



# Grindings

*Idaho Gem Club, Inc.*

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

**VOL 84 NO 10**

**OCTOBER 2023**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds:

We've had a busy month, starting with a fun meeting, a Rock/Trunk Sale and a demonstration of flintknapping by Chris Siepert from Idaho Flintknappers. Thank you, Chris, for your time and knowledge.

On Saturday, Sept. 23, we went to Reynolds Creek for petrified wood. Nine vehicles and 23 people went out and had lots of great finds.

It was that day we found out we lost Cheryl Link, who passed away while at the sunstone claim in central Oregon, doing what she loved the most with some of her best friends. Cheryl wore many hats in our club and we'll miss her greatly.

We also had our last rockhounding trip to Beacon Hill. It was a little cold and windy, but it didn't detour our most persistent diggers from finding lots of spectacular agate geodes. Great fun! Thank you, Doug and Willa Renken, for helping us access a great location to rockhound for our club.

We had a special workshop for a young women's group that included a couple of members. Thank you Liz Warner and Brent Stewart for hosting that event, and to Deana Ashton for organizing it and assisting, as well. It was fun and informative for all involved.

Our next workshops are a ROLE workshop on Monday, Oct. 16 at 6 pm and the general workshop on Thursday, Oct. 19th at 6 pm. That workshop follows our general meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7 pm. The final workshop for October will be on Saturday, the 28th from 10 am to 2 pm. We meet at the Maple Grove Grange on President Dr. and the workshops are next door to Stewarts Gem Shop on Idaho St.

Remember our Christmas Party Workshop on Dec. 16 and 17, 10 am to 4 pm each day. We will be having a pot luck both days, so come get your grind on and bring your favorite dish to share. We plan on having wire wrapping classes put on by Marge Conley, assisted by me, Rick Corbett. Come on over to create and wrap up those last minute Christmas presents!

We are having auctions at our November (rough stone) and December (finished items) meetings, so if you can donate or just come pick up a few items, it's for a good cause. All monies collected will help us pay for our awards banquet in January at the Red Lion Riverside Hotel. That leads up to our show in February on the 24th and 25th. This is our show, the largest in the northwest and the best rock show in Idaho.

Also in November is our elections for board members. Our election committee may be looking for you. If you want to see and know what goes on behind the scenes and want to help out, it's a great opportunity to help our club with your insight and enthusiasm. Find out if you have the leadership qualities we're looking for. Come join our team.

*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](mailto:drobinso@boisestate.edu)

★★ **DUES ARE DUE IN OCTOBER** ★★

Mail to IGC, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

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

## NOVEMBER

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 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	17	18
19	20 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	21 General Meeting 7 pm	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
3	4 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	5 Board Meeting 7 pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Club Xmas Workshop 10 am-4 pm
17 Club Xmas Workshop 10 am-4 pm	18 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19 General Meeting 7 pm	20	21 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	22	23
24 31 New Year's Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

## JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 New Year's Day	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 Annual Banquet 5:30 pm	17	18 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Workshop 6-8:45 pm
28	29	30	31			



## East African Rift

There is a great article to check out detailing changes in the East African Rift in the Afar desert of southern Ethiopia. The eruption of the Dabbahu Volcano started a major change in the continent. There are great pictures of the changes in the terrain over time. It isn't often that we can actually observe the effects of plate tectonics and the major continental shift happening under the Earth's surface. Check it out!

<https://onedaily.com/trending/africas-got-an-astonishing-secret-a-new-ocean-is-ready-to-split-the-continent-ampg/5>

**FIELD TRIPS**

The field trip to Reynolds Creek for petrified wood went much better this trip. There were 9 cars with 23 people on the trip and everyone found lots of good material.

The October field trip to Beacon Hill was cold and windy, but not wet, so it was not a wash-out. There were 24 cars of folks on Saturday and 6 cars on Sunday. There was plenty of material for those industrious enough to do some digging.

This was our last field trip of the season, so see you all out again next year!



**GIRLS' GROUP WORKSHOP**

Brent and Liz hosted a workshop for the Orchard LDS Young Women's Group for member Natalya Hazen. Deana was approached by Natalya and she enlisted Liz and Brent and assisted them, as well.

As they usually do, they gave an excellent experience and the finished cabochons were wonderful. Thank you so much, Brent, for providing some lovely labradorite for the girls to work! Juniors Assistant Natalya was very grateful. It was a really nice 2 1/2 hour evening and 3 applications were given out. Many Thanks, Brent, Liz and Deana for a great workshop!



**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  
ROLE Workshops are the First and Third Mondays —  
6:00 pm-8:45 pm

**WORKSHOP LOCATION**

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

\$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Robert & Wilma Redman  
Robert Coggins  
Kenji Ono  
Thomas & Calista VanDenhende

Carsten & Jenna White  
Bob Knerr  
Brenda Pawelek

**WELCOME NEW JUNIORS**

Talon White

Taila White

## WITT DONATION

Jim and Belle Witt donated 22 buckets of obsidian to the club. It will be a big hit at the Silent Auction booth at our next show. The Palisade Green obsidian is beautiful.

Thank you, Jim and Belle, for your generosity!



## Cheryl Ann Link

Dec. 10, 1959-Sept. 19, 2023

### Memorial to a Friend

It is with a heavy heart that we have had to say good-bye to one of our most treasured gems, Cheryl Ann Link. Her life's journey was completed on September 19, 2023, while rock hunting at the club's sunstone claims. It was here she found peace, solace and the beauty

of a stone she dearly loved to find.

Cheryl was the only daughter of Cecil and Loriane Link and the third of four siblings. She grew up in Boise, graduated from Borah High School in 1978 and attended Boise State University. During her life, she worked in the accounting offices for Meadow Gold Dairies, Trend Corporation, and Micron Technology. While working for Micron she was able to travel to Japan and India to help their accounting departments become familiar with the operations of Micron.

Cheryl was a kind and giving person who cared for her parents unconditionally in their later years. She loved her family, friends and, above all, rock hunting! She was always up for an adventure and loved to discover new sites and different rock. Her love for the outdoors was always drawing her to new places where, if you could not find them in the daylight, just wait until dark and out would come the portable blacklights. She had a passion for fluorescence and had a collection of blacklight material that she loved to show each year at the annual rock shows.

Her dedication to the Idaho Gem Club was great and she wore many hats in support of it. As a Lifetime Member, Cheryl was a great organizer with a detail for paperwork. She served as the club's mining claims agent for twenty-three years and currently was the Second Vice President for the club. She realized there was a need for oversight at the Silent Auction for the Show so she gladly volunteered to chair the venue. Her dedication to the Silent Auction brought a much-needed hand in upgrading the material and procedures. She organized the cases for the Annual Show and saw to it that all of them were filled, even if it meant her doing it.

When she found out Micron would match money donated to Non-Profits, she chipped in and started a fund for the club, which bought microscopes and monitors for viewing micro mounts and small discoveries for the youth along with the membership. She stepped up to the plate with the youth and helped with the badge program, along with programs to further their knowledge.

Cheryl loved a good yard sale and spent many a weekend touring around to find a great deal. We have all received a call saying, "Hey I found a deal I think you would like". As most of you know, among her finds were always rock tools, which she

## SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

By Deana Ashton

Deana provided the Board of Directors a list of 8 ideas to memorialize Cheryl Link and recognize her vast contributions to Idaho Gem Club. The Board of Directors have agreed to place a monument stone in Cheryl Link's honor at her favorite location, the club claim where she passed away doing what she loved.

We are also going to have a dedication sign created for our Annual Gem Show Silent Auction booth recognizing Cheryl. Donations in her name will go into a special fund and be used for scholarships.

IGC Sunshine Lady sends cheerful greetings to club members needing get well wishes, sympathy and anniversary expressions. If you know someone in need of cheer or attention, please text or call Deana at 208-794-5628.



painted and labeled IGC as loaner tools so those who were new or did not have the funds could dig as well. We will be hard pressed to find another as kind and caring as our Cheryl. She truly was an "Idaho Gem" and is greatly missed! My heart breaks, as I know many of yours do as well. May all the times and memories we each shared with her bring us peace and comfort. May you forever rest in peace my sweet friend!

*In Loving Memory,  
Willa Renken*



Sunset over Sunstone claim,  
One of Cheryl's favorite places:  
September 2023

*Gigi Stevens took a beautiful and poignant photo of the sun setting over Cheryl's tools at her digging site during her last trip.*



**Roy Bethel**  
Sept. 4, 1925-Oct. 4, 2023

We lost a treasured lifetime member, Roy Bethel, on October 4, 2023. Roy died at the home he shared with his wife, Patsy. They were married for 77 years.

Roy was a very talented lapidary artist. He created the most precise cabochons and framed square polished specimens. He tumbled rocks and cut constantly until 10 years ago. Roy enjoyed

identifying Petrified Wood from the Lake Bonneville and Lake Idaho deposits, which covered the Treasure Valley. The Bethels created an identification process which indicated the tree specimens by cell structure. He was known for faceting incredible stones for Patsy. Roy provided the beautiful polished sunstones that were available during Cheryl Link's memorial service. They were stones likely gathered at the club Sunstone Claim with Cheryl Link on one of their many trips to Plush, Oregon.

He loved to keep current with club events and we shared many stories about rockhounding adventures the Bethels took with the Cawthons, Cheryl Link, Ron Coolbaugh, Peggy Dean, the Ridenours, and Cathy Parsons. This group also traveled to the Oregon Coast and collected rocks during their trips.

Roy's funeral service will be at Relyea Funeral Chapel, 318 N. Latah, October 27th at 1:00 pm. Roy served in the US Army overseas during wartime. His burial at Veterans Cemetery will follow, and Roy will receive full military honors.

His surviving son David (Tanya) and niece Katy continue to care for Patsy at home. Visitors are requested to make an appointment to visit.

*In Loving Memory,  
Deana Ashton*



## GEM CLUB OFFICERS

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## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

We met early for a Trunk Sale in the parking lot from 5:30 to 6:30, then set up chairs in the lot for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Rick Corbett, at 7:07 and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rick asked if there were any corrections to the minutes in the *Grindings*. Debbie Mitchell corrected next year's location for the NFMS Annual Meeting to Hermiston, OR, not Lewiston, ID. A motion was made by Becky and seconded by Debbie to accept the minutes as amended. The membership voted and the motion carried.

Rick asked for guests in attendance to stand and introduce themselves.

**Treasurer Report:** No report.

**Federation Director Report:** Debbie Mitchell announced the federation show will be in Hermiston, OR, next year on April 24th. Be sure to keep collecting stamps to turn in.

**Workshop Report:** The workshop is located at 2620 W. Idaho St. in the back garage. The next workshop is Thursday the 21st from 6-8:45 pm, and then on 9-30 from 10 am-2 pm. The October workshops are on 10-19 from 6-8:45 pm, and 10-28 from 10 am-2 pm. The next ROLE workshops will be on 10-2 and 10-16 from 6-8:45 pm. There are genies for cabbng and trim saws to use, as well as a larger saw to cut slabs. There is a \$5 fee to cover maintenance, and the large saw is 30 cents/inch for the cuts.

The December Christmas Workshop will be on December 16 and 17 from 10 am-4 pm. It is also a pot luck event. More details to come.

**Junior's Report:** Paul Verhage is going to be taking the kids on a field trip for the next merit badge. They will be going to Graveyard Point and the Bruneau Wood Pile.

**Field Trip Report:** The trip to Tony Funks Rock Yard was lots of fun. He did a great barbecue and everyone picked up lots of material from the piles.

This month's field trip will be back to Reynolds Creek on Saturday, September 23rd. Rick has the instructions to get everyone to the actual dig site. They will meet at the Phillips 66 at Walters Ferry just past the bridge on 12th Ave. S. Wear layers as it could be a chilly start. Most vehicles will be fine, and you will need a shovel, bucket, water and lunch.

The second Beacon Hill trip will be on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Meeting at the Ontario Rest Stop on I84 at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. Bring your lunch. This will be the last field trip for the year.

Door prizes were drawn for six juniors and thirteen adults.

**Old Business:** Rick went over the details for the January Banquet. The location selected is the Red Lion Riverside on January 16th, 2024. He asked everyone to dress nicely as this is a nice event center and it would be nice to have those attending to represent the club looking their best. Terri is getting the table favors.

**New Business:** The election for board members is coming up in November. A committee will be selected to seek nominations.

The Christmas Party Workshop will be on Dec. 16 and 17 from 10 am to 4 pm both days. It is a pot luck, so bring something to share.

The programs for November and December will be auctions to benefit the Banquet fund. Please consider helping out with a donation to auction. November will be rough rocks, while December will be more finished products that can be used as gifts.

We acquired new 6" and 14" saws for the workshop. The old 6" saw will be auctioned off.



Contragulations were given to Robert Garner and Desiree Bradley on their recent marriage.

Coyote extended an invitation to the opening of the Native American Stone Age Technology exhibit at the Mining Museum. It is on Sept. 24, noon, at the Old Penitentiary.

The Idaho Flintknappers group was represented by Chris, who did a short presentation. He was joined by new member Matt for some demonstrating.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*



#### 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.

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CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

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

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 2023

Rick Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

**Present:** Rick Corbett, Deana Ashton, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Brent Stewart, Liz Warner, Jason Smith and Dana Robinson

**Excused:** Terri Frostrom

**Guest:** Sandy Blodgett

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 Deana. Board members voted, motion carried.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. Donations made for Cheryl were put into the Link account.

**Program Report:** Rick has asked Terri to be the temporary Program Director until the new year.

**Junior's Report:** Deana reported they are trying to do a juniors field trip to Graveyard Point as part of the badge program.

**Field Trip Report:** The trip out to Reynolds Creek has 9 cars with 23 people. Much more success this time. Lots of material was found.

The field trip to Beacon Hill had 24 cars of folks on Saturday, and about 6 cars for Sunday. It was cold and windy, but not wet. Those that dug found lots of good geodes.

**Workshop Report:** Brent went over upcoming workshop dates. The ROLE workshop will be Oct. 16 from 6-8:45 pm, and then there will be Nov. 6 and Nov. 20, and Dec. 4 and Dec. 18, same times. The October regular workshops will be Oct. 19, 6-8:45 pm, and Oct. 28, from 10 am-2 pm.

For November, the regular workshop date falls on Thanksgiving, so the workshop will be held the week before on Nov. 16 from 6-8:45 pm. The Saturday workshop will be Dec. 2 from 10 am-2 pm. Brent will rent the porta potty for the Christmas Party Workshop.

**Donation Report:** The family of member Emily McCoy has contacted Liz about donating her collection to the club. Rick volunteered to help move buckets and there is a place to store it. He will coordinate with Liz.

**New Business:** Rick pointed out that we need to fill the Claims Director position. We have 9 claims and only 1 more allowed. After discussion, Liz volunteered to do all the paperwork and Jason will help her with the field work. A Letter of Resolution will need to be sent to change directors.

The Board Elections are coming up and the committee needs to be selected. Willa volunteered to chair it, with Teresa and Liz helping. The three ending their terms are Dana Robinson, Terri Frostrom, and Jason Smith, as well as filling the last two years of Cheryl's term.

Rick agreed to take over the management of the cases at the show. He will need to order case favors soon and is asking all board members to come up with suggestions. A decision will be made at the next board meeting.

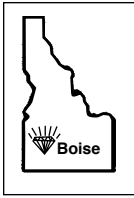
We will also need a Silent Auction chairperson for the show; possibly Larry Friend or Dale Rawson. Possibly Phil Neuhoff for the Black Light room. Rick will contact them.

Deana presented several suggestions on memorials for Cheryl. After discussion it was decided to investigate the cost for a memorial stone to place at the Sunstone claim and making a sign to name the Silent Auction in her honor. Her brother will probably let us have some pictures to include in a memorial case at the show as well.

Seven new member applications were reviewed. Dana made a motion to accept all the new applications, Jason seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*



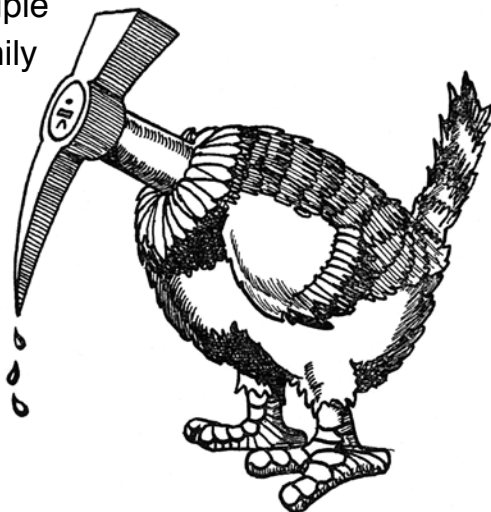
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The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences. Applications and/or renewals may be sent 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

