




# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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

**VOL 85 NO 7**

**JULY 2024**

## DIRECTORY

ITEM	PAGE
President's Message	1
Calendars, Upcoming Events	2
Juniors Program, July Pot Luck Picnic	3
Workshop, Field Trip, New Members, Sunshine Lady	4
June Field Trip	5
Safety & First Aid	6
Spinel	7
General Meeting Minutes	8
Board Meeting Minutes	9

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds

July is here and so is the heat. Our last trip to Silver City was great fun. 24 vehicles carrying about 60 adults and kids did a brief walk around tour of Historic Silver City, then we went and collected lots of quartz crystal specimens. There were several amazing finds and a great time for all.

For our next two field trips we'll be starting a little earlier to help avoid some of the afternoon heat. In July we're going to two of the club's claims; Queenstone and the Whangdoodle Opal claim. We're meeting at the Ion Chevron station on the corner of Hwys. 55 and 95 outside of Marsing. Let's meet at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am. After a few minutes of travel time to the Queenstone area, we'll be there for two hours or so. The area is easy digging, so a shovel, bucket, lots of water and some luck is all it takes to find a beautiful Queenstone jasper. Then we're off to the Whangdoodle claim. The opal is in hard rock so bring your hammer and chisels. Eye protection is recommended since the lava rock is very hard and chips will fly. The opal is there but you have to work for it.

In August I'm planning a trip to Haystack Butte. It is another great location for one of the prettiest of the Owyhee jaspers called Jelly Jasper. It is amazing and fairly plentiful. There is some surface material available, but some digging may also be necessary. Bring good shoes, plenty of water, lunch, tools, and an awareness of the wildlife in the area.

This week we have the Nyssa Thunder Egg Days going on, starting with set-up on Wednesday, July 10th at the High School in Nyssa. There is always plenty to do getting the canopies up, etc. We need everyone to come and help out at starting at 9 am. The show runs from Thursday at Noon through Saturday at 9 pm. Check the hours in the Grindings calendar. Come grind rocks and help man the booth. We'll have 2 cabachon machines this year and a new cooling fan set-up for our comfort from the heat. Bring your rocks to sell or show off any projects you're proud of. It's a great place to visit and to buy rocks and tools. A lot of different vendors come and it's a great opportunity to find treasures and meet new people.

Don't forget Kids' Day Workshop is on July 13 from 10 am to 2 pm at the workshop behind Stewarts Gem Shop. The second one will be August 17th at the same times. Sign up your kids or grandchildren for a great lapidary experience and rock fun with Brent.

This month our club meeting will be in Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park on Walnut St. in the covered shelter. It is on Tuesday, July 16, starting at 6 pm. It is a Potluck Dinner so bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. Also bring your table service and your favorite beverage. Some drinks and water are provided by the club, as well as ice cream treats. There will be a short meeting after dinner and a Rock Auction to follow. Quality donations are appreciated and accepted. Let's have more quality than quantity this year so I can keep my voice and we can be done before dark. All proceeds go to help fund our Awards Banquet in January. We'll be doing our August meeting on the 20th in the same place, same time. There will be more good food and another great auction.

I look forward to seeing all of you there for another great Gem Club adventure!

*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)

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## JULY

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 Thunder Egg Days Setup, Nyssa, 8 am	11 Thunder Egg Days, Nyssa Noon-9 pm	12 Thunder Egg Days, Nyssa 9 am-9 pm	13 TED, Nyssa 9 am-9 pm Kid's Workshop 10 am-2 pm
14	15 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	16 Picnic Meeting 6 pm	17	18 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19	20 Field Trip Queenstone, Whangdoodle 7:30 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28	29	30	31			

## 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 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	16	17 Kids' Day Workshop 10 am-2 pm
18	19 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20 General Meeting 7 pm	21	22	23	24 Field Trip Haystack Butte 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 TBA
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
6	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 Field Trip TBA
20	21 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	22	23	24	25	26 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
27	28	29	30	31		



## Upcoming Events

**Tonopah Rock & Bottle Show**, July 19, 12 noon-7 pm, July 20, 9 am-6 pm, July 21, 9 am-12 noon. Tonopah Convention Center, 301 Brougner Ave, Tonopah, NV

**Far West Rock & Gem Show**, August 2-3, 10 am-5 pm, August 4, 10 am-4 pm. The Mill Casino Salmon Room, 3201 Tremont St, North Bend, OR

**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

## JUNIORS PROGRAM

At this month's meeting in the park we will work on activities for the Stone Age Tools & Art badge. Coyote Short will also be available to share her knowledge.

## 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 Jun 18 - Collecting Badge
- Tue Jul 16 - Picnic - Stone Age Tools & Art badge - activities at park
- 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



## JULY POT LUCK PICNIC MEETING

July 16, 2024, will be the 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.

**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 FIELD TRIP**

The field trip for July will be to our Queenstone and Whangdoodle Opal claims. We will be meeting at the Ion Chevron Station at the corner of Hwys. 55 and 95 just past Marsing at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am.

You will need lunch, water, and your hammer and chisels. Eye protection is recommended as well.

**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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Phillip & Regina Johnson      Matt Mirkin  
Robert & Lynell Niemeyer      Anna & Matthew Christie

**SUNSHINE LADY REPORT**

By Deana Ashton

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.

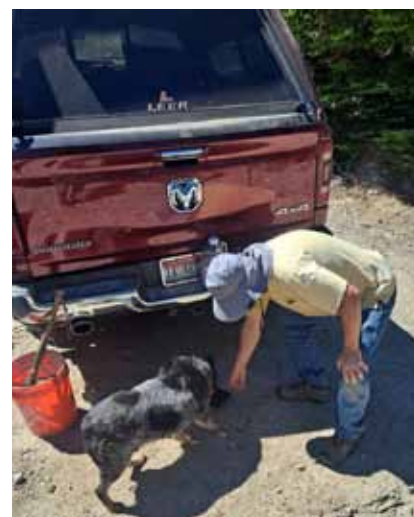
**WELCOME NEW JUNIORS**

Emilie Samples      Cole Samples  
Trevor Mirkin



JUNE FIELD TRIP

June's field trip to Silver City was well attended with 24 vehicles carrying about 60 people. Everyone sure appreciated the cooler temps in the mountains and there were plenty of crystals to collect.





## SAFETY & FIRST AID ON FIELD TRIPS



Below is an outline of the safety and first aid information provided by Boise Fire Battalion Chief Brian Ashton at our June meeting.

### Make A Plan

The first and most important thing is to make a plan, let someone know where you're going and when you expect to be back. It will help them to know if you're missing more quickly and ask for help.

### Parking

Stay away from dry grass, but park off the road. Take a few minutes to be sure there is nothing under the car that can ignite. Carry a fire extinguisher in your car just to be safe.

### First Aid Kit

There should be a club First Aid Kit to take on field trips. It should include: tweezers, tick remover, neosporin, bandaids, gauze pads, bandage wrap, and cold/heat packs. Make sure everyone knows who has possession of the kit.

### Medical Emergencies

A medical emergency can include heart trouble, diabetic trouble, heat stroke, or serious falls.

### Contacting Help

As you head to your location, check phone service frequently to identify cell service areas. Make a transportation plan to get help. You may need to go to the top of a hill to obtain service, or send someone to find service and call for help. They can then meet EMS and bring them to the correct location.



Even if you don't have cell service, your phone can still give you a latitude and longitude location. There is an app that uses a geocode system for those coordinates to pinpoint your location within 10 ft. anywhere. It is called **what3words**. If you enter your coordinates, the app will give you three words to give EMS so they can find you.

If you go on solo trips, you may want to get **Inreach** for satellite service to get in contact if needed.

### Sun Exposure/Heat Exhaustion

Bring sunscreen and a head covering for protection. Be sure to drink lots of water, as well as Gatorade or another sports drink for electrolytes. If anyone is having problems, get them in the shade and get their temperature down with water and cold packs. If they stop sweating, that is an emergency situation that requires quick help.

### Snake Bite

If you happen to be bitten by a snake, keep calm and don't move around. Keep the bite below heart level to slow the venom. Don't wait to see if it gets better. Have someone drive you out to a hospital. Don't try to drive yourself. You do have some time, so don't panic. Keeping calm will also slow the venom.

It is a good idea to have marking tape to mark wasp nests, snake holes, etc., so everyone is aware of them.



## SPINEL

Spinel is the magnesium/aluminum member of the larger spinel group of minerals. It has the cubic crystal system. Its name comes from the Latin word *spinella*, a form of *spine*, in reference to its pointed crystals.

Until recently, spinel was an underappreciated gem with little recognition. Increasing demand for ruby alternatives rekindled appreciation for its rich red color. In ancient times, southeast Asia's mines yielded large spinel crystals, which became the treasured property of kings and emperors.

### Properties

Spinel is singly refractive, with the same physical properties in all crystal directions. It belongs to the cubic crystal system, and its characteristic crystal shape is an octahedron, which looks like two back-to-back pyramids. It has no true cleavage, but shows an octahedral parting and a conchoidal fracture. Its hardness is 8 and it is transparent to opaque with a vitreous to dull luster. Well-formed spinel crystals are fairly common in nature.



Spinel can also form flattened crystals that look radically different. The flattened shape occurs when the pyramids that form an octahedron rotate against each other during growth. This is described as a "twinned crystal." The crystals may be colorless, but are usually various shades of red, lavender, blue, green, brown, black, or yellow.



The transparent red spinels were called spinel-rubies or balas rubies. In the past, before modern science, spinels and rubies were equally known as rubies. After the 18th century, the word *ruby* was only used for the red gem variety of the mineral corundum, and the word *spinel* came to be used. Mines in Tajikistan were the main source for red and pink spinels for centuries.

Intense reds and pinks are caused by traces of chromium. The higher the chromium content, the stronger the red hue. Orange and purple stones owe their color to a mixture of iron and chromium. The pure blue coloration is caused by small additions of cobalt.

### Geologic Occurrence

Spinel is found as a metamorphic mineral in metamorphosed limestones and silica-poor mudstones. It also occurs as a primary mineral in rare mafic igneous rocks. In these igneous rocks, the magmas are relatively deficient in alkalis relative to aluminum, and aluminum oxide may form as the mineral corundum or may combine with magnesia to form spinel. This is why spinel and ruby are often found together.

### Geographical Occurrence

Spinel has long been found in the gemstone-bearing gravel of Sri Lanka and in limestones of Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Myanmar. Over the last decades gem quality spinels have also been found in the marbles of Vietnam, Tanzania, and Kenya, and in the gravels of Tanzania and Madagascar.

Since 2000, in several locations, spinels with unusual vivid pink or blue colors have been discovered. Such "glowing" spinels have been found in Myanmar, Tanzania, and Vietnam. In 2018 bright blue spinels were also reported in the southern part of Baffin Island, Canada.

### Synthetic Spinel

Synthetic spinel can be produced by similar means to synthetic corundum, including the *Verneuil* method. It is widely used as an inexpensive cut gem in birthstone jewelry for the month of August. Light blue synthetic spinel is a good imitation of aquamarine beryl, and green synthetic spinel is used as an emerald or tourmaline simulant. Synthetic spinel, which looks like glass but has notably higher strength against pressure, can also have applications in military and commercial use.



Modern technology hasn't helped spinel's confused identity. This is due largely to the widespread use of synthetic spinel as an imitation for many other gems. A lot of customers aren't even aware that there's a natural version of the stone.

## GEM CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Rick Corbett, 208-890-2599

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

2nd VP: Terri Frostrom, 208-407-2405  
s\_tfrostrom@hotmail.com

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

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

FEDERATION DIRECTOR:  
Debbie Mitchell, 208-880-7991

FIELD TRIP GUIDES: Jenni & Ron Gudapadi  
208-407-1454

HISTORIAN: Jean Hoene, 360-961-4241  
greyhorsejean@aol.com

LIBRARIAN: Tia Call, 208-602-4594  
tcall76@yahoo.com

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

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

## BOARD MEMBERS:

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

Brent Stewart, 208-863-9336  
gene@stewartsgemshopinc.com

Jason Smith, 208-899-3899  
sunshineandwine101@gmail.com

Cordell Blaine, 208-781-0229  
cordellandkrista@gmail.com

Liz Warner, 208-631-8830  
lperson55@hotmail.com

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

WEBSITE: www.idahogemclub.com

EMAIL: info@idahogemclub.com

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 18, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:07 by Rick Corbett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Four guests and new members introduced themselves.

Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 4 juniors and 12 adults, plus one grand prize.

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

The *Grindings* is now all digital. Contact the editor if you're not receiving it.

**Junior's Report:** Cordell went over the badge program for kids and encouraged everyone to bring their kids and grandkids to meetings to participate.

**Treasurer Report:** No report. Teresa was not here.

**Federation Report:** Debbie reported that the stamp program money will now be used for scholarships. The meeting was in Hermiston.

**Field Trip Report:** The June field trip will be on the 22nd to Silver City. We will meet at the 66 Station at Walters Ferry at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. It is about a 30 mile drive to town where we will do a short tour. Then we will go to a forest service road to collect quartz crystals in a tailings pile. Some of the crystals are clear, but most are milky. Regular cars should be okay. Bring your lunch, buckets, water, good shoes, and gloves. Quartz can be sharp.

The July field trip will be to the Queenstone and Whangdoodle claims. Bring lots of water and your lunch. We will be meeting at the Ion Chevron at the corner of Hwy. 55 and 95 just past Marsing at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am.

**Workshop Report:** Liz went over the upcoming workshops. Thursday, June 20, 6-8:45 pm; and Saturday, June 29, 10 am-2 pm. The July workshops are on July 18, 6-8:45 pm; and July 27 from 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops are on July 1 and 15, 6-8:45 pm.

Rick taught how to put a thin piece of opal on basenite to enhance the color. Students brought opals to work on. Videos from the workshop are on our Facebook page.

Kids' Days are on July 13, 10 am-2 pm, and August 17, 10 am-2 pm. Register at Stewarts Gem Shop or call Brent. The day includes a tour of the shop with rock samples collected and making something to take home.

**Program:** Brian Ashton, Battalion Chief with the Boise Fire Department did a very good program on First Aid and Safety on Field Trips. There will be an article with details in the next newsletter.

**Old Business:** The July and August meetings are Pot Luck Picnics in Kristen Armstrong Park with auctions following. A map will be in the next *Grindings*. We 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. Please donate any nice material you can. The auctions benefit the Banquet in January.

In July we will be setting up a booth at Thunder Egg Days in Nyssa, OR. We will be setting up on Wednesday, July 10 at 10 am. The event runs for 3 days from July 11-13, 10 am-9 pm. We need as many volunteers as we can get to sign up and participate. We will have a cab machine to demonstrate cabbng and you can display and sell your own goods. It is a great show, but it will be hot so bring plenty of water.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*



## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING

JULY 2, 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, Brent Stewart and Dana Robinson

**Excused:** Jason Smith

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 Cordell. Board members voted, the motion carried.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. It was another quiet month. The 12 mo. CDs have been renewed for another year. The Scholarship fund is growing with the T Bonds accounts.

**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 has gotten the drinks and will get the ice cream. For the auction we need more quality and less quantity for the donations.

**Junior's Report:** Cordell reported that Guy DiTorrice made more donations to the juniors. He will use them in the program. They will be working on the Stone Age Art Badge for both picnics. Coyote has offered to help as well.

**Field Trip Report:** The July field trip will be out to our Whangdoodle claim and the Queenstone claims. We meet at the Ion station at Hwys. 55 & 95. We should leave a bit earlier to beat the heat so meet at 7:30 am and leave at 8 am. Rick is looking into Haystack Butte for the August field trip.

**Workshop Report:** Brent went over upcoming workshop dates for July and August. The next ROLE workshop will be July 15, 6-8:45 pm. The regular July workshops will be on the 18th from 6-8:45 pm, and the 27th from 10 am-2 pm. August ROLE workshops are August 5 and August 19, 6-8:45 pm. August general workshops are August 15, 6-8:45 pm, and August 31, 10 am-2 pm. The Kids' Days are July 13 and August 17, 10 am-2 pm.

**Old Business:** The set up for Thunder Egg Days is on July 10 at 9 am. We need demonstrators and people to man the tables. Cullen is bringing his geode cracker. We need more extension cords than we have. Deana will get the pump mist fans. There was much discussion on specifics.

**New Business:** Deana suggested setting up a safety and cooling pop-up tent with shade, a mister fan and a first aid kit for field trips. Need to warn everyone about the fire hazards this time of year.

There was discussion about using tape on the antenna to mark cars in field trip caravans.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 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](mailto:tcall76@yahoo.com).

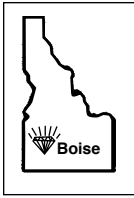


### THE GRINDINGS

is the monthly newsletter of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc., associated with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Permission to copy is freely granted when proper credit is given to both the publication and the author. Articles without bylines are written by the Editor or President.

CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

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



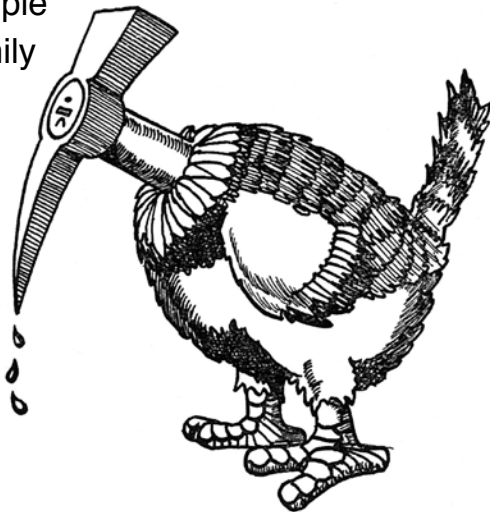
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 8443  
 Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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

