



Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 81 NO 9

SEPTEMBER 2020

DIRECTORY

ITEM	PAGE
President's Message	1
Calendars	2
Field Trip, Program Coyote Short	3
Workshops, Sunshine Lady Report	4
Obsidian	4-5
General Meeting Minutes	6
Board Meeting Minutes, New Members	7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September is the first month Idaho Gem Club is focusing on educating everyone on a specific rock material. Obsidian is our first topic. There is an article about Obsidian included in this issue of *Grindings*, our general meeting will feature a program discussing Obsidian, the workshops will have Obsidian sample slabs to work with, and we have an exclusive opportunity to visit Jim Witt's Palisades Green Obsidian Mine in Burns for our field trip on Saturday Sept 19. Details inside for the meeting spot. On Sunday, we can go the opposite direction to Glass Buttes area for Obsidian in multiple colors OR go to Hampton Butte for green petrified wood. Sunday's destination will depend on a vote of those attending.

We will have maps available at the meeting on Sept. 15. The trip to Burns takes about 3 hours. A few members will be staying at hotels in Burns, others will camp out. If you haven't attended a group field trip, you are missing out on chance to meet other families with similar interests, and all of us have been responsibly living with the social distancing rules. I thank each of you for doing your part to continue family rockhounding safely. The overnight camping trips to destinations have been really exciting and turnout has been strong for all outings. Car Camping has become a fun trend, and is free! As for those unable to drive to Burns, consider joining the Owyhee Gem Club trip to their Blue Egg Claim. Contact Robert Murphey for confirmation and details.

Our Sept. 15 meeting will be held in the parking lot/park area at Mtn. View Church, 2823 N. Cole Rd., Boise. Trunk sale/swap meet at 5 pm that day just before the meeting. Bring a chair and we can conduct the meeting in accordance with the latest restrictions. While I love that we have stayed strong as a club during the year; gained a lot of new members, traveled to new places to collect, and are growing and educating the community about rocks, gems, fossils, and minerals; I never want to be remembered as The Pandemic President! It's challenging to make the appropriate decisions that affect so many people and impact the health of others! Thank you all for doing your part and keeping us going strong and staying healthy as a club. We shall Rock On!

If you have donations for our club auctions, or the monthly program materials, please contact me and I will meet you to pick up.

*Respectfully submitted,
Deana Ashton, President*

MEETING AGENDA

Rock Swap Meet
Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Introduce Guests
Door Prizes and Building Fund Raffle
Business Meeting

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

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 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 Thanksgiving	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	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	26
27	28	29	30	31		

IDAHO GEM CLUB MEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Our field trip day is the 3rd Sunday of each month with additional trips on other weekends. The 3rd Saturday is the Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society Field Trip day. This year, you may go to OGMS and IGC trips.

Sept 19 OGMS Blue Egg Claim
SEPT 19-20 BURNS, OR, PRIVATE CLAIM
 with Jim Witt for Obsidian
 GLASS BUTTES or HAMPTON BUTTE
Sept. 26-27 BEACON HILL - Overnighter in Weiser
Oct 24 OGMS Graveyard Point

Field Trip Leaders Contact Information:

Cathy Parsons, 208-957-9938
OGMS Trips: Robert Murphey, 208-590-1848

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

The field trip is Saturday, Sept. 19th and Sunday, Sept. 20th. Saturday will be to Jim Witt's obsidian claim outside of Burns, OR. We will be meeting Jim at the McDonald's in Burns at 10 am, leaving at 10:30. It will take about 3 hours to get to Burns. Then Jim will lead us to the collection site for beautiful Palisade Green obsidian. The site is kid friendly and it is a unique opportunity to collect some beautiful material. You will need shovels, rock hammers and pry bars, your lunch, and plenty of water. There are lots of claims in the area, so be careful where you dig. Jim will guide us and keep us out of trouble.

On Sunday there will be a choice between Glass Buttes for various obsidians, or Hampton Butte for green petrified wood. The participants will vote on their preference. The meeting place and time will be the same as Saturday.

There are several hotels in Burns for overnighters who do not want to camp.

FIELD TRIP SUPPLIES

Rock Hammer	Water
Chisel, Pick, Pry Bar	Sunscreen and a Hat
Shovels	Knee Pads
Buckets or	Gloves
Collecting Sacks	Safety Glasses
Screening Box	First Aid Kit
Map or GPS	
Good boots or hiking shoes	
Rain Coat (Dress in Layers for Cooler Mornings)	
Lunch/Dinner/Snack Foods /Camping supplies	

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

The September meeting program is a talk on Obsidian by Coyote Short. She is very knowledgeable about all things geology. It should be very interesting.

COYOTE SHORT

Coyote Short, Geologist, was recently featured in the Idaho Statesman. Being one-half Paiute-Modoc and one-half French, she was recognized as one of three Native Americans in Idaho dedicated to the sciences. She has volunteered with the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology for more than 20 years, and fills her day with the studies of minerals, rocks, fossils, and earthquakes. She has been an avid member of the Idaho Gem Club since 2003 and has supported the juniors for many years.

She is now working on her master's degree from Boise State, which has been difficult to continue because of the pandemic. In the meantime, she is preparing online lectures for the virtual series of the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology.



Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology

WORKSHOPS

We are back to our normal workshop schedule of 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 on page 2. There will also be additional workshops added when possible to work on projects.

**Experienced lapidary members, please volunteer to help at the workshops. See Brent Stewart.*

WORKSHOP LOCATION

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



SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

Please keep Ed Moser and Cathy Parsons in your thoughts and prayers for support and strength.

Contact Deana Ashton for any members in need of prayer, cheer, assistance, the Sunshine Lady. 208-794-5628 - text is best!

OBSIDIAN -- VOLCANIC GLASS

Obsidian is an igneous rock that forms when molten rock material cools so rapidly that atoms are unable to arrange themselves into a crystalline structure. It is an amorphous material known as a "mineraloid." The result is a volcanic glass with a smooth uniform texture that breaks with a conchoidal fracture.

Obsidian is usually an extrusive rock - one that solidifies above Earth's surface. However, it can form in a variety of cooling environments:

- along the edges of a lava flow (extrusive)
- along the edges of a volcanic dome (extrusive)
- around the edges of a sill or a dike (intrusive)
- where lava contacts water (extrusive)
- where lava cools while airborne (extrusive)

Types of Obsidian

There is a great diversity of obsidian types that can be found in a small geographic area in central Oregon. Examples include: double flow obsidian, rainbow, black, pumpkin, mahogany, gold sheen, black lace, snowflake, and fire.

Black is the most common color of obsidian. However, it can also be brown, tan, or green. Rarely, obsidian can be blue, red, orange, or yellow. The colors are thought to be caused mainly by trace elements or inclusions.

Occasionally two colors of obsidian will be swirled together in a single specimen. The most common color combination is black and brown obsidian swirled together and called "mahogany obsidian".

As a "glass," obsidian is chemically unstable. With the passage of time, some obsidian begins to crystallize. This process does not happen at a uniform rate throughout the rock. Instead it begins at various locations within the rock. At these locations, the crystallization process forms radial clusters of white or gray cristobalite crystals within the obsidian. When cut and polished, these specimens are referred to as "snowflake obsidian".

Rarely, obsidian has an iridescent or metallic "sheen" caused by light reflecting from minute inclusions of mineral crystals, rock debris, or gas.

These colored specimens are known as "rainbow obsidian," "gold sheen obsidian," or "silver sheen obsidian," depending upon the color of the sheen or iridescence. These specimens are very desirable for the manufacture of jewelry.



Occurrence of Obsidian

Obsidian is found in many locations worldwide. It is confined to areas of geologically recent volcanic activity. Obsidian older than a few million years is rare because the glassy rock is rapidly destroyed or altered by weathering, heat, or other processes.

Significant deposits of obsidian are found in Argentina, Canada,

Chile, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, United States, and many other locations.

In the United States it is not found east of the Mississippi River, as there is no geologically recent volcanic activity there. In the western US it is found at many locations in Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. Most obsidian used in the jewelry trade is produced in the United States.

Stone Age Manufacturing and Trade

The manufacture of obsidian tools by humans dates back to the Stone Age. At some locations, tons of obsidian flakes reveal the presence of ancient “factories.” Some of these sites have enough waste debris to suggest that many people labored there for decades producing a variety of obsidian objects. Making arrowheads, spear points, knife blades, and scrapers from obsidian, chert, or flint might have been the world’s first “manufacturing industry.”

Obsidian was so valued for these uses that ancient people mined, transported, and traded obsidian and obsidian objects over distances of up to a thousand miles. Archaeologists have been able to document the geography of this trade by matching the characteristics of obsidian in outcrops with the characteristics of obsidian in cutting tools. A study done by the Idaho National Laboratory used composition studies by X-ray fluorescence to identify the source outcrops of obsidian artifacts and map their use across the western United States.

Although using a rock as a cutting tool might sound like “stone age equipment,” obsidian continues to play an important role in modern surgery. Obsidian can be used to produce a cutting edge that is thinner and sharper than the best surgical steel. Today, thin blades of obsidian are placed in surgical scalpels used for some of the most precise surgery. In controlled studies, the performance of obsidian blades was equal to or superior to the performance of surgical steel.

Uses of Obsidian in Jewelry

Obsidian is a popular gemstone. It is often cut into beads and cabochons or used to manufacture tumbled stones. Obsidian is sometimes



faceted and polished into highly reflective beads. Some transparent specimens are faceted to produce interesting gems.

The use of obsidian in jewelry can be limited by its durability. It has a hardness of about 5.5 which makes it easy to scratch. It also lacks toughness and is easily broken or chipped upon impact. These durability concerns make obsidian an inappropriate stone for rings and bracelets. It is best suited for use in low-impact pieces such as earrings, brooches, and pendants.

Obsidian is also used in making opal doublets and opal triplets. Thin slices or chips of opal are glued to a thin slice of obsidian to make a composite stone. The black obsidian provides an inexpensive and color-contrasting background that makes opal’s colorful fire much more obvious. It also adds mass and stability to the opal that facilitates cutting it into a gem.



Fire obsidian from Glass Buttes, OR

**TRADING OR BUYING
ROUGH OPALS**
Idaho, Welo, Australian
Specializing in Idaho Opal Triplets

**Trade Your Rough Opals for
Finished Opals and Jewelry!**

**Contact Rick Corbett
208-890-2599**



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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING

AUGUST 15, 2020

The picnic started at 6:30 pm. Deana Ashton gave the blessing and everyone enjoyed a good meal.

There were 26 members and 1 guest present. Guest Jennifer will be signing up. Rick handed out 6 door prizes.

There were no committee reports due to absences.

Field Trip Report by Deana Ashton: The field trip to Succor Creek went well. The next field trip on Saturday will be with the Caldwell club going to Wagontown. Meet at the Gem Stop at 7 am, leaving at 7:30 am.

The field trip on Sunday will meet at 7:45 am, leaving at 8 am, at the Gem Stop to caravan to Jordan Valley City Park to meet Greg Sandmeyer at 9 am. From there he will lead trip to South Mountain, about 1.5 hours from Jordan Valley.

Workshop Report: Brent needs help at the workshop for next Kids' Day; volunteers will be on field trips. Anyone with experience in cabbng, please step up and help out for our juniors.

Old Business:

Cheryl Link is working with a committee of five other members to determine where best to invest donated monies from her and Micron.

Dana Dancer, Christine Anderton, Teresa and John Nebeker, and Leon Doar graciously donated the material for the auction. It was all good quality material.

Thank you Christine Anderton for serving as auctioneer for the evening.

New Business: Willa brought up that Stewarts will be selling a line of UV lights. If anyone needs or would like to upgrade to a high quality UV light, contact Stewarts. There will be a one-time 20% discount for members. The club will be getting some for the annual show black light room.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm for the auction.

Respectfully submitted, Deana Ashton, President

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

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

Willia Renken called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Willia Renken, Brent Stewart, Teresa Nebeker, Cheryl Peterson, Cheryl Link, Rick Corbett, Jason Smith, and Gia Stewart

Guests: Dana Robinson, Jim and Belle Witt

Absent: Deana Ashton, Cullen Anderson, Ed Moser

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

Secretary Report by Gia Stewart: We have received the September Rock & Gem magazine but still have not seen August's issue. Also received the AFMS newsletter with an activity guide.

Treasurer Report by Teresa Nebeker: Teresa went over the membership dues. It was decided to hold August and September membership applications until October to avoid confusion. Add a statement to the application to clarify that the first year will be a bit short. The reservation fees for the August picnic were reimbursed and a \$50 donation was received in memory of Jim Dillion. She also went over the financial statements.

Federation Report: We have a new Federation Director. Randy Harrison has agreed to the position. His introduction letter was not received in time for the meeting. It will be presented at the next board meeting.

Juniors Report: Juniors will be included in the general meeting this month.

Refreshments Report by Rick Corbett: No refreshments for awhile yet.

Program Report: The September program will be a talk on Obsidian by Coyote Short. Brent will have a fluorescent setup ready in case she can't make it. Jim won't be available for the program but can lead field trip.

Field Trip Report: The field trip for September will be to Jim Witt's obsidian claim by Burns, OR, for Palisade Green obsidian. It will be Saturday, Sept. 19th. He will meet us at the McDonald's in Burns at 10 am, leaving at 10:30 am (Mountain Time). It takes about 3 hours to get to Burns. The area is kid friendly and there will be lots of room to spread out. Bring your water, lunch, shovels, bars, rock hammers, and buckets. There will also be a trip to Beacon Hill on the next weekend, Sept. 26-27. Meeting information will be available at the general meeting.

Workshop Report by Brent Stewart: Brent went over the dates for the next workshops. The regular workshops will be ROLE Workshop Sept. 5th 10am-2pm, regular workshop Sept. 17th 6-8:45pm and Sept. 26th 10am-2pm. There will also be extra workshops to work on Project of the Year projects. They will be listed on the calendar. **BRING YOUR OWN MASK FOR ALL WORKSHOPS.**

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

The Gem Faire has been postponed this year.

Cheryl Link reported that a claim paperwork has been completed. She will have receipts turned in when she receives them.

The general meeting was discussed and the general consensus was to have it in the parking lot like June. There will be a tailgate swap/sale like before.

One new application was reviewed. Cheryl made a motion to accept the new members, Brent seconded, the board voted and the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Terry Terhune Family

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

CONTACT RICK CORBETT

at 208-890-2599

Due to the COVID-19 issues around social distancing, we will not have refreshments at our meetings until further notice. Please bring your own beverage. We will still be having the door prize drawings.

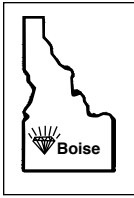
DOOR PRIZES include: One small wrapped item (cab, slab, other)

10 PRIZES FOR YOUTH and 10 PRIZES FOR ADULT

THANKS FOR
YOUR UNDERSTANDING
AS WE NAVIGATE THE NEXT FEW MONTHS



Respectfully submitted, Gia Stewart, Secretary



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

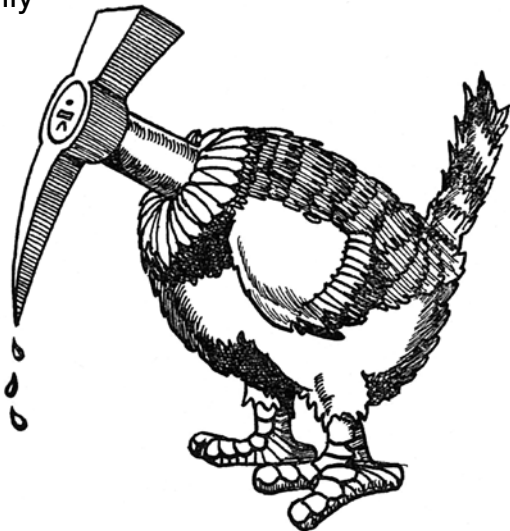
The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences

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

