

# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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

VOL 72 NO 12

December 2012

## President's Message



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Brent Stewart**  
President  
863-9336

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

**2nd Vice President**  
**Phil Neuhoff**  
939-4508

**Ed Moser**  
340-8060

**Rick Corbett**  
383-9930

**Deana Ashton**  
794-5628

**Jim Clinton**  
283-8891

**Phillip Worley**  
322-1812

**Ben Nunez**  
853-6710



### SECRETARY

**Melodee Worley**  
322-1812

**TREASURER**  
**Kathy Griffin**  
467-9286

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

**EDITOR**  
**Tony Griffin**  
467-9286

highdesert2003@q.com

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

Congratulations to our newly elected Board members: Deana Ashton, Barb Carey and Melodee Worley! I encourage all to offer their congratulations and full support for the upcoming year. Thank you for allowing me to serve you for this past year and I am looking forward to being able to continue serving you this next coming year

This month for our meeting we'll have an auction and typically this is completed "finished" items so you can finish your Christmas shopping. However, if you have "raw" materials to donate, we won't turn them down and someone on your list would just love some new material to work on as their Christmas present.

Our annual Christmas Party Workshop will be held at Doug and Willa Renken's place on December 15th and 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-5 both days. Everyone is welcome to attend and SHARE use of the machines, learn some new skills or improve old ones, and generally have a good time. The Club is providing chili and everyone should bring a snack or finger foods so we can eat all day while we learn fun new things, and please help to clean up. Come and join in the Holiday fun.

Remember that the show is just around the corner and sign ups will be at the December meeting.

Tickets for the banquet in January will be on sale at the December meeting and at Stewart's Gem Shop. The Banquet this year will be held again at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel. Dates to follow.

December is the month for the Project of the Year election. This year there will be two categories, one for the adults and the other for the juniors. The media can be anything as long as the project is related to lapidary and/or earth science.

Thank you to the members and all the help and support that I have received through the year to make this a fantastic club to be a part of! I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve, support, and help the members of the club as the president for the 2012 year. I wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

*Brent Stewart*

*President*



**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING  
November 20, 2012**

President Brent Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Phillip Worley.

Adult prizes were drawn for 14 lucky winners.

Junior prizes were drawn for 1 lucky winner.

Building Fund prizes were drawn for 4 lucky winners.

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

Secretaries report-- First a special "Thank You" to the Dorothy Snowball & Family for their recent rock donation to the club. The donation materials will be used on our Silent Auction tables for our Annual Rock & Gem Show, in February. I've sent a "Thank You" card to the family. I've received two newsletters from other clubs, a Rock & Gem magazine, and a new Kingsley North catalog.

Treasurers report-- Kathy spoke of balances and disbursements.

Juniors report-- there was one junior present and Ed Moser was absent for the evening. As always Ed would like juniors to bring their folders.

Library report-- the library will be open during our refreshment break for check-in and check-out of materials.

Federation report-- Charles McCreath stated there was nothing new to report. He is wanting members to keep saving stamps for cancer funds.

Workshop report-- Willa Renken said no open workshop for this month, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. But our Christmas workshop will be on December 15th & 16th, from 10am to 5pm. She'll be needing instructors for both days.

License plates report-- Deana Ashton stated plates are still being offered for sale and our advertising efforts will be ready to go by the new year.

Guests present-- Greg Eby

New members present-- none

New Business-- there are several Board openings.

Phillip Worley stated the nominees are for three years: Deana Ashton, Barb Carey, Brent Stewart, and for a two year position is Melodee Worley. It was asked (continued on page 3)

*Respectfully submitted,  
Melodee Worley - Secretary*



(continued from page 2)

if there were any additional nominations from the floor. Charles McCreath made a motion to close the nominations. Phil Neuhoff by a motion of Acclamation also closed the nominations and to approve the nominees. It was seconded by Kathy Griffin. The motion carried.

Bill Knapp wanted members to be aware of a special sale happening weekly at the Boise Outlet Mall, at the Pendleton Store for retired military by presenting their ID's.

Jim DaSilva has Annual Banquet tickets available. \$12.50 per member and non-members \$25.00. It will be held at the Owyhee Plaza, on January 15. The menu choices are Prime Rib, salmon, chicken, and a vegetarian plate. Tickets will be available at our next General Meeting on December 18 and after that at Stewarts Gem Shop.

Break was called at 8:05pm.

Program was an auction of donated materials at this meeting and our December 18 General Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned after 9pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Melodee Worley - Secretary*



Purchase the Earth Science Lapidary Special Interest  
License plate for your Vehicle or RV  
At your local Idaho DMV or online!  
Current registration credited towards purchase.  
Proceeds benefit Idaho K-12 Earth Science Education.

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
Board Meeting  
December 4, 2012

President Brent Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Board members present-- Willa Renken, Jim Clinton, Phillip Worley, Ed Moser, Phil Neuhoff, Rick Corbett, and Deana Ashton.

Barb Carey was absent from the evening.

Officers present-- Charles McCreath and Melodee Worley. Kathy Griffin was excused for the evening.

Guest present was Shirley McCreath.

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

Secretaries report-- mail was received and a new Rock & Gem magazine.

Treasurers report-- none was available.

Federation report-- Charles McCreath gave me a flyer with information for a future Tuscon Show happening February 2-17, 2013. At the Kino Sports Complex. Further information can be seen at [rockshowtuscon@gmail.com](mailto:rockshowtuscon@gmail.com). Or you can call 1-800-983-0133.

The program will be another auction of donated items.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Juniors report-- Ed Moser wants juniors " TO BE SURE TO BRING THEIR FOLDERS". Ed stated he and Deanna

have set up a display of " Collected Materials" in Caldwell.

License plate report-- Deana Ashton is busy finalizing with our advertising company.

Phil Neuhoff is busy finalizing information about our case favors. Don't forget " Project of the Year" projects are needing to be submitted for voting at this months General Meeting, December 18th.

Rick Corbett inquired on behalf of his dad Dick Corbett about ordering additional t-shirts and sweatshirts. Jim Clinton stated he would be happy to assist Dick with ordering.

We are in the process of checking into information for already tumbled rock for our grab bags. Brent has a contact in CO he'll be in touch with about pricing and quantities.

New business-- one of our CD's is getting ready for renewal. After further discussion a motion was made to roll it into our current Money Market account. The motion was made by Ed Moser and seconded by Phil Neuhoff.

We had a discussion about our tables in storage. We are considering rebuilding, buying, or renting tables. This is something that will be looked into with additional information available in the future.

Field trip report--- Phillip says "Merry Christmas".

Workshop report-- our Christmas workshop will be held December 15th & 16th from 10am-5pm. Willa will have soups available and welcomes finger foods and snacks from anyone coming to the workshop. Rick Corbett said he's noticed that after this workshop we might need to be doing some maintenance to our machines.

It's time to elect a President for the New Year. Willa Renken made a motion to nominate Brent Stewart for another year, the motion was seconded by Rick Corbett. The motion carried.

We have one new member application. A motion to accept this new member was made by Phillip Worley and seconded by Ed Moser. The motion carried.

Just a reminder that our Grab bags sewers are encouraged to bring sewn bags no later than our Wednesday, January 2, 2013 Board meeting.

We'll be stuffing Grab bags on January 26, 2013 starting at 9am, at the Church. Sign up sheets will also be available for kids tables, silent auction, and front door areas for our Idaho Rock & Gem Show.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Melodee Worley-- Secretary*

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY

## DECEMBER

12/3 Bob Mayes  
 12/4 Lorene Alley  
 12/4 Shannon T. Tharp  
 12/4 Jack Trevithick  
 12/4 Tenya Madsen  
 12/7 Chris Zeller  
 12/8 Lillie Rogers  
 12/9 John Sandmeyer  
 12/9 Beau Thornock  
 12/10 Joan Alvey  
 12/10 Cheryl Link  
 12/10 Dee Hanes  
 12/11 Scott Schuldenfre  
 12/11 Gia Ilers  
 12/15 Cris Wheeler  
 12/16 Kerri Chipman  
 12/18 Dan Phillips  
 12/19 Robert Burns  
 12/19 Doug Renken  
 12/21 Dee Hanes  
 12/22 Stacie Brock  
 12/22 PJ Suttle  
 12/23 Joe Nielson  
 12/23 Christi Hogle  
 12/25 Thomas Langford  
 12/26 Wesley Capps  
 12/26 Rory Miles  
 12/27 Brian Gimmel  
 12/28 Carmen Becker  
 12/28 Nolan Crowe  
 12/29 Kelly Peneira  
 12/30 Tony Griffin

*December Birthstones*  
 Faceted - Blue Zircon  
 Cabochon - Turquoise

## JANUARY

1/3 Helen Dillion  
 1/5 Becky Gibson  
 1/8 Ronald Ridenour  
 1/9 Julie Mayer  
 1/11 Ron Bailey  
 1/11 Terry Tomberlin  
 1/12 Deborah Shaffer  
 1/12 Stephanie Potter  
 1/15 Arlene Bailey  
 1/18 Cami Horton  
 1/19 Greg Biebel  
 1/21 Jordan Lindsay  
 1/21 Jerry Schwartz  
 1/22 Steve Lane  
 1/22 Mary Ostrander  
 1/23 Gena Grissom  
 1/25 Alice Stewart  
 1/27 John Chaplik  
 1/27 Valerie Lesur  
 1/29 Marion Phillips  
 1/31 Katelyn Luercher

*January Birthstones*  
 Faceted - Garnet  
 Cabochon - Star Garnet

## Dates To Remember

## GENERAL MEETING

3rd. Tuesday of every month

November 18, 2012

Church of the Brethren

2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho

Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.

## BOARD MEETING:

1st. Tuesday of every month

December 2, 2012

Church of the Brethren

2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho

Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.

## December Refreshment Committee

Chair: Shannon McMahon [509-552-1685](tel:509-552-1685)

Barb Carey 906-5968

Deanna Moser 340-8060

## 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.

January Refreshments will be our

Annual Banquet

**DUES ARE PAST DUE.****Rates are as follows:****\$17.00 per person****\$20.00 per couple****\$23.00 per family**

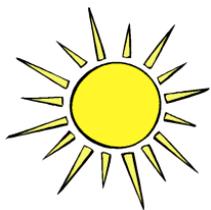
**Dues are due by October 31 each year . Please pay at the next meeting**

**or send them to****Kathy Griffin, Treasurer****P.O. box 8443****Boise, ID 83707-2443**

### Deana Ashton is our Sunshine Lady

Her job is to send some cheer to members who are ill, in need of prayers, or need some cheering up. Deana needs your help in accomplishing this, you can help by letting her know of anyone that is in need of a little sunshine. Deana will send a card or flowers depending on their situation or occasion.

Deana's phone number is 794-5628



### December Program:

The December program will be an auction to support the club banquet in January. December auction items are typically finished jewelry, decor, etc., though other items will be accepted.

Please come and finish your Christmas shopping with wonderful items made by club members.

### YESTER YEAR

Aug. 1969

Quincy Howell asked to speak when the meeting opened. He told of a collection of Topaz that Tej had, that had been stolen. During the American Federation show at Salt Lake City they discovered the collection at one of the dealers. He had bought it from a couple members of The Idaho Gem Club. They had visited the Howells home one evening and had seen the crystals. The Dealer said he would give the money to the Howells and then changed his mind and they were out \$275.00. The club voted on this, and the couple were voted out of the club.

The annual picnic was at the municipal park, Grace was given by Cap Root. Trip would be to High Valley for Tourmaline.

There would be two trips in September. One was to Succor Creek and the other to Graveyard Point. A tape recorder was bought for \$145.30 and Stuart Fairchild received \$300.00 for bulldozing at Beacon Hill.

Neil Armstrong wrote thanking the club for giving his wife a star garnet pendant. Ralph Tuttle gave Al Larsen a prize for finding the largest thunder egg at Pearl, Idaho.

The new Show display cases have been started at Art Cooks and should be ready to sell for \$13.00 to \$14.00 each. The January Banquet will be at the Chuck Wagon on Vista.

Ted Miller brought a large map asking the rock hunting areas be circled so the BLM could keep them for that purpose. If that is not done some of the areas could be closed to rock hunters and be used for other purposes.

*In Loving Memory  
Patsy Bethel—Historian*

## Bench Tips

A quick and easy way to suspend a flexshaft over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from your local hardware store. It attaches with a couple screws and costs a little over \$10.

I use 1/2 inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle".

Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.

Picture at <http://www.facebook.com/BenchTips>



Attribution requested with each publication:

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](http://facebook.com/BenchTips/) or [yahoogroups.com/group/BenchTips/](http://yahoogroups.com/group/BenchTips/)

## OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder will not flow onto an area of your piece while you're soldering on another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it. I like recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.

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"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" is now available as an e-book for Kindle and Nook readers. Free apps allow it to be read on most phones, tablets, and home computers.

The book can be found at several locations:

Kindle edition - [www.amazon.com/dp/B00A5ELDRU](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00A5ELDRU)

Nook edition - [www.bn.com/w/?ean=2940015848915](http://www.bn.com/w/?ean=2940015848915)

Print edition - [www.createspace.com/3976439](http://www.createspace.com/3976439)

Makes a good holiday present for friends who do jewelry.

## Bench Tips

### SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES

Often you'll need to sand or polish an area that's impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a flexshaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or inside bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick.

I've found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45 degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of vaseline or oil. Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.

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**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

## Save Stamps For 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!**

## Rockhound "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.

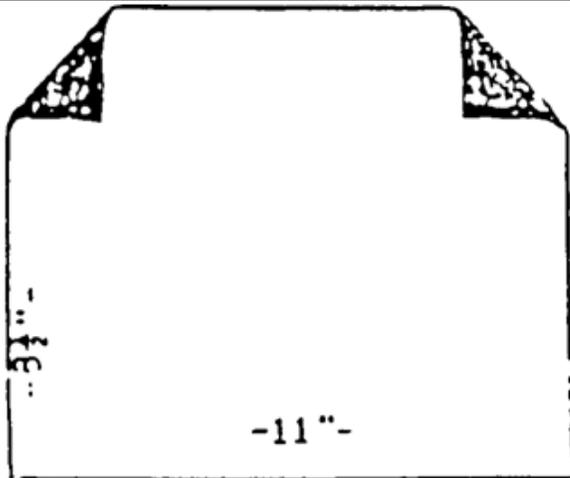
I will report to my club or Federation officer, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

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.

## Easy Grab Bags for Grab Bag Contest

The easiest method of cutting out grab bags is to cut fabric into 8 1/2" strips. Press down 1/2" on the top edge of each strip. Fold strip in half and cut on fold (you'll have two 22 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 draw-string 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.

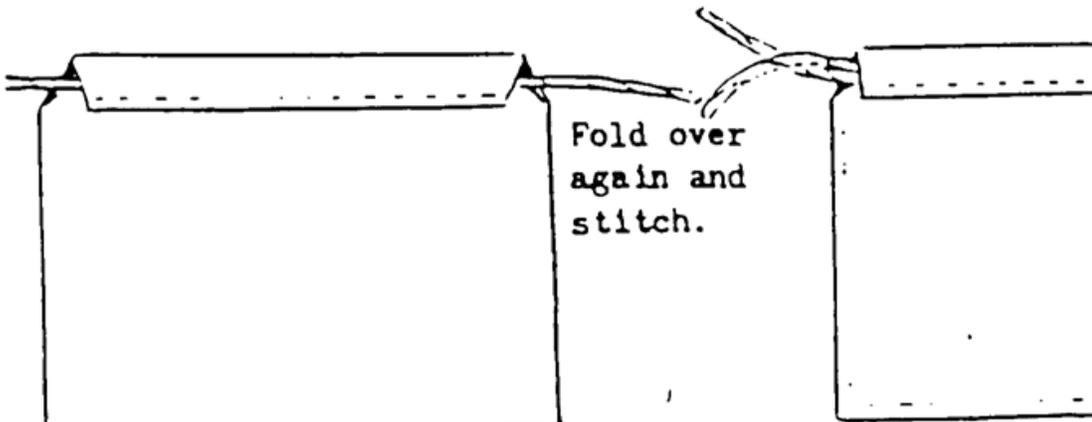
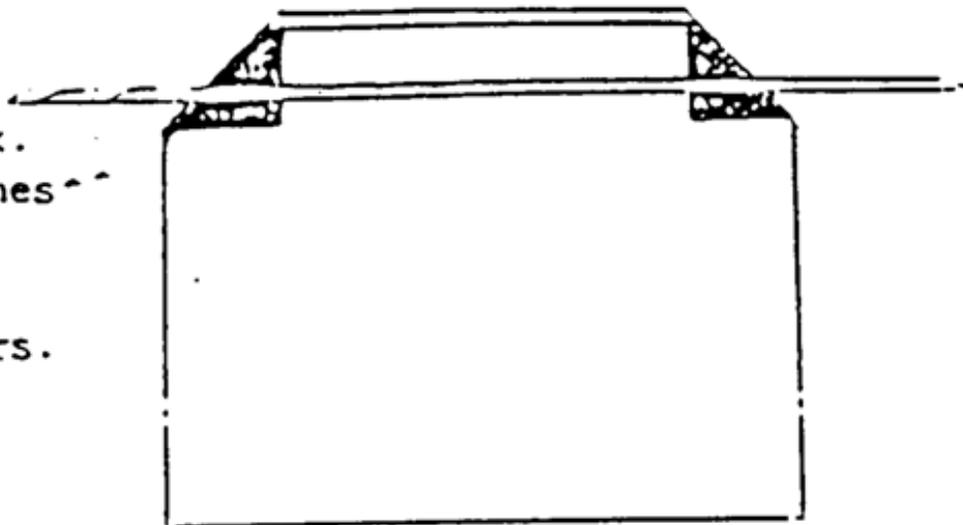


Time is saved by folding the two corners over diagonally, then folding The top down over the cord. Try it.

Fold over 1/2inch and crease. Lay cord in place.

Approx.  
2 inches

Fold  
corners.  
over



Fold over  
again and  
stitch.

Fold in half. Stitch in  
across bottom and up  
side.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### PROJECT OF THE YEAR

It is time to bring those special pieces of rock related items out in the clubs view. This competition is a very fun event that takes place at our December general meeting. It lets those of you who would like to try to add your name to the Club's plaque for having the best "Project of the Year" an opportunity to do so.

In addition to adding your name to the Club's plaque you will be given a special case at the Club's Annual Show in February. This gives those who come to our show a chance to see some of the fun that we as club members get to participate in. I hope everyone takes the time to join in with a project that they have completed this last year. I look forward to seeing all the great ideas everyone has.

### The Great 2012 Grab Bag Sew Off

Time is growing short so I hope you have all been working on our next stock pile of grab bags. Our last competition netted us about 8,000 bags which kept us in bags for about eight years. The 2012 competition will be no less exciting. We are tempting you with some really fine prizes for those who can sew the most grab bags. The last winner sewed about 1500 bags to walk away with a sweet Willow Creek Sphere. This year's winners will reap just as nice a prize as the last not to mention the fact that we have sweetened the pot by adding a runner up prize as well. If you are willing to sew but don't have enough fabric just let me know and I will see that you get all you can cut out to put together. That being said if anyone has extra material please "donate" to a good cause. This is a great way to give back to the public especially the kids as there is no greater moment than to see their smiling faces as they go through their rocks at each show. The deadline is the January Board meeting so breakout those sewing machines, scissors, & thread and let's make this an event to top them all. We as a Board appreciate everything our club members do to support our organization and we know this will be just as fantastic and fun as our entire fund raisers have been. Thank you in advance for your continued support and may the best seamstress or seamster rise to the occasion!!!!

Willa Renken

#### 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)

## Bench Tips

### GEM HARDNESS TEST

#### Drop of Water Test for Topaz

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, and sometimes it is impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. There is a big difference in price between the two, and anyone describing quartz as "topaz," however innocently, may well be in trouble. Topaz is quite a different mineral and is harder than quartz. Because of this, a drop of water will not spread on topaz but will spread on quartz. Clean the stone as effectively as possible with a cloth or handkerchief to remove all traces of grease. It must be dry before the test. Then place a spot of clean water on it with a thin glass or metal rod. On stones with a hardness of less than 7 on the Mohs scale, the water is dispersed. On harder stones it will remain a globule. The harder the stone, the more rounded will be the globule.

From The Backbender's Gazette July 2011,  
<http://www.hgms.org/> via The Opal Express, <http://opalsociety.org/>

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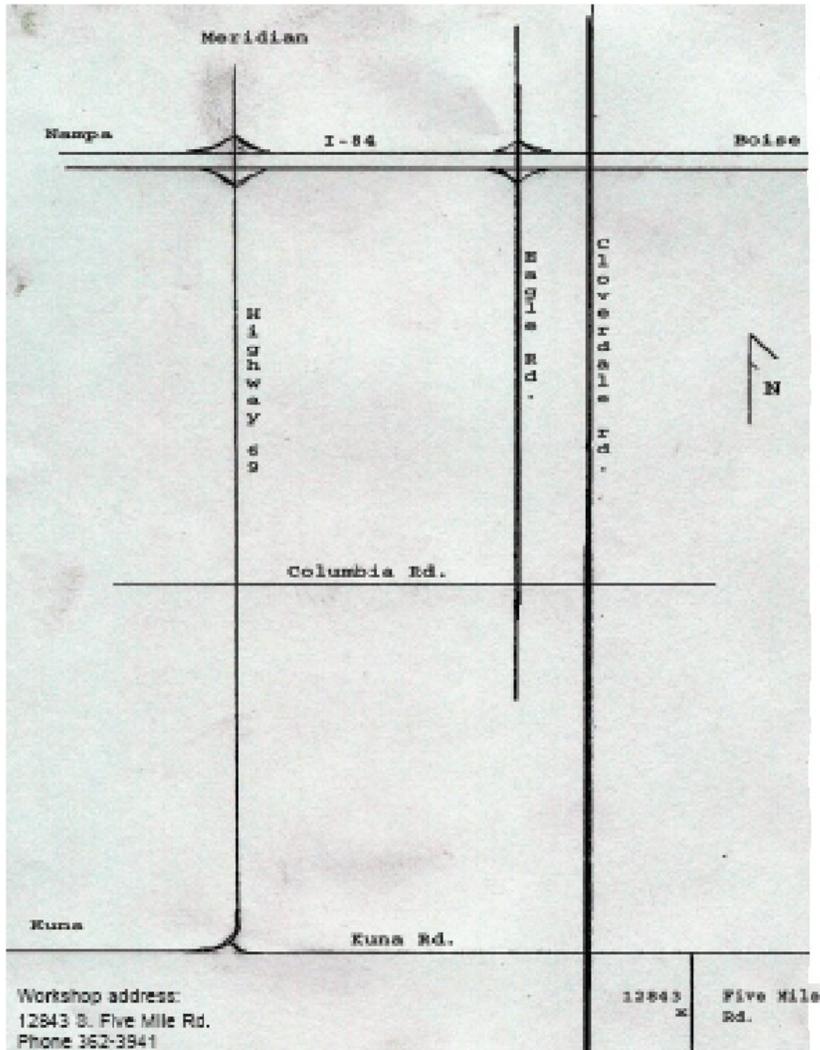
**Rocky Rattlers  
Juniors need to bring their folders  
to the meeting this month**



## December Workshop

Just a reminder in this month's newsletter, that we will be having our Annual Christmas Workshop on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> again this year. The shop will be open at 10 am and run until 5 pm. All club members and guests are welcome to attend. The club will furnish the chili and soup if you could bring a favorite snack or dish to share that would be great.

There will be wire wrapping and cab making to be had by all. I will need folks to help with those who don't know how to make a cab so come prepared to share a little knowledge with our newer members and help me with over seeing your machines. I really enjoy December's workshop as it is a time to share and get to know more of you in our club.



You will need to get here off of Meridian and Kuna Rd. or Cloverdale and Kuna Rd. as Five Mile dead ends and starts again.

I hope you will all come and share in this activity so you get a chance to know your fellow rock hounds.

Marge Conley will be here to help you with the wire wrapping and there will be instructors to help with the cab making.

If you have a slab to make your cab out of feel free to bring it, there will be some material there to choose from if you don't have any. For those of you who have extra material, the workshop always needs donations so that everyone who comes has something nice to cut and chose from.

Remember there is a charge for the wire wrapping but the workshop is free.

I look forward to seeing you all.

Willa Renken  
Workshop Chairman  
362-3941

### Black Light Sale:

We will once again be selling multiband (SW, MW, LW) 4 watt ultraviolet lamps to support our scholarship fund. The cost of the package is \$95 and includes the light, batteries, case, magnetic extender pole, and a free sample of Terlingua-type calcite from Mexico that fluoresces different colors in each wavelength and also phosphoresces.

**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:**

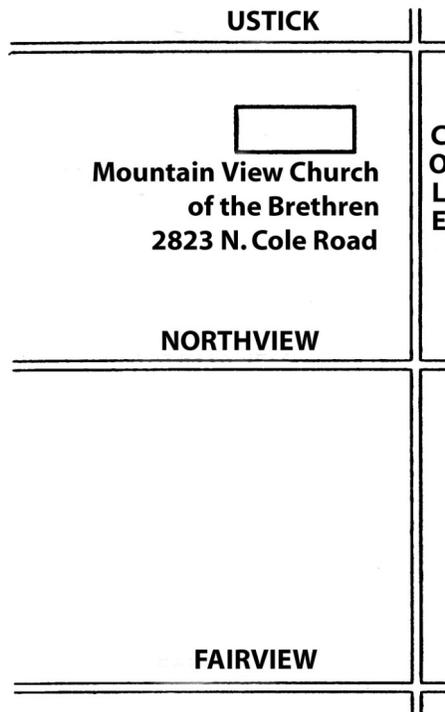
- ..... \$17.00 per person
- ..... \$20.00 per couple
- ..... \$23.00 per family

**Subscription:**

- ..... \$10.00 per year

**General Meeting:**

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

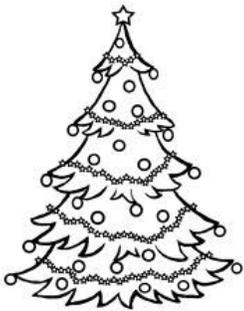


**The Whangdoodle Bird  
(Often seen on field trips)**



**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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



**Dues  
Are  
Past  
Due**