

# Grindings Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 86 NO 6 JUNE 2025

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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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Rockhounds.

Summer is here and so is the heat. Remember to prepare and dress accordingly when going out rockhounding. Bring lots of water and wear appropriate clothing. Heat stroke is no joke! Stay safe for another adventure.

As I write this the Gem Faire is going on. It's the last day and I'll be closing it down later today. Great show and I was surprised how many club members I ran into on Friday. I was happy to see so many of you there supporting interest in our club.

The more daring members are digging at Glass Buttes this weekend. I'm looking forward to seeing what they found. Any members who were at Glass Buttes this weekend, please bring samples of what you found to the next meeting to show everyone.

Last weekend Willa and Doug took us to our claim at Beacon Hill. Counting both days we had 31 cars and 60 people come out. Thank you, Willa and Doug, for leading our group to this unique and wonderful location.

Next month on July 9th we are setting up in Nyssa for Thunder Egg Days starting at 10 am. We'll needs lots of help to do that. We have purchased a new large canopy and should have a new location in the shade. The show is at the Elementary School at the light in downtown Nyssa. Please sign up to help us set up and man the booth for this year's show. See the *Grindings* calendar for show times and dates. Saturday evening we will be tearing down our booth and we'll need plenty of help doing that as well, so plan on being there.

July is also our Kemmerer, WY, Fossil Fish adventure. We'll have a sign-up sheet at the next two meetings. You will want to make reservations for a room, or camping for a cheaper option, whichever works best for you. For this adventure we are going to be digging at Fossil Lake Safari, so you will need to go online and book your spot in the quarry as soon as you can. We'll have the contact and location information on Page 3 of the *Grindings*, so please check that out and get ready for a great adventure.

July 19th is Kids' Day at Stewart's Gem Shop and our workshop, located at 2618 W. Idaho St. It will start at 10 am and go to 1 pm. Bring your kids or grandkids for a fun introduction to the lapidary world. Cracking geodes, making jewelry and lunch are just some of the fun activities. Come join Brent for a great afternoon of discovery! Please sign up for this event at Stewart's.

Also happening before the next meeting is a Trunk Sale in the Grange parking lot from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Everyone agreed they wanted to do that, but I was the only one there last month! Come one, come all to share your treasures!

Lots going on with the Gem Club this summer so come and be a part of it!

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Corbett, President

#### TRUNK SALE

from 5:30-6:45 before the meeting in the Grange parking lot

#### **ACTIVITY CALENDAR**

**JULY JUNE** WED WED SUN MON TUE THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE THU FRI SAT 4 2 4 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am ROLE\* Board Gem Faire Field Trip Board Workshop 6-8:45 pm Meeting 7 pm Meeting 7 pm Expo Idaho Fri-Sat-Sun Workshop 10 am-2 pm Workshop 10 am-2 pm 8 10 11 12 13 14 6 8 9 10 11 12 ROLE\* TED TED TED Spectra Mine Extravaganza Plush, OR Thunder Egg Field Trip Glass Buttes Workshop 6-8:45 pm Days Setup Nyssa 9 am-9 pm Nyssa, 9 am 9 am-9 pm Sat-Sun Noon-9 pm 16 17 18 19 20 21 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 ROLE\* Field Trip General Picnic Spectra Mine Workshop Workshop Meeting Workshop Field Trip Kemmerer 3-day Trip thru 16th 6-8:45 pm 7 pm 6:45-8 pm 6 pm 6-8:45 pm Kemmerer 25 27 28 23 20 22 23 24 26 21 22 24 25 26 ROLE\* Workshop 6-8:45 pm Field Trip Workshop 10 am-2 pm 29 30 29 30 31 27 28

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

SEPTEMBER						
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	11	12	13
14	ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	16 General Meeting 7 pm	17	18 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19	20 Field Trip Haystack Butte 8 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28	29	30				

<sup>\*</sup>To participate in the ROLE workshops, you must complete your first level in the general workshops.



## **Upcoming Events**

**Spectra Mine Extravaganza**, June 14-15, Sunstone Collecting Area, Plush, OR **Thunderegg Days**, July 10, 12 pm-9 pm, July 11-12, 9 am-9 pm., Nyssa High School, 809 Bower Ave, Nyssa, OR Northglenn, CO 80233

## 2025 FIELD TRIPS

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

## KEMMERER, WY, FIELD TRIP

#### DIG YOUR OWN FOSSILS IN WYOMING

Unearth the fossil hunting adventure of a lifetime at our exclusive Fossil Lake Safari. Located near Kemmerer, Wyoming, dig your own 52 million year old fossils in one of the world's premier fossil sites. Even if you have never collected fossils before, you will not leave empty handed.

We will be discussing any carpooling options at the next meeting.

A great activity for the entire family. Let our friendly and experienced staff help create memories that will last a lifetime. The best part? You get to keep the fossils you find! You will need to call and reserve your spot in the quarry.

Please Book your group at this website: www.fossilsafari.com Ph: 567-367-7457

You can do a full day for \$158 per Adult 17 and up, and \$79 for Kids 7-16. 6 yr and younger are free. Or you can do a half day for \$79 per Adult and \$49 for Kids 7-16. Again 6 yr and younger are free.

#### WHAT DOES THE PRICE INCLUDE?

- Piles of fossil laden rock for you to split and find fossil fish.
- We provide all of the required tools including hammers and chisels.
- Guides who will show you how to find fossils will be available to assist you throughout the day. They can also help you identify what you find.
- We have tile saws onsite and can assist you in trimming your prized finds for transport.
- We have free water, coffee and WiFi powered by Starlink onsite.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

• In the rare circumstance a fossil over \$100k in value is found, royalties will have to be paid to the land owner in order to keep it.

- The quarry is at high altitude (7,300 feet) and the weather can be a little unpredictable. It's typically quite sunny during the summer reaching 80-90 degrees in July and August, but can be substantially colder early in the day. Thunderstorms and brief rain showers are also quite common, so come prepared.
- Driving through the town of Kemmerer you will come to a Ridley's grocery store on the North side of town.
- Just past this grocery store there will be a junction between Highway 189 and Highway 30. Turn onto Highway 189 heading north.
- Drive 1.3 miles and take a left onto Highway 233 at the sign for Lake Viva Naughton.
- Drive 3.9 miles and take a left onto Dempsey Road (dirt road). There will be a large ranch on your right at the turn off. If you cross a bridge you have gone too far.
- Follow the the dirt road for about 8 miles. You will cross four cattle guards.
- From the last cattle guard proceed three miles and you will see Fossil Lake Safari signs pointing left. Take the left.
- Drive another 2 miles and the road will fork, take the right fork to go to the Fossil Lake Safari quarry.







Baby Priscacara from Kemmerer

Actual size

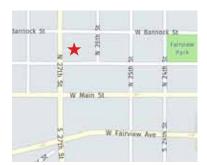
#### WORKSHOPS

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)





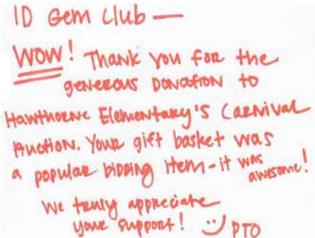
#### **JUNIORS PROGRAM**

The Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society is hosting a Junior Geologist Program at the Owyhee County Museum. The information is on the flyer below. It will be a great learning resource for our younger geologists. Check it out!



Hawthorne Elementary sent us a very nice Thank You card for our basket donation. Thanks to everyone who donated to make the basket a success!







#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dan & Malissa Milesi

Bo & Melissa Mackey

Bryan Harvey & Sarah Nuss

Bruce Whisenant & Andi Springer

Helena & Joshua Grosse-Helweg

#### WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Gunnar Harvey Mavox Harvey Finley Mackey Hayden Mackey

#### **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.

## **GOODING FIELD TRIP**



# BEACON HILL FIELD TRIP









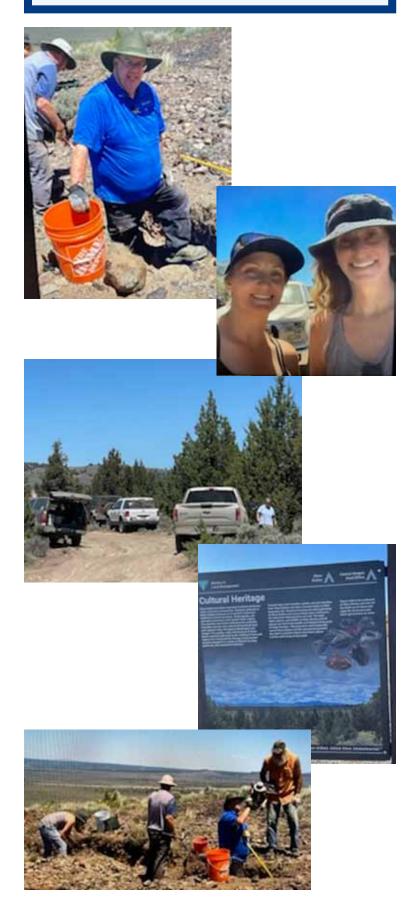






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## GLASS BUTTES FIELD TRIP





#### **MORGANITE**

Morganite is the pink to orange-pink variety of beryl, a mineral that includes emerald, ruby and aquamarine, and rates 7.5-8 on the Mohs scale. It is also known as pink beryl, rose beryl and pink emerald.



Morganite's subtle color is caused by traces of manganese. Because it has distinct pleochroism—pale pink and a deeper bluish pink—it's necessary to orient the rough carefully for fashioning. Strong color in morganite is rare, and gems usually have to be large to achieve the finest color. Deep pink color tends to be the most valuable, up to \$300/carat. Morganite is one of the rarest members of the beryl family, second only to red beryl.

Morganite is mined in Brazil, Afghanistan, Mozambique, Namibia, the United States, and Madagascar. Morganite has grown in popularity. It has been listed as a possible alternative to diamond for engagement rings.

#### **Morganite History and Lore**

Pink beryl of fine color and good sizes was first discovered on an island off the coast of Madagascar. Following this



discovery, George Kunz proposed the name morganite to honour his friend and customer J.P. Morgan. The New York Academy of Sciences named the pink variety of beryl "morganite" in late 1910. Morgan made many important gifts of gems to the American Museum of Natural History in

New York and to the Museum of Natural History in Paris. Kunz was chief gemmologist for Tiffany and Company.

It had also been found, with other gemstone minerals, such as tourmaline and kunzite, at Pala, CA.

In 1989 one of the largest gem specimens ever found was taken from the Bennett Quarry in Buckfield, ME. Called "The Rose of Maine", the crystal was 9 in. long and about 12 in. across, weighing just over 50 lbs.

#### Characteristics

Morganite is pleochroic; when it is viewed down its crystallographic axis the color is more pink. In comparison to emerald, morganite lacks inclusions and fractures, thus making it more durable than emerald. One of the interesting properties of morganite noted by Kunz was its intense red-colored fluorescence when exposed to X-rays, but no phosphorescence when the X-ray source was turned off.

Most of the morganite on the market comes from pegmatite mines in Minas Gerais, Brazil. Afghanistan, Mozambique, Namibia, and the US have been minor sources. The original Madagascar deposit still sets the standard for the best material, although it is doesn't produce much today. That location's yield of magenta-colored rough crystals was superior.

Like many gems found in pegmatites, morganite can form large crystals. Miners in Brazil have found crystals as large as 22 lbs. The Smithsonian Institution includes two faceted gems weighing 236 cts. and 250 cts. in its collection.

#### **Morganite Uses and Purposes**

Wearing Morganite, especially in gem form, evokes a sense of peace, joy and inner strength; worn for extended periods of time, it encourages a growth of confidence and power that comes from a constant awareness of the connection to Divine love.

All Beryls, including Morganite, represent purity of being and actualizing potential. They are excellent stones for scrying and are often used for crystal balls.

#### **Morganite Physical Healing Energy**

Morganite supports the physical heart, strengthening its energy field and helping to establish its place of dominance in the aura. It counters palpitations and other heart-related problems, as well as clearing the lungs, treating the nervous



system, and relieving stress-related illnesses. This mineral may be used in conjunction with treatments for asthma, emphysema, and tuberculosis. Morganite is also thought to assist the larynx, tongue and thyroid gland, and aids in

treatments for vertigo and impotence.

#### **Morganite Emotional Healing Energy**

Morganite opens and heals the Heart Chakra, helping to overcome fear, resentment and anger, and in recognizing unfulfilled emotional needs and feelings. It also reveals defense mechanisms that are fear-based and make meaningful relationships difficult, thereby creating resistance to healing and transformation. Morganite stabilizes the emotional field, activating and energizing loving thoughts and actions, and brings in wisdom and calmness of mind. It increases the ability to accept loving words and actions from others, and releases the attachment to old relationships that have ended badly or needed resolution, encouraging one to move forward with renewed purpose and an open heart.

Morganite can be a crystal for attracting one's soul-mate or deepening a current relationship, and because of its connection to Divine energies, may also be used for peace and acceptance when facing grief or deep loss.

#### Morganite Chakra Healing and Balancing Energy

Morganite crystals in shades of pink reflect the light of the heart and love, and help stimulate the Heart Chakra. The Heart Chakra is located near the center of the breastbone and regulates our interaction with the external world and controls what we embrace and what we resist. It gives us the balancing ability to be ourselves within the environment, and helps in our relationships.



Morganite also stimulates the "high heart," or transpersonal Love center just above and to the left of the Heart Chakra. It assists one in practicing compassion and respectful understanding of others.

#### **Morganite Spiritual Energy**

Morganite is highly beneficial for cultivating the human spirit and allowing one's personality to consciously align with the ethereal soul. Its crystal energy is forever attuned to the immense love of the Divine and reminds us we are all connected to a Universal Heart and part of a larger plan.

Morganite also expands our ability to connect with and receive guidance from angelic beings and other higher entities, bringing the reassurance of support from Spirit on the emotional level. In circumstances where

a tragic event or loss has shaken one's faith in the Divine, this crystal can also assist in restoring trust in Spirit and confidence in the Divine's plan for one's life.



Pink Morganite brings the energy rays of determination, commitment, and caring. Its soothing color calms feelings of anger or resentment, and can aid efforts to meditate and reflect. Pink is the color of new love, new romance and new relationships. It increases developing sensuality, and can help overcome heartache, aiding in the improvement of our caring and loving abilities.

The pale peach or orange influence in Morganite promotes companionship and affection, bringing joy and friendship, pleasure and family togetherness. It is a happy and sharing stone, integrating the parts of our communal lives, and is a stone of physical pleasure and intimacy.

#### **GEM CLUB OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Rick Corbett, 208-890-2599

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**WEBSITE:** www.idahogemclub.com **EMAIL:** info@idahogemclub.com

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING

May 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Rick Corbett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Terri was filling in for Becky and she drew winning door prize tickets for 2 juniors and 9 adults.

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

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

**Federation Director**: Debbie reported that we still need to turn in stamps to take to the meeting in September.

Juniors Report: No report.

**Program Report**: The meetings for July 15th and August 19th will be pot luck picnics at Kristen Armstrong Park on Walnut St. We will have an auction after each meeting with proceeds going toward the Banquet next January. We meet at 6 pm both months. **Field Trip Report**: We will be going to Beacon Hill on May 31st and June 1st. Willa will be leading the group. We will be meeting at the Rest Area just outside of Ontario at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. Bring rock picks, water and your lunch.

The next trip is a weekend trip on June 6-8. Brandon Favreau and John Wright are leading a joint trip with the Owyhee club over to Glass Buttes for obsidian. We will meet at the Oasis Motel in Juntura, OR, on the 6th at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. You can stay in Burns/Heinz if you don't want to camp. It is a good idea to fill up on gas in Burns. John reported that Emory Coons may be available to help show locations. Brandon suggested to bring a pry bar, eye protection and gloves. There is some surface material to collect and lots of variety. You will need good tires and a high clearance vehicle. The fall trip will be in October.

The trip to Tony Funk's in Gooding was a great time. There was lots of good food and the rain held off for most of the day. If you want to visit him again you can call him and he will meet you there if he is available.

**Workshop Report**: Brent went over the workshop dates. The next ROLE advanced workshop will be on May 19, 6-8:45 pm. The June ROLE workshops are on June 2 and June 16, 6-8:45 pm. The general workshops are May 22, 6-8:45 pm, and May 31, 10 am-2 pm. The general workshops for June are June 19, 6-8:45 pm, and July 5, 10 am-2 pm.

The first Kids' Day will be July 19 from 10 am-1 pm. It includes the rock yard, making a necklace, a picnic lunch and more. The cost is \$10/child for members and \$20/child for non-members. Please sign up at Stewarts Gem Shop. The next Kids' Day will be August 9.

**Old Business**: June 6-8 is the Gem Faire at Expo Idaho. We set up a table for demonstrations and club promotion on Thursday, June 5. We will have a genie for demos, and a microscope and monitor

to show micromounts. We need volunteers to man the table. Sign-up sheets are on the front table.

Maryann Weed is hosting wire wrapping classes for a minimal charge for club members. A sign-up sheet is on the front table. They will be held on the second Tuesday of the month. There is a Tree of Life focus for June.

**New Business**: Willa's silversmithing class starts on June 5th. The project will be a pendant for the next class.

The sign-up sheet for the Fossil Tours in Kemmerer, WY, field trip is on the front table. Sign up early as there are limited spaces. There are motels in town to stay at, but you should get reservations as soon as possible.

Members indicated that they want to do the trunk sales before the meetings at 5:30. We will do it again for June.

It was announced that TED is going to happen, they are just behind in sending the applications. We will need volunteers to man the booth as well.

The Polka Dot mine by Madras is shutting down by the end of July. They have huge geodes available if you want to check them out.

We had five guests stand and introduce themselves.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING

**JUNE 3, 2025** 

Rick Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. **Present:** Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Terri Frostrom, Cordell Blaine, Lynn Hansen, Debbie Mitchell, Jason Smith, Liz Warner and Dana Robinson

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 Terri. Board members voted and the motion carried.

**Treasurer Report**: Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. There was not very much activity this month.

She also contacted TED and sent in our application.

Juniors Report: No report.

**Federation Director Report**: Debbie mentioned that she still needs lots of stamps to take to NFMS. She also said that NFMS is sending materials for our junior members.

**Program Report**: Logan Nye is going to do his report as the scholarship recipient.

For July and August programs, we will be having auctions after our picnic meetings in the park.

**Field Trip Report**: The field trip to Tony Funk's in Gooding was fun. It was rainy getting there, but dried out for everyone to pick through the piles.

The trip to the Beacon Hill claim was very fun. There were lots of participants. Need to rip the ground and push the tailings up next to the road to protect it.

The next trip is to Glass Buttes. It is a weekend trip. We will meet at the Oasis Cafe & Motel in Juntura at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. Emory Coons will meet us and show us where to find the various types of obsidian. May go to Hampton Butte on Sunday if there is enough interest. You can stay at a hotel in Burns if you would like.

The July trip will be to Kemmerer, WY, on the 19th. There are 15 signed up so far.

**Workshop Report**: Liz went over the workshop dates. For June regular workshops are June 19, 6-8:45 pm, and June 28, 10 am-2 pm. The July regular workshops are on July 17, 6-8:45 pm, and July 21, 10 am-w pm. The ROLE workshops will be June 16, July 7 and July 21, all from 6-8:45 pm.

Brent reported on the first Kids' Day at the workshop. It is July 19, 10 am-1 pm. He is also getting a new roof put on the saw room.

**Old Business**: No old business.

**New Business**: Set up for Thunder Egg Days is at 10 am on July 9 at the high school. We need to get a new 10' x 20' tent for the event. Sign-up sheets will be at the next meeting for volunteers to man our booth. We need to print 50 extra newsletters for the event.

Willa made a motion to order a new tent online for Thunder Egg Days, and Jason seconded. The board voted and the motion carried.

Rick requested that everyone let him know if they are having events at the workshop so he is aware of it. It is not for asking permission, just better communication.

There were seven new member applications this month. Liz made a motion to accept the new members, Jason seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

#### 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.

## **Subscription only:**

\$10 per year

\$25.00 couple \$28.00 family

Dues:

\$22.00 individual

## **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

