

Club Web Site www.idahogemclub.com

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

Grindings
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

VOL. 74 No. 10 October 2014

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President's Message, October 2014

The year is quickly coming to a close. Temperatures are dropping, we have already had our last field trip of the year, and hunting season is upon us. The Fall is a great time to get collecting in as the cool temperatures keep the snakes down and make many of the lower elevation locales more pleasant. If you do go out this time of year, remember that it is hunting season. Wear blaze orange if you have it, and be aware of your surroundings.

I would like to thank everyone who came out for the rock washing at the Renken's. The washed and sorted rocks should entice lots of bidding at the silent auction at the show. Again, thanks to Roy and Patsy Bethel for their generous donation to the club.

It is my pleasure to announce that Ms. Danielle Terhaar, a Junior Geoscience student at Boise State, is this year's recipient of the Idaho Gem Club Scholarship. Danielle will receive a \$500 scholarship and will be visiting us in November to give a presentation.

This is a busy time of the year for club business. Dues are due this month, and we have elections for the board next month. Dana Robinson is in charge of the nominations committee for board positions and is actively seeking members who want to help guide the club's future.

At the October board meeting, the board made the difficult decision to raise dues for the upcoming year. Dues for the club have historically been low, so low in fact that the costs to the club per membership (Grindings distribution and dues to the Federation) have until recently been higher than the actual dues that were charged. After consulting other clubs about their dues, and based on our discussion earlier this year with the membership about dues levels, it was decided that we needed to institute a small dues increase in order for the club to move forward. The impetus for this increase is discussed in the next paragraph. The new club dues are as follows: individual \$22/year, couple \$25/year, and family \$28/year.

Earlier this year we had a discussion as a club about the prospect of getting a dedicated space for club activities, including the workshop. Summer digging slowed the momentum on those activities, but we are in a renewed push to find a space. Ideally it would be large enough to hold club meetings and host the workshop in the same space. We have several properties identified and are getting quotes. If we find a space for that is big enough to host our meetings, the donations made to our current hosts will partially offset the new expenses. The dues increase will also go to this cause. We will need to find additional sources of income as well depending on the rental costs. Our hope is that by having our own space that contains lapidary equipment, displays, our library and other benefits of the club that we can complete the transition of our meetings to being times to share our hobby. There is the added benefit, of course that the cabbing machines and trim saws will be available on a more frequent basis. When these plans come to fruition, there will be a lot of work to do to move our belongings into a new space and make the space feel like home. I'm sure I can count on the club to help with those efforts.

Phil Neuhoff



General Meeting September 16, 2014

Our meeting was called to order by President Phil Neuhoff at 7:30pm.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" (with a correction of dates of our general meeting and Brent Stewarts birthday) was by Willa Renken and seconded by Deana Ashton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Loren Francis.

We had several guests and new members present tonight.

President Phil Neuhoff inquired if any committees had information important to pass along to members. There was no new information.

Door prizes were drawn for Juniors with 2 winners and adults for 14 winners.

Building Fund was drawn for 3 winners.

There was no old or new business.

There is a request from Coyote Short, to find someone able to polish a sphere. Brent Stewart said she should come by the Stewart's Gem Shop and he felt they could help her.

An announcement was made to introduce our new "Editor" Linda Barlow. Thank you so much Linda for stepping up for this task.

Our program tonight is on "Power of crystals and their healing."

A reminder of the "rock wash" the weekend of September 27th from 9am to 2pm and the 28th from 9am to 3pm. The more people available, the faster this project will go.

There will be a workshop, this Thursday the 18th, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

The pending field trip was cancelled, but the first weekend of October 4th and 5th is scheduled to go to our Beacon Hill claim. This will be the last field trip, we hope everyone can try to come.

Our Library was open at refreshment time. Our meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Folks don't forget the 40th Annual Show and Symposium happening October 10-12, at the Red Lion Inn, in Kelso, WA. The Show theme is to be Minerals of Colorado. Anyone needing additional information can contact me.

(Melodee)

New for license plate:

Successfully reached Idaho Science Teachers and spread word about our program at their annual teacher in service Oct 2, 3.

Continuing to work on mass mailing, which I hope gets out soon, Press release will occur soon as well. There is a timing of all public contact that I am trying to make gel to garner public interest and keep our plate in the proper spotlight once it hits media.

Two links for additional newsletters we receive as members of the rock club:

NFMS—Newsletter available at:
<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/newsletters.asp>

AFMS—Newsletter available at:
<http://amfed.org/news/default.htm>

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
2014 IDAHO GEM CLUB SCHOLARSHIP WINNER:
DANIELLE TERHAAR, BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

Board Meeting October 7, 2014

Our meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. By President Phil Neuhoff.

Present this evening were Phil Neuhoff, Brent Stewart, Phil Worley, Melodee Worley, Dana Robinson and Barb Wanner. Absent and excused were Willa Renken, Ed Moser, Deana Ashton and Charles McCreath.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" with corrections was by Dana Robinson and seconded by Phil Worley.

Secretaries report, I've been instructed to send information to the Secretary of State, of current Officers and Board members by President Phil Neuhoff. To avoid this information being late. Updated information will be sent next year by the new elected Secretary.

Treasurers report was of balances and disbursements. As always anyone interested in seeing her reports may ask Barb.

Federation report, Charles McCreath was absent.

License plate report, Deana Ashton, Brent Stewart and Phil Neuhoff recently attended an event for teachers. They spoke about our license plates and what the money goes to benefit. Deana Ashton and Dana Robinson are currently putting together a mass mailing postcard to promote our plates.

The **field trip** to our Beacon Hill claim had a good turn out on Saturday October 4th and a few rock hunters on October the 5th. Brent Stewart is working on the next years field trip schedule. Anyone with suggestions contact Brent Stewart.

There will be **no workshops** for the next 2 months, due to Willa Renken having another obligation. Brent Stewart is still working on getting information of cost to get our new workshop going. This information will be available in the near future. We're also working on some tri-folds about our Idaho Gem Club. Anyone with ideas, contact any board member.

Scholarship committee has received 1

application. The board accepted this application and will notify the recipient of her acceptance.

Old business, Janet French has come up with a **tentative operating procedures** for offices held by members, show handling, ect. Anyone wanting a copy of this information can contact any board member. And any suggestions on the plan would be welcome.

I am (Melodee W.) currently checking into **new table coverings** for our vendors, blacklight room, etc. I'll keep the board informed.

Folks keep in mind that **elections** are coming up. The nominating committee chair person is Dana Robinson. The positions open will be President (1yr), Secretary (1 yr) and 1 board member position (1 yr) and 3 others for (3yrs) . Anyone interested must submit a biography and the position they are interested in. Nominations are at our General Meeting on November 18th. Swearing in of new positions will occur at our Annual Banquet/Meeting on January 20th, 2015. At the Red Lion Downtowner.

New business, the question asked, is it necessary for new **membership cards** to be given every year, when members pay their dues? It was discussed and decided that every year new membership cards will be given.

Other **new business, dues** will be increasing this October to \$22 for single persons, \$25 per couple and \$28 per family. A motion to increase dues was by Melodee Worley and seconded by Dana Robinson. The motion carried and new costs will go into affect this October 2014.

We had 1 application for membership presented. A motion to accept this member was by Phil Worley and seconded by Brent Stewart.

Our meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Dave, Peyton, & Taylor Mendez

2821 N. Jawson Pl.

Meridian, Idaho 83646

208-602-0442

dmendez@allcadnw.com

NEWS FROM AROUND NFMS REGION

Golden Spike G&M Society of Ogden, Utah:

1. Field trip to Texas Springs, Nev. Yielded limb casts for all.
2. Dinosaurs discovered 155 years ago in Utah to be excavated.
3. A dry wash 112-million-year-old dinosaur tracks include ankylosaurus, dromaeosaurus, & a menacing ancestor of Tyrannosaurus Rex is set to open this fall in Moab, Utah
4. They are hosting the 2015 NFMS convention.

Magic Valley Gem Club of Twin Falls, Idaho:

1. November Field Trip is to Tony & Chris Funk's Rock pile.
2. Beryl is stone of month for their discussion.

North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral club of Washington:

1. November Field Trip to Blanchard Mountain, Washington
2. August Field Trip was to McDermitt, Oregon for Thunder eggs. Also to the wonderstone site in Fallon Nevada.
3. Field Trip to 2 coal mining towns, Fairfax & Melmont in Carbon River near Mt. Rainier on Oct 5 produced carbonized wood specimens.
4. Aug. 30th field trip to Delta, Utah found 1. marine fossils, 2. Trilobites in quarry pit at Fossil Mountain, & 3. Apache Tears in northwest Delta west of Topaz Mountain.
5. . <https://www.sitetour.com/experiences/david-williams-explore-hidden-geology-sea> is website for Exploring Hidden Geology of downtown Seattle for \$25. These buildings have rocks of granite, sandstone, & other rocks dating back 3.5 billion years with fossils.

Idaho Gem Club Field Trips

By

Brent Stewart

Idaho Gem Club 's **last field trip** of the year was to Beacon Hill Oct. 4 &5. Large Group attended and Beacon Hill nodules were found with beautiful agates inside. Weather was good and cooperated both days. Look forward to next year's trips.

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:

During our monthly general meeting, club members volunteer to provide about 5 dozen cookies, or snacks to share during the break. The Coffee and punch are also prepared for you by these volunteers. The first

to arrive at 6:30pm, they set up chairs and get coffee brewing. There are usually members who regularly assist in getting everything set up. The committee also brings ten door prizes for adults, ten door prizes for youth. This is a fun and simple way to offer participation in our club. Please volunteer today to fill a spot on our calendar. PLEASE!! SIGN UP FOR THE FALL HOLIDAY REFRESHMENTS!!

FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, I NEED TWO VOLUNTEERS EACH MONTH!

I need to scare someone in the crowd into volunteering for next month, October! Get the kids into it! Cupcakes or creepy cookies or ghoulish snacks will do!

October -

November -

December - Cookie exchange! Everyone bring a sack of 6 cookies to put on the cookie table. Bring one sack, take one sack! If holiday candy is your thing, bring some to share! Nobody in our club will turn away yummy food! If you see a member pass up goodies, notify the Sunshine Lady because it is most likely they are not feeling well and need some nice flowers or cheer or antacids.

CONTACT DEANA ASHTON, 208-794-5628 FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN UP SHEET!! THANKS, MEMBERS!!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Joanie Demer
 10/3 Tasia Mayfield
 10/3 Gaetana Nesbit
 10/4 Gina Gartman
 10/8 Todd Jackson
 10/8 Cory Petross
 10/9 Cindy Woolsey
 10/11 John Wold
 10/14 Patricia Dailey
 10/14 Rebekah Jackson
 10/15 Victoria Kerpa
 10/17 Andy Main
 10/18 Woodrow Wyerman
 10/22 Jim Dillion
 10/22 Betty Trebilcock
 10/22 Bryce Dethlefs
 10/23 Colleen Lamansky
 10/26 Lois McDonald
 10/26 Christopher Griffin
 10/26 Janelle Wintersteen
 10/28 Sue Clark
 10/28 Allan Young

October Birthstones
 Faceted — Tourmaline
 Cabochon — Opal

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Peggy Dean
 11/2 Wes Hirons
 11/5 Hauns Snyder
 11/6 Jaden Wanner
 11/7 Peggy Blickfeldt
 11/7 Larry McConnell
 11/13 Rick Bidwell
 11/14 Cooper Berryman
 11/14 Robert Burns
 11/19 Steve Ostrander
 11/20 Donna Ford
 11/21 Gary Hanes
 11/21 Jeff Hines
 11/23 Marge Conley
 11/23 Dakota Ford
 11/24 Dan Doersch
 11/26 Phil Neuhoff
 11/27 Gary Smith
 11/30 Sandra Jewell

November Birthstones
 Faceted - Topaz or Citrine
 Cabochon — Amber



THE SUNSHINE LADY

The Sunshine Lady relies on member notification for Idaho Gem Club members who are in need of sunshine and cheer. I will send good wishes, flowers, & greetings on behalf of the Idaho Gem Club.

If you know of any members in the hospital, needing get well cheer at home, or who have lost a family member, please call

Deana Ashton at 208-794-5628 or email at
gemdigger2014@outlook.com

Thank you for showing concern for your fellow members!

I received the following "call to action" from a former club member, Jim Urbaniak. As he says, a simple action will let

public officials know that we care about public access. BUT, just a reminder, putting areas into designated Wilderness areas makes the land off-limits to rock-collecting, so there needs to be a balance...public access without conditions that curtail our reasonable activities.

Folks,

This is one of those moments where we as a community of professional geologists, rockhounds, recreationists and earth science friends can join forces to do something constructive together. Please take the 5 SECONDS needed to open the email link below and ask to be put on the WWTM mailing list. This simple act will let the Forestry Service know that there is an interest in these public lands remaining open to the public (Public lands SHOULD be open to the public, wouldn't you agree?). Please also forward this e-mail to whomever you believe is interested in supporting continued access to our public lands. This effects such simple things as being able to hike through the woods, take nature photos, pick up rocks, dig for gourmet mushrooms and fish our streams and rivers.

Thanks for your support in the simple effort.

Warm Regards,

Jim Urbaniak

President, Oregon Agate and Mineral Society

(206) 450-2298 Cell

Nygiants1931@yahoo.com

Sign up for WWNF Travel Management Mailing List

Click the link below to send an email to the Wallowa Whitman Travel Management to subscribe to their mailing list:*

Wallowa Whitman Travel Management Mailing List

This mailing list is managed by the Wallowa-Whitman Forest

John George, who has been leading the fight to keep the Wallowa Whitman Forests open to all desperately needs your help. Please sign up to be on the mailing list for the Wallowa Whitman Travel Management Plan.

The Forest Service people don't believe there is anyone out there that really cares what happens. Let them know by signing up on the mailing list. This gives them numbers they can't dispute.

It was very simple, just click and fill out your name and email. Dee and I have already done this, won't you help, please? You don't have to be from Eastern Oregon, anyone can sign up.

Shirley Leeson*

The link goes directly to an email address and "form letter." Here is the info you need to input:

To: wwnf_travel_mgt_plan@fs.fed.us

Subject: Subscribe to Mailing List

Message:

Please add me to your mailing list.

My name is : _____

My email address is: _____

I would like to receive updates by email. Thank you.

The Preparation Of Opal For Making Doublets And Triplets by Don King, Mobile Rock & Gem Society

Although there are exceptions, Australian Andamooka Opal, Louisiana Opal-in-quartz and Honduran Opal are best when made into doublets or triplets. Opal from Spencer, Idaho is best made into a triplet. Other types of precious Opal from Australia can also be candidates for capping.

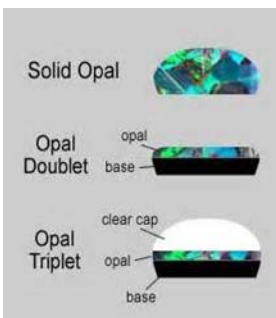
Types Of Opal Being Capped.

The Andamooka matrix Opal, while not difficult to sand and polish presents as a better stone when capped with optical quartz or glass. The Louisiana Opal in quartz is almost impossible to get a good show piece since the quartz tends to pop out during the grinding and polishing phases. The Honduran Opal is in a matrix that generally has white/grey/brown patch scattered throughout the stone. I generally prefer to slice the rough if it isn't already sliced.

Capping.

Since we are going to cap the opal, the stone can be as little as 1/8 to 1/4 inch in thickness (for doublets). This thickness does not require additional backing for strength.

Triplets will require a backing of basalt or other type stone since the Opal will be very thin and not have the thickness for the strength needed to make a good solid stone. I recommend pre-forming the stone with the flat top like it came from the trim saw. The flat top is rough ground on a Flat Lap of 400 to 600 grit. Flat topping can not usually be accomplished on a standard capping machine round wheel. The sides (edges, and bottom) of the stone (for doublets) should be sanded and polished to size. The top side (the side with the best color play) should be left slightly rough. The cap stone (optical quartz or glass) should have the bottom side (the side to be glued to the stone) roughed on a 400 to 600 grit flat lap.

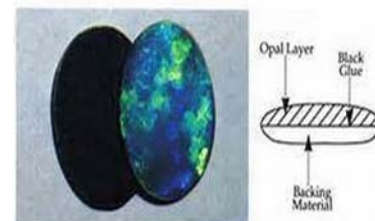


The cap can later be finished to size after completing the capping. To cap a stone, first mix Epoxy according to the directions of manufacturer. I recommend using a glass rod for mixing. Mix slowly so as to minimize the amount of air bubbles in the bonding material. Use Epoxy 330 Water Clear for best results. Pop any air bubbles with a toothpick or pin. A gentle breath blown across the mixture may also pop some of the trapped air bubbles. Put stone on wax paper or other throw away material. Apply epoxy to prepared Opal form, align cap (rough side down) over pre-form and apply gentle pressure to work any remaining air bubbles or air pockets. The epoxy sets up better if kept warm for several hours before touching or moving the stone. Any excess epoxy that may drip off on the wax paper can be thrown away, or may be ground off during the finishing of the cab work after the epoxy has hardened, usually overnight.

To Form A Triplet.

A triplet may be prepared in a similar manner, except the Opal will be set sandwiched between the quartz cap and a solid back made from basalt or some other type dark stone

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 3/14; from Snoopy Gems, 5/08 CM September 9/14



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:

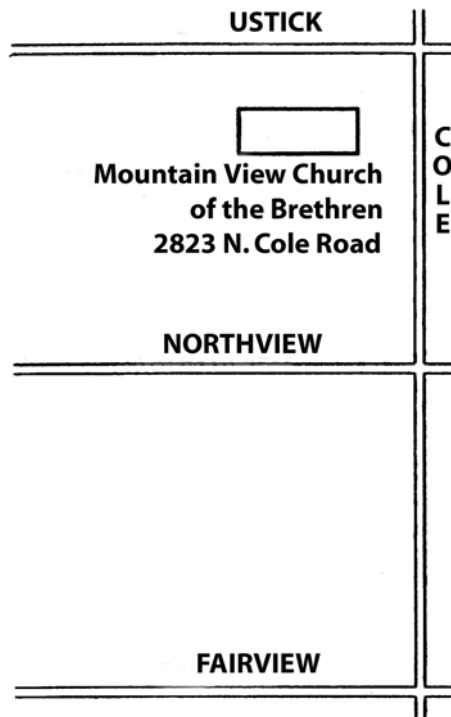
- \$17.00 per person
- \$20.00 per couple
- \$23.00 per family

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.

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