecting or curious individuals. Vern cautioned saying the adits can and have caved in with weight being placed over the covered opening; weather and time cause the closures to weaken. Some of these shafts drop hundreds of feet into the base of these mountains. Gases and low oxygen are another concern for staying out of closed off mines; you can suffocate or die from poisonous gases!

The crystal specimens I saw that were collected by members of our group include calcite, quartz, lots of silver ore, some amethyst, cinnabar, chlorite stains, pyrite and very small flecks of gold, some miniature almost microscopic garnet, and the usual ferrous oxide stain seen wherever iron is present. Four or five 1 ½ inch long by ¼ inch wide individual crystals were found, mostly crystal clusters of varying size and composition was collected by most. A few almost museum quality crystal formations were found by more than one collector, these are absolutely beautiful specimens. I hope the collectors will put them on display during our 2011 Rock & Gem Show.

Vern asked us to return to Silver City for lunch and a tour of the city by 2 p.m. A little over half of the group made their way on time for the tour and lunch while the rest of us stayed on the mountain, either losing track of time or just wanting to continue collecting. It was such a beautiful day; it was hard to leave, cooler than in Treasure Valley, the smell of pines and sage brush, few insect pests, and the panorama is breathtaking!

Tony Griffin
Field Trip Chairman
467-9286 home phone
250-3857 cell phone.
Email: tonygriffin@heritagewifi.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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

OCTOBER

10/4 Gina Gartman
 10/6 Dick Reed
 10/8 Todd Jackson
 10/8 David Schmitz
 10/9 Cindy Woolsey
 10/12 Tess Cryer
 10/13 Larry Tomberlin
 10/14 Rebekah Jackson
 10/15 Megan Griffith
 10/15 Bob Chen
 10/22 Jim Dillion
 10/22 Betty Trebilcock
 10/22 Bryce Dethlefs
 10/23 Samantha Ingle
 10/26 Lois McDonald
 10/26 Christopher Griffin
 10/28 Sue Clark
 10/28 Allan Young
 10/28 Leslie Brown
 10/29 Sandy Johnson
 10/30 Chuck Murphy

October Birthstones
Faceted — Tourmaline
Cabochon — Opal

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
 September 21, 2010
 Church of the Brethren
 2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho
 Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm.

BOARD MEETING:
1st. Tuesday of every month
 October 5, 2010
 Church of the Brethren
 2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho
 Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm.

September Refreshment Committee

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

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.

October Refreshment Committee

Chair: Jean Dingley 867-9892
 Myrtle Trevithick 376-4293
 Gina Gartman 562-1330

Idaho Gem Club September Field Trip

When: Saturday Sept. 25th; meet between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. We will leave promptly at 7:30 a.m.

Where to meet: McDonalds on S. Federal Way, Southeast Boise off Gowan Rd. or you can meet us in Carey at about 10 a.m. on the Little Wood Reservoir Rd. at its intersection with Highway 20/26. This intersection is after Hwy 20/26 goes north just before Carey and just before Hwy 20/26 makes a 45 degree turn to the right after entering Carey.

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. This is a 2 ½ hour drive according to Google Maps. To get to Carey we will travel on Highway 20 (exit 95 on I-84) from Mountain Home to Carey. There will be a short stop at the rest area at the intersection of Highway 20 & Highway 75. After leaving Carey we will travel on the Little Wood Reservoir Rd. to the Little Wood River Reservoir parking/camp site; about twelve miles.

Equipment needed: rock hammer, 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. It is tick season, so bring tick spray or wipes! If you would like more information, please come to our Gem Club meeting. Sep. 21st 7:30 p.m.; at the Mountain View Church of the Brethren 2823 N. Cole Rd. or Call our Field Trip Coordinator:

Channel 4 on two way radio

Tony Griffin
Field Trip Chairman
467-9286 home phone
250-3857 cell phone.
Email: tonygriffin@heritagewifi.com

September Program

The September program will consist of Tenya Madsen reading her biography she submitted to the North West Federation. Then Brent will talk about the Denver Colorado Gem and Mineral show. What goes on at the show and what the main attractions are at the show.

Brent Stewart

Workshop Report

There will not be a workshop in September. We will be out of town. But in October Brent and Gene Stewart will be at the workshop grading Star Garnets. Then depending on how many people are at the workshop and the time limitations they will help people dop and cut their Star Garnets. So the next workshop will be Thursday October 27th at 6:30 PM.

Willa Renken
Workshop Chairman

ROCK SALE

September 10,11,12
8am--5pm

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

3515 Kingsland Way
342-7521

Support your club's efforts to educate our children
in earth science and Lapidary



By purchasing the "GEM STATE PLATE" a portion of the monies
will support some excellent State wide programs.

September Birthstone Sapphire

The September birthstone, Sapphire is chemically and structurally the same as Ruby - both are varieties of the mineral corundum. Sapphires are well known among the general public as being blue, but can be nearly any color except shades of red or pink (since those are called rubies.) The blue color is by far the most popular color for sapphire but orange - pink, golden, white, and even black have generated much interest in the gem trade. Tennis bracelets are available that contain a complete rainbow of Sapphire gemstones. Oriented (rutile) crystal inclusions cause a six pointed star light effect (called asterism) to form the popular star Sapphire. Sapphires are well known from such places as Sri Lanka and India, and excellent specimens are also found in Tanzania and the Kola Peninsula of Russia. In addition, sapphires are mined in many places throughout the world, including North Carolina, Brazil, and China. Sapphires are extremely durable (only diamonds and morrisonite are harder). Artificial sapphire crystals are used as the crystal face in genuine Rolex watches, and they are extremely scratch resistant.

www.galleries.com Via Betty Hicks Magic Vally Gem News 09/10

ROCK'N FUNNIES



Yesteryear August 1962

The claim work was to be done and nine cents per mile expenses was paid to the person driving the car for doing it. The Morrisonite claim was also filed for the year.

The next field trip was planned for Hog Creek The club now had \$1,879 in their checking and savings account.

A committee was appointed to be responsible for putting on a Club Gem Show on the weekend of Washington's Birthday, also a committee was appointed to put on the Christmas program and one for the January installation of officers.

The October field trip to Graveyard point was called off because of the weather and rescheduled for November, weather permitting.

It was decided that a fee of 10 cents be charged for grade school children and 25 cents for adults at the show, planned at the Campus School if it was approved.

Harold Henderson was nominated President for 1963.

President Chaffee approved of the clubs show at the Auditorium saying that we always left the school in good shape, the Club paid the fee for it's use.

The field trip in April would be to a new spot towards Pearl on Willow creek. It was approved that a new guide for field trips be brought up to date.

*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 IMMG 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



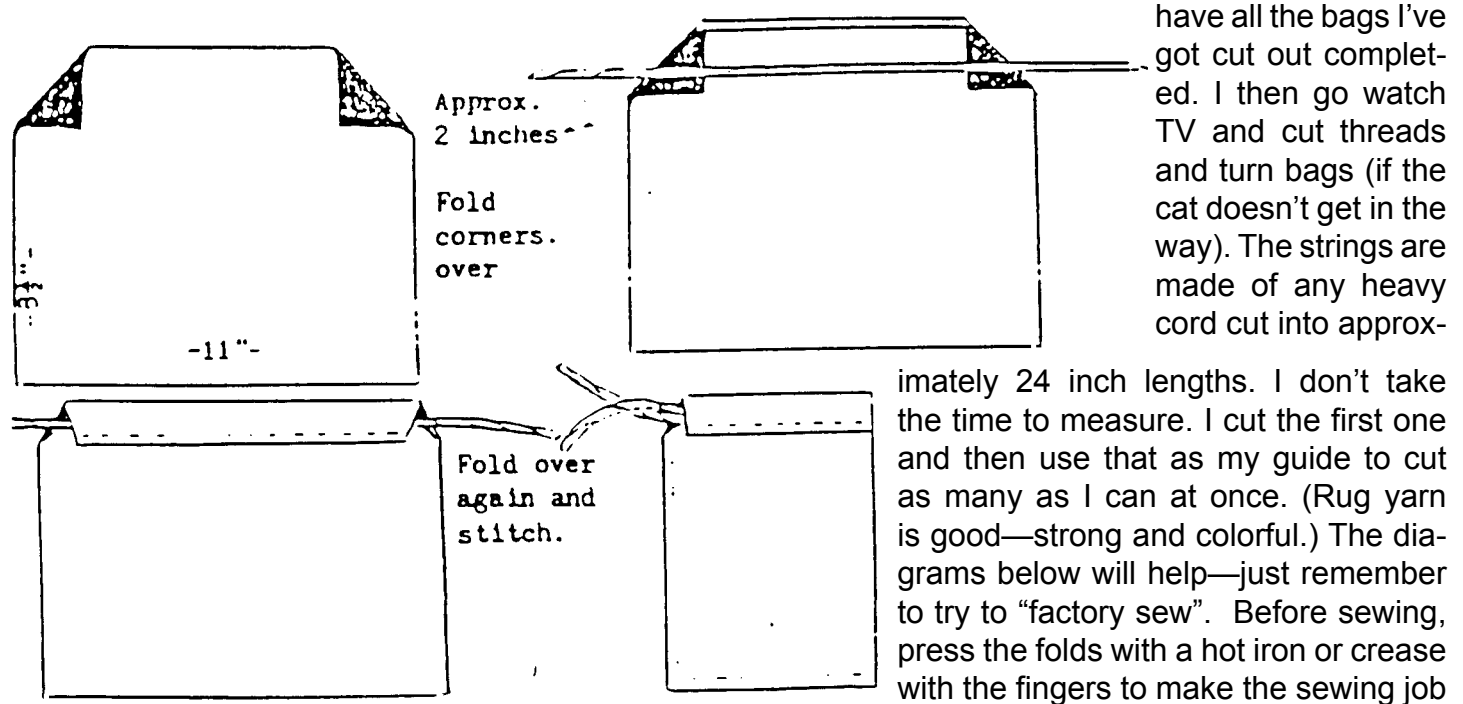
Grab Bags

For the new people, our club sells grab bags filled with polished rocks at the show in February. We have always hand-made our bags, and we completely sell out each year. We need all the help we can get. If you sew, here are the instructions with some changes provided by Cathy Parsons. You can get 16 bags from one yard of 45" wide fabric. Any color, fancy or not. Use your imagination. We will fill the bags in January, so don't forget to keep those tumblers turning, too. You may bring them to the monthly club meetings.

Easy Grab Bags

The easiest method of cutting out grab bags is to cut fabric into $8\frac{1}{2}$ " strips. Press down $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the top edge of each strip. Fold strip in half and cut on fold (you'll have two $22\frac{1}{2}$ inch pieces. Cut each of those halves into two pieces (fold & cut on fold). Following the pattern, fold up the outer edges of the top hem and make the dog ears, and then place your drawstring under the hem (but over the "ears"). (I place a few pins in the edge of the hem to make sure it stays put before I sew. And, I sew each seam factory-style/chain stitching—not cutting between each bag, etc. So, if I cut out the 4 strips from the yard of fabric, I'm going to stitch down the top hem on all the bags before I go to the next step, etc.

Once the hems are stitched down (be careful not to catch the drawstring in the stitching), I sew the bags beginning at the opening (where you've placed the "dog ears".) I stop the needle at about the $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark from the bottom of the bag and sew to the end (backstitch to secure the thread). I then pull the finished bag out a bit and start the next bag. As you can probably see, I don't do any cutting of threads, etc. until I



have all the bags I've got cut out completed. I then go watch TV and cut threads and turn bags (if the cat doesn't get in the way). The strings are made of any heavy cord cut into approx-

imately 24 inch lengths. I don't take the time to measure. I cut the first one and then use that as my guide to cut as many as I can at once. (Rug yarn is good—strong and colorful.) The diagrams below will help—just remember to try to "factory sew". Before sewing, press the folds with a hot iron or crease with the fingers to make the sewing job

easier. Also keep tumbling those stones to put in the grab bags. We need to fill about 800 bags for the show next year.

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:

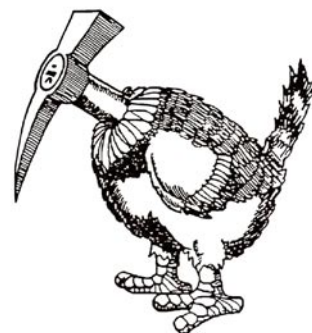
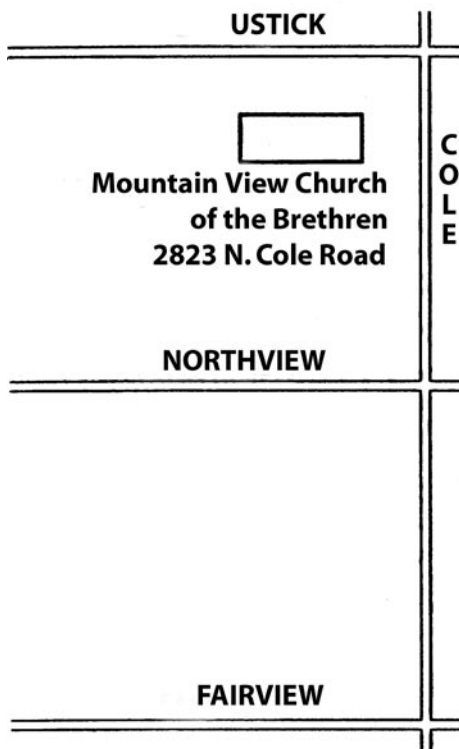
\$12.00 per person
\$15.00 per couple
\$17.50 per family

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