


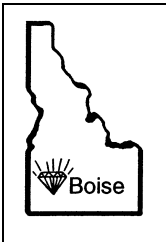
# Grindings

*Idaho Gem Club, Inc.*

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

**VOL 72 NO 1**

**January 2012**



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Brent Stewart**  
President  
863-9336

**Willa Renken**  
1st Vice President  
362-3941

**Jason Madsen**  
2nd Vice President  
378-4666

**Phil Neuhoﬀ**  
939-4508

**Ed Moser**  
340-8060

**Rick Corbett**  
383-9930

**Deana Ashton**  
794-5628

**Dan Phillips**  
585-3019

**Jim Clinton**  
283-8891

**Ben Nunez**  
853-6710

## **RECORDING SECRETARY**



**TREASURER**  
**Kathy Griffin**  
467-9286

**NFMS DIRECTOR**  
**Charles McCreath**  
344-5085

**EDITOR**  
**Tony Griffin**  
467-9286  
highdesert2003@q.com

**CLUB WEB SITE**  
www.idahogemclub.com

## President's Message

**Congratulations to Jim Storey for winning the Project of the Year! Jim entered a beautiful Idaho Opal in a nice sterling silver pendant done by our own Willa Renken. It will be on display at the Annual Show in a case with the plaque and his work. There were many beautiful and interesting entries this year and everyone should be proud of their work.**

**Congratulations to Tenaya Madsen for winning the Junior Project of the Year! Her project and plaque will also be displayed at the annual show. Thanks for all your hard work. Our club has so much talent, so start your projects now for this next year.**

**January's meeting will be at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel in Boise. The address is 1009 Main Street. The Banquet will be on Tuesday January 17, 2012. The cocktail no host reception will start at 6:30 and the dinner will start at 7:00. If you need a ticket they can be purchased at Stewart's Gem Shop. Please purchase them soon so we can get a count of the number of people attending. During the meeting the president, board members and officers will be installed.**

**The Show Chair committee will have sign up sheets at the banquet. Be sure to sign up to help. This is a great and fun opportunity to support your club. The 2012 show will be held February 25 & February 26. Show hours are 10am – 6pm Saturday & 10am – 5pm Sunday. The show is held in the South wing of Expo Idaho that is located at 5610 Glenwood, Boise, Idaho. Admission is \$3.00 for Adults, children 12 and under free.**

**We need all available help to set up and take down the show. Thursday, February 23 at 1:00 we will meet at Lock-A-Way Storage on 5246 W. Chinden Blvd in Garden City to load up everything for the show. Friday, February 24 at 8:00 am we will meet at the Expo Idaho at 5610 Glenwood, Boise to set up. Take down will begin shortly after 5:00 pm Sunday, February 26.**

**The Grab bag stuffing party will be 9:00 am on January 21 at the Mountain View Church of the Brethren. There will be refreshments provided. If you have tumbled rocks and bags to donate please bring them. The show sells through all the bags each year.**

**I would like to thank everyone for his or her help and support this past year. Best wishes to all our members and board members for 2012.**

*Brent Stewart*  
*President*



**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING  
December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

Brent Stewart called meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.  
Pledge of Allegiance: Phil Neuhoﬀ

Guests introduced were: Cindy, David S

Door Prizes: were received by: Loren, Carol, Valerie, Ronald, Analise, Myrtle, Laura, Ilse, James, Jimmie, Carl, Cindy, Terry, Stephanie

Youth Prize: Carson, Oliver, Breanna, Andrew, Jackson N, Miya, Sarah, Boston, Riley, Dillon

Building fund prize: Marge C, Donald D

Motion to accept the minutes was initiated by Willa Renken, and seconded by Jason Madsen. The motion carried!

New members introduced: Rick Bidwell & Cristine Rivera; Kevin, Carrie, Ryan, & Andrea Kinnaird; and Kent Owings.

Secretary's report: Ben Nunez: This meeting we had a new issue of the Hells Canyon Newsletter. It can be obtained from the librarian if anyone is interested.

Treasurer's report: Kathy G: Discussed more of the deposits received from the dealers for our annual gem show. We also discussed the balance and disbursements of the gem club funds.

**Committee Reports:**

Federation report: No report  
Field trip: See you in March

Librarian: The library is now open again. Last month we had some difficulties figuring out who would substitute Aaron as our librarian during his overseas work. Melodee Worley volunteered to be our new librarian; the library will now be available at the next meeting.

Juniors: For all the juniors that were absent during the last meeting you will be receiving the rock identification book at our next meeting in February!

(Continued at top of next column)

Annual Banquet: Jim D: On January 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel, we will be having our annual Idaho Gem Club banquet. Four dishes will be offered including one of beef, chicken, salmon, and a veggie pasta meal!

Workshop: Willa Renken: Thank you to all who went to the workshop over the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>, everyone that went had a blast. Willa would like to extend her gratitude to all who made these workshops possible, as well as those who donated time or material to help her with this. Anyone who hasn't had the pleasure to participate in these workshops will have the chance in the coming months. All ages are welcome; it is a very fun and educational experience! Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Nunez  
Secretary*

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
Board Meeting  
January 3, 2012**

President Brent Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:33pm

Board Members present: Brent Stewart, Willa Renken, Rick Corbett, Jason Madsen, Ed Moser, Jim Clinton, and Phillip Worley.

Officers present: Kathy Griffin and Charles McCreath.

Guests: Bob Mayes, Shirley McCreath, and Melodee Worley.

Willa Renken made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings", Jim Clinton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Secretaries Report: Substituting secretary, Melodee Worley. Dues received from several members, our insurance bill, a tax statement, and returned mail. There is also a new copy of Rock and gem Magazine that will be available in the library.

Treasurer's report: Kathy Griffin discussed balance and disbursements of ID gem club funds. Kathy also commented on how generous members were in the month of December. She also mentioned most of our dealers for the upcoming show have paid in full.

Federation Report: Tri-cities event is still on for May 18th.

New Memberships: Kevin Cornwall, Wendy Wonders and family, Bob Mays, Eric Cornwall and family, Makiia Jones and family, Gia Ilers and family, and Richard and Michelle Bain. A motion was made to accept these new applications was initiated by Willa Renken, and seconded by Rick Corbett.

(Board meeting continued on page 3 )

(Board meeting continued from page 2)

**Field Trip Report:** Phillip Worley discussed some tentative trips and locations. In the planning stages is a trip to Emerald Creek for star garnets, information will be forthcoming in the future.

**Banquet:** The Banquet this year will be on January 17th and will be taking place at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel. Remember that it costs \$25 for non-members and \$12.50 per person for members. Offered will be salmon, chicken, beef, or a vegetarian dish. We hope to see everyone there!

**Juniors:** Make sure you bring your folders to the February 21st meeting and any of our juniors wanting to submit a display case in our upcoming show please contact Twila Gallaher.

**Building Fund:** As the previous newsletter had mentioned Jim Clinton is working on the embroidered hats and will keep us posted on the progress.

**Workshop:** There will be no workshops till April or after due to the upcoming tax season and Willa's busy schedule. Willa wanted to discuss the BIG Saw and its numerous problems. Rather than replacing the blade it's been decided to get a new saw. A motion to accept the new purchase was by Ed Moser and seconded by Jim Clinton. It was also mentioned that during the last workshop in December that Willa's hose was damaged and the club will get that replaced.

**Old Business:** Jason Madsen confirmed Showcase favors were coming along nicely. As our show is fast approaching, we will be needing volunteers for the Garnet Dig Table, Kids Craft table, Wheel of Fortune, and Grab bags. The Grab Bag stuffing will be January 21st at 9am. Keep those tumblers going, we're hoping for at least 1200+ bags. Also help in set up and take down per our President Brent Stewart in communication with Doug Renken, volunteers helping with the show set up will be needed at our storage location at 1pm February 23rd. Then final touches will be put on show set up 8am February 24th. There will be sign-up sheets available at our banquet for volunteers for different locations.

**New Business:** ID Gem Club Officers: 1st Vice President, Willa Renken

2nd Vice President, Phil Neuhoff  
Treasurer, Kathy Griffin  
Librarian, Melodee Worley  
Field Trips, Phillip Worley  
Federation Director, Charles McCreath  
Secretary, Ben Nunez  
Historian, Patsy Bethel  
Voting Delegate, Shirley McCreath  
Editor, Tony Griffin

A motion was made by Willa Renken to accept named officers and seconded by Jason Madsen. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned by President Brent Stewart at 9:09pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Melodee Worley  
Assistant Secretary*

### For Sale

**Lost Wax Casting Equipment—complete setup  
\$1200**

**RIO automatic melting furnace 3 kg - 3 crucibles  
5 cfm Robinair vacuum pump with large chamber  
Burn our furnace (inside diameter 6 1/4 " h by 9" O  
by 8 1/2" w**

**Centrifugal casting machine  
Stainless flasks, wax—sprue— patterns-etc., casting  
gloves, and more.**

**Dan Conley 375-8935**

### Show Host Volunteer needed

Before the show we need to make sure we have help (same as other sites 3-4 folks for 2 hour periods). Set up stations for collecting ticket stubs, make sure we have plenty of pens and pencils, set out door prizes in locked case after gathering them from each vendor (need a list of vendors to make sure all are asked.) - I wish the folks that sent out the contracts would add this to their form and ask them to have it ready when it's requested= ==have to go back and forth because some vendors don't get there until just before the doors open and too busy to go back most of the time. Set out cookbook display and display other clubs' shows, etc.

We need 30 door prizes if we want to give them every half hour but also need to take names, addresses and phone numbers of winners to provide to Expo Id - and the "old" tickets dumped once the number (s) picked [but kept to the end of the show for the cathedral drawing], announce winners of the door prizes and lost and found, headlights left on, etc., answer questions including what type of rock [or find someone who can], about vendors, collecting, etc. Provide membership apps, collect fees and collect dues from current members; sell cookbooks.

From Cathy Parsons who has, for years, accomplished this task unfailingly and with great care! Thank you Cathy!

### Rocky Rattlers

**You are invited to display some of your  
interests and collections of Earth Science  
material you have collected to be put in  
your display case at our Annual Rock &  
Gem Show on February 25th & 26th, 2012**

### Parents

**We need your help at the craft tables,  
garnet dig, and any other table you are  
interested in volunteering at during the  
show. Two and four hour shifts would be  
very helpful.**

## Jewelry Tips

### TOOL SAVINGS

Sometimes even if we don't realize it, we secretly need a new tool - like that little bench drill press or one of the Fretz hammers. But the prices !

One thing to do is to periodically check the closeout listings of the companies you typically deal with. Jewelry tool companies are continually changing the products they offer and selling off remaining items at good discounts, so it's worthwhile looking through their lists every so often.

I've included a couple of my favorites below. How about sharing yours?

<http://www.ottofrei.com/store/home.php?cat=249>

-- > Plus check for coupons on their Facebook page

[http://www.riogrande.com/closeouts\\_specials.aspx](http://www.riogrande.com/closeouts_specials.aspx)

<http://eggmenterprises.com>

BTW If you like opals, you may want to look at <http://www.justlux.com/community/worlds-largest-opal-matrix-found-in-australia-a-1669977.php>

However, the American Opal Society points out the this is definitely not the largest ever found.

### SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

### USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in your Foreman, you often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course many different drill sizes. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the hand piece chuck.

There's nothing you can do to avoid multiple key turns when opening up the jaws, but there's a neat trick to close the jaws around a smaller shaft.

Hold the new bit in the center of the open chuck jaws, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foreman. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around

the shaft of the bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

=====  
Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:  
More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/) or  
[facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)

## Welcome New Members

Richard & Michelle Bain  
514 Americas Way #1191  
Box Elder, SD 57719

Eric & Michelle Cardwell  
Caleb, Madelyn, Ethan  
9662 W. Lillywood Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83709

Kevin & Heather Cornwall  
Jackson, William Bryce, Nathan,  
Justine, Sydney, Briana  
22925 Honeybee Ct  
Middleton, Idaho 83644

Gia Ilers  
Shantell, Christefer, Auston  
16027 N. Saint Helens  
Nampa, Idaho 83651

Makiia Jones  
T.J. Wilson, Tammy Moon,  
Eva Moon, Destiny Dudley  
2810 W. Bannock  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Bob Mayes  
Kaitlyn & Andrew  
9780 W. Prairie Rd.  
Boise, Idaho 83714

Scott & Wendy Wonders  
Logan & Hayden  
2576 E. Sadie  
Eagle, Idaho 83616

## THE GRINDINGS

is the monthly newsletter of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc., associated with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Permission to copy is freely granted when proper credit is given to both the publication and the author. Articles without bylines are written by the Editor or President.  
**CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!**  
[www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)





It is time for Junior Rockhounds to consider being famous this year, and win money. You must be a paid up member of your Club and the NFMS. Your age determines if you enter the age 12 and under category or the age 13 to 18 category. The applicant must not have had an 18<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>; but the applicant can turn 18 between April 1<sup>st</sup> and the presentation of the awards. Bottom line is that your Resume and Application together require a postmark by April 1, 2012.

Winners will be notified a month later, after the NFMS Judges vote on each candidate's Summary. If any of this sounds too complicated or if you have any questions just contact me at [nfmsjunior@comcast.net](mailto:nfmsjunior@comcast.net) OR ask your Juniors Advisor, parent or the Federation Director of your Rock Club, everyone will be delighted to help you in the quest of achieving fame.

## Three stylized fireworks are depicted in the top right corner. One is blue, one is red, and one is yellow, all rendered with radiating lines to suggest an explosion.

**Here are your three EZ steps:**

- 1. Write or type a short summary (resume/outline) about what your achievements are for the past 2 years (2010 and 2011), following Sections I, II, III & IV from the GUIDELINE below.**
- 2. Photocopy the APPLICATION from the Northwest Newsletter. Fill out the APPLICATION and have your Rock Club representatives sign their spaces.**
- 3. Mail with a postmark by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, your summary (resume/outline), and completed APPLICATION to the NFMS Junior Committee Chair,**  
**Audrey Vogelpohl**  
**8810 37th Ave SW**  
**Seattle, WA 98126**

**NFMS is looking forward to giving out some money awards this year.**

Info on this page can be found at:  
<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/nwnews/JanFeb%202012.pdf>

**JAN/FEB 2012 NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER**  
**VOL. 52, NO. 4 PAGE 3**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY


**JANUARY**

1/3 Helen Dillion  
 1/5 Becky Gibson  
 1/8 Ronald Ridenour  
 1/8 Paul Derig  
 1/9 Denise Vasecka  
 1/10 Wayne Larsen  
 1/11 Terry Tomberlin  
 1/11 Ron Bailey  
 1/11 Makensie Denton  
 1/11 Meagan McNeel  
 1/11 Shelley Shearer  
 1/12 Deborah Shaffer  
 1/12 Stephanie Potter  
 1/12 Erin Snyder  
 1/13 Don Drobny  
 1/15 Arlene Bailey  
 1/18 Kevin Kelly  
 1/20 Chuck Goertzen  
 1/20 Koraeve Koen  
 1/21 Jordan Lindsay  
 1/22 Mary Ostrander  
 1/24 Richard Renkamp  
 1/26 Noah Loewen  
 1/27 John Chaplik  
 1/27 Valerie Lesur  
 1/29 Marion Phillips

*January Birthstones*  
 Faceted - Garnet  
 Cabochon - Star Garnet

**FEBRUARY**

2/1 Maria Snyder  
 2/1 Charles Osgood  
 2/4 Andrew Davies  
 2/4 Jim Mitchell  
 2/10/39 The Idaho Gem Club  
 2/10 Kim Williams  
 2/10 Sharon Barnes  
 2/10 Hailey Madsen  
 2/11 Rick Corbett  
 2/11 Jim Storey  
 2/12 William E. Crider  
 2/13 Terry Potter  
 2/14 Betty Metzger  
 2/16 Kylee Madsen  
 2/16 Shawn Blades  
 2/17 Kevin Watson  
 2/17 Sheryl Crowe  
 2/20 Jackson Neuhoff  
 2/22 Aaron Wanner  
 2/23 Jim Clinton  
 2/25 Deanna Moser  
 2/26 Rodney Sharp  
 2/28 Veva Jencks  
 2/28 Nick Romans

*February Birthstones*  
 Faceted — Amethyst  
 Cabochon — Onyx

**Rides needed**

There are some club members that would like to attend our meetings, but are unable to attend due to problems with vehicles or no vehicle. If you are aware of someone with this problem please let us know so we can arrange a ride for them with someone that lives near them. One fairly new member I'm aware of is Ed Fuji, he lives in Meridian. If there is someone that can step-up and help out Ed, we would all appreciate your time and charity.



**2012 Year of the Dragon**

## Dates To Remember

**GENERAL MEETING**

3rd. Tuesday of every month  
 January 17th, 2012  
 Owyhee Plaza Hotel

**Grab Bag Work Party**  
 January 21st

Church of the Brethren  
 2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho  
 Meeting Starts at 9:00 A.M.

**BOARD MEETING:**

1st. Tuesday of every month  
 February 7th 2012  
 Church of the Brethren  
 2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho  
 Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm.

**January Refreshments**

January 17th, 2012

**Annual Banquet**

Owyhee Plaza Hotel

1009 Main St

Boise, Idaho

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

Need approximately 15 dozen cookies.  
 Wrapped door prizes are also needed. Arrive early enough to set up the chairs. The chairperson brings the coffee urn, coffee, punch, cream, sugar, cups and napkins. Afterward, put meeting tables & chairs away, clean kitchen and sweep the room. Gather and take all the trash with you. Don't forget it is the responsibility of the chair for the coming month to pick up the coffeepot, take it home and bring it the next meeting.

**February Refreshment Committee**  
**Chair:**

**To be determined!**

## 2012 Annual Rock &amp; Gem Show

The annual show is fast approaching the dates are Feb 25th & 26th. We will load the trucks and trailers starting at 1pm on Thursday the 23rd at Lock Away Storage on Chinden just before you get to the Fairgrounds on the North side of Chinden.

Set up at the fairgrounds will start at 8am on Friday the 24th. We need all the help we can get for table set up, skirting, and putting the display case up. There is a job that everyone can help with.

There are a lot of things that the club needs volunteers to help with during the show. All the chairmen will have sign up sheets at the next 2 club meetings.

After the show closes at 5pm Sunday night again we can use all the help possible to put things away. For the past several years we have been done by 8:30 with every ones good help.

Hopefully we will see everyone there helping. This is the clubs largest fund raiser and helps make possible all the fun things we do throughout the coming year.

I can be reached for any questions or comments from the 15th of Jan to the 18th of Feb at 208 315 1004.

Thanks for all the support and help. I think we will have  
t h e   b e s t   s h o w   e v e r .

Charlie Smith 2012 Show Chairman

The Idaho Gem Club is an all volunteer organization for the perpetuation of the study of rocks, minerals, and fossils, and how to collect store, and display these afore mentioned specimens. For a club to function well talents must be developed and shared by everyone. We all come from different backgrounds with varied interests, but coming together as rockhounds allows us to share a common interest in Earth Science.

When you filled out the application to become a member of the Idaho Gem Club there were many questions asking if you would volunteer to help in various areas. Those opportunities are coming due in the next two months; we need people to assist in various booths at our annual Rock & Gem Show, also a Show Host to coordinate what happens at the show and to make it a success for the vendors, guests, and other volunteers. Sign up sheets will be passed around at the next two general meetings for the various booths or tables. Please consider

your valuable time as well as other club member's time and be charitable by participating in this fun event!

This is your club; the cliché "many hands make light work" is never more visible then at events like our club show. Two hours at a table is fun and easy if everyone can participate. Set up and take down is another example of the need for many people. This show occurs but once a year, you are encouraged to participate, an opportunity for camaraderie is presented for everyone to get to know what a great group of people we are.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Griffin  
Editor

## YESTER YEAR—MARCH 1967

13 cars made the trip to Haystack Butte and ample material was found.

Dewey Jefferson was called to the front of the room and Ralph Tuttle presented him with a letter of appreciation for his many years of work. Quincy Howell was appointed as a delegate to the mid year Federation show at Pendleton. Governor Samuelson was given an honorary membership and asked to put a display in the show.

At the show 848 signed the guest book on Saturday and 849 on Sunday. Don Forbes suggested that they get busy on a show for the next year. George Fields being the chairman.

The April field trip was to Graveyard Point.

Hilda Bryant joined the club. You probably know her as Hilda Larson along with her husband Alfred. They are Life Members. Pat and Roy Bethel also joined..

There was a special program put on by Tej Howell. She brought 20 gem stones and members were ask to identify them. 19 stones were identified correctly by Lloyd Douglas and he received a special prize.

The BLM sent out a letter letting the club know most of the Bruneau upland area has been released for multiple use.

I write this a month early and did not get the death of Mida Cook, who died in September at the age of 91 in. Through the goodness of the Cooks we now have a lot of cases made at their lumber yard.

*In Loving Memory*  
*Patsy Bethel*

**Idaho Gem Club*****Banquet 2012 Tickets******January 17, 2012******Owyhee Plaza Hotel*****1009 Main Street, Boise, Idaho****6:30 PM no host cocktail reception****7:00 PM dinner served****Tickets: Available at December Club Meeting****\$12.50 for Club Members****\$25.00 for Non-members****Roast Prime  
Rib of Beef****Pacific Salmon  
Contains NO garlic****Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Contains NO garlic****Pasta Vegetarian**

**After the December Club Meeting, tickets will only be available  
for purchase at Stewart's Gem Shop, 2618 West Idaho Street,  
Boise (Phone 208-342-1151)**



## Rare and Unusual Opal Found at the Whangdoodle Claim

Philip S. Neuhoﬀ, Ph.D.

Like many people in the Treasure Valley, I have been lamenting the lack of snow that has kept me from dusting oﬀ my skis. Since the weather has been dry, I decided to make the best of this situation the day after Christmas to do some rock hunting in the Owyhee's before storms set in that would make the roads diﬃcult to deal with. After a largely unsuccessful day of scouting some new places, I decided to finish the day at the club's Whangdoodle claim to end on a good note. All in all it was a good few hours at Whangdoodle as I found several dozen small precious opals. Most of these were the usual several-mm sized vesicle fillings of opal that are typical of this locality. I found a couple of opals that were unlike others I had found there before as well, including a piece of green clay with opal veins running through it and another 1.5 cm piece of lava with a vein of opal exposed on it. When I got home, I put this latter specimen and some of the other loose opals I found in a small jar with some water. More on that later...

Precious opals are not minerals *per se*, but rather completely amorphous (without crystal structure) silica (minerals have regular arrangements of atoms in their structure, which leads to crystal forms and other phenomena). The play of color in precious opal results from light diﬀraction by spheres of silica within the opal. All opals contain some water along with silica; typically between 6 and 10 %. In some opals, this water is very stable within the opal. Opals from Spencer, Idaho, are good examples of this as virtually all stones from this locality are very stable. Many opals, however, have the ability to lose or gain water depending on humidity. Most commonly, opals tend to dry out when placed in arid environments, which is why many people store them in water (this practice also enhances their appearance for display). Two phenomena can occur when an opal dries out. The first is called crazing, which is a cracking of the stone in response to the loss of water. Opals from many localities are subject to crazing, especially those from Virgin Valley, Nevada.

(continued at top of next column)

(Rare Opal continued from previous column)

Another less common phenomenon occurs in hydrophane opals. Hydrophane opals are typically trans-

parent when wet, and often show a play of color. When they dry out, they turn milky and the play of color is lost. This loss of transparency and play of color can be reversed by resubmerging the hydrophane opal in water. A considerably more rare phenomenon occurs in "reverse hydrophane" opals, which actually absorb additional water when wetted. Reverse hydrophane opals are typically milky with play of color, and when wet become transparent and lose play of color. The most well-known examples of this phenomenon come from the Welo District in Ethiopia.

Back to the opals I found at Whangdoodle. A few hours after putting them in water I happened to look at the jar and was puzzled because the opal vein I had found did not show the dazzling play of color I saw when I found it. I took it out of the water to see that it was now transparent, instead of milky as it had been. The play of color was gone, and new cracks had developed in the opal. Intrigued, I set it out to dry. After a day of drying, the milky body color and play of color had returned. A reverse hydrophane opal! A rare treat from one of my favorite collecting spots, one that I hope to get back to once Spring comes and the claim dries out again.

## Updated Editor's Note

I need your help, as editor, by letting me know what you are interested in learning. Feedback is a great way to let me know if your needs are being met. The "Grindings" is a great way to communicate to other club members what you have to sell, where you have had a rockhound vacation, even good resource books that you have learned valuable information reading, just to mention a few items of interest.

The deadline for articles is the board meeting, if it needs to be typed. If the article is sent via e-mail the deadline is the Saturday after the board meeting.

E-mail: [highdesert2003@q.com](mailto:highdesert2003@q.com)  
Tony Griffin

**Laws of Weather**

**Lannie's Law** – Any week of five consecutive clear and sunny weekdays will have rain, sleet or snow on Saturday AND Sunday.

**Pete's Principle** – Cloudless days will overcast at the time when you reach the mine access road.

**Edward's Extension** – The precipitation will begin when you reach the halfway point while walking (uphill) on the access road.

**Ervin's Further Extension** – The intensity of precipitation will increase in direct proportion to the distance walked on the access road.

**Ellie's Observation** – All precipitation will cease, and the sun will come out the instant you return to the car.

<http://mineralhumor.homestead.com/Murphy.html>

***Grab Bag Work Party***

**Hopefully your tumblers are still turning or you already have some tumbled stones ready to be put into bags. We will be filling the grab bags on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the church in the gymnasium. This is where the club meetings are held. So we need as many tumbled rocks as possible. The more people who show up to help with the stuffing the faster the process goes. There will also be postcards to put stamps on as well. Mike Jones and Laura Lindsey will be in charge again this year.**

**In Remembrance**

**Our Prayers and condolences go out to Lynne Davis, her mother passed on. Lynne said there was to be no funeral service for her mother.**

**Arlene Bailey sent a card and flowers to Lynne in memory and for condolences from the Idaho Gem Club.**

**DO YOU REALIZE THAT OUR SHOW IS ONLY 6 WEEKS AWAY?**

**It's not too late to be making items for our show -**

**Wheel of Fortune**

**Silent Auction**

**Grab Bags**

**Garnet Dig**

**Door Prizes**

**Idaho Gem Club Show**

**February 25th & 26th 2012**

**Expo Idaho (Western Idaho Fairgrounds)  
5610 Glenwood,  
Boise, Idaho  
Chinden & Glenwood**

**Federation & Other Clubs News****Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society**

**58<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock & Gem Show**

**Location:** O'Conner Field House

Canyon Co. Fairgrounds

2200 Blaine Caldwell, Idaho

**Dates:**

Saturday March 3rd, 2012 from 9am - 6pm

Sunday March 4th, 2012 from 10am - 5pm

**Magic Valley Gem Club**

**61<sup>st</sup> Annual Rock & Gem Show**

**Location:** Twin Falls County Fairgrounds in Filer, ID

**Dates:**

Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 11, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Idaho Falls Mineral Society**

**Annual Rock Show**

**April 14th & 15th, 2012**

**More information available later.**

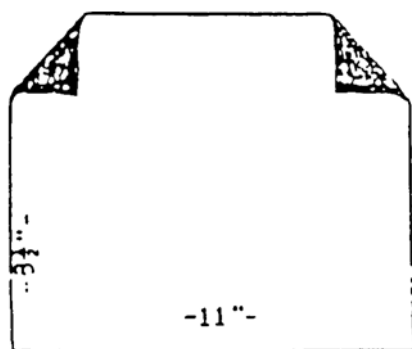
### Grab Bags

For our new people, our club sells grab bags filled with polished rocks at the show in February. We have always hand-made our bags, and we completely sell out each year. We need all the help we can get. If you sew, here are the instructions with some changes provided by Cathy Parsons. You can get 16 bags from one yard of 45" wide fabric. Any color, fancy or not. Use your imagination. We will fill the bags in January, so don't forget to keep those tumblers turning, too. You may bring them to the monthly club meetings.

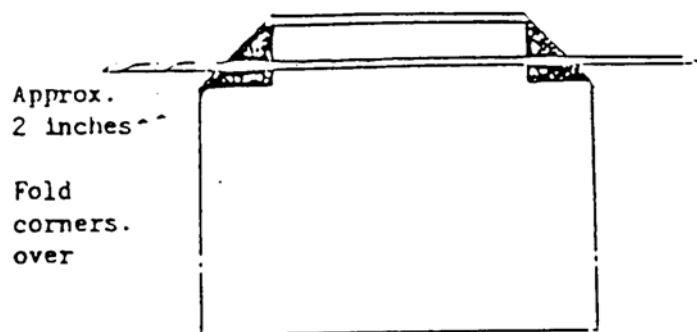
### Easy Grab Bags

The easiest method of cutting out grab bags is to cut fabric into 8 ½" strips. Press down ½" on the top edge of each strip. Fold strip in half and cut on fold (you'll have two 22 ½ inch pieces. Cut each of those halves into two pieces (fold & cut on fold). Following the pattern, fold up the outer edges of the top hem and make the dog ears, and then place your drawstring under the hem (but over

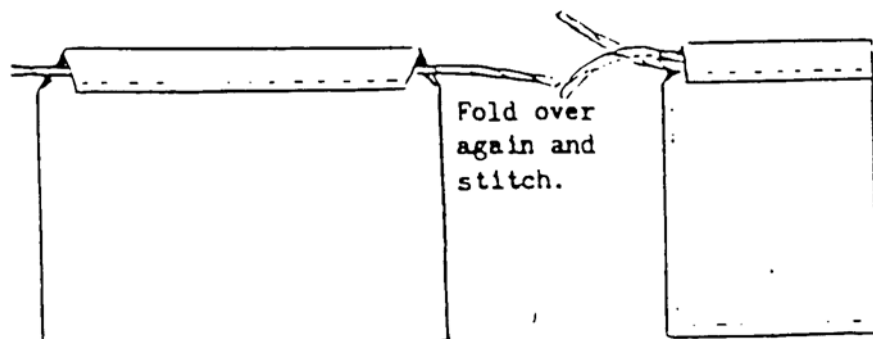
the "ears"). (I place a few pins in the edge of the hem to make sure it stays put before I sew. And, I sew each seam factory-style/chain stitching—not cutting between each bag, etc. So, if I cut out the 4 strips from the yard of fabric, I'm going to stitch down the top hem on all the bags before I go to the next step, etc.



Time is saved by folding the two corners over diagonally, then folding The top down over the cord. Try it.



Fold in half. Stitch in across bottom and up side.



Once the hems are stitched down (be careful not to catch the drawstring in the stitching), I sew the bags beginning at the opening (where you've placed the "dog ears".) I stop the needle at about the ¼" mark from the bottom of the bag and sew to the end (backstitch to secure the thread). I then pull the finished bag out a bit and start the next bag. As you can probably see, I don't do any cutting of threads, etc. until I have all the bags I've got cut out complet-ed. I then go watch TV and cut threads and turn bags (if the cat doesn't get in the way). The strings are made of any heavy cord cut into approx-imately 24 inch lengths. I don't take the time to measure. I cut the first one and then use that as my guide to cut as many as I can at once. (Rug yarn is good—strong and colorful.) The dia-grams below will help—just remember to try to "factory sew". Before sewing, press the folds with a hot iron or crease with the fingers to make the sewing job easier. Also keep tumbling those stones to put in the grab bags. We need to fill about 1000 bags for the show next year.

### SUMMERTIME (song for mineral collectors)

#### From the Musical "Pyrite and Bliss"

Summertime  
And the digging is easy  
Faults are jumpin'  
And the quartz veins in view.

My tools are sharpened  
And my energy's high  
So, come pretty beryl  
Don't make me cry!

One of these field trips  
I'm gonna' end up singin'  
Then I'll have to crow  
At my clubs Tell and Show.

But till that evening  
There's a nothin' to brag on  
With only poor chips  
To go in my bag.

Summer is over  
And the digging was easy  
So how come my shelves  
Are still standing by?

My tools are now dull  
And my energy's faded  
Looks like the crystals  
Will wait til next time!

<http://mineralhumor.homestead.com/Poems.html>

**The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of its members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences.**

**Dues:**

.....\$12.00 per person  
 .....\$15.00 per couple  
 .....\$17.50 per family

**Subscription:**

.....\$10.00 per year

**General Meeting:**

.....3rd. Tuesday of each  
 .....Month at 7:30 p.m.

USTICK	C O L E
<div data-bbox="805 235 928 285" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Mountain View Church of the Brethren 2823 N. Cole Road</p>	
NORTHVIEW	
FAIRVIEW	



**The Whangdoodle Bird**  
(Often seen on field trips)



**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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

**HAPPY  
 NEW  
 YEAR**