



Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 86 NO 4

APRIL 2025

DIRECTORY

ITEM	PAGE
President's Message	1
Calendars, Upcoming Events	2
Workshops, Field Trips, New Members	3
Pizza Party Pictures	4
Kunzite, New Jasper	5
General Meeting Minutes	6
Board Meeting Minutes, Sunshine Lady	7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Rockhounds.

Spring is here and warm weather is coming . . . eventually. We had a great field trip in March with the Owyhee club. We went to the fossil leaf beds and it was cold and it was windy, but still a good time to get out and do some rockhounding.

This month on April 19th we're going to our claim at Graveyard Point. We'll be meeting up at the Chevron station at the Hwy. 55/95 intersection at 7:45 am. We'll be leaving at 8:15 to avoid the 8:30 Owyhee club migration from the parking lot, so 8:15, try not to be late. We're heading for some of the nicest, world-renowned plume agate, unique to that area. We'll have examples at our next meeting on Tuesday, April 15, at the Maple Grove Grange starting at 7 pm. Come join us for a look at what we will be looking for.

Also at this meeting we'll be asking for donations for Hawthorne Elementary School. They're having a Basket Raffle and are asking for a geology basket from the club. Terri has a nice basket I would like to see filled, so please bring any nice specimens, slabs, rocks, cabs, fossils or anything nice to donate. Let's set a good example of our club by filling the basket with nice, unique rocks, fossils and gems.

For those radio listeners, I did a radio interview with KBOI AM670 that will air on Sunday morning, April 13 at 7 am. Then it will be available on TheGreatIdahoShow.com podcast anytime. It was fun and I hope it will inspire more people to look us up and maybe investigate and join our club. New membership is what keeps our club going . . . new people and new ideas.

We had a couple of guests at our Board meeting. MaryAnn Weed, a master wire wrapper, wants to have wire wrapping classes that she'll teach for club members. We'll keep you posted about starting dates, times and location. She is a fairly new member and is excited about teaching her arts and skills to anybody in our club.

We had a great turnout for our Pizza Party last month, a thank you to club members for Gem Show participation. We had 41 adults and 11 kids at Idaho Pizza. It was a great evening.

I want to thank Liz Warner and Ray Harshman for their work mucking out our saws. It's dirty work cleaning them out and putting in new oil, but it keeps us cutting and happy, so Thank You!

Brent Stewart shared with me his plans to reorganize our saw room to move saws out of the workshop and free up space for more cabachon machines. We've been very busy lately at our workshops and a couple more machines would be great. Let's make it happen.

Good ideas and hard work make things happen in our club, so come be a part of the neat things we do. Happy rockhounding!

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

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rick Corbett, President*

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

APRIL

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

MAY

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 Field Trip Tony Funk's 8 am
18	19 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20 General Meeting 7 pm	21	22 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Workshop 10 am Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am	2 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	3 Board Meeting 7 pm	4	5	6 Gem Faire Expo Idaho Fri-Sat-Sun	7 Field Trip Workshop 10 am-2 pm
8 Field Trip Glass Buttes Sat-Sun	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
29	30					

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Board Meeting 7 pm	2	3	4	5 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
6	7 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	8	9 Thunder Egg Days Setup Nyssa, 9 am	10 TED Nyssa Noon-9 pm	11 TED Nyssa 9 am-9 pm	12 TED Nyssa 9 am-9 pm
13	14	15 Picnic Meeting 6 pm	16	17 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	18 Field Trip Kemmerer 3-day Trip	19 Field Trip Kemmerer
20 Field Trip Kemmerer	21 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	22	23	24	25	26 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
27	28	29	30	31		

*To participate in the ROLE workshops, you must complete your first level in the general workshops.



Upcoming Events

Annual Cheyenne Mineral, Gem & Rock Show, May 17, 9 am-6 pm, May 18, 10 am-4 pm. Archer Complex Building, 3801 Archer Parkway, Cheyenne, WY

Coeur d' Alene Rock & Gem Show, May 31, 9 am- 5 pm, June 1, 10 am-4 pm. Kootenai County Fairgrounds Jacklin Building, 4056 N Government Way, Coeur d' Alene, ID

Gem Faire, June 6-8, 10 am-5 pm, Expo Idaho South Bldg, 5610 W Chinden Blvd, Garden City, ID

Pikes Peak Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, June 6-7, 10 am-6 pm, June 8, 10 am-4 pm. Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd, Colorado Springs, CO

Thunderegg Days, July 10, 12 pm-9 pm, July 11-12, 9 am-9 pm., Nyssa High School, 809 Bower Ave, Nyssa, OR

2025 FIELD TRIPS

Apr 19	Graveyard Point, Moss Agate, 9 am
May 17	Tony Funk Rock Yard, BBQ Joint field trip with the Owyhee Club, 8 am
May 31- Jun 1	Beacon Hill, Geodes Willa will lead for this trip, 8 am
Jun 7-8	Glass Buttes, Obsidian Joint trip with the Owyhee club
Jul 10-12	Thunder Egg Days, Nyssa
Jul 18-20	Kemmerer, WY, Fossils 3-day trip, Rick might lead this trip
Aug 16	Whangdoodle and Queenstone claims Opal and Jaspers
Sep 20	Haystack Butte
Oct 4-5	Beacon Hill, Geodes

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)



APRIL FIELD TRIP

For the April 19th field trip we will be going to our Graveyard Point claim for plume agate. We'll meet at 7:45 am at the Ion Chevron station at the corner of Hwys. 55 and 95 just outside of Marsing, leaving at 8:15 am. We will then caravan to the dig area. The weather needs to be dry to get to this site, so if it is wet we can go to the Queenstone area as an alternate.

The area is a world-renowned site for plume agate. There is usually some surface material to collect as well, so come out and see what you can 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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Katherine & Chris Gray	Bill & Nikki Johnson
Benjamin Austin	Jacob & Cate Heil
Kate Anderson &	Pete Amar &
Rick Rood	Cassie Wilson

WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Evelyn Gray	Theodore Gray
Emmett Johnson	Macie Johnson
Jackson Johnson	Charlotte Johnson

PIZZA PARTY



KUNZITE

Kunzite is the light pink to violetish purple variety of the mineral *spodumene*. It is the best-known variety of spodumene. It gets its delicate color from trace amounts of manganese. The pegmatites that yield kunzite are also a source of lithium.

Kunzite has two perfect cleavage directions and rates 6.5 to 7.0 on the Mohs scale. It's pleochroic, with the best color visible when you look down the length of the crystal. Gem cutters may cut a kunzite deep to emphasize its pink to violet color. It is not unusual to find it in large sizes. The Smithsonian Institution houses a faceted kunzite that is 880 carats.

Kunzite can be irradiated and then heat-treated to enhance its color. Both treated and natural color in kunzite can fade with exposure to heat and bright light.

Kunzite History and Lore

Specimens of an unidentified pink crystal were found in San Diego Co., CA, and sent to Tiffany & Co.'s mineralogist, George F. Kunz. Kunz was able to confirm that the crystals were, in fact, spodumene, but the previously unrecognized color made the find a new variety of the mineral. Kunzite was first recognized around 1902 and was subsequently named in honor of Mr. Kunz in 1903. It is a relative newcomer to the array of colored stones available for use in jewelry.

In the years since, kunzite has proven to be a highly desirable gem. Occurring in attractive shades of pink to violet, kunzite crystals are also often large, with relatively few inclusions. Though difficult to cut due to its two cleavage directions, it lends itself to lovely finished gems used in fine jewelry.

Kunzite Uses and Purposes

Pink Kunzite is often called the Woman's Stone. It is particularly supportive for a young or first-time mother and for all single mothers, and assists mothers who may have a hard time caring for their young. It is also a good stone for sleepless babies and over-active children.

Kunzite is an ideal crystal for children having a hard time adjusting to and functioning in life. Its soft pink ray will bring comfort, and cleanse any auric shadows that may have accumulated from negative vibrations or situations.

It will also calm nervousness during an examination, interview or assessment, and is useful in situations where you cannot show irritation. In the



workplace Kunzite is a protective stone when superiors bring personal dislikes or problems to work. As a travel crystal, Lilac Kunzite guards against road rage and stress while driving. It also calms difficult passengers in your vehicle.

Carry Lilac Kunzite when visiting locations where negative events have taken place. It increases intuitive powers and is especially protective against harmful spirits.



NEW PORCELAIN JASPER

When I started the mineral article for the last issue, I thought I was dealing with a specific jasper, not a specific category. It quickly turned into a research project to find the most popular jaspers from the category. Most of them can be found in our general area, too.

Wouldn't you know, right after I did the article I discovered another porcelain jasper while reading the March issue of *Rock & Gem*. The newest porcelain jasper is called Royal Sahara Jasper. It is a hard, fine grained jasper that takes a fabulous shine.

It was discovered by George and Janet Sechler, owners of Oasis Prospecting Co., in the Sahara Desert in 2006. After many months of searching, the source was discovered in an ancient creek bed in the desert. They had to have people return to the site regularly to unbury it from shifting sands. It looks very similar to Biggs jasper, but the patterns are more dense and some of the colors are lighter. The Sechler's no longer have a web site, but material can be found for sale on Ebay.

One image on another website featured a beautiful specimen with shiny metallic dendrites! That is quite remarkable for sure.



This is a Pinterest image from Oasis Prospecting Co.

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
debbiemitche2@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP GUIDE: Brandon Favreau,
208-724-2287, gerbil51@yahoo.com

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:

Jason Smith, 208-899-3899
fuzzyhatleather@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

Debbie Mitchell, 208-880-7991
debbiemitche2@gmail.com

Lynn Hansen, 208-297-0500
2020hansen@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.idahogemclub.com

EMAIL: info@idahogemclub.com

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING MARCH 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Rick Corbett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Nineteen guests stood and introduce themselves. Rick did a quick overview of the club for the new folks, then Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 13 juniors and 8 adults, and a grand prize ticket was drawn.

Treasurer Report: No report. Please talk to a board member with any questions.

Field Trip Report: The March trip will be going out to Rock City for leaf fossils. There are samples on the front table to look at. This will be a joint trip with OGMS field trip leader John Wright. We will be meeting at the Ion Chevron station just outside of Marsing at the intersection of Hwys. 55/95. Meeting time is 8 am, and be aware there is a lot of construction on Karcher Rd. so you may need to research an alternate route around any closures. Otherwise the roads are good and we head to the McBride Creek turnoff. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and a rain cover, just in case. The material in this area is estimated to be 8-16 million years old.

Show Report: There was a good turnout for the show, with great cases and lots of help. We can always use workers for tables, etc. As a Thank You a Pizza Party is planned for next Wednesday, March 26, at 6 pm at the Idaho Pizza on Fairview Ave.

Juniors Report: Cordell takes juniors to their meeting room. He had extra help as well.

Workshop Report: Brent went over the workshop dates. The general workshops are March 20, 6-8:45 pm, and March 29, 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops are on April 7 and 21, 6-8:45 pm. The general workshops for April will be April 17, 6-8:45 pm, and April 26, 10 am-2 pm.

He also went over the ROLE Program and the requirements for joining. He explained the equipment that is available for use in the workshop. Liz then went over the specifics for what you can learn to do.

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

Old Business: Willa went over safety precautions to use while carpooling with a large group.

New Business: Guests are welcome to any club events.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING

APRIL 1, 2025

Rick Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Present: Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Liz Warner, Cordell Blaine, Lynn Hansen, and Dana Robinson

Excused: Terri Frostrom, Debbie Mitchell and Jason Smith

Guests: MaryAnn and Chris Weed, Deana Ashton and Brent Stewart

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

Treasurer Report: Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. The CDs paid the interest for the quarter. There are just a couple of ad bills to pay and the show expenses will be final.

Program Report: We will have a display of Graveyard Point material and discussion. If anyone has material to share, bring it to the general meeting.

Field Trip Report: We went to the leaf beds in March with the Owyhee club. It was rather windy and chilly, but about 16 IGC members and 50 or so OGMS members went out anyway. It was fun.

On April 19 we will meet at the Ion Chevron station at 7:45 am, leaving at 8:15. The times are staggered so we don't get mixed up with another group and will be updated on the calendar. If weather is bad we can go to Queenstone for Plan B.

Juniors Report: Cordell reports that more kids are showing up so things are looking up.

Workshop Report: Liz went over upcoming workshop dates for April and May. The April ROLE workshops will be Apr. 7 and 21, 6-8:45 pm. The regular April workshops will be on the 17th from 6-8:45 pm, and the 26th from 10 am-2 pm. May ROLE workshops are on the 5th and 19th, 6-8:45 pm. The regular May workshops are on the 22nd, 6-8:45 pm, and the 31st, 10 am-2 pm. Beacon Hill is also on the 31st, but also June 1.

Liz reported that the Cab King wasn't a good buy so she didn't purchase it. There was discussion on getting another Genie. We will need it as the workshop is getting busier. Brent wants to move all saws to the saw room to make more counter space.

Old Business: After discussion it was decided to work on the Beacon Hill claim next year.

New Business: MaryAnn Weed presented a proposal to have wire wrapping classes for \$10 per person using copper wire. She will provide the wire and stones to learn with. The pictures she brought shows a very large space to work with. It adds more offerings from the club. The Board discussed with her about not interfering with her regular business classes with Facebook posts, etc.

Rick received an email from Gem Faire for their annual visit. It will run from June 6 through June 8. We need volunteers to set up the table and do demonstrations with the genie and the micromounts. We will put a sign-up sheet on the front table for the next meetings.

Thanks were given to Liz and Ray Harshman for cleaning all of the saws at the workshop. They look great!

Rick did an interview about the club on KBOI Radio 670. It will air on the Great Idaho Show, April 13th at 7 am. If you miss the original airing, you can listen to the podcast online at GreatIdahoShow.com.

The Rehabilitation Center on Hilton St. has received requests from their patients asking for a presentation on Idaho rocks and geology. Rick is interested in stepping up.

Deana is sending flowers to Brandon Favreau for his mother's passing.

There were six new member applications this month. Willa made a motion to accept the new members, Cordell seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

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.

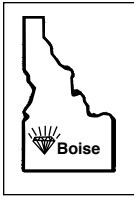
THE GRINDINGS

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



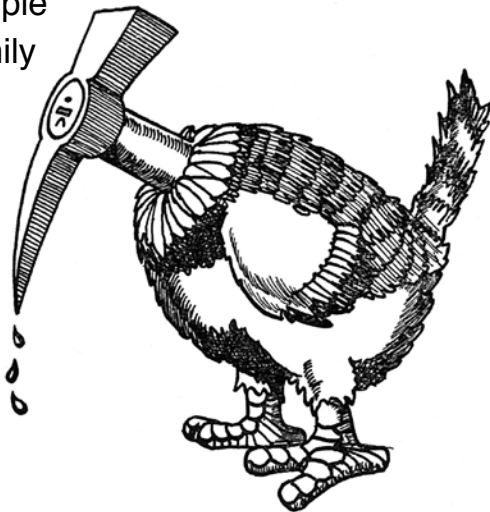
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.
 P.O. Box 8443
 Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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

