




Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 86 NO 2

FEBRUARY 2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds.

It's show time and fun time this month! February 21st at 8 am is set-up day for our show. We meet at the fairgrounds expo building on Friday morning. The back parking lot will be open to park in. Parking passes for those who participate and work the show will be available at the February general meeting on the 18th. We need everyone there to help set-up and, just as importantly, on Sunday afternoon to help tear down the show. With lots of help it goes quickly and easily so show your support by coming to the largest and best show in the northwest!

If you plan on working at our show, sign-up sheets will be at our upcoming meeting. Let's fill up those positions pronto. If you're doing a display case, remember to bring your locks and glass cleaner. A few blacklight cases may still be available, so let me know if you want to have a blacklight case. All floor display cases are spoken for. If you missed out and want a floor case, bring your items. Sometimes life happens and we get cancellations, so be prepared.

The following weekend our sister club, the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society, is having their show in Caldwell at the O'Connor Field House. It is always a good time there with different vendors and really nice people.

Last month we had our annual Awards Banquet. We had dinner, a short meeting and lots of entertainment from our Emcee, Brent Stewart. Thanks Brent! Liz Warner introduced the ROLE participants who earned certificates and our board members were installed. It was a fun evening with 74 members there. The Riverside venue was wonderful and the food and desserts were great. If you missed it, make plans to be there next year.

We've got lots of field trips planned this year. A couple of overnight trips this year. One to Oregon's Glass Buttes for obsidian and one to Wyoming's Fossil Butte in Kemmerer for fossil fish. It's a wonderful area that will be a once-in-a-lifetime trip for the nicest fossil fish in the world. We'll keep you posted so don't miss these trips!

Congratulations to Logan Nye for being our scholarship winner for 2025. He is in jewelry school in Texas and will be back this summer to do a presentation for us and receive his \$500 Scholarship Award.

I'm looking forward to a fun year full of friendship and adventures. Tell your friends and family and get them signed up to be a part of the best gem club in Idaho or anywhere.

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

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
2	3 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	4 Board Meeting 7 pm	5	6	7	8
9	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 Gem Show Set-Up 8 am, Expo	22 Gem Show 10 am-6 pm
23 Gem Show 10 am-5 pm -- Tear Down	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH

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

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. 9 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	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
18	19 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20 General Meeting 7 pm	21	22 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	23	24 Field Trip Tony Funk's 8 am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

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



Upcoming Events

- Idaho Gem Club Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**, February 22-23. Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 10 am-4 pm. Expo Idaho, 5610 W Chinden Blvd, Boise, ID
- Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**, March 1-2, 2025. Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 10 am-4 pm. O'Connor Field House, Caldwell, ID
- Magic Valley Gem & Mineral Show**, March 8-9, 2025. Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, 215 Fair Avenue, Filer, ID
- Hellgate Mineral Society Show**, March 15, 9 am-6 pm, March 16, 10 am-5 pm. Hilton Garden Inn, 3720 North Reserve, Missoula, MT
- Gold, Gem & Mineral Show**, March 22, 9 am-6 pm, March 23, 10 am-4 pm. Flathead County Fairgrounds, Expo Bldg., 265 N Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT

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

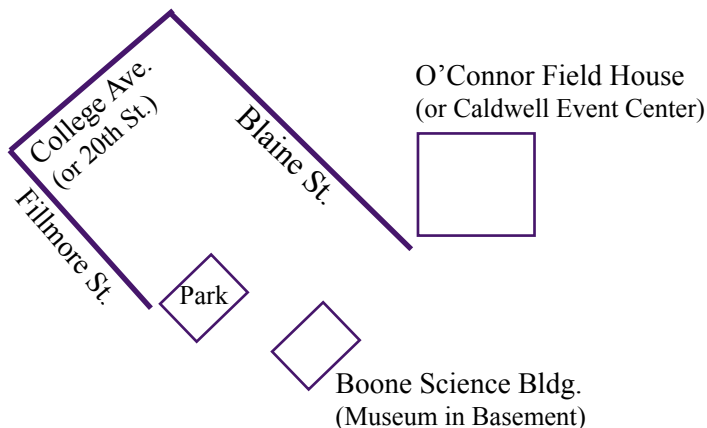
2620 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID
 Next door to Stewart’s Gem Shop
 \$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



MARCH FIELD TRIP

The first field trip for the season will be to the College of Idaho in Caldwell to visit the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History and the Glen and Ruth Evans Gem and Mineral Collection. It is located in the Boone Science Building in the basement. We will meet at the museum at 9 am.

Both displays are located in the basement of the Boone Science Building. We will be meeting at 9 am at the museum. Hope to see you there!



THANK YOU!!

Club member Leon Doar presented the club with this magnificent Idaho Gem Club logo at the Banquet. He created it with colored leather and framed it in wood. The craftsmanship is beautiful! You can see it on display at the club workshop.



2025 BANQUET





Board of Directors Officers (l to r): Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Terri Frostrom, Dana Robinson, Teresa Nebeker, Debbie Mitchell, and Jean Hoene



Board of Directors (l to r): Lynn Hansen, Cordell Blaine, Liz Warner, Jason Smith, Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Terri Frostrom, Dana Robinson, Teresa Nebeker, Debbie Mitchell and Jean Hoene



Past Presidents (l to r): Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Dana Robinson, Brent Stewart, Deana Ashton, Phil Neuhoff, Gene Stewart and Marge Conley

ROLE CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Congratulations to everyone that completed a level in the ROLE program. The following people were awarded certificates at the Banquet.

Brenda Boyle - Professional level
 Joe Blume - Professional
 Bob Kerr - Apprentice
 Amy Schroeder - Novice
 Ryan Fisher - Novice
 Brandon Favreau - Novice
 Danielle Favreau - Novice

These people earned their certificates but were not at the Banquet. They will receive their certificates later.

Aley Blume - Professional
 M.J. Oresik - Professional
 Lyle Talbet - Apprentice
 Logan Nye - Apprentice

The following people earned a novice certificate in the last year.

Jean Hoene	Christine Hopson
Kay Harrison	Michael Hachigian
Amber Wagstaff	Michele Bandy
Ben Sanchez	



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve Danell	Jerry & Lori Flatz
Larry & Cheryl DeWitt	Wendy Reynolds
Michael & Sonja Wynkoop	Mickey Williams
Alex Lopez & Ashley Gonzales	Bret & Brenda Walther
Cherry Kunce & Keith Crosby	Aiden Shropshire
Stuart Mitton & Emily Campagna	
Tiffany Smith & Luke Patterson	

WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Calvin DeWitt	Daphne Campagna
Liam Jackson	Tripp Jackson
Emma Smith	Chloe Smith
Jackson Smith	

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!

The Idaho Gem Club

presents its annual

**GEM, MINERAL &
FOSSIL SHOW**

IDAHO GEMS • FLUORESCENT MINERALS • CRYSTALS • PETRIFIED WOOD
FOSSILS • HOW-TO DEMONSTRATIONS • JEWELRY • BEADS • TOOLS &
EQUIPMENT • CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • SILENT AUCTION • DOOR PRIZES

NEW EXPANDED BLACK-LIGHT DISPLAY FOR FLUORESCENT MINERALS!

Expo Idaho

5610 Glenwood Avenue, Boise, Idaho

February 22 & 23, 2025

Saturday 10:00 to 6:00

KIDS 12 and under FREE

Sunday 10:00 to 5:00

Adults \$5

“GEMS COME ALIVE IN ‘25”

OWYHEE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
71st ANNUAL

ROCK & GEM SHOW**O'Connor Field House**

2207 Blaine, Caldwell, Id

Saturday March 1st 2025 10 am to 6 pmSunday March 2nd 2025 10 am to 5 pm**Admission \$5.00****Kids 11 and under free (with adult)**

DEALERS - DEMONSTRATORS
BLACK LIGHT DISPLAYS - SHOW CASES
WHEEL OF GEMS - SAND DIG - GRAB BAGS

SILENT AUCTION
RAFFLES, DOOR PRIZES - EVERY HALF HOUR
Plus... A GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY

www.owyheerocks.com

**ANNUAL GEM SHOW
SIGN-UP TIME**

It is time to jump on board and participate in the show by signing up for the different events we have. There is a Wheel of Fortune, Garnet Dig, Grab Bag Sales, Basket Raffle, Silent Auction, Club Merchandise Sales, Scholarship Fundraiser Sales, Hospitality Table at the front door directing visitors, and Entry Ticket Sales that all need volunteers! We need to assemble a good crew for setting up the tables, Black Light Room, and Display Cases. Please get involved and help us out. This show is a regional favorite and we expect a big turnout. This is a fun way to learn more about rocks, meet fellow members and the community. Sign-up sheets will be available at meetings. You may also call the chairpeople to get added on the lists.

Our annual show will be held February 22 and 23, 2025 at Expo Idaho.

Schedule:

Friday, February 21, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Show Set Up at Expo

We need volunteers to unload the trailers and set up the entire show, including display cases, dealer tables, blacklight room, demonstration area tables, and tables for the various Club Events. Please plan on giving a few hours or more helping the club bring this great Gem Show to life.

Saturday, February 22 10:00 am-6:00 pm Show is open.

All stations need full volunteer schedules.

Sunday, February 23 10:00 am-5:00 pm Show is open.

All stations need full volunteer schedules.

Sunday at 5:00 pm-8:00 pm Show Tear Down.

Volunteers needed to disassemble show and load everything back into trailers. We can't do it without you!

Members are encouraged to contact Rick Corbett to reserve a display case where you can show off your treasures to the public. You may install your case during the afternoon on Friday. You must have the glass door fronts on and secured by Saturday's door opening at 10:00 am.



IOLITE/CORDIERITE

Iolite is also known as Cordierite, Dichroite and Water Sapphire. The name comes from the Greek word “ios,” meaning “violet,” due to one of the many vibrant colors Iolite was first seen as containing. Other colors of Iolite ranges from blue, brown, grey to green, yellow, or violet. *Cordierite* is better known today by the trade name *Iolite*.

According to legend, ancient Viking navigators used thin slices of iolite as filters to help locate the sun on cloudy days, and to reduce glare when checking the sun’s position, much like they used sunstones. It has also been called “Vikings’ Compass” because of its usefulness for this purpose. This works by determining the direction of polarization of the sky overhead. Light scattered by air molecules is polarized, and the direction of the polarization is at right angles to a line to the sun, even when the sun’s disk itself is obscured by dense fog or lies just below the horizon.

Iolites are usually cut as faceted gems, but they are also frequently cut into cabochons. Strongly pleochroic iolite has been incorrectly called “water sapphire,” as it can display a blue to violet hue in one direction and pale yellow to colorless in another. This strong pleochroism makes the gem tricky to cut for best color. Pleochroism is an optical phenomenon in which something has different colors when observed at different angles.



Properties

This silicate of aluminum, iron, and magnesium has two distinctive features—a beautiful, violetish blue through slightly violetish blue hue derived from iron and a striking, eye-visible pleochroism. Its pleochroic colors differ with its body color. Iolites that appear violet display light violet, dark violet, and yellow-brown pleochroic colors. Bluish iolites display colorless to yellow, blue-gray, and dark violet pleochroic colors. From some angles, then, a



bluish iolite can actually appear completely colorless or yellow, and a violetish iolite can look brown.

The size range for a fashioned iolite is anywhere from 1 to 10 carats. Fine iolites over 5 carats are rare. It falls at 7 to 7.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, but given that it has distinct cleavage in one direction, its toughness is only fair.



Unlike tanzanite, iolite is rarely treated. Fine iolite comes by its beautiful blues and violets naturally. Its freedom from enhancement, other than normal cutting and polishing, is a selling point when most blue gems, from inexpensive blue topaz to fine sapphire, receive routine treatment of one type or another.

Of course, not all iolite shows fine color. Some gems can look grayish or nearly colorless. If it were possible to treat these less desirable iolites to produce a better color, they would be. However, iolite’s chemistry won’t allow it. Although the deep blues of some iolites are thought to have the same iron-titanium charge transfer as the blue in sapphire, iolite can’t be heat-treated to intensify its blue color because its low melting point won’t tolerate the high temperatures needed.

Occurrence

Because iolite is fairly hard it’s often found in alluvial deposits. In addition to the gem gravels of Sri Lanka, iolite occurs in several areas of Africa, including Burma, Kenya, Namibia and central Tanzania. Other iolite source countries include India, Brazil, Madagascar, Norway, Canada and Australia.

In 1996 a geologist discovered iolite gneiss with gem-quality iolite nodules in the Laramie Range of Wyoming. This was followed by another discovery at Grizzly Creek in 2004, which included the largest iolite gems ever found, one weighing in at 24,000 carats. In 2005 flawless iolites were found in the Sherman Mountains north of Laramie in what could be the largest gemstone deposit ever.

Iolite is sometimes used as an inexpensive substitute for sapphire. It is much softer than sapphires and is more abundantly found. It has yet to catch on with retailers as dramatically as tanzanite did. Experts believe that jewelry designers and retailers have yet to see a consistent enough supply of iolite in uniform fine quality to feel confident in ordering the material for their workshops and stores. The Wyoming discoveries could change that in the future.

Meaning & Energy

Iolite has been referred to as the “violet stone,” due to its healing and unlocking capabilities of the third eye and crown chakras. Iolite carries beautiful violet-blue energy that activates and clears the third eye allowing vision, communication, and awareness from higher vibrational dimensions. Many shamans use Iolite in their rituals and meditation sessions because of its healing properties. Iolite strengthens the connection between the third eye and the heart, helping to heal old wounds that are weighing on one’s chest. Iolite will help to awaken the psychic abilities we all possess, showing us our true past life experiences.

Iolite works well with many stones depending on what each individual is in search of. Iolite has been known to have healing effects on the physical body. It will assist you in



quitting negative addictions (mental/physical). For people who struggle with alcoholism, this stone is highly recommended. It supports detoxification and regeneration of the liver, while also killing off the bad bacteria. Iolite also alleviates fevers, headaches, and migraines.

Crystal Pairings

When it comes to users desiring monetary success, Iolite works well with Peridot and Citrine. Garnet will help users ground themselves while working with Iolite. This is highly recommended due to the strength of the Iolite’s vibrations. Some users who are new to working with Iolite will occasionally have issues of feeling “out of body”, so carrying a grounding stone with you is highly recommended. For added spiritual protection, Black Tourmaline and Black Moonstone will keep you guarded the best while working with Iolite.

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.

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.



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 JANUARY 21, 2025

Everyone gathered and enjoyed visiting from 5:30 pm. Emcee Brent Stewart welcomed everyone to the 83rd Annual Banquet at 6:45 and introduced the head table. They are Jean Hoene and Sandy Blodgett, Rick Corbett and Becky Gibson, Brent Stewart and Christina, and Eugene and Alice Stewart.

Ken Christiansen offered the invocation and dinner was served.

After a great dinner Brent thanked Terri Frostrom and Becky Gibson for the table favors. He then did a few jokes.

Gene and Alice Stewart were congratulated on 62 years of marriage. Brent then asked first time banquet attendees to stand. There were quite a number of new faces. It was great!

Brent then named all Past Presidents and asked those in attendance to stand. He also announced Amy Schroeder as the Rockhound of the Year for 2024.

He then asked for a moment of silence for Patsy Bethel and Carl Woodland, who were lost in the last year.

Brent congratulated Willa Renken for winning Project of the Year for 2024. Liz Warner then presented certificates to ROLE participants: Novice for Ryan Fisher, Amy Schroeder, Brandon Favreau and Danielle Favreau; Apprentice for Bob Kerr; and Professional for Joe Blume. There were a few that earned certificates, but were not in attendance.

Leon Doar created our logo in color out of leather with a wood frame. He presented it to the club as a gift. Thank You!!

It was then requested that Brent read the story of the discovery of the whangdoodle bird. S. D. Esseck created the legend in September of 1946.

Rick called the business meeting to order at 8 pm and the pledge was recited. Rick encouraged everyone to sign up for show venues. The sign-up sheets are at the front of the room. Set-up is on Friday, Feb. 21st, 8 am at Expo Idaho and the show runs Saturday and Sunday, with tear-down at 5 pm on Sunday. We will need all the hands we can get to tear it all down and pack it back in the trailers. Leon Doerr will be supervising the black light tent setup this year. We will have parking permits for workers only at the next meeting.

Rick welcomed new board members Lynn Hansen and Debbie Mitchell. He also thanked Brent Stewart and Deana Ashton for their service on the board and for their dedication to the club.

Field Trip Report: Brandon Favreau is our new Field Trip Guide and he has some new ideas for trips. A couple of overnights this year to Glass Buttes and possibly Kemmerer, WY, which will be a great trip. We will also visit the club claims. He should have a list ready for the show.

Willa shared a great story about a trip they took to Kemmerer for fossil fish.

New Business: Rick drew the winning number for the table favor and it was Number 8. He then drew winning tickets for 5 door prizes.

Brent presented Rick with a rock hammer with the date added for another year of service as our President. He then introduced attending Life Members and asked them to stand.

Installation of Officers: Brent reviewed the officer's duties as they were installed for service and introduced all Board Members.

Officers

President: Rick Corbett
 1st Vice President: Willa Renken
 2nd Vice President: Terri Frostrom
 Treasurer: Teresa Nebeker
 Secretary: Dana Robinson
 Federation Director: Debbie Mitchell
 Field Trip Guide: Brandon Favreau
 Historian: Jean Hoene
 Librarian: Tia Call
 Sunshine Lady: Deana Ashton
 Newsletter Editor: Dana Robinson

Board Members

Jason Smith
 Cordell Blaine
 Liz Warner
 Debbie Mitchell
 Lynn Hansen
 Dana Robinson

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
 BOARD MEETING
 FEBRUARY 4, 2025**

Rick Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Present: Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Liz Warner, Terri Frostrom, Cordell Blaine, Debbie Mitchell and Dana Robinson

Excused: Jason Smith, Brandon Favreau and Lynn Hansen

Guests: Tom Martin and Sandy Blodgett

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

Treasurer Report: Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. More dealer fees came in and the meeting space fee was paid for the year. She also went over the outstanding dealer payments and the banquet numbers.

Federation Report: Debbie reported that she and Ed are attending the Federation meeting in Walla Walla in September. NFMS dues have been paid. Save stamps to take with her to turn in.

Juniors Report: Cordell reports he is still posting on Facebook to enlist other juniors to attend.

Program: There will be discussions on show topics.

Workshop Report: Liz went over upcoming workshop dates for February and March. The next ROLE workshop will be Feb. 17, 6-8:45 pm. The regular February workshop will be on the 20th from 6-8:45 pm. The regular workshop for March 1st is cancelled for the Caldwell show. March ROLE workshops are on the 3rd and 17th, 6-8:45 pm. The regular March workshops are on the 20th, 6-8:45 pm, and the 29th, 10 am-2 pm.

Field Trip Report: Rick has gotten a field trip list from Brandon. They will be added to the calendar.

Old Business: The Banquet was very good. There were 74 members and 1 guest in attendance. Liz suggested we use a PA system next time so those in back can hear.

New Business: Rick has all floor cases filled, but only 10 in the black light room. Sandy will do a black light case too. Terri is looking for help doing baskets for the raffle. Sandy and Liz will each do one. Willa will bring donuts for set-up and Dana will bring juice. Willa will also have a floor plan map for set-up, as there are some changes. Barb will handle the cash drop-off and pick-up for Teresa. Debbie will ask Ed if he can guard the cash box in back.

Logan Nye has submitted an application for the club scholarship award. Liz made a motion to accept the Paris Jewelry Technology School as acceptable for the award and Terri seconded. After discussion on the issue, the Board voted in favor and the motion carried.

Hawthorne Elementary School has contacted us seeking rock donations for their end-of-year carnival. They need baskets for their silent auction, so any slabs or equipment donations will be accepted. The event is on May 2nd so we will bring it up to the membership.

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

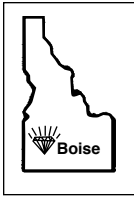
Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

THE GRINDINGS

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CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!
www.idahogemclub.com



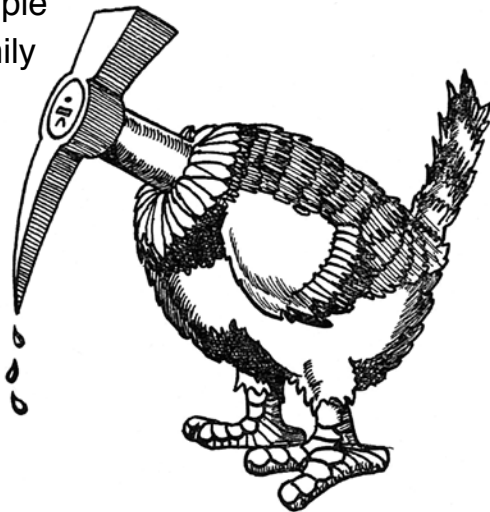
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 8443
Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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

