



# Grindings

*Idaho Gem Club, Inc.*

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

**VOL 81 NO 11**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

## DIRECTORY

ITEM	PAGE
President's Message	1
Calendars	2
Jerome Meteorite	3-5
Board Nominees	6
New Members, Field Trips, Program	7
Workshop, Elections, Banquet	8
Sunshine Lady	9
General Meeting Minutes	10
Board Meeting Minutes, New Members	11

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

What a year we have been through! It is so awesome to watch this club thrive and grow in a tough social time. I have been fascinated with the diversity of new members! I hope you all take time to get to know one another. There is also a lot of talented lapidary artists who can help you create new styles and encourage trying new techniques. Rockhounding, lapidary arts, and mining have proven to have created lasting marriages, personal strength and longevity, good health, sharp creative minds and fulfilled lives in those members over 80 years old that I have the pleasure to visit with. If you think you have rocks in your head, consider yourself lucky!!

Election of 3 new Board of Director positions takes place at the November 17th General Meeting. The Nominating Committee selected 3 members whose bios are included in this *Grindings* issue on page 8. If you wish to run for one of the positions, we will accept nominations from the floor. The November meeting will conclude with an auction. Please bring an item to donate. Proceeds offset banquet costs. Christine Anderton will be our Auctioneer.

Karol Cawthon has donated a lovely large crystal cluster for a special Building Fund raffle. The Raffle Drawing will be Dec. 15th at the end of the meeting. T-shirts for \$18.00 will also be available for sale. Ask Dana how to place a special order with one of our designs through [idahoinkspot.com](http://idahoinkspot.com).

Our Banquet Committee presented El Korah Shriners Banquet Hall for the January 19, 2021 banquet. Choices were slim due to Covid restrictions. The reservations are all contingent on how many people can be at one event in 70 days! Ticket sales (\$12.00 members) are going to be very limited until Stage 4 opens in Boise. Plan to purchase quickly at November meeting. Especially incumbent officers!

The workshop will be open Nov. 14 and Dec. 5 from 10 am-2 pm for jewelry making, wirewrap lessons and working on Project of the Year entries. Come early if you want to wirewrap a project to take home. At the Dec. 15 meeting, enter the Project contest with what you created this year. Junior members are encouraged to compete! There are 2 categories, Adult and Youth. Pet rocks, cabochons, pendants, custom jewelry, rock villages, and rock displays are just a few ideas. This year's entries will be amazing considering the rising talents of so many members who learned silversmithing and jewelry techniques this year! Bring your best and enter to win!

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Deana Ashton, President*

## MEETING AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Introduce Guests  
Door Prizes and Building Fund Raffle  
Board Member Election  
Business Meeting  
Auction

The deadline for issues is the Friday after each Board Meeting for the current month's edition. To submit articles, please send them through email to Dana Robinson, Editor [drobinso@boisestate.edu](mailto:drobinso@boisestate.edu)

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Kids' Workshop 10 am-2 pm OGMS Field Trip Pink Plume
19	20	21 Meeting Picnic, 6:30 Municipal Park	22	23 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	24	25
26 Field Trip Succor Creek Meet 8:00 am	27	28	29	30	31	

## OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	6 Board Meeting 7 pm	7	8	9	10 Project of Year Workshop 10 am-2 pm
11	12	13	14 National Fossil Day	15	16	17
18	19	20 General Meeting 7 pm	21	22 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	23	24 OGMS Field Trip Graveyard Pt.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween Party Costume Contest Workshop 10 am-2 pm

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
2	3 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	4 Board Meeting 7 pm	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Meeting Picnic, 6:30 Municipal Park	19	20 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	21	22 Kids' Workshop 10 am-2 pm OGMS Field Trip Wagontown
23 30 Field Trip South Mtn. Meet 8:30 am	24 31	25	26	27	28	29 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

## NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	3 Board Meeting 7 pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Project of Year Workshop 10 am-2 pm
15	16	17 Meeting 7 pm Board Elections	18	19 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
29	30					

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Board Meeting 7 pm	2	3	4	5 Project of Year Workshop 10 am-2 pm
6	7 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Swap Meet 5 pm Meeting 7 pm	16	17 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	18	19 Field Trip Jim's Claim/ Green Obsidian
20 Field Trip Glass Buttes or Hampton Butte	21	22	23	24	25	26 Field Trip Beacon Hill Workshop 10 am-2 pm
27 Field Trip Beacon Hill	28	29	30			

## DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Board Meeting 7 pm	2	3	4	5 Wire Wrap Workshop 10 am-2 pm
6	7 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Meeting 7 pm Project of Year Contest	16	17 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	18	19 Holiday Party at Workshop 10 am-5 pm
20 Holiday Party at Workshop 10 am-5 pm	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## THE JEROME (IDAHO) METEORITE

By Steve Brittenham

### An Unusual Sighting

On July 7, 1952, while out on a field trip with his students, Utah State University geology professor Clyde T. Hardy witnessed a massive daylight meteor traveling in a northwest direction towards Idaho. Also being a meteoriticist, Hardy gathered accounts from other eyewitnesses in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho to calculate a likely impact site south of Burley, Idaho. But after two years and more than two dozen unsuccessful trips to the area, he finally gave up hope of finding any remnants of the observed fireball.

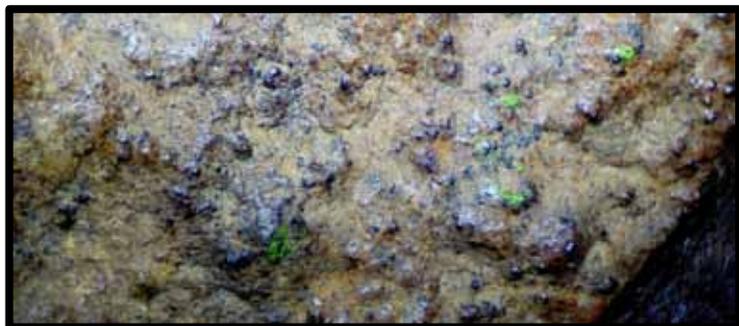
James Hugh Pruett – a famous Oregon meteoriticist of his day who frequently contributed to *Sky and Telescope* magazine, and who popularized the term “blue moon” – also tracked meteors in the northwestern U.S. and Canada. Unbeknownst to Hardy, Pruett independently investigated the 1952 sighting, naming it “The Sunshine Fireball” (but unlike Hardy, he never searched for it).

### A Chance Find

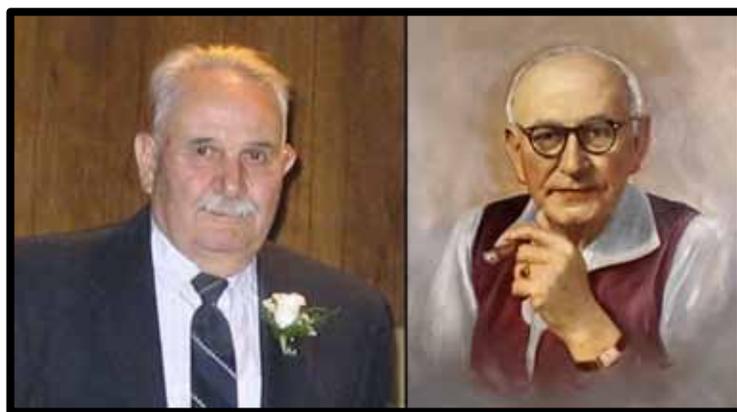
In March of 1954, while preparing his bean field for planting, Falls City farmer Clair Ricketts stopped when something broke his cultivator’s tine. Thinking the “thumb-printed” stone he uncovered might be metallic, he hit it with a wrench to let his dad hear it ring. Instead, a piece broke off near one edge, exposing an odd black surface that was clearly not metal. Puzzled, he threw it onto the tractor and took it back to their farmhouse at the end of the day.



*[Above, the light colored marks at the top and to the right of center are metal left after the meteorite was hit by the cultivator’s tine; at the far right edge is the black shock melt vein exposed when Clair hit it with a wrench (shock veins are caused by collisions in space that create enough pressure to melt thin areas inside the meteorite). Seen below is the classic John Deere green paint scuffed onto the back surface of the meteorite when Clair tossed it up onto the tractor.]*



William Peters was an affluent Jerome lawyer who also owned the local water company. After a heart attack in the '30s, he took up rock collecting to relieve stress. He and Glen Evans would buy rare or unusual rocks from people, then have others, like Boise’s Dudley Stewart or his son Gene, fashion them into cabs, slices, or spheres (many of Glen’s spheres are now on display at the College of Western Idaho in Caldwell).



*[Clair Ricketts (left) at his 60th wedding anniversary celebration, and William Peters (right) with his signature cigar in hand.]*

Clair would attend the Magic Valley Gem Club’s annual show in Filer, where he’d trade rocks for his true passion – Indian artifacts. When William stopped by, Clair had left briefly to change his field’s irrigation. William immediately recognized the unusual stone on Clair’s table as a meteorite and wanted it for his collection. Not knowing when Clair would be back, William took it so no one else would get it first. Understandably upset to find it “stolen” upon his return, Clair was briefly relieved a few days later when William met with him, only to be subsequently chastised by William for leaving such a rare piece unattended. But Clair wasn’t interested in rocks from space, so he agreed to trade it and the broken piece for some of William’s Indian arrowheads that Clair had envied.

### A Fortunate Meeting

William kept his rocks in several floor-to-ceiling custom display cabinets at his water company's office so people could enjoy looking at them when paying their monthly bills. His collection had become quite famous, and in August of 1954, H.O. Stockwell – a well-known Kansas geologist and lapidary – stopped by to see it. Stockwell also sold meteorites and was quite impressed by William's acquisition.

Stockwell suggested William have it classified – a process that required cutting off a portion for destructive testing. But William was quite adamant about never altering his meteorite. Fortunately, he still had the piece Clair accidentally broke off in the field – a piece that otherwise would never have been removed by William for any subsequent classification. So Stockwell recommended William send that piece to Harvey H. Nininger, who today is considered by many to be the father of American meteoritics.

Nininger identified William's piece as a stone meteorite, then added it to the collection he exhibited at his American Meteorite Museum in Arizona. There, Utah resident Frank Werrett saw it and later wrote to Nininger saying it was from the 1952 "Sunshine Fireball" that Pruett had previously named. Nininger referenced that association in his archives now at Arizona State University (ASU).

### Idaho's First Classified Stone Meteorite

By 1960, Nininger had already sold half of his personal meteorite collection to the British Museum of Natural History. ASU, in an attempt to capitalize on America's newfound interest in space after the Russian Sputnik satellite embarrassment, purchased the remaining half to jumpstart their new Center for Meteorite Studies.

Brian Mason, a meteoriticist at the American Natural History Museum in New York, was an advisor to ASU's new center. He saw William's piece there and offered to perform a formal classification for the Meteorite Bulletin Database (MetBul) – an international databank that verifies the authenticity and manages the naming of all officially recognized meteorites. In late 1963, Mason concluded William's piece was from an L-chondrite stone meteorite (today, classifications are further subdivided into metal content, degrees of shock and aqueous alteration, and other characteristics not commonly included in analyses back in the early 1960s). It was officially listed in the May 1964 MetBul as the 6.8 kg Jerome (Idaho) meteorite, but unfortunately William had just passed and consequently wasn't able to see Clair's find become Idaho's first recognized stone meteorite.



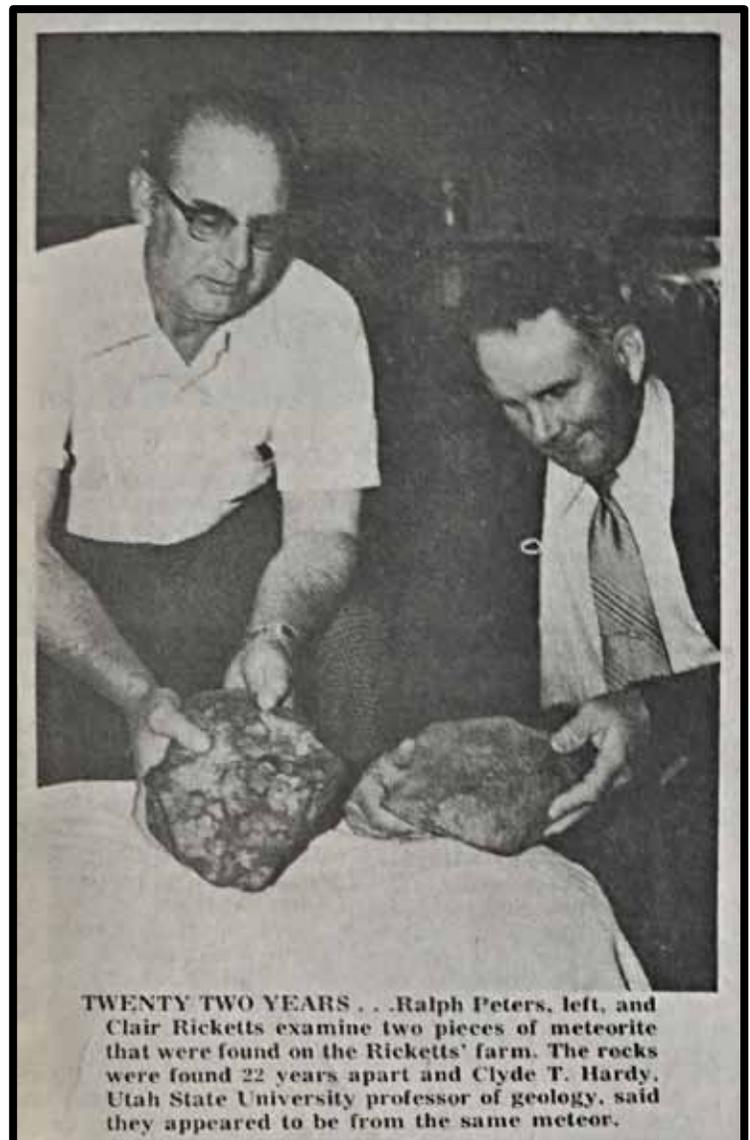
*[Clair's farm was just 40 miles from Hardy's search area near Burley. But Nininger was in serious competition with Lincoln LaPaz – another famous meteoriticist – and often reported erroneous locations of finds to prevent LaPaz from finding additional pieces. For that reason, Jerome's MetBul entry lists Jerome as being found 20 miles west of Clair's farm – not even in its namesake county!]*

### But Wait . . . There's More!

When his water company was municipalized by the city of Jerome in 1955, William moved his display cases and vast rock collection into the basement of his son Ralph's house. There the meteorite remained unseen by the general public, with one brief exception, twenty years after its original discovery by Clair.

Stockwell was sure William's meteorite was half of one that had split on impact. William wouldn't part with his, so the next year Stockwell offered to buy the other half were it ever found. But despite that incentive, Clair never did. Never, that is, until two decades to the month after his first find, when he once again hit something large while preparing the same field for spring planting.

Clair recognized the rock as different from the "winter crop" of indigenous basalt stones pushed to the surface by the prior season's frost-heaves. With Nininger long since out of the meteorite business, Clair instead contacted Utah State University's geology department and asked someone to come view how this second stone "fit snugly" against Clair's 1954 find. And who should come out but the same Professor Hardy that witnessed the original fireball in 1952, and who had subsequently spent two fruitless years searching for it! Their meeting was described in the local July 11, 1974 *Northside News*.



### The Second Stone Becomes Quite Well Known

The 1954 stone returned to Ralph's basement, where it remained largely unseen except in passing when some local school classes would occasionally visit to see William's original rock collection. Then in 1986, Dr. Jim Schwade of the Chicago Field Museum had learned of the meteorite through ASU and contacted Ralph asking to acquire some of it for study. But like his father, Ralph refused to cut the meteorite. Instead, Clair had given his 1974 find to his brother Dean, so Ralph suggested Schwade contact Dean instead. They reached an agreement, and later that year, while visiting his aunt Joy and uncle Stanley not far from Chicago, Dean dropped off his stone for Schwade to cut. Then in 1987, Dean decided to buy Stanley's Indian motorcycle that he'd seen when visiting the year before, and for the funds to do so, he sold the remainder of his meteorite to Schwade.

Schwade removed several additional slices, reducing the stone to less than half of its original 10 kg size. Most of those slices were subsequently distributed in whole or in part to private collectors and several famous institutions around the world, including the Moscow Academy of Sciences, the Geology Service of Canada, Germany's Institute of Planetology, Illinois' Planetary Studies Foundation, and the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington D.C. There's even a small piece currently on loan by a private meteorite collector to Boise's Idaho Mining Museum, where it can be seen along with several other meteorites of various types.

While living in Pocatello in 1996, Professor Martin Horejsi arranged with Schwade to temporarily loan the remaining 4 kg of his stone for a temporary meteorite exhibit at the Idaho Museum of Natural History. Then, after the exhibit was over, Horejsi convinced Schwade to let him acquire the piece. Hidden in Ralph's basement for decades, the 1954 stone was still virtually unknown; so it wasn't surprising that in a May 2016 *Meteorite Times Magazine* article, Horejsi described his as being the main mass of the only known piece of the Jerome (Idaho) meteorite (not to be confused with the Kansas meteorite of the same name, though Clair's should have been named "Falls City", as meteorites are named after where they're found).



[The picture above was published in Horejsi's May 2106 *Meteorite Times Magazine* article and shows the remaining 4 kg main mass of the second stone. While William, and later Ralph, wouldn't allow Clair's first find to be cut, this second stone has been the source for the bulk of the Jerome meteorite material subsequently distributed around the world. Per the 1974 *Northside News* article, the second stone originally weighed 10 kg, of which an estimated 4.5 kg is currently unaccounted for.]



[The back side of a corner cut from the 1974 stone that mates with the broken side of Clair's 1954 find.]

### But What About the First Stone?

I first met Ralph's son Bill Peters at the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society's 2017 annual club show. My wife and I were exhibiting some meteorites there, and Bill – who still lives in Ralph's former house in Jerome – remarked his mother had one that was found in the 1950s on a nearby farm. The Jerome meteorite's MetBul listing is quite sparse, so all I really knew of it was from Horejsi's aforementioned *Meteorite Times* article describing a single stone, with Horejsi still owning the remaining main mass.

Not one for coincidences, and being somewhat skeptical because of countless people having shown me river rocks they "knew" were invaluable meteorites, I asked Bill to send me a photo of it. A grainy cellphone picture arrived in an email two days later, but there was no question this was indeed a substantial stone meteorite.

I didn't hear from Bill again for three years, at which time he told me of his mother's recent passing and asked about an appraiser to value the meteorite for a museum donation or possible Heritage Auction sale. Either would require some type of provenance information, so I agreed to meet to hear of anything he knew that I might include in an appraisal document or auction catalog listing.

Little did I know it would evolve into weeks of research, two trips to Jerome, and tracking down Clair's and William's relatives across two states. But the result was a hitherto unknown and incredible story spanning decades – one that involved some of the great historical figures in early meteoritics, a pairing of half-stones an unbelievable two decades apart, a seemingly unconnected observation of a fireball across three states, and most important, Idaho's first officially classified stone meteorite, a stone that had been virtually unknown for 66 years!



[The 1954 stone today, posed in the same orientation as in the 1974 *Northside News* article to show how it hasn't changed in 46 years.]

## BOARD NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

### Terri Frostrom

Hi, I'm Terri Frostrom. I'm 58 and have been married for 38 years. We have 2 kids and 2 grandkids. My dad got me into rocks as a small kid. Then in junior high my parents got into selling jewelry. We would travel between Boise and Tucson and go on buying trips for Turquoise. Now I make my own jewelry and do shows around Idaho and Oregon. Rock hounding is very much a favorite thing to do. I can't wait to explore and learn more.

### Kathe Miller

I was born and raised in Twin Falls Idaho, where I went to school and lived most of my adult life. I moved to Boise about 15 years ago. My love of rocks started as a little girl carrying rocks home and keeping jars full and rock collections in my mothers gardens. I never knew what beauty could be found deep inside some rocks, until my grown daughter started showing me her collections and the jewelry she was making. She is a fourth generation rockhounder with her dad and wanted to share her passion with me.

Covid hit me hard. Working from home, I found myself with a lot of spare time and nothing to do. She encouraged me to join a rock club and buy an old broken down cabbng Genie that we rebuilt and got working. I was hooked the first time I made a very bad "worry stone". From there I was able to find Stewart's Gem store where I purchased some lapidary equipment and was told about the Idaho Gem Club. I am very excited to be part of such an amazing group. Everyone is always answering my questions and teaching me invaluable knowledge. I have learned so much through the meeting, workshops, outings and Kids Day I help out at (might be the best learning experience yet.) I was able to help out at Nyssa Thunderegg Days and would like to continue helping and learning more.

I would love to help the Gem Club out as often as I can, not only with field trips, but as a board member where I can continue to grow and share my knowledge with others. I work in a pediatric office and kids are my passion. I would love to help the club reach the younger generation and get them involved. I have volunteered many hours over the years to various organizations and nonprofits. I would love to give that time this year to the Gem Club and to make new friendships, sharing what I learn. Most of all, it gives me something to look forward to each month.

### Jason "Fuzzy" Smith

I like rocks! I have been collecting rocks all my life. About 3 years ago I met the Stewarts and started helping in the workshop. I also became a student of Master Silversmith Frank Masley. I won the IGC Project of the Year with a malachite/onyx intarsia bracelet, pendant and ring set, which was one of my first finished pieces. I really enjoy the silverwork I am creating and have developed skills in most lapidary machinery. When I am not running a construction crew or spending time with my pocket pirahna, (I like doggies too), I am in my home lapidary workshop and helping others build skills. I also own a mining claim in the Owyhees.

I have served as a Board of Director this year, and bring fair objective opinions and fresh suggestions. I have long term visions for our gem club and hope to continue serving in this role and beyond. Thank you for your consideration. Vote Fuzzy!



*Fuzzy Smith  
and his work  
from last year*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert Mayes  
Sara Sandersson  
Keith Dyarmett  
Tia Call  
Ginny Litchfield

Victoria Roper  
Natalya Hazen  
Joe Peraino  
Ryan Boring

## New Members:

Our website at [idahogemclub.com](http://idahogemclub.com) has all of the information regarding our Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Operating Procedures. Please contact any Officer or Board Member with questions or suggestions.



*Kathe & Jeff Miller*

### 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)

## IDAHO GEM CLUB MEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Our season is over for scheduled field trips, but keep your eye on the Facebook page for possible spur of the moment outings.

Special thank you to Robert Murphey for including IGC on the Owyhee Club field trips this year. Robert took members on some really fun overnight trips and taught many new members the basics of the hobby, including how to obey property boundaries, collection limits, and demonstrated good rockhound ethics. Be sure and thank Robert for his efforts and dedication to providing great outings and finding choice material. We really appreciate your enthusiasm!

For all who helped escort field trips this year, many thanks! Tony Griffin led a memorable trip to Succor Creek, Ilse Schreiner and Don Nafus took the lead to Whangdoodle and Queenstone, Cathy Parsons and Cheryl Link hosted trips to collection sites for petrified wood, and Jim and Belle Witt led a group to their obsidian mining location. We couldn't do these fun trips without all of the help and dedication.

During the off season, Deana will work with the Miller's by providing maps and create a thorough Field Trip Guidebook for their use next year.

If you have a destination you'd like to add to the field trip schedule for 2021, write it on the Field Trip suggestion sheet at the general meeting or contact Jeff or Kathe Miller, Field Trip Committee, at 208-713-6807.

Idaho Gem Club Field trip day is the 3rd Sunday of each month and Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society Field trip day is the 3rd Saturday each month.

### Field Trip Leaders Contact Information:

IGC -- Kathe & Jeff Miller 208-713-6807

OGMS -- Robert Murphey 208-590-1848

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The November Program will be the Election of Board Members and an Auction to support Annual Banquet Funding. Please bring something to auction to the November meeting -- it can be rock or gem related, like slabs or rough stones, minerals or fossils, lapidary items, books, or any item you wish to donate.

## WORKSHOPS

Our normal workshop schedule is the Thursday evening after the general meeting, and the Saturday of the following week. Please be sure to bring your mask. The dates are listed on the calendars page.

Two additional workshops will be held on Nov 14th from 10am-2pm, for a Wirewrap and Jewelry Making workshop and Project of the Year.

On Dec. 5th from 10 am-2 pm, there will be a Workshop for Projects of the Year and holiday gifts.

The Project of the Year is voted on at the December General Meeting.

## WORKSHOP LOCATION

2620 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID  
Next door to Stewart's Gem Shop  
\$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



## ELECTION TIME!

At the November meeting the Election Committee will introduce 3 candidates for the 3 Board of Director positions. They are Kathe Miller, Teri Frostrom, and Jason "Fuzzy" Smith.

If you are interested in taking a greater role in the club operations, you are welcome to nominate yourself from the floor at the November General Meeting. We will add you to the ballot!

All members vote by ballot and elect the three new officers. Board of Directors serve 3 year terms. You are required to attend board meetings the 1st Tuesday of each month and be willing to participate in club functions.

The President is chosen at the December Board Meeting by the group of new Directors elected in November.

### ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairman, Willa Renken 208-362-3941

Cheryl Link 208-375-5360, Liz Warner 208-631-8830

## 2021 Idaho Gem Club Annual Banquet Committee Report

El Korah Shriners Banquet Hall was chosen as the venue for the Jan. 19, 2021, Annual Banquet. The theme is Geodes. Tentative plans include: 5:30-6:30 no host cocktail hour, 6:30 Dinner served (Prime Rib or Special Chicken Entree with salad, bread, beverage, and dessert).

Dinner is followed by the Induction of new 2021 Idaho Gem Club Officers and a Recognition awards ceremony. A silent auction is planned.

Emcee: Gene Stewart

Tickets \$12.00 IGC Members / Non-members \$24.00

Due to the Governor's restriction limiting 50 people in the venue, including serving staff, a limited number of tickets will be sold. If Boise Covid restrictions open up to Stage 4, more tickets will be offered. Tickets will be for sale at the November General Meeting and throughout December at Stewarts Gem Shop and meetings.

if there are concerns or questions. Contact Christine Anderton at 208-514-6902

## CHARLES EDWARD SMITH



Charles Edward Smith (Chuck or Charlie), 78-years-old from Riggins, Idaho, passed away in his sleep on Sept. 13, 2020, in his home of natural causes.

There will be no services held as per his request. His only wish was to be buried next to his lovely wife Helen, who passed away on Dec. 19, 2017.

Charlie was born in Dubuque, Iowa, on July 3, 1942. After graduating high school, he joined the U.S. Air Force in Iowa. Eventually he was stationed at Mtn.

Home Air Force Base, which is where he met his wife Helen Dean Leetham. They were married in Nevada on Jan. 1, 1962; they were married 55 years.

Charlie worked in construction several years before turning his hobby of "Rockhounding" into a full-time, successful, life-long business that he pursued to his dying day.

Charlie is survived by granddaughter, Tia Maure Smith, daughter-in-law Cristina L. Smith, brother Marty Smith, half-brothers Mike Mulford, Marty Mulford and Les Mulford and half-sister Marilyn Mulford Hansen, all of Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents, sons Donald Smith in 1989 and Ross A. Smith in 1999, his beloved wife Helen Dean Smith in 2017, and brother Bill Smith.

Charlie was well-known and respected in the gem and mineral clubs throughout the United States and abroad. He fulfilled his last wishes before his passing. He will be missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Burial will be in the Riggins Cemetery, next to his wife Helen.

## GEORGE E. CAWTHON

George E. Cawthon, 81, from Boise passed away November 3, 2020, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's. George requested no public funeral services.

George was born December 31, 1938 in Independence, KS to George W. and Hazel (Hanscom) Cawthon. George attended the University of Washington, was in the Air Force, and on September 4, 1966 married Karol Kennaly in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho. In 1972 their son, Christopher was born, and George graduated from the University of Idaho with a Ph.D. in Botany. The family then moved from Moscow, Idaho to Many Farms, AZ where George taught at the BIA high school. In 1976 the family moved to Boise, Idaho where George worked for the Department Of The Interior Bureau Of Reclamation, retiring in 1997.

George was a member of Placer Masonic Lodge No. 3, A.F. & A.M. He was an avid photographer, reader, and he enjoyed outdoor activities, especially rock hounding.

George was preceded in death by his parents, and two of his sisters. He is survived by his wife, Karol; son Chris; sister Helen Harlander of Spokane, WA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

## SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

By Deana Ashton

Sincere condolences to the families of several club members who lost loved ones recently.

**Charles E. Smith**, 78, from Riggins, Idaho, passed away on Sept. 13, 2020. Charlie was our Annual Gem Show Chairman for many years. He owned Teton Gems based out of Riggins, and was a dealer at the February show. Charlie was a truly special man who earned respect of the lapidary community.

He generously shared his knowledge of opals, gemstones and jewelry making. The Idaho Gem Club Annual Gem Show is one of the best in the nation thanks to Charlie's leadership, vision and hard work as Show Chairman for over a decade.

**George E. Cawthon**, 81, from Boise passed away November 3, 2020. George and his wife Karol loved the many trips with their Gem Club friends seeking petrified wood deposits throughout the Northwest and Pacific Coast. Our condolences to Karol and their son Chris. The Cawthon rock collection has been donated to our club and we will appreciate the education we gain through the specimens.

**Joyce Gordon**, 71, daughter of lifetime members Patsy and Roy Bethel, passed away October 14, 2020. Our condolences to the Bethel family and Joyce's son Ben.

\* Special Note: 2020 has brought isolation and depression to many people. Please check in with friends and neighbors you haven't seen lately, as well as those without family during the holidays. One smile, a wave, a friendly gesture can make a big difference to people!

Do you need someone to talk to? Someone is waiting for you to call! 24/7. Every day. Your life matters! Please, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. The Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline is (208) 398-4357. Idaho Care Line 2-1-1 provides resources also.

If you know of members who are ill, facing surgery, in need of prayer, are isolated, and needing cheer or who have passed away, please call Sunshine Lady at 208-794-5628.

**GEM CLUB OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Deana Ashton, 208-794-5628  
gemdigger2014@outlook.com

1st VP: Willa Renken, 208-362-3941  
wlr\_dkr@msn.com

2nd VP: Brent Stewart, 208-863-9336  
gene@stewartsgemshopinc.com

SECRETARY: Gia Stewart, 208-703-0740  
eilersg@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Teresa Nebeker  
208-890-4500, nebekert1@msn.com

FEDERATION DIRECTOR: Randy Harrison  
208-342-2320,  
haveharleywilltravel4u@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP GUIDES: Kathe & Jeff Miller  
208-713-6807, gemstatejewels@gmail.com

HISTORIAN: Cheryl Peterson  
208-887-5363, cpete4421@gmail.com

LIBRARIAN: Cheryl Lawson,  
208-995-6219, dizzyphalarope@gmail.com

SUNSHINE LADY: Deana Ashton  
208-794-5628, gemdigger2014@outlook.com

GRINDINGS EDITOR: Dana Robinson  
208-345-3823, drobinso@boisestate.edu

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Cheryl Peterson, 208-887-5363  
cpete4421@gmail.com

Cheryl Link, 208-375-5360  
clink@micron.com

Cullen Anderson, 208-412-6822  
cullenanderson@hotmail.com

Rick Corbett, 208-383-0040

Ed Moser, 208-340-8060  
ed.moser15@gmail.com

Jason Smith, 208-484-9729  
sunshineandwine101@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:** www.idahogemclub.com  
**EMAIL:** info@idahogemclub.com

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 15, 2020**

Meeting called to order by President Deana Ashton at 7:00 pm.  
Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deana.

There were 50 attendees. Rick handed out 12 door prizes. Deana provided fluorescent rock specimens to all attendees in celebration of the Fluorescent Blacklight program.

Brent Stewart presented first part of the evening program on Display Cases. He had a showcase assembled at the front of the room. Brent talked about how to properly set up a good showcase, He suggested focusing on case contents being similar, colors that pop, adding dimension with risers, use of good signs for specimens, and demonstrated how to stand back and look case over, then remove excess. Using fewer nice rocks works best.

Next, Gene Stewart held a program on fluorescent lights and rocks. The Stewarts have new blacklights available which really show off how many of the rock specimens we collect glow in the dark. He explained long and short wave UV lights. He demonstrated the brilliant colors the special Hoya Filtered Blacklights bring out. IGC just ordered 6 that will make our Gem Show Blacklight Room outstanding at our February Gem Show. Gene provided an educational and fascinating program.

Treasurer Teresa Nebeker reviewed club financial reports. She reminded everyone it is time to renew memberships, dues run October to October.

Deana introduced Cheryl Link, a lifetime member who is on the Board of Directors. Cheryl has generously presented the Gem Club with a significant donation which was matched by her employer, Micron. A separate bank account titled "Link" has been designated for Cheryl to use the funds she acquired totalling \$17,855.10! Cheryl assembled a small committee to help appropriate the funds to best club use. Cheryl has encouraged youth education for years. She is purchasing scientific microscopes and monitors to use during general meetings to view specimens. She plans on purchasing fluorescent portable lights to be used on field trips. The field trip Guides will also receive a porta-potty and shelter tent to set up on next years field trips. A special thank you was given to Cheryl for her kindness and generosity! A special thank you to Micron Corp. is planned.

**Field Trip Report:** Oct. 24th Graveyard Point trip guided by Robert Murphey - meet at Extra Mile fuel stop on Hwy 55/95 (the old Gem Stop). Meet at 8:00 am and depart at 8:30 am. Cancellations will be listed on facebook or call Robert Murphey.

**Workshop Report:** Brent went over the workshop schedule.

**Old Business:** No old business

**New Business: Annual Banquet Committee:** Deana asked for a couple of volunteers to be Annual Banquet Committee for January 19 event. Christina Anderton, Dana Dancer and Libby agreed to take the assignment. A report will be given to the Board in November.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Deana Ashton, President*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Deana Ashton called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Present:** Deana Ashton, Willa Renken, Brent Stewart, Teresa Nebeker, Cheryl Link, Ed Moser, Rick Corbett, and Gia Stewart  
Randy Harrison, Kathe Miller

**Absent:** Cullen Anderson, Jason Fuzzy Smith, Cheryl Peterson.

Deana asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the Grindings. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Grindings, which was seconded by Cheryl Link. Board members voted, motion passed.

**Secretary Report** by Gia Stewart: We have received the new Rock & Gem magazine. Deana confirmed that the Sec. of State requirements have been updated per by-laws. Willa submitted filing.

**Treasurer Report** by Teresa Nebeker: Teresa presented a detailed accounting of the club finances. Discussion over show dealer deposits and membership renewals.

**Federation Report:** Deana Ashton has updated contact information with AFMS/NFMS to list Randy Harrison as the IGC Federation Director, and his wife as alternate. NFMS Judi Allison will be sure Randy can participate in upcoming Zoom meetings. Randy informed us that there will be a Zoom meeting on November 14 and December 5th for the Idaho Recreational Council which he will partake in. He was updated by Ed Moser about the saving stamps for cancer research program through NFMS.

**Juniors Report:** No report. Juniors are blending with general meeting activity until a Junior Badge program is in place.

**Refreshments Report** by Rick Corbett: None at this time.

**Program Report:** The November program will be the Board of Director Elections. At the end of meeting, we will hold an auction.

**Field Trip Report:** The field trip for October was to Graveyard Point for plume agate on the 24th. Led by Robert Murphey, combined with Owyhee Club, there was a great turnout with 36 vehicles, according to Kathe Miller. It was muddy, and the group left with no roads being damaged. Everybody was shown by Robert the boundaries of claims, and informed what areas to avoid as they are private claims.

**Workshop Report** by Brent Stewart: Brent went over the dates for the next workshops. They are listed on the calendar. **BRING YOUR OWN MASK FOR ALL WORKSHOPS.**

Brent said the Genie wheels have been sent away for replacement and the shop now has 3 units complete with new wheels.

Deana added 2 extra workshop days, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5 to give members a chance to complete Project of the Year entries due for December meeting. Nov. 14th, we will have a jewelry making class, with wirewrapping lessons, 10 am-2:00 pm. Same for Dec. 5.

**Old Business:** There are 3 openings for Board Members. The Nominating Committee has selected 3 candidates to fill these positions. Nominees are: Kathe Miller, Jason Smith, and Terry Frostrom. Willa made a motion to accept the nominees, Cheryl seconded, the board voted and the motion passed.

**New Business:**

**Banquet Committee:** Christine Anderton and Dana Dancer presented the board with a report. Securing a reservation for the banquet was a challenge due to Covid restricting events to groups of 50

persons. The only location willing to make a reservation was El Korah Shriners Banquet Hall. The Shriners agreed to accommodate the reservation request because Dana Dancer's late father, Jack Dancer was held in high regard as an El Korah Shriner. The board unanimously agreed to secure the reservation with a deposit. Christine and Dana will continue to work out details in compliance with Boise City hopefully being in Stage 4 and able to accommodate our estimated number of 80 attendees. The Board also agreed to cover reinstatement of Dana's membership with the Shriners to satisfy their requirements of active membership. This may provide substantial savings on banquet charges.

Ed Moser announced that Linda Barlow has been nominated to receive an award for her publication of *The Grindings* as noted in the October Northwest Federation newsletter.

Deana Ashton confirmed that the minutes from 2015-current are recorded and have been received at the attorney's office, in accordance with our bylaws and the Sec. of State. Deana asked for a confirmation letter of receipt that shows we submitted all required reports.

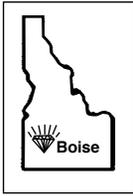
Deana is ordering a new IGC Corporate Seal to be kept with the Secretary and passed forward to the next secretary. This is required in our bylaws.

Eleven new applications were reviewed. Willa made a motion to accept the new members, Ed seconded, the board voted and the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Gia Stewart, Secretary  
and Deana Ashton, President*





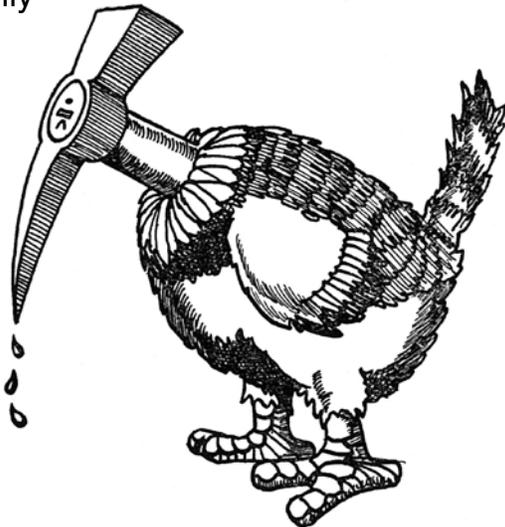
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 8443  
Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences

**Dues:**  
\$22.00 individual  
\$25.00 couple  
\$28.00 family

**Subscription only:**  
\$10 per year



**GENERAL MEETING:**  
3rd Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD MEETING:**  
1st Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**ADDRESS:**  
Church of the Brethren

