



# Grindings

*Idaho Gem Club, Inc.*

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

**VOL 84 NO 3**

**MARCH 2023**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends, Members, and Fellow Rockhounds:

Wow! What an incredible Gem Show we had. So much going on and so many amazing people to thank and acknowledge. First I want to thank Willa Renken for allowing me to demonstrate with so many amazing and talented people. Great job Leon for coordinating and setting up our Black Light Tent with only a little help from Jim Witt. Thanks, Jim and Leon! I want to thank the Gregg and Gary Hays family of flintknappers for traveling to our show and being kind enough to share a spot with the Idaho Flintknappers. Terry Frostrom did a fantastic job with the Basket Raffle set-up and organization. Thank you to everyone who gave up a display case so others could share their talents with some amazing displays. I want to thank and acknowledge all of our vendors who traveled here to help us have this amazing show.

A special thank you to Teresa Nebeker, our treasurer, for the diligence and late nights spent securing our interests, and to John for bearing the pain of guarding our Treasurer.

Setting up and tearing down the show was much easier only doing it ONCE. The purchase of our two trailers was one of the best investments in our club's history. Thanks, Willa, for making that happen. So many great members make this show one of the best in America. Thanks for all the hard work and dedication!

Well, spring is in the air. As I write this and watch the rain, I'm dreaming of field trips and rockhounding. This year our March 25th field trip will be to the College of Idaho to visit their amazing rock and gem collection. You'll be amazed! We will meet at 9 am at the O'Connor Field House parking lot in Caldwell. Mr. Don Dixon will open the doors for us. With the wet weather, March is still too early to be driving on dirt roads and trails.

Our April trip to Graveyard Point, weather permitting, will be a great adventure. Thank you Jenni Gudapadi, our new Field Trip Coordinator, for your time and enthusiasm in setting up our forthcoming field trips. I'm really looking forward to them.

Our March 21st General Meeting will include a Meteor Presentation by Paul Verhage, one of our Juniors Instructors. Also, our new club Historian, Jean Hoene, will give a brief account of club history.

Don't forget to bring money for the purchase of extra case favors. Cheryl Link will be selling our beautiful glass top jewelry boxes at \$5 each.

We have 25 new memberships from the show. Welcome new members! I am looking forward to an exciting year of field trips, workshops and rocks galore . . .

*Respectfully Submitted, Rick Corbett, President*

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

## MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 *CHANGE* OGMS Show 10 am-6 pm
5 OGMS Rock & Gem Show 10 am-5 pm	6 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	21 General Meeting 7 pm	22	23 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	24	25 Field Trip Col Museum Caldwell 9 am
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## APRIL

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 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	18 General Meeting 7 pm	19	20 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	21	22 Field Trip Graveyard Pt.
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

## MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	2 Board Meeting 7 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	16 General Meeting 7:00 pm	17	18 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19	20 Field Trip Queenstone/ Whangdoodle
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28	29	30	31			

## JUNE

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



## Upcoming Events

**Rock, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show**, Magic Valley Gem Club, March 11, 10 am-5 pm, March 12, 10 am-4 pm.

Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, 215 Fair Ave., Filer

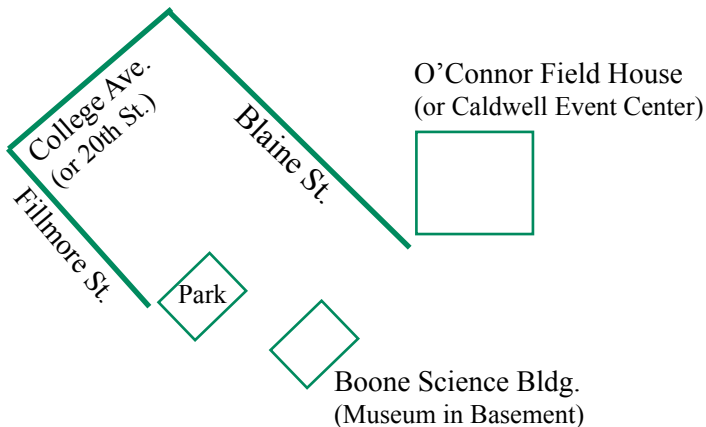
**Southeast Idaho Gem & Mineral Society Show**, March 25-26, 10 am-5 pm. Bannock County Fairgrounds, 10588 Fairground Dr., Pocatello

**Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Show**, April 15, 10 am-6 pm, April 16, 10 am-5 pm. Idaho Falls Recreation Center, 520 Memorial Dr. at the corner of Memorial Dr. and B St., Idaho Falls

**North Idaho Mineral Club Annual Show**, June 3, 9 am-5 pm, June 4, 10 am-4 pm. North Idaho State Fairgrounds, Jacklin Building, 4056 N. Government Way, Coeur d'Alene

## FIELD TRIPS

The first field trip for the season will be to the College of Idaho in Caldwell to visit the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History and the Glen and Ruth Evans Gem and Mineral Collection. Both displays are located in the basement of the Boone Science Building. We will be meeting at the O'Connor Field House parking lot, 2207 Blaine St., at 9 am to continue to the Boone Science Building where we will meet Don Dixon for entry. Hope to see you there!



## ONLINE ROCK AUCTION

Lifetime Member Jim Witt is having a rock and equipment sale this month that will run into mid-April. It will be handled by Corbett Auctions and will be online only. It runs from March 2 through April 13, 2023. The closing date and time are April 13 at 6 pm. There are 264 lots offered, so there are literally tons of equipment and rough rock available.

There will be Previews on Saturday, April 8, and Thursday, April 13 from 10 am to 3 pm at Corbett Auctions' location. Pickup dates and times are April 14 and 15, 10 am to 3 pm. There will be a Buyer Premium of 15%.

**Bidding Notice:** *This auction is set to close two items (lots) per minute, beginning at the time specified, and in catalog order. Please do not hesitate to bid as this will be a fast-moving online auction. You may place a maximum bid and the computer will bid on your behalf. A "soft close" means that the bidding will be extended by one minute if an item is bid on at the last moment prior to closing.*

Corbett Auctions

11252 W. Chapin, Boise, Idaho

<https://corbettauctions.hibid.com/auction/436534/4-13-2023-online-rock-auction/>

## WORKSHOPS

See the calendar for upcoming workshop dates! Come cut your rocks and learn cabochon making! Brent Stewart, Rick Corbett, and Liz Warner keep the club lapidary workshop operating year round.

Third Thursday of each month from 6:00 pm-8:45 pm  
Saturday the week after general meeting -- 10:00 am-2:00 pm

### WORKSHOP LOCATION

2620 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID  
Next door to Stewart's Gem Shop

\$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



2023 GEM SHOW





## GRACE HOLDEN

In January, 2023, a Junior Rockhound, Grace Holten, expressed interest in creating a show display case, but needed material. The Fossil Guy, Guy DiTorrice, had donated a lot of fossils to IGC this summer, so I put samples in a box for her. Grace was a student of Guy's in prior years. What she came up with was magnificent!



Seeing the amazing display she created was a wonderful surprise! She had a nicely arranged fossil selection, properly labeled, with fabric and risers creating a very clean and educational showcase.



Grace even had a tag in the case thanking Guy DiTorrice for the materials!



**Well done, Grace!**

Grace, you are a great example of what our young rockhounds are capable of accomplishing.

I shared photos and a short story on IGC Facebook page, and it was shared to many regional club sites. A woman from Twin Falls club requested permission to share Grace's story with their local youth to inspire others! What a great way to promote educational opportunities for our youth! Very proud of you, Grace! You earned your F.R.A. Showmanship Badge!

Submitted by Deana Ashton  
Chairman, Future Rockhounds of America/  
IGC Youth Group

## WELCOME GRAY HOSICK

### Welcome Gray Hosick to the Idaho Gem Club's Annual Rock and Gem Show 2023!

Jason Hosick (Gray's father) reached out to me to see if his young son could enter his collection of rocks and things in a display case at our show. Gray wanted to share his passion of rocks and what better way than to start the new year with a rock show. I knew from the smile on his face he had what we all have —the love of rocks!



Like a pro Gray pulls his wagon of presentation material from the parking lot toward the fairground expo building.



With the assistance of a folding chair, Gray carefully places his collection in the club provided display case.



**Great Job, Gray!**

## IDAHO MINERAL & GEMSTONE LOCATIONS (continued from February issue)

For those members who would like to venture further than our regular field trips take you, here are some locations around Idaho that are popular with rockhounds.

### Ovid-Liberty

In the southeast corner of the state is an area where you can dig your own trilobite fossils. The site is near Liberty, ID, and has a fairly good road for most of the journey. The last mile is fairly rough so you will need an appropriate vehicle. As with most Idaho backroads, it can be a challenge when wet.

The fossils are in a shale outcrop of Cambrian age. At this site blocks are split in thin layers to reveal the fossils, much as you would for leaf fossils. Some trilobites are not complete but you should be able to find some good specimens.

Take Hwy. 36 from Preston to Liberty. From Liberty, head south on Lanark Rd. for 1.2 miles, then turn onto Mill Farm Rd. (NF Road 405). After 4.2 miles turn right on NF 939 and the site is about a mile in.

### China Hat

Another location in that general area is China Hat. The small volcanic cone is composed of a glassy, frothy, light grey rhyolitic rock that will fluoresce light cream to orange under ultra-violet light. While it isn't a grand gem material, it would be an interesting specimen to add to your fluorescent mineral collection. The colors are brightest under long-wave ultra-violet light, but will also show under short-wave.

From Soda Springs, travel north on Hwy. 34 to China Cap Rd. Turn left and proceed to the area just past the Dike Rd. turn-off to Blackfoot Reservoir. The collecting areas are in the ditches under the road cuts to the south of the road. The nearby quarry is on private land and inaccessible. There is also a campground by Blackfoot Reservoir to the north.

### Daugherty Gulch

To the west of Challis is an area where fluorite can be found. In one pit the fluorite is exposed and so it is lighter in color. To find good pieces of crystallized fluorite you will need to do some digging. There are some pits with fluorite crystals in the cavities of brecciated dolomite. The rock is very hard so you will need a heavy hammer and chisels here.

From Challis travel west along Main St., which turns into Garden Creek Rd., for 5.3 miles. After the Living Waters Ranch Conference Center, turn right onto the Custer Motorway and look for the pits. The Ranch has claims in the area so it would be prudent to stop on the way by for any information they can provide. They also have cabins available to rent for your stay.

### Ruby Rapids

Near Riggins in the Salmon River Canyon is an area with garnet crystals. They are not the star garnets like Emerald Creek, but some are clear, gem quality crystals.

The location is 7 miles east of Hwy. 95 in a narrow canyon. Turn off Hwy. 95 at Big Salmon Rd. just at the edge of Riggins. Follow the Salmon River for 7 miles to the collecting area. There is a campground above the collecting area as well. Garnets are found below the road in the gravel between large boulders at the rapids. There are camping areas along the river through the canyon. It is best to go in the last summer or early fall when water levels are low.

### Burgdorf

There are two good sites in Idaho to find corundum/sapphire. One is at Threemile Creek north of Burgdorf, and the other is Ruby Meadows to the south of Burgdorf. The sites are areas that were placer mined for gold. The sapphires are in the fine sand and small rocks around larger boulders. The material varies in color from dark browns to lavender and pink. It is good for cabochons, but is not facet quality. Occasionally you may find an asterism (star) in a cut cabochon. You can still find surface specimens by walking through the gravel deposits, but you'll find a better selection by screening the gravels.

From Hwy. 95 in McCall, turn right onto Warren Wagon Rd. The Ruby Meadows site is first. The turn is to the right onto NF Road 364. For the second site, turn off Warren Wagon Rd. onto Burgdorf Rd. (NF Road 246). The site is beyond Burgdorf at Threemile Creek, off to the left of the road.

Crystal Mountain is also in this area, behind a campground. There are many quartz pieces in the roadway to collect, however the last time I was there you could not go to the top. Apparently someone has made a claim for mining the material.

### Mine Tours

Two mines in northern Idaho offer mine tours. The Sierra Silver Mine in Wallace and the Crystal Gold Mine near Kellogg. Both locations have instructional tours into the mines where you will see demonstrations of mining equipment, as well as equipment in actual use. You will also learn a lot about the history of the North Idaho Mining District. Both locations are easily accessible from Hwy. 90. While in the area you can also visit the Sunshine Miners Memorial.

For information about tour hours, dates, and directions, visit the tour websites at:  
[www.silverminetour.org](http://www.silverminetour.org) and [www.goldmine-idaho.com](http://www.goldmine-idaho.com).

### Other

Hagerman is another interesting location to visit closer to home. In the town of Hagerman is a museum and information center at 221 State St. From there take Hwy. 30 toward Buhl. After crossing the river, turn right on ?? Road, and go 2.6 miles to the viewpoint where you can see the low hills beside the river containing fossil-bearing sediments. On the other side of the road is a sign for the Old Oregon Trail. A trail leads down from the viewpoint into the gulch where you can hike a section of the original pioneer route. Another overlook about three miles up the road has more information on the trail.



Also in the area is the Hagerman Wildlife Management Area. After crossing the river from Hagerman, turn into the Rest Area on the left side of the road. In the winter and early spring there are mallard ducks as far as you can see up the creek. In the pond across the road from the rest area you can often see young swans spending the winter together.

*To get GPS coordinates and referrals to topo maps for these sites, see Gem Trails of Idaho and Western Montana by Lanny Ream, available at rock shops and the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology.*

### Gem Locations in Idaho

1. Star Garnet (Emerald Creek)
2. Opal (Spencer, Camas Creek, Little Squaw Creek, near Lewiston)
3. Gypsum (Bannock Co., Washington Co., Hwy. 95 roadcuts southwest of Midvale)
4. Petrified Wood (larger specimens found at Malm Gulch, Spar Canyon, both near Challis)
5. Agate/Jasper/Chalcedony (Graveyard Point, Owyhee County, Succor Creek)
6. Aquamarine (found in Sawtooth Wilderness -- no collection allowed)
7. Feldspar (Shafer Creek, Crystal Butte, Lemhi County)
8. Garnet (Emerald Creek, Canyon Creek, Salmon River)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Trink Oberhelman	Gypsy Foster
Willie Bonds & Linda Williams	Cherise Glaze
Lisa Kulwicki	Susan & David Filkins
Zachary & LaDonna Vieira	Amy & Jared Callahan
Tore Borgeson & Karine Lilley	Scott Miller
Tracie & Jim Lohman Irving	Doug & Robin Nunn
Tom & Mickey Fagerson	Michael Scott
Elle, Brie & Vince Koontz	Krystal & Jesse Palafox
Jenna & Dan Engelbreit	Karen Elam
Jason & Heather Strassell	Rob & Anne Cook
Olivia & Cole Davenport	Shawna Anderson &
Benjamin Gann	Angela Hollickson
Brett Goebel & Alison Lehnberg	Joe Blume
Donavun Davis & Melissa Hoover	

### New Members:

Our website at [idahogemclub.com](http://idahogemclub.com) has all of the information regarding our club operations. We also have a facebook page for interacting and socializing. Please contact any Officer or Board Member with questions or suggestions! Welcome to your Gem Club!



### Shirley McCreath

Feb. 15, 1935-Feb. 25, 2023

Shirley McCreath was born February 15, 1935, in Van Wyck, ID. She married Charles McCreath in December of 1954. Shirley followed Charles on his adventures rockhounding, picking up arrowheads along the way. She and Chuck became members of Idaho Gem Club and Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society in the 70's and were Lifetime members. They served many positions in the rock clubs and were the longest running Federation Director and Delegate. Charles died in Dec. 2021. The McCreaths were married for 67 years. Shirley was also known as "Pat" to many members. She had a quick wit and great sense of humor. She is survived by 4 children, DelaKay Crawford, Gilbert and Ralph McCreath and Cindy Woolsey, an active club member you may know. Condolences to the family of Shirley. She will be missed greatly.

### SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

By Deana Ashton

Mary Alice Moore passed away on March 2, 2023. Mary and her son, Gary Moore (Lifetime member), hosted the Rock Sale at her home in Eagle. Deana Ashton shared caregiving duty with Gary for a year. Mary was a rockhound since the 50's and used to go on excursions with Dudley and Alberta Stewart. Mary turned 100 years old Christmas Day, 2022. Every day she wore jewelry made of agates and crystals made by her son, Gary. Condolences to the Moore family

Guy DiTorrice is recovering from foot surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Condolences to Cullen Anderson for the loss of his father.

### WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Even Williams	Lillie Bonds	Zachary Vieira
Jonathan Callahan	Amelia Callahan	Jacob Callahan
Victoria Callahan	Orion Palafox	Haven Palafox
Jax Engelbreit	Kelly Engelbreit	Faye Koontz
Theodore Davenport	Harvey Davenport	Morgan Goman
Graycen Gann	Lilly Gann	Aviana Gann
Grant Strassell	Clarita Strassell	Ethnea Strassell
Aley Blume		

**GEM CLUB OFFICERS**

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## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Rick Corbett, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Four guests introduced themselves.

Rick drew winning door prize tickets for 6 juniors and 14 adults.

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes, Ed seconded, the membership voted and the motion carried.

**Secretary Report:** No report.

**Juniors Report:** Cordell Blaine and Paul Verhage were introduced as the new junior instructors. Paul talked about how the class will be run. He also asked for anyone who would be willing to do short programs on different disciplines of geology for our juniors. Cordell suggested getting word out about the club activities for kids at the show. The program will coordinate with the AFMS badge program.

Juniors head out for their meeting.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statements. There is a new donation from Cheryl Link and Micron for \$2000 (minus \$22 transfer fee) to the Gem Club. Many thanks!

The report is on the front table with a list of the banquet expenditures.

**Federation Director Report:** Debbie asked for stamp donations to support the cancer charity. Watch for any collections of stamps at yard sales as they often have valuable stamps in them.

The NFMS Directories are available for order. She will pick them up at the annual meeting in Billings, MT, in August. You can use them to contact other Federation Directors to request to go on field trips with other clubs.

**Program:** Brent went over how to set up a case for the show. He went over liners, how to make ID tags, and the importance of not over-filling the case. Less is more. Use risers to elevate the back row for better viewing. He also showed the case favors for this year.

**Workshop Report:** The next ROLE workshops will be on 3-3 and 3-17 (no green beer, please!). The regular workshops will be Thursday after the general meeting, 3-21 and Saturday, 4-1.

Liz went over the progression for the ROLE program. The first two stones at the Novice level are made at the regular workshops before moving on to the ROLE workshops.

**Show Report:** Liz mentioned that volunteers are still needed for show venues. Please sign up at the back table.

Willa has parking passes if you need one. The set-up starts at 8 am on Friday. There will be no loading at Lockaway. Be sure to bring gloves. Cheryl is bringing donuts and juice.

**Library Report:** Cheryl pointed out the sign-out sheet for the Library books.

**Old Business:** No old business.

**New Business:** Jim Witt will be doing an on-line auction with Corbett Auctions to reduce his inventory of rock. The auction will close April 13. Put an ad in the newsletter for March with more details. He will also have a separate sale for club members at a later date.

Sabre, from Need to Bead, has donated jewelry display pieces for any members that need them for their cases. Pick them up in the front by the program case.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING MARCH 7, 2023

Rick Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Present:** Rick Corbett, Deana Ashton, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Terri Frostrom, Cheryl Link, Jason Smith, Liz Warner, Debbie Mitchell and Dana Robinson

**Absent:** Brent Stewart

**Guests:** Ed Moser

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Jason. Board members voted, motion carried.

**Secretary Report:** No report.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. She reported that there are some vendors who prepaid for next year's show. She also went over the show expenses and earnings.

**Show Report:** There was discussion on procedure for tumbled stones for grab bags and pricing for garnet dig. It was also pointed out that we need better supports for the show cases, maybe metal sawhorses.

There is a need to put all supplies in totes with labels to go on shelving in the trailers. Could hang electrical cords also.

**Junior's Report:** Deana Ashton, Cordell Blaine and Linda Villasenor put together a Scavenger Hunt for youth at the Gem Show. 200 kids participated! Natalya Hazen is the assistant for the youth group. We encouraged the registered youth to attend our meetings! Teresa proposed buying slabs from Jim Witt sales for youth program education.

**Program Report:** Paul Verhage will be doing a talk on Meteorites that will include the juniors. The juniors will have their meeting afterward.

**Field Trip Report:** Rick went over the tentative schedule for this years' field trips. March 25th will be to the museum at the College of Idaho Boone Science Building. Meeting at the O'Connor Field House parking lot at 9 am. Don Dixon will open up for us. June 17-18 the Spectrum Mine is having a get together. It would be a good time to go for sunstones. Cheryl will lead. Details to come.

The Juniors will be visiting collection sites this summer and will have a schedule soon. We need to get the kids out building collections.

**Workshop Report:** The workshop for March will be on the 25th from 6-8:45 pm. The next Saturday workshop will be April 1, 10 am-2 pm. The other April workshops are the 20th, 6-8:45 pm and the 29th from 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops will be March 20, April 3 and April 17.

Liz reported that the Titan machine is working very well.

**Old Business:** The scholarship recipient, Kathl Whitaker, will be doing a presentation in April.

**New Business:** Jason suggested adding another vendor in the space in front of the display cases. It will be discussed further in the future.

We need to get a new stamp with permanent ink to mark equipment after it is added to the inventory.

Life member, Shirley McCreath, passed away on February 25th. Her service will be on March 9 at 10 am at Cloverdale Funeral Home. Mary Moore's funeral is on March 8, 2023.

Twenty-five new member applications were reviewed. Dana made a motion to accept the new applications, Willa seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

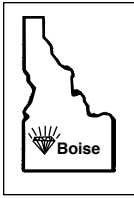


### THE GRINDINGS

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CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

[www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)



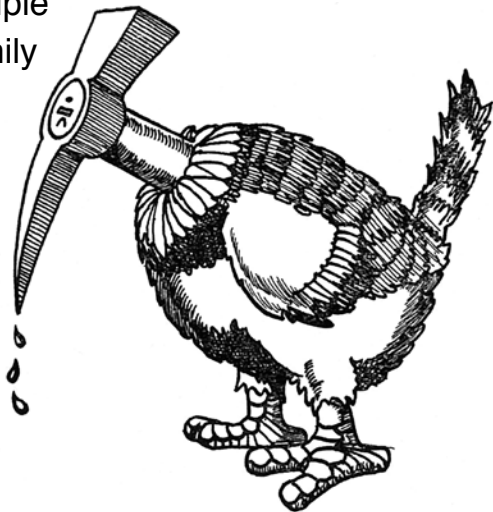
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 8443  
 Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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. Applications and/or renewals may be sent to the Idaho Gem Club, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443.

**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:**  
 Maple Grove Grange  
 11692 W. President Dr., Boise

