



Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 85 NO 6

JUNE 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds

Summer is upon us and so is the heat. This rockhounding season we have some fun trips planned. This month we're going to Silver City on Saturday, June 22. We're meeting at Dan's Phillips 66 Station at Walters Ferry at 8 am and we'll roll out at 8:30, go to Silver City for a little tour of that old mining town, then we'll backtrack to a mountain road for beautiful quartz crystal specimens discarded from the mining process. It is plentiful in the tailing piles. Bring your lunch, plenty of water and buckets. Good shoes are very important for walking on loose rocks.

Our June meeting will have a safety presentation put on by some of Boise's finest firefighters. Deana Ashton has enlisted her brother to come and speak about safety and first aid. We'll be having our meeting outside of the Grange on the east side in the shade. Our next two meetings in July and August will be in the Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park covered shelter. This park is on Walnut St. and both meetings will be Pot Luck Dinners, so bring your favorite dish to share with your fellow club members. Following dinner and a brief meeting, we will be having an auction to benefit the Banquet Fund. So if you have something special to donate, please bring it, and stick around and bid on something special that has caught your eye.

Thunderegg Days in Nyssa, OR, are coming up in July, from the 11th through the 13th, with set-up on Wednesday, the 10th. We need lots of help setting up tents, etc., and tearing it all down again on Saturday evening. We'll have a cab machine there for demonstrating and tables to show and sell your projects. It is a great show to find a big variety of rocks and gems. This year we will be back at the High School grounds. Bring your friends and family for lots of vendors and activities going on. We'll need lots of help manning the booth and promoting our club.

Last month we went to Tony Funk's Rock Yard in Gooding. It was fun with three clubs and 90 people. We had so much food, it was quite the feast. Thank you, Tony, for having us.

Last weekend the Gem Faire was in Boise. I want to thank everyone who came to help man the booth and make noise grinding cabs. We signed up several new members and it was a fun show.

Our July Field trip will be to our Queenstone claim and our Whangdoodle opal claim. We'll meet at the Chevron station in Marsing at the corner of Hwys. 55 and 95 at 8 am, leaving at 8:45 to avoid confusion with the Owyhee club's departure. Bring your shovel, rock hammers and chisels for some digging. Good shoes will be needed, and be sure to bring plenty of water and your lunch. It will be hot so be prepared for the summer heat. An umbrella can provide shade.

Two days before our last board meeting, we were informed that our printer has quit the printing business. With few affordable options, the Board has decided to go all digital for the *Grindings* newsletter. So no more printed *Grindings* will be published and mailed. The newsletter will always be available on our website, www.idahogemclub.com, or in your email every month and you can print your own copy. Our publisher, Dana, will make that happen, so if you haven't submitted your email, you can do that at our next meeting.

Brent Stewart will be hosting Kids' Day on July 13th from 10 am until 2 pm, and again on August 17th from 10 am until 2 pm. It is lots of fun for the kids and grandkids, so get signed up and plan on attending. We need to get those kids hooked on rocks; the future of our club depends on it.

Come join us for adventures, fun and friendship with the Idaho Gem Club. Rock On!

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rick Corbett, President*

**TRUNK SALE
from 5-6:30 before the meeting**

The deadline for issues is the Friday after each Board Meeting for the current month's edition. To submit articles, please send them through email to Dana Robinson, Editor drobinso@boisestate.edu

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

JUNE

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

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 9 am-9 pm	12 Thunder Egg Days, Nyssa 9 am-9 pm	13 TED, Nyssa 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 8 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	16	17 Kids' Day Workshop 10 am-2 pm
18	19 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20 General Meeting 7 pm	21	22 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	23	24 Field Trip TBA
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
29	30					



Upcoming Events

Treasures of the Universe, June 22, 10 am-6 pm, June 23, 10 am-5 pm. Ravalli County Fairgrounds. 100 Old Corvallis Road, Hamilton, MT

Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Show, June 22, 10 am-6 pm, June 23, 10 am-5 pm. Ravalli County Fairground, Farmers State Bank Event Building, 100 Old Corvallis Road, Hamilton, MT

Thunderegg Days, July 11, 12 pm-9 pm, July 12-13, 9 am-9 pm. Nyssa High School, Reece Ave, Nyssa

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

JUNIORS PROGRAM

This month we will continue working on the Collections badge. If you are able, bring a few of your treasures to show-and-tell. We will hand out organizer boxes to store rock collections in.

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



JUNE PROGRAM

This month's program Deana Ashton has enlisted her brother from the Boise Fire Department to come talk to us about basic safety and first aid while out in the field.

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)

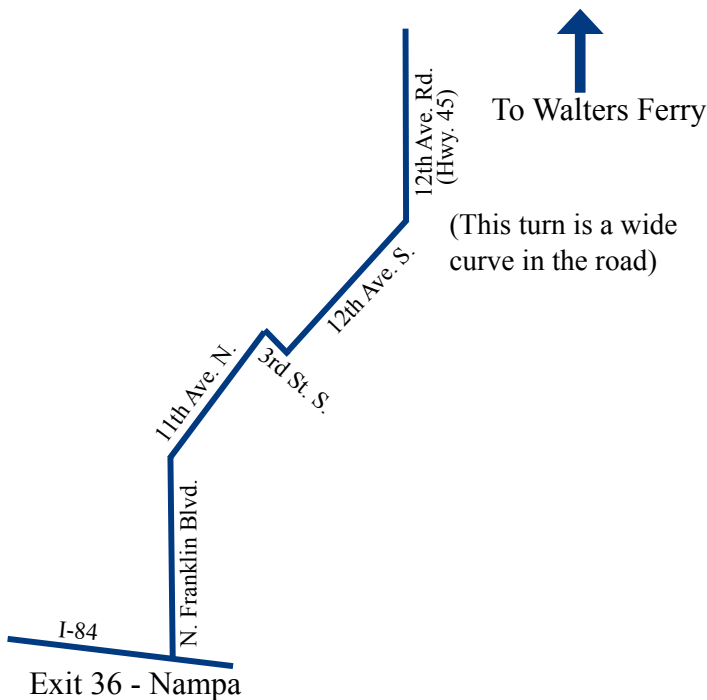


JUNE FIELD TRIP

The field trip for June will be to Silver City for quartz crystals. We will be meeting at the Phillips 66 Station at Walters Ferry at 8 am on Saturday, June 22nd, leaving at 8:30 am.

Silver City is an old ghost town and we will stop there first for a short visit. Be sure to bring lunch, water and any snacks you may want. It is an old mining district so you need to watch out for holes, and, as always, snakes.

Take the N. Franklin Blvd. exit off I-84 (Exit 36) and turn left onto Franklin Blvd. Go down to 11th Ave. N. and turn right. Follow that into downtown and turn left onto 3rd St. S. Go one block and turn right onto 12th Ave. S. That street will take you all the way to Walter's Ferry. It is a little odd because of the one-way streets downtown.



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

Big OLD STOCK Rock Sale!

June 15 & 16, 2024
Saturday and Sunday — 9 am to 5 pm

3 Lifetime Members
Are Clearing Out Their Stash Piles!!

Come find prized:

Original Owyhee Picture Jasper,
 Rocky Butte Premium Agates,
 Reynolds Creek and Arizona Petrified Wood,
 Bruneau Jasper, Willow Creek Jasper,
 Montana Agates, Sunstones, Garnets and Coral,
 Geodes and Thundereggs
 and some Lapidary Tools and Equipment

There are also unusual jaspers, special minerals,
 faceted stones and variety jewelry

If you don't see it, ask for it!!

No early birds please!
 Cash preferred — No credit cards!

5728 Wagon Wheel Ln., Homedale
 Go through Marsing and past the ION Extra Mile station.
 Go 2.5 miles and turn left onto Cemetery Rd.,
 then turn left onto Jump Creek Rd., go one block
 and turn right back onto Cemetery Rd.
 Go 2 miles and turn left onto Wagon Wheel Lane.

MAY FIELD TRIP

May's field trip to Tony Funk's Rock Yard was great. Everyone brought delicious food for the pot luck lunch and had a great time searching for treasures. Members from three clubs participated, so it was a perfect time to meet more fellow rockhounds!



GEM FAIRE

The Gem Faire was as interesting as always this year, and much larger. Many thanks to all who manned the table and did demonstrations of capping. The demonstrations and microscopes draw people in with questions. We gave out quite a few applications and met many great folks. Everyone also had a chance to visit the vendor booths and collect new material.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve Waldinger	Mike Pannek
Trudy & Dale Pitcairn	Ron Porter
Carolyn Fritschle	Kathi Wilson
Joseph & Emily Meredith	Lon Blair
Erik Martin	Ryan Martin
Daniel Lemus & Katherine O'Sullivan	

WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Kade Martin	Keira Martin
Luna Meredith	

New Members:

Our website at 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!

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.

CATLINITE (PIPESTONE)

Catlinite, also called pipestone, is a type of argillite (metamorphosed mudstone), usually brownish-red in color, which occurs in a matrix of Sioux Quartzite. Because it is fine-grained and easily worked, it is prized by Native Americans, primarily those of the Plains nations, for use in making ceremonial pipes, known as chanunpas or *čhaŋnúŋpas* in the Lakota language.



Pipestone quarries are located and preserved in Pipestone National Monument outside Pipestone, MN, and at the Pipestone River in Ontario, Canada.

Name

The term Catlinite came into use after the American painter George Catlin visited the quarries in Minnesota in 1835, but there is evidence indicating Native Americans had been using the quarries since at least as far back as 1637.

Catlinite Quarries

Minnesota catlinite is buttery smooth and can be cut with a regular hacksaw or even a knife. It comes out of the ground a pinkish color often with a cream layer protecting it from the hard quartzite. It is weaker and more subject to breaking under stress than Utah pipestone. Most catlinite deposits exist beneath the level of groundwater in deep enough layers where the soil is constantly moist. The iron compounds which give catlinite its red color quickly convert into iron oxides when exposed to the elements and the stone degrades and breaks down.

The red catlinite from the Pipestone, MN, quarries is a soft claystone bed which occurs between layers of hard Sioux Quartzite. Only hand tools are used to reach the catlinite so it takes a long time to get to it. Only enrolled Native Americans are allowed to quarry for the stone at the Pipestone National Monument, and thus it is protected from over-mining. Another quarry is located on the reservation near Hayward, WI, which the Ojibwa have used for centuries. The stone there is harder than the stone from Pipestone National Monument.

Other Varieties of Pipestone

A large range of pipestones exist, not just those in Minnesota. Utah pipestone has a more variable range of hard and soft forms, since it occurs as layers between deposits of harder slates. Several natural deposits of Utah pipestone have been mined and used for pipemaking by Native Americans in the area for millennia.

The Canadian quarry is no longer used, although there are quarries in Canada where another type of pipestone, black stone, is gleaned. The Ojibwa use both the red and black stone for their sacred pipes.

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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING MAY 21, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Rick Corbett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was a large attendance of 60 people and eight new members introduced themselves.

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

Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 1 junior. Tammy Payne won a special door prize.

The Swap Meet had a good turnout, with lots of new people tonight. One swap vendor made a \$10 donation to the club. Thanks!
Workshop Report: There is a workshop this Thursday evening. Liz went over workshops details and fee.

Brent went over the upcoming workshops dates: June 1, 10 am-2 pm; June 20, 6-8:45 pm; and June 29, 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops are on June 3 and 17, 6-8:45 pm.

The Kids' Days this year are on July 13, 10 am-2 pm, and August 17, 10 am-2 pm. Brent went over the Kids' Day workshop projects and Liz covered the ROLE program.

Treasurer Report: Teresa went over the financial statements. A detailed report is on the front table for anyone who wants to review it. There is also a sheet for the final recap on the show.

Federation Report: Debbie thanked everyone for the stamps turned in. There will be no change in the stamp program. The next meeting is September 12-14 in Walla Walla, WA.

Field Trip Report: The May field trip is on Saturday, May 25 and is a trip to Tony Funk's Rock Yard in Gooding. We will be joined by the Owyhee and Magic Valley clubs as well. It is a Pot Luck picnic so bring a dish to share, your own drinks and table service. We will meet at Tony's at 10 am. If you would rather caravan, the Owyhee club is meeting at the Blacks Creek Rest Area at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am.

June 1 and 2 will be the first trip to Beacon Hill. We will meet at the Ontario Rest Area just over the river on I84 at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. You will need a high clearance vehicle.

The June field trip will be on the 22nd to Silver City. We meet at the 66 Station at Walters Ferry at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. We will drive to Silver City and have a brief tour of town, then backtrack to a forest service road to collect crystals. There were large crystal formations found last year. There will be a map in the *Grindings* to Walters Ferry.

July 20 will be to the Queenstone and Whangdoodle claims, and August 24 will be out to Haystack Butte for jasper. There is Owyhee jasper there. Willa advised to watch for claims.

Old Business: On June 6-8 is the Gem Faire at the Expo Idaho. Rick went over the event where we promote the club. We are not allowed to sell anything. We need people to sign up and participate. We set up on Thursday, June 5 from 10 am to about noon. The event runs from June 6-8. It is a lot of fun and there are always great people and vendors to visit with.

Remember that the July and August meetings are Pot Luck Picnics in Kristen Armstrong Park with auctions following. Please donate any nice material you can. The auctions benefit the Banquet in January.

New Business: Willa has Thursday evening open for a silversmith class.

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. It is a great show and you will be allowed to sell your goods if you want.

Sandy donated a tray of rocks to give away. Many thanks.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING JUNE 4, 2024

Rick Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

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

Excused: Deana Ashton

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.

Treasurer Report: Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. It was a quiet month, but a deposit was made to the Riverside Hotel for the 2025 Banquet.

She will renew the 12 mo. CDs at 5% interest.

Debbie Mitchell turned in the expense report for the trip to the NFMS meeting.

Program Report: For June's program, Deana recruited her brother from the Fire Department to do a program about basic safety and first aide in the field. The June meeting will be outside if it's nice. The July and August programs will be auctions in the park. Terri will contact Chris Seipert of the Flintknappers to do a program for September.

Junior's Report: Cordell reported that they will be wrapping up the collecting badge. They have finished the field trip badge. The Kids' Days will be July 13 and August 17.

Field Trip Report: Willa reported that the field trip to Beacon Hill went well. There were 23 cars with about 54 people on Saturday and 13 cars with about 20 people on Sunday. Everyone found good stuff. Willa will look into doing excavating next spring. We need to move the work area away from the road.

The field trip to Gooding went very well with 90 people overall. Everyone brought great dishes and found lots of material.

June 22nd will be a field trip to Silver City. Meeting at Walters Ferry at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. We will visit the town and then go to the quartz crystal area. July will be a trip out to our Whangdoodle claim and the Queenstone claims.

Workshop Report: Brent went over upcoming workshop dates for June and July. The next ROLE workshop will be June 17, 6-8:45 pm. The regular June workshops will be on the 20th from 6-8:45 pm, and the 29th from 10 am-2 pm. July ROLE workshops are July 1 and July 15, 6-8:45 pm. Just general workshops are July 18, 6-8:45 pm, and July 27, 10 am-2 pm.

Old Business: Judi Allison from the NFMS asked about a contact person for forwarding the newsletter. Dana will take it on.

Gem Faire is this weekend. We will set up on Thursday, June 6 at 10-11 am at the fairgrounds. There are some sign-ups for manning the table and the slots for cabbing are all full.

New Business: We were notified that our newsletter printer is not going to do printing/ mailing anymore. Due to cost increases at other printers, it was suggested to go all digital like the NFMS and send the Grindings through email and on the website. It will save around \$2,000 per year.

Willa made a motion to go to a digital only format for the Grindings, sending the newsletter in email and having it online on our website. Rick seconded, the Board voted, and the motion carried.

Willa went over the 2024 budget figures. After discussion, Dana made a motion to accept the new budget as presented by Willa Renken. Liz seconded, the Board voted, and the motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

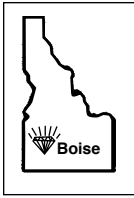


This large piece of opal from Ethiopia is about 6" wide, 4" tall, and 3" thick. It was on display at the Gem Faire.

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



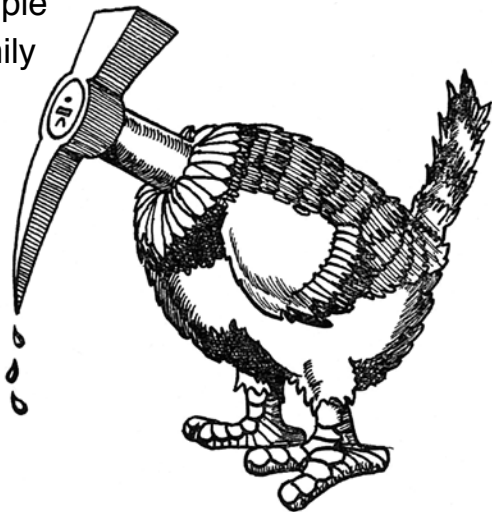
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

