


# Grindings

*Idaho Gem Club, Inc.*

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

**VOL 77 NO 2**

**FEBRUARY 2017**

## President's Message

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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208-859-4080

Club Website

March is finally here and hopefully some warmer weather. I would like to thank everyone who helped load, set up, work tables, and tear down our Gem Show this year. We almost matched the record set last year, but not quite. The attendance numbers finished with 3,381 adults and 694 children. There were 70 fewer adults and 31 fewer children as compared with last year, but attendance was still above 2015 numbers, so very successful overall. The final expense reports will be finished up soon and the financial information will be available then.

There are several new people taking on new roles in our club. Rochelle Eytchison has been selected to serve as our new Treasurer. She has been working with Barb since the show to learn the position. Duane Winterroth has volunteered to be our new Building Fund Chairperson since Tina Frederick is not able to continue at this time. We also have a new Field Trip Chairperson. Cullen Anderson is ready and willing to lead us on our adventures. Each one of these chairpersons will need everyone's support as they learn their new roles. I would like to ask our previous field trip chairpersons to assist Cullen in learning the routes to our various claims and other standard collecting sites when possible. There are also several people that were accepted into the club at the last board meeting who were interested in volunteering for Field Trip Coordinating. If any of you would be willing to help Cullen on field trips, please see me or Cullen at the General Meeting. I want to thank you all for stepping up to help keep our club growing and moving into the future.

There will be more road work and associated closures on Cole from March 20 through June. See page 14 for a map of the closure and detour routes. Access could be limited, so you may have to use side streets to access the church parking lot.

There will not be a March field trip. Our new chairperson needs time to learn the ropes and locations. We will be going out to Graveyard Point in April. Sandy Blodgett has volunteered to lead us out on a clean-up and collecting field trip. It is a good community service to put in some effort to help keep our public lands clean, and we show that being out rockhounding can benefit everyone. The Workshop for this month will be a demonstration by Sandy Blodgett on the use of the rock cutting saws. I hope to see you there.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, President*

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING  
JANUARY 17TH, 2017**

### 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet

**Master of Ceremonies, Eugene Stewart**, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm welcoming everyone and introducing those seated at the head table (Phil Neuhooff, Dana Robinson, Eugene and Alice Stewart, Sandy and Judy Blodgett and Ed and Deanna Moser)

The **blessing** was given by Rev. Linda Barlow.

Gene drew the number six as the winning seat for the table favors.

Three IGC members received **special recognition** this year: Eugene announced that **Rick Corbett**, with his beautiful collection of cabochons, was selected as the winner for Project of the Year and presented him with the plaque in recognition. In addition, **Charles McCreath** was recognized for his many years of dedicated service to the Club. Charles was presented with a Jasper sphere in appreciation for all of his hard work. The Club also recognized **Marge Conley** for her valuable contribution of time. In appreciation for the countless number of hours spent at events, workshops and meetings Eugene presented Marge with a hand carved pendant.

Linda Barlow reported on two items of Federation news: President Obama signed six more land acquisitions to National Monument designation impacting our rockhounding activities. The Federation encourages rockhounds to take an active interest in how our public lands are being managed. Also, as a reminder, the Show this year will be in Hamilton, Montana the weekend of May 19, 2017.

President Dana Robinson conducted the business portion of the meeting.

Nothing to report from the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Refreshment Chair or the Field Trip Chair. Brent Stewart confirmed the next workshop will be on January 19 at 6:30 pm and asked for volunteers to help.

Finding no changes were needed to the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Grindings a motion was made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded, the members voted and the motion passed.

Dana R. reminded us that volunteers are an essential element to the success of our annual show, coming up next month, and asked that everyone stop at the tables in the back before leaving to sign up for some hours. Name tags will be made for volunteers to pick up at the Show. Additional information and details regarding the upcoming show can be found in the Grindings and will be discussed at the February meeting.

Dana R. reflected on the past year, thanking everyone for their support. She mentioned how much she enjoyed and appreciated the pictures members shared with the

Club from their trips and activities last year and hopes this will continue. Dana also hopes that the meeting programs in 2017 will be as good as last year and is looking forward to increased attendance at meetings. Dana was excited about the completion of the new workshop, easily the largest project tackled last year, thanking everyone for how smoothly the project went. Dana congratulated the Workshop Chairperson, Brent Stewart, for a job well done, crediting him with getting the project off the ground, coordinating the design and construction and for his continued commitment to the project. Dana said she is looking forward to another successful year as President of IGC.

Eugene presented Dana with a commemorative gift of a personally engraved rock hammer.

Sandy Blodgett shared the "story" of how the Whangdoodle came to be part of the IGC by reading a "letter" written in 1946 by H.D. Eslick.

### **Installation of 2017 Board of Directors and Officers:**

President – Dana Robinson

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Willa Renken

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Deana Ashton

Secretary – Christine Anderton

Treasurer – Barbara Wanner

Federation Director – Linda Barlow

Librarian – Melodee Worley

Historian – Tina Fredricks

Board Members – Dana Robinson, Willa Renken,

Deana Ashton, Sandy Blodgett, Ed Moser, Cheryl

Peterson, Twilla Gallaher, Johnathon Barnett, Brent

Stewart

Eugene had several items before saying goodnight to everyone:

With no new Life Members this year, Eugene recognized the current Life Members; Past Presidents of IGC were introduced; A moment of silence was observed in memory of members who passed in 2016; The Banquet Committee and volunteers were thanked for their time this year; Eugene presented two items of office (opal and jade gavel) to recently re-elected President Dana Robinson.

After thanking Eugene Stewart for, once again, serving as our Master of Ceremonies Dana R., using the official gavel, adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Christina Anderton, Secretary*

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21st, 2017**

Dana Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Carl Woodland led the Pledge of Allegiance. Rick Corbett gave out 1 junior door prize and 15 adult door prizes.

No building fund tonight, chairperson not present.

Melodee Worley had a correction to the last Grindings. The Board Meeting Minutes need to reflect a total of 1,560 grab bags filled at stuffing party, not 1,770.

SECRETARY REPORT: None d/t secretary not present

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Barb Wanner reminded everyone to get their dues renewed to continue receiving the newsletter. Many people are behind.

FEDERATION REPORT:

- Linda Barlow reviewed upcoming NFMS/AFMS show on the weekend of May 9-21 in Hamilton, MT.
- Reviewed AFMS Newsletter including discussion by AFMS President regarding phony e-mails being sent to Gem & Mineral Clubs to defraud by getting into their email lists. He warned do not open "unable to delivery package" addressed to "Dear Customer". Also warned about emails sent to treasurer pretending to be the president of the club requesting treasurer to do a bank transfer. All the treasurers have been wary and called their president's for verbal confirmation discovering the fraud attempt.
- AFMS Judges Training Seminar, June 6-7, 2017 for judges, exhibitors, & anyone who would like to better understand the AFMS Uniform Rules.
- AFMS Endowment fund for special projects like junior badges, judges training & digitizing slideshows from which all clubs benefit.

LIBRARY REPORT: Melodee Worley and Sandy Blodgett informed everyone of 58 books that were donated to the club library by Roy and Patsy Bethel. Melodee will be sorting them into the current library and any duplicate copies will be put up for sale on the Silent Auction table at the Gem Show.

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Deana Ashton reported that the refreshment committee roster arrangement is working well and thanked everyone for all of the snacks and door prizes they have been providing.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Sandy Blodgett volunteered to take everyone out to Graveyard Point for a collection and clean-up field trip in April. It would be a good community relations effort with plenty of time for collecting.

WORKSHOP REPORT: No workshop for February. we will have show set-up activities instead. Brent also asked for volunteer instructors for a March workshop as he will be doing shows all through March for work.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Prizes were awarded for the rock tumbling and grab bag sewing competitions. Jim Witt received a Labradorite Specimen for first place and John Benedict was awarded a nice Paleo Pick for second place. Belle Witt received an Idaho Star Garnet pendant for first place and Cheryl Peterson received a jasper sphere for second place.
- Annual Gem Show was reviewed by Brent Stewart and Doug Renken. Two trucks have been rented, but one extra driver is needed. Meet at Lock Away Storage at 1 pm on Thursday to load trucks. Meet at Expo Idaho on Friday morning at 8 am to set up the show. They asked that everyone pitch in to get things taken down and put away at the end. Doug also handed out parking passes for volunteer workers. A question was asked about Gem Club member admittance. Members only get in for free if they are going to work at the show.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President asked membership for volunteers for several positions; field trip chair, building fund chair and a new membership chair.
- The membership was notified that the grab bag price was increased to \$1.50 per bag at the February Board Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD Meeting FEBRUARY 7th, 2017

Meeting was called to order by President Dana Robinson at approximately 7:30 pm

Present: Dana Robinson, Twila Gallaher, Christine Anderton, Cheryl Peterson, Linda Barlow, Willa and Doug Renken, Sandy Blodgett, Ed Moser, Barbara Wanner and guest and Deana Ashton.

Absent: Brent Stewart and Johnathon Barnett.

Finding no changes needed to be made to the last meeting minutes Willa R. proposed a motion to accept the last meeting minutes as printed in the Grindings. Ed M. seconded the motion. Board Members voted and motion passed.

Federation Report:

1. Reminder: AFMS 2017 Show will be held in Hamilton, Montana the weekend of May 19, 2017 and the CFSM AFMS meeting in Ventura, California the weekend of June 9, 2017
2. Rock and Gem Magazine is looking for articles and the Show is now in the schedule
3. An article in the AFMS newsletter urges us to be aware of internet thieves. Emails are being sent out that appear to be from known parties claiming money is owed. Be careful of paying these false claims. Recommend two signatures be required on checks.

### Program Report:

1. The **Juniors** program for the February meeting will be on how to put together a display case.
2. The program for the **adults** will be Show prep in general. Ed M. mentioned bringing in some amber for a little "show and tell" if anyone is interested.
3. There was some discussion regarding the programs planned for this next year and how we can keep them fresh and promote club growth. Several ideas were brought up to encourage member involvement and bring in new members. Linda B. offered to conduct a program or a workshop as an introduction to crystal and Ed M. reminded us that the NFMS has a resource library of videos available to be checked out.

**Workshop Report:** Due to scheduling conflicts there will be no workshop the Thursday prior to the Show. Unfortunately, there was no interest in the January workshop, probably due to bad weather.

**Field Trip Report:** No field trip report is needed at this time of year, however, a new Field Trip Chairperson is needed as Brent S. has stepped down. Interested individuals are urged to contact

Brent through Stewart's Gem Shop or Dana R.. Note: the person for this committee is not required to have extensive experience or knowledge of potential locations. The necessary information can be provided to assist in the planning and execution of field trips.

Several items of general interest:

1. Sandy B. has been putting together an **inventory of IGC property**, tools, Show equipment, etc. and needs information on the location of some items, as well as any odds and ends he may have forgotten existed. Example: The possible whereabouts of a projector is currently unknown.
2. An observation was made which suggests that the IGC might benefit from **investing in a laptop or a computer** which could be used by someone for IGC business. The subject needs to be looked into further and discussed again.
3. Dana recently received an inquiry from a non-member located out of state about placing a **sales ad in the Grindings**. After some discussion IGC policy was clarified. Fees will be as follows: Non members \$15.00 per 2 x 3 inch spot per month, Members \$5.00 for same. A statement regarding the validity of any advertising placed in the Grindings needs to be added since the IGC will not guarantee, warranty or verify any claims in ads and will not be responsible for instances of fraud.

**Show-related items** which were discussed included:

1. Both the **rock tumbling contest** and the **grab bag sewing contest** are finished. Totals have been determined and prizes will be awarded at the next meeting to the following: For rock tumbling – First Place goes to Jim Witt (turned in 299 lbs), Second Place goes to John Benedict (turned in 160 lbs). For grab bags – First Place goes to Bell Witt (turned in 1005 bags), Second Place goes to Cheryl Peterson (turned in 600 bags). Thanks to everyone who attended the grab bag stuffing party. Over 1700 bags were made up and there are at least 100 more empty bags that can be stuffed at the show if needed.
2. After some discussion about grab bags, Sandy B. proposed a motion to **raise the cost of the grab bags** from \$1.00 to \$1.50. Motion was seconded by Cheryl P., Board voted, motion passed. The signage at the table will require updating and appropriate change for the cash box available.
3. Given the amount of grit Jim W. used tumbling 300 lbs of rock, Willa R. reminded the Board that we will need to either resupply Gene A. with the various grit he distributed to those tumbling rock or we could simply reimburse Jim W. for the grit he used which allows Gene A. to work with the supply of grit he currently has. It was agreed it would be easier to reimburse Jim W. directly. Willa R. will handle this.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Anderton, Secretary*



# MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD Meeting FEBRUARY 7th, 2017

4. Doug R. has scheduled the loading of the trucks for Thursday 2/23 at 1 pm at storage unit. Since the trailer used in the past is unavailable this year, two U-Haul trucks have been reserved for the weekend.
5. Willa R. is confident she has demonstrators lined up for all time slots. However, a couple of volunteers are needed to operate the big saw. Sandy B. volunteered and Jim Clinton was suggested to help. This will be followed up on at the meeting. The volunteer sign up sheets will also be at the meeting and need to be filled so name badges can be made.
6. Case favors have been ordered by Case Chair, Cheryl Link, and will be arriving any day.
7. Donations to the Basket Raffle table are still being accepted. Deana A. will have the necessary form at the meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Doug R. has been contacted by someone about a **Facebook group page** that has been created for the IGC to use. The creator is moving from the area and would like to turn the administration over to someone. If interested, Doug R. can be contacted for additional information.
  2. The selection process continues as Dana R. looks for a suitable volunteer to **replace Barbara W. as Treasurer.**
  3. Dana is also looking for several people to serve as **committee chairs.**
  4. In addition, it has been suggested that a new, **Membership Chair position** needs to be created to take on management of the membership roster and related items. If interested please contact Dana R.
  5. Board members reviewed **8 new membership applications.** Sandy B. proposed a motion to approve applications, Board voted and motion passed.
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tiderton, Secretary*



From The Tektite 3/97  
via Beehive Buzzer 3/00

# MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD Meeting MARCH 7th, 2017

Minutes not received prior to printing



Amethyst  
Cathedral  
Geode



Ed Moser  
@  
D. J. (Doc) Wing  
Demonstration  
Area



# 2017 IDAHO GEM CLUB SHOW

SETUP  
LOADING & UNLOADING  
Buckets, Buckets, Buckets!!!!  
Tables, Tables, Tables!!!!  
Black light poles, poles, poles!  
Tablecloths, Tablecloths!!!



FACETING  
with  
Walt & Allan

TICKET  
SALES  
with Ruth  
&  
volunteers



HOSPITALITY  
TABLE  
&  
CATHEDRAL  
GEODE



BASKET  
RAFFLE  
with  
Deana &  
Sarah  
Neuhoff



WIRE WRAPPING with  
Marge & Thelma

GARNET  
DIG  
With  
Dana  
&  
Janelle



GRAB  
BAGS



MAKING  
CABACHON  
With  
Masked man,  
Rick, & Greg



WHEEL OF FORTUNE  
With  
Belle & Becky



BUILDING FUND  
With  
Duane  
Selling lunch boxes  
&  
shirts of all types for Building Fund



# 2017 IDAHO GEM CLUB SHOW



SILENT AUCTION  
With  
Jim & Larry



RAFFLE  
WINNER



SAW RAFFLE DONOR, John Benedict  
& WINNERS, Christine Anderton  
& Dana Dancer



MICRO MOUNTS with Roger Beck  
from Mountain Home entertained adults and youth.  
Cheryl Peterson in background keeping track of the  
name badges.



BEADING  
With Linda & Carrie  
from  
Boise Bead Society



CRACKING GEODES  
With  
Brent



SILVER  
SMITHING  
with  
Peggy,  
Chris,  
&  
Willa



## NFMS CLUBS SHOW SCHEDULE

March 17 & 18 Fri – 8:30 – 6 Sat – 9 – 5, Panorama Gem and Mineral Club, Colville Fairground, Colville Ag and Trade Center, 317 West Astor Colville WA, Bill Allen 509 936 2446 sagostore2@charter.net

March 18 & 19 Sat – 9 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5, Hellgate Mineral Society, Hilton Garden Inn 3720 North Reserve St. Missoula MT  
Bob Riggs 406 543 3667 robert.riggs3@gmail.com

March 25 & 26 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5, Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club, Bloedel Donovan Community Center 2214 Electric Avenue Bellingham WA, Lori Nettles, 360 961 7873 lorinhardy@yahoo.com Club website – www.mtbakerrockclub.org

March 24 - 26 Fri – 10 – 6 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun 10 – 4, Rock Rollers Club of Spokane WA, Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, N.604 Havana at Broadway Spokane WA, Vonnie Dillon, 509 951 8173 showchair@rockrollers.org

April 1 & 2 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5, Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Society, Sweet Home High School Gym 1641 Long Street Sweet Home OR, – Joe Cota 541 451 2740, or Ed Anderson 541 944 2124 ela4rocks@gmail.com PO Box 2279 Lebanon OR 97355

April 7, 8, & 9 Fri – 9-6 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 4, Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society, Golden Spike Event Center Weber County Fairgrounds 1000 N 1200 W Ogden UT 88440, Deborah Blake 385 205 9187 gemshow@goldenspikegem.org

April 8 – 9 Sat – 9 – 6 Sun – 10 - 6, Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA, Mary Ann Collins, 206 714 3922 collma1@comcast.net

April 22 & 23 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 4, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, Central Washington State Fair Grounds Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima WA 98901, Marti Sondgeroth, 2013 S 41st Ave., Yakima, WA 98903, Phone evenings 509-248-6401 leave a message, Cell daytime 509-9103484, marthams@q.com

April 22 & 23 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, Benton County Fairgrounds 1500 South Oak Kennewick WA Mary Lou Omstead, 509 783 2798 PO Box 6652 Kennewick WA 99336,

April 22 & 23 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5, Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society, Idaho Falls Recreation Center, Corner of Memorial Drive and B Street, Idaho Falls, ID, Nicole Strong 208 768 7953 nicolek\_hansen@hotmail.com or Gerry Gibeault 208 589 0736 PO Box 2362 Idaho Falls ID 83403

April 28- 30 Fri – 10 – 5 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4, Mt Hood Rock Club Jackson Armory 6255 NE Cornfoot Road Portland OR 97218 Wayne King mhrcdc@gmail.com 503 284 7195 www.mthoodrockclub.com

April 29 & 30 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 5, West Seattle Rock Club, Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Avenue SW Seattle WA Diane Christensen diane@purns.org 206 582 2267 www.westseattlerockclub.org

May 6 & 7 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5, Everett Rock and Gem Club, Everett Community College Walt Price Student Fitness Center, 2206 Tower Street Everett WA, Fritz Mack 425 232 0809 PO Box 1615 Everett WA 98206 Website: www.everettrockclub.com

May 6 & 7 Sat – 9 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4, Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club, Douglas County Fairgrounds, I-5 Exit 123 Roseburg OR Sue Woodman 541 672 3486 rocksandhorses3@gmail.com

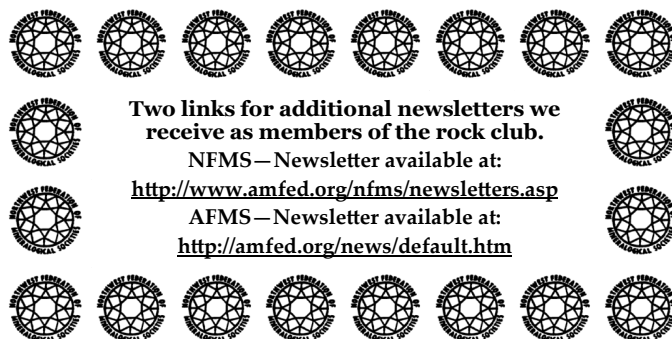
May 6 & 7 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4, Billings Gem and Mineral Club, Al Bedoo Shrine Auditorium 1125 Broadwater Avenue Billings MT Doug True dtruefossils12@yahoo.com 406 670 0506

May 13 & 14 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4, Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, Hermiston Conference Center, 415 Highway 395 South, Hermiston OR, Mike Filarski, 541 571 2593 stonemorlin1@netscape.net

**May 19 - 21 2017 NFMS Show Fri, Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 4, Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, First Interstate Center Ravalli County Fairgrounds 100 Old Corvallis Road Hamilton MT, Steve Vieth, 406 381 7597 viethsteve88@gmail.com**

**Save Stamps For Cancer  
Research**

**Cut at least 1/4 inch margin around the stamps.  
You can turn them into Linda Barlow, NFMS  
Federation Director, at our next meeting.  
THANK YOU!**





Rockhounds find hidden beauty in nature's mineral marvels. As president of the Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society, I am concerned that the actions considered in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal could be bad news for recreational rockhounding in our Gem State. Specifically, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to ban the use of shovels and other hand tools for rockhounding in withdrawn areas. Only surface collection will be allowed. The draft EIS can be viewed on-line at: <https://www.blm.gov/node/3282>

The draft EIS presents plans for protecting the greater sage-grouse and its habitat from future mining operations. Under the proposal the BLM will withdraw about 10 million acres from "location and entry" under the Mining Law of 1872, subject to valid existing rights. Basically, no new mining claims will be allowed in the withdrawn areas for 20 years. Information and an interactive map are available on BLM website: <https://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html>

Page 1-2 of the EIS states "The proposed withdrawal, if approved, would not prohibit any other authorized uses on these lands, such as grazing, recreation, off-highway vehicle use,

[...]"My impression is that BLM is not telling the whole story about impacts to recreation. Briefly, recreational rockhounding has been considered "casual use" under mining law. When lands are withdrawn from the mining law the term "casual use" goes away leaving the BLM free to do whatever it wants in that regard. I learned of the "casual use" problem and BLM intentions by chance at a public meeting. I had not expected the BLM to ban hand tools in withdrawn areas as deliberate policy. I discussed my concerns with Adam Merrill, a geologist from the BLM Washington D.C. Office. Mr. Merrill gave permission to use his name. He confirmed that it is BLM's intention to restrict the use of hand tools when rockhounding in the withdrawn areas. Interestingly, fossilized wood and invertebrate fossils have their own regulations and may be collected in the same area using hand tools. (A definition for "casual use" can be found by searching the BLM Colorado Office website for "Locatable Minerals.")

Approximately 3 million acres are targeted for withdrawal in Idaho. Affected areas include much of the land in and around the Lost River basin between Challis and Arco as well as huge swaths of land around Carey. This area is prime rockhounding country. It would be a shame to effectively shut down recreational rockhounding in this mineral paradise.

For rockhounds, the problems raised by the draft EIS can be solved by expanding the "casual use" definition used to collect fossilized wood and invertebrate fossils to also cover recreational rockhounding. Finally, this letter was written to address the concerns of rockhounds. So, while no more public meetings are scheduled the public still has until March 30 to submit comments. If you think you could be impacted by the proposed land withdrawal I suggest you check out the following website and submit a comment as recommend by the BLM:

[https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Dear\\_Reader\\_Final.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Dear_Reader_Final.pdf) Further Update from our President

I called Mr. Adam Merrill (BLM Geologist, Washington D.C. Office) to continue our talk about the proposed land withdrawal. Mr. Merrill said that he had spent some time with the BLM's lawyers discussing the rockhounding concerns that I had raised with him at the BLM's public meeting in Boise on February 24. I've summarized my understanding of the conversation with Mr. Merrill below:

As the BLM lawyers see it, the problem is not related to "casual use" or soil disturbance. Rather, it boils down to whether or not the 1872 Mining Act (mining act) is in force. According to the lawyers, the mining act gives the public right to access locatable minerals on Federal land. While the rules that apply to rockhounding may be different from those that apply to hard rock operations, both get their authority to access locatable minerals from the mining act. Withdrawing land from the mining law also withdraws the public's authorization to collect locatable minerals. It must be noted that the public will still be allowed to pick up rocks off the ground; but materials collected on the surface are typically very weather, fractured and therefore of little use to rockhounds.

**The text shown below was taken from a BLM website :**

[https://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/minerals/locatable/locatable\\_minerals.print.html](https://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/minerals/locatable/locatable_minerals.print.html)

*"The federal law governing locatable minerals is the General Mining Law of 1872 (May 10, 1872), which declared all valuable mineral deposits belonging to the United States ... to be free and open to citizens of the United States to explore for, discover, and purchase."*

*"Mineral deposits subject to acquisition in this manner are generally referred to as "locatable minerals." **Locatable minerals** include metallic minerals (gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc, nickel, etc.), nonmetallic minerals (fluorspar, mica, certain lime-stones and gypsum, tantalum, heavy minerals in placer form and gemstones) and certain uncommon variety minerals. It is very difficult to prepare a complete list of locatable minerals because the history of the law has resulted in a definition of minerals that includes economics."*

**What every Idaho rockhound should know!**

Approximately 3 million acres are targeted for withdrawal in Idaho. Affected areas include much of the land in and around the Lost River basin between Challis and Arco, much of the Lost River mountain range, as well as huge swaths of land around Carey. Some of these areas are prime rockhounding country. If the proposal proceeds as currently planned, the public will no longer have access to the locatable minerals in the withdrawn areas for the next 20 years. For example, I will not be allowed to collect a piece of tube agate near the Doyle Creek Road **for the rest of my life!** If you have any concerns that you may not be allowed collect agates and jaspers in the areas planned for withdrawal, then **PLEASE** write a comment and send it to the BLM. Send a note to your congressman too. We are the Gem State! We live in a mineral paradise! Rockhounds are (continued page 10)

## AFMS NEWS

- AFMS/CFMS SHOW & CONVENTIONS IS June 9-11, 2017 @ VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

## ALAA NEWS

CONTINUED  
WHAT EVERY ROCKHOUND SHOULD KNOW

not a threat to sage-grouse! There has to be a reasonable solution.

A sample comment form is attached. You can also send in a comment by email.

**The last day to submit comments to the BLM is March 30, 2017.**

The BLM has to receive comments by that date. So, allow time for delivery if you use postal services.

Other links:

**Draft EIS:** <https://www.blm.gov/node/3282>

**Interactive map withdrawal areas:** <https://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html>

**BLM EIS notice:** [https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Dear\\_Reader\\_Final.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Dear_Reader_Final.pdf)



via Bell Notes 2/88  
via Behive Buzzer 1/99

## NFMS NEWS

## NFMS SHOW

Hosted by Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society

First Interstate Center

Ravalli Fairgrounds

Hamilton, Montana

Speakers:

- Dave Trexler, Palenontologist, Two Medicine Center
- George Stanley Jr., Professor of Geoscience & Director of Paleontology Center at U of M
- Ted Antonioli, Consulting Geologist, Member of Montana Mining Association
- Bruce Baty, Talk on Glacial Lake Missoula

Lee Filliman, Fossils & Petrified Trees of Yellowstone

IDAHO GEM CLUB  
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

JUNIOR RATTTLERS:

REMEMBER TO BRING  
YOUR FOLDERS



March 21: General Meeting: CRYSTAL MINING SLIDESHOW of Oregon Mine crystal experiences by Allen Young

March 23: Workshop: Sandy Blodget demonstrates use of Rock Cutting Saws

April 4: Board Meeting

April 18: General Meeting

April 20: No workshop

April 22: Field Trip to Graveyard Point for rock hunting and clean-up

April 27: Introduction to Crystals by Linda Barlow at Workshop. \$5/members, (covers handouts)\$15/non-members (extra to workshop fund)



## YESTERYEAR

March 8, 1940

At the City Hall Council Chambers the regular meeting of the IGC began at 8pm. There were 38 members in attendance and 12 visitors including: Dr. Berry, Mrs. W. E. Henke, Avery Adams, Howard Davies and Frank Harland. New member: Avery E. Adams.

J. A. Harrington, President. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting and presented the correspondence.

Mrs. J. G. Smith read her a paper on the bloodstone as the birthstone for March. Following her talk she displayed a few bloodstone pieces.

Mrs. Donald Harrison told the club about Zircons and the identification of gem stones. A very interesting and educational feature. Several cut zircons were displayed.

Mrs. W. J. McFarland presented her paper on the "Biblical References to Gem Stones". Her paper was very enlightening.

A surprise paper by E. E. Walden on the salivated saliva slingers humorous activities and with the additions of The Whangdoodle Protector. Eslick's remarks a happy finish to the meeting was made.

2nd ANNUAL  
**GEM & MINERAL SHOW**  
PRESENTED BY  
THE IDAHO GEM CLUB

**SAT. MARCH 30—10 A.M. to 9 P.M.**

**SUN. MARCH 31—9 A.M. to 6 P.M.**

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**FREE ADMISSION**  
\*\*\*\*\*

ON DISPLAY AT  
**LARRY BARNES CHEVROLET**  
**2800 FAIRVIEW - BOISE, IDAHO**

DOOR PRIZES  
ALSO VISIT THE ANTIQUE BOTTLE SHOW  
MARCH 30 & 31 — COLUMBIAN CLUB  
824 WASHINGTON STREET — BOISE, IDAHO

## NOTICES

### GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW BASKET RAFFLE

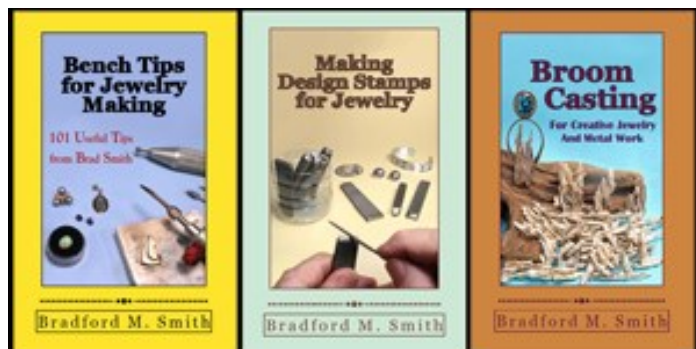
Wow! This year was amazing for the Basket Raffle! We owe a HUGE THANK YOU to Teresa Nebeker and John Benedict for their generous donation to the raffle. They donated the 10" Covington Saw. This item generated major ticket sales!! Definitely the favorite basket in raffle! Funds will help our workshop maintain equipment. This saw was won by our clubs Secretary, Christine Anderton! Special thanks to Teresa and John and their dedication to seeing our workshop come to life and succeed. They participate in refreshments, tumbled huge amounts of rock for grab bags & they show up at all our events. They have helped Idaho Gem Club in countless ways and truly are IGC Gems!

- Great big thank you to all basket donation businesses for your participation! Your generosity makes this event a success.
- I promise 2018 to be bigger yet! I will begin gathering donations in June and reach a variety of major retailers. Thank you to Suzanne McNeill for her creativity and leg-work gathering 6 baskets of unique items. Also thank you to Dana Dancer and Christine Anderton for helping me set up, tag and wrap items.
- If you are interested in helping with the 2018 Basket Raffle, or have ideas to share please contact Deana Ashton, 2nd VP.
- Contact info : [gemdigger2014@outlook.com](mailto:gemdigger2014@outlook.com) or [208-794-5628](tel:208-794-5628)
- TREASURE DIG Thank you's to Josh( and Todd) Jackson for two days of volunteering again! Jackson and Sarah Neuhooff, thank you for helping out during and after the show!
- Many Timberline High volunteers boosted our ticket sales and helped keep Treasure Dig flowing smoothly. Thanks for your participation and time!!

**THANK YOU FOR BUYING TICKETS FOR THE ITEMS RAFFLED AND MAKING THIS YEARS EVENT A TERRIFIC SUCCESS!!!**

## Bench Tips

See all Brad's jewelry books at  
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith  
[www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)



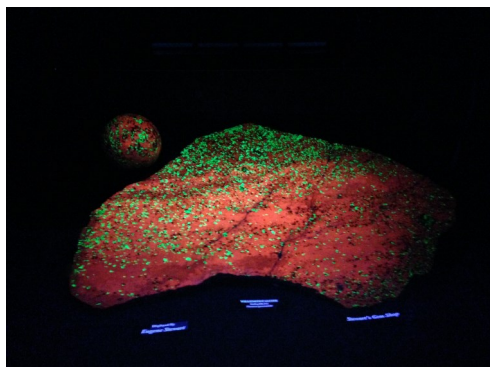
### BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.



Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$22 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07

I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.



BLACK  
LIGHT  
DISPLAYS  
@  
GEM SHOW

### BEZEL CLOSER

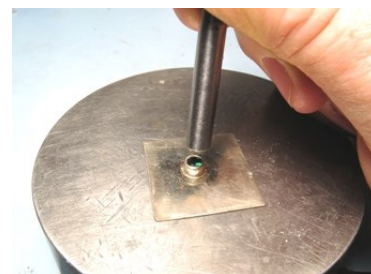
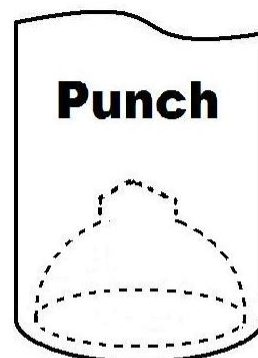
A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## MARCH

03/01 Susie Justice  
03/03 Karen Sass  
03/05 Jason Madsen  
03/07 Judy Blodgett  
03/10 JD Lancaster  
03/13 Barbara Wanner  
03/13 Cyndy Schmidt  
03/14 Bryce Pielstick  
03/14 Jason Sheehan  
03/18 Kathleen Fawcett  
03/18 Carl Woodland  
03/18 Robin Brown-Miller  
03/19 Natalie Douglass  
03/19 Jeane Gonzalez  
03/21 Kelley Sass  
03/22 Theresa Burris  
03/23 Phillip Worley  
03/23 Mike "Red"  
Lovette  
03/28 Gene Stewart  
03/30 Heather Madsen  
03/30 Jerine Smith

## FACETED: AQUAMARINE



## CABOCHON: BLOOD-STONE



## APRIL

04/01 John Benedict  
04/13 Ed Moser  
04/14 Linda Barlow  
04/17 Devon Koyle  
04/17 Jeanmarie McAvoy  
04-19 Curtis Stoddard  
04/22 Willa Renken

## FACETED: DIAMOND



## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

We encourage member participation in bringing cookies snacks and beverages to share during break at general meetings. Total provision among members assigned to bring refreshments is for 8-10 dozen cookies or snacks and drinks/juice for approximately 50-70 people. That can be veggie trays, breads, any other treats. We ask for **10 adult and 10 youth door prizes** which are wrapped in a bag. Usually minerals or rocks or slabs. Club provides coffee service and paper plates napkins and cups.

Please contact **Deana Ashton, 208-794-5628** and let her know if and what you will be bringing for the current month so she can coordinate and be sure enough is provided for snack, beverage, and **door prizes**. Some could bring food, some could bring beverages, some could bring door prizes. Thanks for your participation.

Members whose last name begins with letter listed below, are asked to bring after meeting snacks and door prizes for the month indicated.

JANUARY \_\_\_\_\_BANQUET  
FEBRUARY \_\_\_\_\_A-D  
MARCH \_\_\_\_\_E-K  
APRIL \_\_\_\_\_L-R  
MAY \_\_\_\_\_S-Z  
JUNE \_\_\_\_\_A-D  
JULY \_\_\_\_\_PICNIC: A-K\*  
AUGUST \_\_\_\_\_PICNIC: L-Z\*  
SEPTEMBER \_\_\_\_\_E-K  
OCTOBER \_\_\_\_\_L-R  
NOVEMBER \_\_\_\_\_S-Z  
DECEMBER—HOLIDAY COOKIES BY ALL

## SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

Please let me know if you are aware of any of our members having surgery, an illness, or just in need of cheer. We all can use some good cheer! We try and keep in touch with all our members, and I apologize if we have overlooked any member who has lost a loved one. Please let us know if we can help in any way. Contact Deana Ashton at 208-794-5628 or any Idaho Gem Club Board Member/officer.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND ANY GEM CLUB FUNCTIONS BUT ARE UNABLE TO DRIVE, CALL ME! WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO GET YOU THERE!

Deana- 208-794-5628

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:**

\$22.00 per person  
\$25.00 per couple  
\$28.00 per family

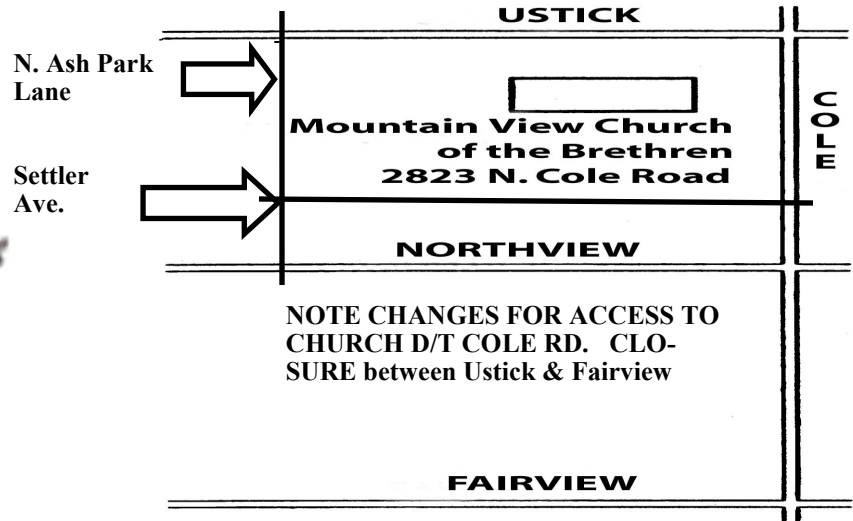
**Subscription:**

\$10 per year



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

**BOARD MEETING:**  
1st. Tuesday of every month  
Church of the Brethren  
2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho



P.O. Box 8443

Boise, Idaho 83707-2443