




Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 85 NO 8

AUGUST 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Rockhounds

The heat is here and so is the smoke. Oh boy! This month's field trip is over to the Coal Mine Basin. There's lots of beautiful petrified wood and a variety of jaspers and agates. It will be easy driving, but a high clearance vehicle is nice to have. We'll be meeting at the Ion Chevron station on the corner of Highways 55/95 at 7:30 am, leaving there at 8 am on Saturday, August 24. You will need a shovel and buckets. There is lot's of sagebrush so you will need long pants and good shoes. Beware of ticks, snakes and other critters. Leave them alone and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Be very careful parking around any grass. Take a moment to check under your car; we don't want to start any fires.

Our last trip to our Whangdoodle and Queenstone claims was a great one with at least one really nice opal found. Multiple people found spectacular specimens of Queenstone, as well. Thirteen vehicles and 25 people were with us and good times were had by all.

If the smoke clears some and we get cooler temperatures, we plan on going to Haystack Butte on September 21st. It is one of the Owyhee's most beautiful jaspers, but it's a rough road and a high clearance vehicle is a must. You will also need 4WD to the butte. We can ride share from the base of the hill where 4WD is a must. Lots of water, lunch, good shoes, digging tools and buckets will be needed.

We have purchased a nice First Aid Kit just in case we have a minor emergency — be prepared is the Scout's Motto. It's a good practice for everyone.

Our meeting next week on Tuesday will be at the Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park and starts at 6 pm. It is a pot luck dinner, so bring your favorite dish to share. Willa is bringing water, some sodas and lots of ice cream treats. If you want something special to drink, please bring it. Table service is nice, but the club has extras if you forget. After dinner and a brief meeting we'll be having another auction. Last month we raised \$530! Thank you everyone who made it possible. Let's do even better this month. All proceeds go to our annual banquet at the Riverside in January. If you can donate, please select your best pieces. Quality over quantity is a must. We want to be done before dark and I only have so much voice.

Kids' Day is coming this Saturday, August 17, from 10 am to 2 pm at Stewarts Gem Shop. Bring your kids and grandkids for some rock fun. Brent Stewart works hard to put on a great presentation, and with some volunteers to help it's a great day of fun for our future rockhounds.

I would like to thank Liz Warner for taking care of our club claims this year. It's a lot of work and she stepped up to take care of this important business. And that's along with running the workshop; she's a hard working member of our club. I also want to thank Dana Robinson for all her hard work putting out our monthly newsletter. And I want to acknowledge Teresa Nebeker, our Treasurer, who does an outstanding job keeping our bills paid and managing our club finances. We have a lot of hard working members who make our club the fun experience you all enjoy.

If you want to learn more or be more involved, you're welcome to come to a Board meeting or to become a Board member and be more involved in the in's and out's of our club. Get involved!

*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

AUGUST

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
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Kids' Day Workshop 10 am-2 pm
18	19 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20 Picnic Meeting 6 pm	21	22 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	23	24 Field Trip Coal Mine Basin 7:30 am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

SEPTEMBER

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
15	16 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	17 General Meeting 7 pm	18	19 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20	21 Field Trip Haystack Butte 8 am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
29	30					

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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



Upcoming Events

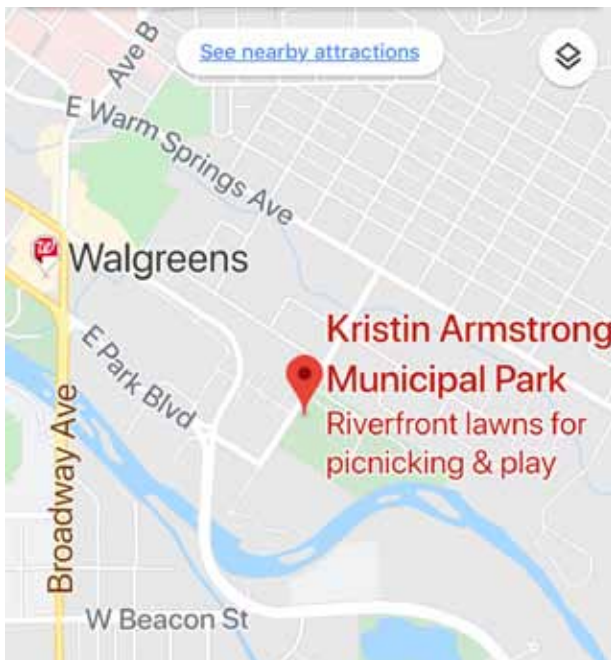
Reno Gem & Mineral Society Jackpot of Gems, September 14, 10 am-5 pm, September 15, 10 am-4 pm. Grand Sierra Silver State Pavilion, 2500 E Second St, Reno, NV

Billings Gem & Mineral Show, September 21, 10 am-5 pm, September 22, 10 am-4 pm. Eagle Seeker Community Center, 1125 Broadwater Ave, Billings, MT

AUGUST POT LUCK PICNIC

August 20, 2024, will be another Pot Luck Picnic at Kristen Armstrong Memorial Park Shelter at 6:00 pm. Dinner is at 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to share for dinner, and your table setting. We will have door prizes and a short business meeting to go over current events. The club provides drinks and an ice cream dessert.

After dinner, the program will be an Auction to help offset costs for our annual Banquet in January. Bring whatever you would like to donate and be ready to look for new pieces for your collection! Come join us for a fun evening! Hope to see you all there!



Map to Picnic Location
Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park
500 S. Walnut St., Boise
Tuesday, July 16, 2024
6:00 p.m.

AUGUST FIELD TRIP

The field trip for August has been changed to Coal Mine Basin on Highway 95 at the Idaho/Oregon border for petrified wood, jasper and agate. We will meet at the Ion Chevron just past Marsing at the intersection of Hwys. 55 and 95 at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am.

Due to the fires and smoky conditions in eastern Oregon it was decided September would be better for Haystack Butte.

You will need lunch, water, shovels and your rock hammer. There is plenty of surface material to find.

FIELD TRIP SUPPLIES

Rock Hammer	Water
Chisel, Pick, Pry Bar	Sunscreen and a Hat
Shovels	Knee Pads
Garden Claw Rake	Safety Glasses
Buckets or Sacks	Gloves
Screening Box	First Aid Kit
Map or GPS	

Good boots or hiking shoes are recommended
Rain Coat (dress in layers for cooler mornings)
Lunch/Dinner/Snack Foods/Camping supplies

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)



JULY KIDS' DAY

Kids' Day was a great time for everyone. The program takes them through the rock yard, the gem shop, and then on to crafts, cracking coconuts and lunch.

The next Kids' Day is August 17. Sign up at Stewarts Gem Shop or contact Brent Stewart. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.



JUNIORS 2024 CALENDAR

We will be working on 4 badges this year from the AFMS Badge Program. You are welcome to bring a geological treasure for a quick show-and-tell at the beginning of the Juniors class.

- Tue Aug 20 - Picnic - Stone Age Tools & Art badge - activities at park
- Tue Sep 17 - Lapidary Arts - help them prep for "Project of the Year"
- Tue Oct 15 - Lapidary Arts - help them prep for "Project of the Year"
- Tue Nov 19 - Lapidary Arts - help them prep for "Project of the Year"
- Tue Dec 17 - (Juniors projects due for competition) - Activity: fun crafts



THUNDER EGG DAYS

July 11-13 was the annual Thunder Egg Days in Nyssa, OR. The club, as well as several members, set up tables at the event. It was a hot one this year, but we were well shaded and had mister fans going.

Several folks came and worked on the genies as demonstrators. It is always a fun event. Many thanks to all who participated or stopped by to visit.



Application

Earth Science Scholarship Awarded by the Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

Description: The Idaho Gem Club, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization devoted to promoting “the interests of its members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences” is offering a \$500 scholarship for to help defray the educational costs for a local undergraduate Earth science student (see eligibility criteria below).

Eligibility: Applicants must be a full time, undergraduate student majoring or minoring in Earth science (including geology, geophysics, and earth science education) at a two- or four-year college or university in the Treasure Valley region of Idaho during the 2023-2024 school year. Although not required, preference may be given to Idaho residents.

Terms of acceptance: The funds provided through this scholarship are to be used solely for the purpose of meeting the costs of undergraduate education, including tuition, books or materials, or field camp fees. Awardees are requested to visit a general meeting of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc. to give a short 15-20 minute presentation on an Earth science topic of general interest to our members.

Instructions: Please fill out in full the two page application form on the following pages. Note that as part of the application, a 1-2 page essay is required in addition to the information requested in the application. Applicants must have their application endorsed (via signature) by an Earth science faculty member at the institution they are attending during the 2024-2025 academic year. Completed applications should be **received by September 30, 2024** either by email (pneuhoff@yahoo.com) or at the following address:

**Scholarship chair person
Idaho Gem Club Inc.
P.O. Box 8443
Boise, Idaho 83707- 8443**



IDAHO GEM CLUB, INC.**FREE APPLICATION FOR
EARTH SCIENCE
SCHOLARSHIP**

The Idaho Gem Club Inc. is offering a \$500 scholarship for any full time college or university student majoring in Geology, Geophysics, or Earth Science Education.

Applications must be filled out and either emailed (pneuhoff@yahoo.com) or returned to:

**Scholarship chair person
Idaho Gem Club Inc.
P.O. Box 8443
Boise, Idaho 83707- 8443**

before September 30, 2024 to be eligible for the scholarship. Scholarship forms can be obtained in the Geology department or Financial Aid offices or on the web at <http://www.idahogemclub.com>

{Please type or print legibly; asterisk (*) indicates required information}

PERSONAL DATA

Name*:

Address*:

Email: _____

Local Phone*: _____

Are you a resident of Idaho*? _____

Have you ever been a member of a gem or mineral club*? _____

If yes give name and location*:

College or University Attending*:

Class Level (e.g., Sophomore, Junior, etc.) in 2023-2024*: _____

Major(s) and Minor(s)*: _____

Department(s)*: _____

Current G.P.A.*: _____

Name and department of Faculty member sponsoring application*:

APPLICATION ESSAY*:

The Idaho Gem Club, Inc was formed for purposes that included promoting “the interests of its members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences.” Please write a 1-2 page essay describing your career goals, and how it will benefit the public good through application of your education in earth science to education, natural resource development and stewardship, hazard evaluation, or similar pursuits as a professional.

Note to applicants:

The scholarship will be awarded at one of the Club’s regular monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month. We are asking the recipient to present a short program (relating to earth science) at a meeting. Would you be willing to do this*? _____

SIGNATURE

By signing this application, you certify that the above is true and correct. Also, you certify that you will use Idaho Gem Club Inc. Scholarship funds only for the purpose of defraying the cost of attending an institution of higher education (i.e., tuition, books, etc.)

Student Signature*: _____ Date*: _____

I know the above student and certify that they are an earth science student in good standing and endorse their application.

Signature of faculty sponsor*: _____ Date*: _____

EPIDOTE

Epidote is a name that is used in two different ways in mineralogy: first, the “Epidote Group” is the name of a group of silicate minerals that share common structural and compositional characteristics; and, secondly “Epidote” is the name of the most common mineral in the Epidote Group.

Epidote is an abundant rock-forming mineral, but one of secondary origin. It is a silicate mineral commonly found in metamorphosed rocks. It occurs in marble and schistose rocks of metamorphic origin. It is also a product of hydrothermal alteration

of various minerals (feldspars, micas, garnets and others) composing igneous rocks. A rock composed of quartz and epidote is known as *epidosite*.

Epidote usually ranges between yellowish green to pistachio green in color, although it can be brownish green to black. In massive form it is usually translucent with a vitreous luster. Well-formed crystals from marble and pegmatite are often transparent. It is listed as 6 to 7 on the Mohs Scale and is often used as a semiprecious gem.

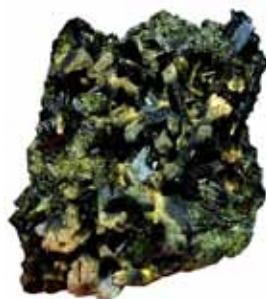
Epidote the Mineral Group

Members of the epidote mineral group have a crystal structure that consists of isolated and paired silica tetrahedrons. They share a generalized chemical composition. It could be a pairing of calcium, manganese, strontium, lead, and sometimes a rare earth element; or it could be aluminum pairing with iron, magnesium, manganese, or vanadium. There are many minerals in the epidote group with various chemical compositions.

Epidote and Piemontite are comprised of epidote and piemontite and are commonly known as “Dragon Blood” or “Dragon Stone”. *Unakite* is an igneous rock composed mainly of green epidote, pink orthoclase feldspar, and quartz.

Epidote in Rocks

Epidote is a rock-forming mineral. Many regionally metamorphosed rocks contain small amounts of epidote. Two rock types that contain



significant amounts of epidote are *epidosite* and *unakite*. Locations where these rocks can be found are rare, but at those locations significant amounts of these rocks can be present.

Epidosite is a metamorphic rock composed mainly of epidote with small amounts of quartz. It forms when basalts in sheeted dikes and ophiolites are transformed by hydrothermal activity or metasomatism.

Unakite is a rock that forms from the metamorphism of granite. Less-resistant minerals in the granite are altered to epidote or replaced by epidote, with the orthoclase and quartz remaining. It is an interesting pink and green colored rock that was first discovered in the Unakas Mountains of North Carolina.



Uses of Epidote

Epidote has no significant use as an industrial mineral and has only minor use as a gemstone. High-quality transparent crystals are sometimes cut into faceted stones. These have never attracted much interest in the commercial jewelry market, probably because their colors are not customer favorites. Most of the faceted stones are purchased by gem and mineral collectors.

Unakite is a popular rock used by lapidaries to make beads, ornamental objects, and cut into cabochons. It is considered to be a semiprecious stone. The bright pink and pistachio green colors are very unusual and attract attention. Unakite is also popular as a tumbled stone.



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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING

JULY 16, 2024

Everyone gathered and we started dinner at 6:40 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Ken gave the invocation. Then we started the food line and had a great dinner. Willa and Doug passed out ice cream.

Meeting called to order at 7:20 by Rick Corbett and Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 11 juniors and 8 adults.

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Rick Payne made a motion to accept the minutes, Liz seconded, the membership voted and the motion carried with Mike opposed.

Junior's Report: Juniors are working on craft projects at the next table for their Stone Age Tools badge.

Treasurer Report: No report. Teresa was not here.

Field Trip Report: The June field trip to Silver City had 24 cars and about 60 people. Lots of quartz crystals were found, and some very nice specimens, too.

Last weekend was Thunder Egg Days in Nyssa. Deana reported it got up to 108° on the set-up day and it was between 103° and 106° the rest of the time. A very hot weekend this year. Cullen came and cracked coconuts and Rob and Desiree set up a table and sold merchandise. The organizers mentioned that they need more rock vendors for next year's event if any of our members are interested.

This weekend's field trip will be to the Queenstone claim for jasper and the Whangdoodle claim for opal. We will be meeting at the Ion Chevron at the corner of Hwys. 55 and 95 just past Marsing at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am. Bring good shoes, lots of water and your lunch. A spray bottle helps reveal the opals in the rock. Be very careful and watch for sparks when pounding on the basalt.

Workshop Report: Brent went over the upcoming workshop dates. Thursday, July 18, 6-8:45 pm; and Saturday, July 27, 10 am-2 pm. The August workshops are on Aug. 22, 6-8:45 pm; and Aug. 31 from 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops are on the first and third Mondays, August 5 and 19, 6-8:45 pm and Sept. 2 and 16, 6-8:45 pm. The September workshops will be on the 19th, 6-8:45 pm and the 28th, 10 am-2 pm.

The last Kids' Day is coming up August 17, 10 am-2 pm. Register at Stewarts Gem Shop or call Brent. The fee is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. The day includes a tour of the shop with rock samples collected and making something to take home.

Thanks to Brent, Cordell, Jean and Liz for all their help at July's Kids' Day. We will need volunteers for the August Kids' Day, too.

Program: The programs this month and next month will be auctions to benefit the Banquet fund. Please donate any nice material you can for this worthy cause.

Old Business: The August meeting will also be a Pot Luck Picnic in Kristen Armstrong Park with an auction to follow. We will meet starting at 6 pm with dinner at 6:30. Bring your favorite dish to share and your table service. The club provides water, some soda, and ice cream treats.

September we will be back at our regular meeting place at the Maple Grove Grange.

New Business: New members Tony and Anika Bruno joined our picnic. Tony is a Boise State student and is doing a podcast on groups in the valley and wants to include the microcosm of rockhounds. He will be doing surveys and may want to interview a few folks.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm for the auction.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING AUGUST 6, 2024

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

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

Excused: Logan Nye

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, the motion carried.

Program Report: The program this month will be the auction after the picnic at K. A. Municipal Park. We meet at 6 pm and eat at 6:30. Willa will get the drinks and ice cream. For the auction we need more quality and less quantity for the donations.

Junior's Report: Cordell reported that at last month's picnic they did art projects. This month will be more oriented toward tools.

Field Trip Report: The July field trip out to our Whangdoodle claim and the Queenstone claims had 13 cars with about 25 people. Four very nice pieces of Queenstone were found. We left Whangdoodle about 1:15 pm before it was over 100°.

For the August field trip we're going to Coal Mine Basin, since Haystack Butte is too smoky. There you will find petrified wood and agates. We meet at the Ion station at Hwys. 55 and 95. We will meet at 7:30 am and leave at 8 am. It is a short drive to the area.

Workshop Report: Brent went over upcoming workshop dates for August and September. The next ROLE workshop will be August 19, 6-8:45 pm. The regular August workshops will be on the 22nd from 6-8:45 pm, and the 31st from 10 am-2 pm. September ROLE workshops are on the 2nd and 16th, 6-8:45 pm. September general workshops are the 19th, 6-8:45 pm, and the 28th, 10 am-2 pm. The last Kids' Day is August 17, 10 am-2 pm.

Banquet Report: The deposit has been made for the banquet venue. Rick has the information so we can decide on the menu next month. Need to be ready to sell tickets in November.

Treasurer Report: Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. It was another quiet month. She also received a postcard announcing International Minute Press merged with Overland Printers.

Old Business: Rick purchased a new first aid kit for the field trips.

We need to print at least 10 hard copy extras of the newsletter to take to meetings and give to Brent.

Dana had an email that requested pricing for a lifetime membership. We do not sell them. They are earned by the time you are a member in the club.

New Business: Liz has updated the claim information and will mail the forms to BLM offices. She will complete it all in the next couple of weeks for the waivers. The Board thanked her for all the hard work she put in to learn the process. She will look into getting a safe for the paperwork to keep it together. Jason has been doing the claim markers. He wants to have a basket party to do repairs on markers.

Rick reminded all to bring donations for the auction.

There were no new member applications this month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

IGC LIBRARY

Our Club Library will be open during the general meetings. Take a look at the books, magazines and videos available for check-out. New issues of *Rock & Gem Magazine* are added monthly.

If you have any books you would like to donate, you may bring them in a bag marked for the Librarian and leave them on top of the library cabinet. If you have

questions, please contact Tia Call at tcall76@yahoo.com.



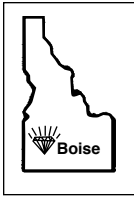
THE GRINDINGS

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CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

www.idahogemclub.com



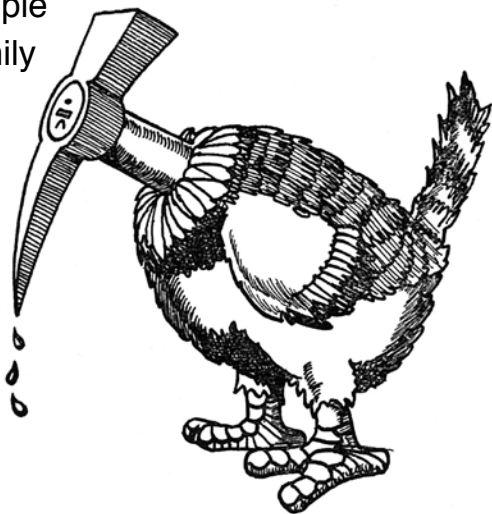
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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. 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

