

# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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

VOL 74 NO 8

August 2014



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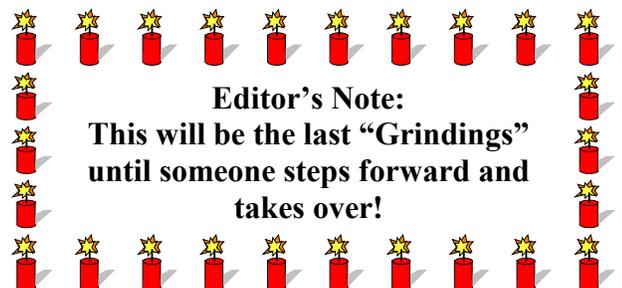
## President's Message

Summer is flying away really fast; I hope everyone has had a great season collecting and enjoying getting out. There are a number of great field trips coming up and I hope everyone will have a chance to participate in them. Fire season hasn't been too bad yet, but please be fire aware when you are out and about. Sparks from a rock hammer, hot exhaust pipes, cigarettes, unattended campfires, and other sources of heat all pose a threat this time of year.

It was fun seeing everyone at the picnic last month. We had a great auction and I saw a number of people sharing their treasures in the trunk show. Remember that this month's meeting will be a picnic as well on August 19 at 6:30 PM in the Old Timers Shelter at Ann Morrison Park. Please bring a dish to share, table service, and items for the auction. The club will provide drinks and ice cream treats.

I would like to recognize two of our life members, Roy and Patsy Bethel, who very generously donated a large collection of rocks to the club. Several of us spent a few afternoons at the Bethel's house loading rocks (easily many tons) including a lot of really nice petrified wood and other treasures collected during their long career. Per their wishes, the rocks will be sold by the club (e.g., at the silent auction) to support the club's programs.

*Phil Neuhoff*  
*President*



**Editor's Note:**  
This will be the last "Grindings"  
until someone steps forward and  
takes over!

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING  
1 5 July 2014**

**President Phil Neuhoff called our meeting to order at 6:30pm.**

**He asked Ed Moser to lead us in "The Blessing".**

**A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" was by Willa Renken and seconded by Jim Clinton.**

**Our new meeting agenda, is unless there is important information to pass on to members, each position will submit (if needed) their information.**

**Secretaries information is that I've received information from the 2nd Vice President of the Owyhee Club, Nancy. Regarding an upcoming sale on Labor Day Weekend. At the Ensley's in Wilder, ID. Mr. Ensley has collected over 70 years. He will have equipment, tools, slabs, rough rocks, cabs, jewelry, ect. From 10 to 5pm each day. Lunch will be on site for \$5.00 a plate. On August 29th, 30th, and 31st. I've collected the clubs mail and distributed it as needed.**

**Treasurers information as always is available to any member to see from Barb Wanner.**

**Federation report was Charles and Shirley McCreath, as our Federation**

**representatives, upcoming trip to Hermiston, OR. Charles is also collecting stamps for cancer. Anyone with stamps can get them to Charles no later than the 14th of August.**

**There was no license plate report this evening, due to Deana's absence. The program tonight is an auction of donated items and a trunk show and tell from members.**

**Our Annual Meeting and Banquet plans are coming together. Charles M. and Deana A. are making reservations with the "Red Lion" , where it was held last year. Tickets and meal choices will be available in the coming months.**

**Door orizes were drawn for Juniors, as well as adults. The Building Fund also had prize winners.**

**The meeting was adjourned after the auction completed.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Melodee Worley - Secretary*

**Save Stamps For Cancer  
Research**

**Cut at least 1/4 inch margin around the stamps. You can turn them into Chuck McCreath at our next meeting. THANK YOU!**

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
Board Meeting  
5 August 2014**

Our meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, by 2nd Vice President, Willa Renken, due to President Phil N. being out of town.

Present this evening were Brent S., Dana R., Barb W., Charles M., Ed M., Deana A., and Melodee W. Absent and excused were Phil N. and Phil W.

Our guest present was Shirley McCreath.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" was by Charles M. and seconded by Ed Moser.

Secretary report, I received word of an upcoming 40th Annual Symposium and Mineral Show. October 10-12, at the Red Lion in Kelso, WA. I will have flyers available at the upcoming General Meeting on the 19th of August. Don't forget the sale I've mentioned in the previous General Meeting notes. Happening at the Ensley's in Wilder, ID.

Federation information from the recent Newsletter, is as follows:

**BLM AND PUBLIC LAND NEWS ITEMS**  
(taken from BLM National and State websites)

Submitted by Andy Johnson

PLA Chairman.

**BLM Seeks Input on Refining Planning Process**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. – As part of its continuing commitment to improve management of the nation's public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is beginning a review aimed at creating a more dynamic and durable way of developing the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) that guide its efforts. Congress has directed the BLM to develop RMPs for the public lands it manages in consultation with the public and with its partners from tribal, state, and local governments and other federal agencies. "As I've met with elected leaders and citizens from across the West on BLM issues, I've consistently heard two things: first, the BLM needs to more effectively address landscape-level management challenges; and second, planning takes too long." BLM Director Neil Kornze said. "We're listening to you and we are stepping forward to improve the way we work so we can make our process more flexible in planning across landscapes, more dynamic and responsive to change and less time consuming."

Based on an initial review, the BLM intends to target changes in its existing planning regulations and handbook that will allow us to: • Conduct effective planning across landscapes at multiple scales and

clearly define the boundaries for different types of decisions. • Create a dynamic and durable planning process that is responsive to change, allowing BLM to keep plans current through amendments. • Create an efficient planning process that reduces the amount of time it takes to complete RMPs.

The initiative complements BLM's landscape approach to managing public lands. The effort is also consistent with Secretary's Order 3330, "Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior," including its charge to use a landscape-scale approach to identify and facilitate investment in key conservation and development priorities in a region.

While this marks the beginning of the process, we anticipate additional opportunities for public involvement. We anticipate proposing targeted changes to our planning regulations and these changes will be open for formal public review and comment. We also will be revising our current planning handbook to incorporate new guidance and the concepts needed to effectively plan across landscapes. In addition to the formal review period associated with the rule-making process, the BLM is seeking input on how we can achieve the goal of a more effective, efficient and durable planning process. Individuals can learn more [www.blm.gov/plan2](http://www.blm.gov/plan2) and can provide feedback to us at [blm\\_wo\\_plan2@blm.gov](mailto:blm_wo_plan2@blm.gov).

**BLM Budget.** The President has proposed a \$1.1-billion budget for BLM in FY 2015, citing that investment in Public Lands yields \$150 billion in economic output and supports more than 750,000 jobs. The proposal also calls for increased fees for commercial users of the public lands - livestock grazing fees would be roughly doubled; inspection fees for oil and gas leases would increase; and the administration repeats its recommendation for a leasing/royalty system for hard rock minerals to replace the existing (Board Meeting continued on page 5)

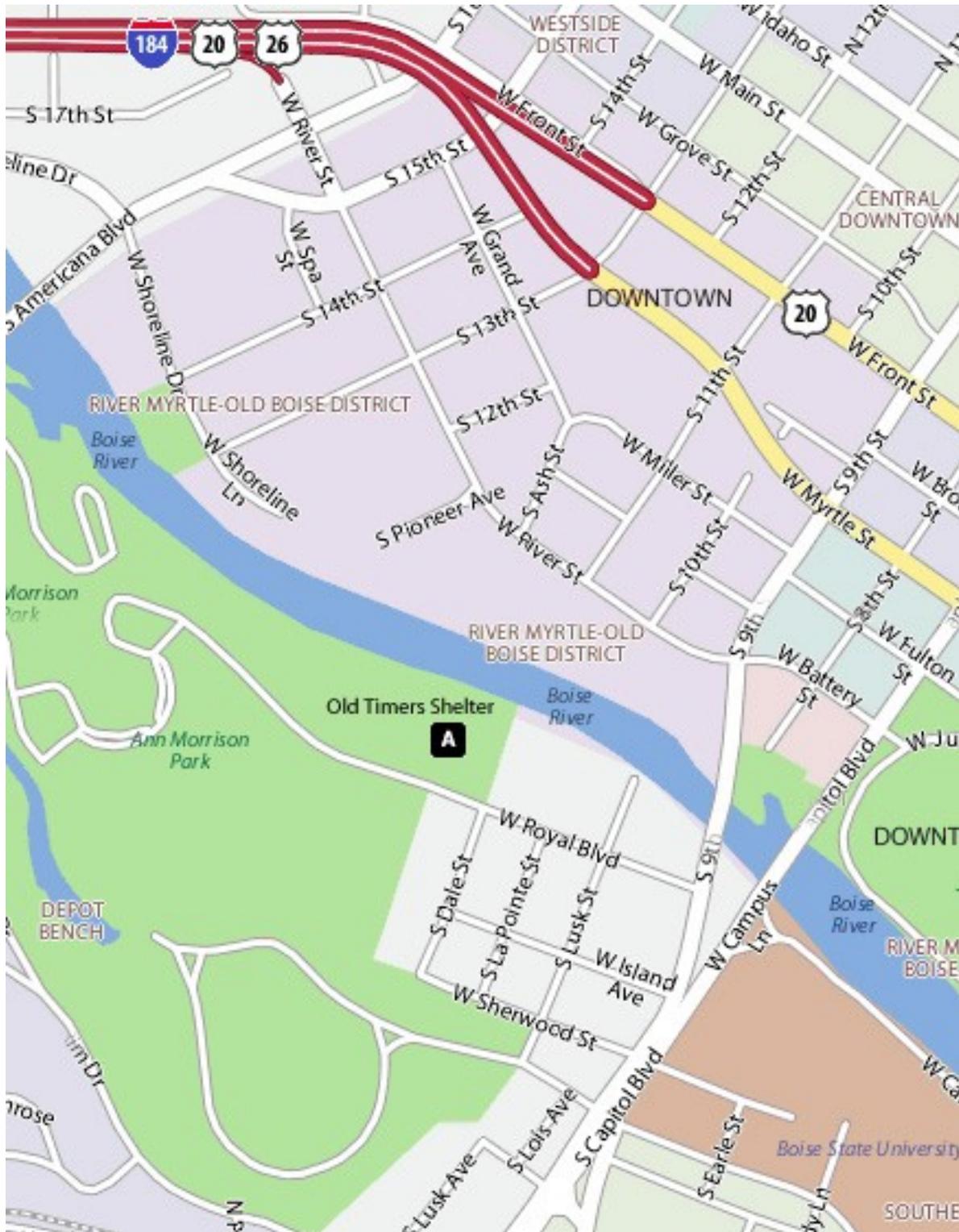
**Two links for additional newsletters we receive as members of the rock club.**

NFMS—Newsletter available at:  
<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/newsletters.asp>

AFMS—Newsletter available at:  
<http://amfed.org/news/default.htm>

### Map To Picnic

The July and August meetings are both picnics. They will be held at the Old Timers Shelter at the East end of Ann Morrison Park. If you drive from 9th Street turn right on Royal Blvd. and shortly after entering the park turn into the parking lot on your right and you will see the shelter next to the River. If driving from the south turn left on Ann Morrison drive then turn right on Lusk St then left on Royal Blvd. and go to the parking lot. The picnic begins at 6:30 p.m. and is a potluck. Bring your favorite dish, plates, and silverware. The club will provide soft drinks and ice cream.



(Board Meeting continued from page 3)

mining claims/ patent system, with a royalty of at least five percent of the gross. Greater Sage-Grouse. BLM and the Forest Service are working jointly to produce Environmental Impact Statements in the western States to address the effects of implementing proposed Greater Sage-Grouse conservation measures on the land they manage. These land-use planning measures must be completed by the end of 2014 to give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service time to evaluate them before that agency must make a court-ordered, final listing decision on the Greater Sage Grouse in 2015

#### Management Politics & Public Lands

This time last year I wrote about the "Flames of Change sweeping through our federal land management agencies. Well folks, fast forward a year and I must now report that those flames of change have grown into a wildfire of enormous proportions affecting the very fundamental freedoms we exercise and enjoy in our country and upon our public and private lands. A poll conducted just last January by the AP- Center for Public Affairs Research found that half of those surveyed said America's system of government needs a lot of changes or even a complete overhaul. A stunning 70 percent lacked any confidence in the government to make progress on the important problems facing the United States in 2014. More recently America's trust for its government has reached new lows. A Gallup poll released in June found that confidence in all three government branches had fallen significantly, with just 7 percent of Americans saying they felt good about Congress, a historic low. Is it any wonder why we feel this way when you consider the long list of misdeeds and scandals this administration and its agencies have been involved in.

#### PUBLIC LANDS

Consider this.....In Washington State miles of new shoreline exposed by the drawdown of the cracked Wanapum Dam drew so many visitors that the Grant County Public Utility District closed the area to the public on Thursday. The district owns the shoreline behind Wanapum Dam. Utility officials say people have been drawn to the area, which was exposed after the reservoir was drawn down about 26

feet to relieve pressure on the dam. From now on, only authorized personnel will be allowed access to the shoreline below the high-water mark of the reservoir, the utility said. Utility officials say law enforcement agencies will be notified whenever anyone is observed trespassing on PUD lands. (Public) At 41 years old, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 is in dire need of a mid-life makeover.

This well-intentioned law gives the federal government nearly unlimited power to regulate the use of public and private lands in the name of protecting endangered species. The bladderpod's saga raises serious questions about the way litigation takes precedence over science in deciding which species need protecting.

A recent study, conducted by a University of Idaho agronomist, found that the White Bluffs bladderpod was the same species as bladderpods found in five other Washington counties, as well as Oregon and Idaho. Saving species from extinction is a worthy goal, but the Endangered Species Act has a terrible track record in accomplishing that goal. Decisions are being made with flimsy and questionable scientific justification, and at a high cost to taxpayers and private landowners.

Saving species from extinction is a worthy goal, but the Endangered Species Act has a terrible track record in accomplishing that goal. Decisions are made with flimsy scientific justification, and at a high cost to taxpayers and private landowners.

Juniper Dunes in Franklin County; WA, consists of three adjoining areas comprising a total of approximately 19,600 acres. Each area has different use regulations: THESE PUBLIC LANDS STILL HAVE NO LEGAL PUBLIC ACCESS, since being designated in 1984.

⊙ Juniper Dunes Wilderness - The 7,100-acre wilderness area, designated in 1984, is fenced. Motorized and mechanized use (including bicycles and game carts) is strictly prohibited within the wilderness area.

⊙ OHV "Open" Area - A 3,920-acre off-highway vehicle (OHV) area is designated as "Open" to OHV use. Cross-country travel is permissible throughout the "Open" area.

⊙ ACEC - Lastly, the 8,620-acre Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is designated for "Limited" OHV use. Under the "Limited" designation, travel is limited to designated routes -

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(Board Meeting continued from page 5)

no off-route travel is allowed. However, no OHV routes have been designated in the ACEC.

In Montana this year the Forest Supervisor for the Lolo National Forest has closed in excess of 119,040 acres to rockhounds by issuing a special closure prohibiting the entry into & onto these public lands for the purposes of crystal digging and collection for no apparent reason. Two exemptions are provided for in this order, one for any Federal, State or local officers as well as fire and rescue members and the second for persons with a permit.

The outlook for our public lands is bleak indeed and our nation's financial crisis will continue to weigh heavily upon the priorities and commitment to maintain and sustain our recreational, economic and environmental values. In closing, a reminder that several federal land management agencies have announced fee-free days in 2014, including National Public Lands Day this coming September 27. A fee-free day is when parks, refuges, and rangelands offer free entry and waive the standard amenity fee for visitors.

**Rock On & Happy Hunting.**

Secretarie's Note: There is news of recent closures at Lolo Pass and of the Weyerhaeuser lands in Oregon. The recent Fieldtrip in MT., there has been no word on how it worked out. It will probably be in the September Newsletter.

Juniors information, Ed M. has more specimens for the Juniors. I'm including a write-up I saw in the NFMS August Newsletter. It reads as follows:

**Create Your Own Mineral Book**

by Rev. Darryl Powell, Jr Act. Chair, EFMLS

A computer is easily the most powerful and flexible tool you have to educate, inspire and grow your youth in the mineral sciences.

First, keep in mind that your youth have grown up with computers and computerized, digital technologies. They are amazingly adept at using computers, software, cameras, camera phones, scanners, and more. Your challenge (and pleasure) is to guide them to apply their technological skills to minerals and mineralogy.

They can write a book Really! Your youth have the tools needed to actually write a book about minerals – minerals of your state, minerals in the home, mineral forms, mineral colors . . . the list is truly endless. They can take good quality pictures of specimens, play with them using software like Photoshop, and arrange them in a document. Your group could

literally create a book of mineral photographs of the best mineral specimens in the collections of club members. Combined with the photos, club members can write a paragraph or two on each picture. Who collected the specimen? What is outstanding about the specimen? How is it unique or rare? This gives them experience in interviewing club members (research and relationship skills), research in books and on the web, writing, and publishing.

Do you want to explore minerals and art? Instead of photographs, your youth can draw and paint. Artwork can be scanned and placed in documents as easily as a photograph. (Editor's Note: They also make great "Drawn Features" entries in the annual Bulletin Contest!).

**How do I print a book or booklet**

There are many affordable options to printing books, even in small numbers, in ways that are surprisingly cost-effective. For very small numbers (printers call them "short runs") you can go to the local UPS store, Staples, or a copy center where they can be printed, even in color. There are also a number of companies that do what is called "Print on Demand." Let's say your group has been very ambitious and you have created a 100 page book on the minerals of California. Companies like Diggy-Pod (a clever name which means "Digital Print on Demand") can receive your PDF digital document and, in relatively short time, send you printed, finished copies.

**Think Big**

Please don't be afraid to think big. Local mineral clubs and societies tend to think in terms of "what is the lowest cost experience I can do?" Let me encourage you to think in terms of investment and return on investment. There are people and companies, probably in your club, or perhaps in your community, who would finance a publication for you. In my little, at-home publishing business, I can print a 28-page mineral booklet for about 35 cents/copy (for 2,500 copies). Imagine if you were to produce a similar book and someone was willing to put some money up front to make it happen. Then, you sell the books – to club members, at your show and other shows, through the Internet, to Federations, to local museums, to local businesses like bookstores and gift shops. Charge \$1 each. \$1 for a book is a GREAT value. In time, you will be able to pay (Board Meeting continued on page 8)

### Field Trip to Oregon for Sunstones (feldspar)

We met at the Flying J Truck Stop on Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. Four club members showed up 2 from the Boise club and 2 from the Idaho Falls club. The two from the Boise club didn't realize this trip was an overnight trip so they passed on this field trip. It took roughly 6 plus hours to get there stopping in Burns, Oregon for a quick lunch and to top off our gas tanks. Randy and Buck from the Idaho Falls club wanted to go to the Spectrum Mine and experience the items mentioned on the internet and to stay in the cabins advertised. I was excited as Randy told me Spectrum had flushing toilets and showers. Anyone who has spent time out to this area knows how exciting it is to have something besides the one outhouse in the public area or sage brush to sit behind.

We spent Saturday surface collecting in the public area and on the Spectrum Mine grounds as we were given permission to collect anything we wanted from the surface, peach pit and green pit without going into the deep mine pits operated by Spectrum. We talked with the other customers at Spectrum who actively screened rock material they had purchased from the mine and who showed us the sunstones they were finding. The other customers were excited about the quality of material they were finding. Sunday we spent the morning surface collecting again until the mine crew made the belt available for Buck and Randy to pick from as they purchased the Belt Package from Spectrum. Once the Belt package was complete we eat lunch and dug in the peach pit for the rest of the day. The temperature was a hot 94F out in the high dessert area. Way too hot to dig for too long and not over heat the human body. The evenings cooled down making it nice for us to sit in chairs sipping on cold drinks and exchanging rock hunting stories. Sunday night I told Randy and Buck I would take them to the Boise claim so they can compare the quality of Spectrum's sunstones to the quality of the Boise sunstones. We dug for 4 hours at the Boise claim. Randy picked, shoveled and filled the buckets with rock, I carried the buckets of rock to Buck who screened the material. This worked really



well for me and Buck as Randy had to do all the hard work. Finally Randy was all tuckered out and took a break. I had warned Randy to be careful and not pick into



a red pocket because it will make you cry. So while Randy was taking a break I picked in the wall of our pit and what do you think I did, yep, I picked right into a beautiful red pocket changing one nice red stone into five smaller stones. Dang. Did I cry, no, but I was truly

sorry as I wanted the fellows to have a nice stone to go home with. We finished screening the material we had removed from the wall and called it an end to the trip. We loaded our tools up into our rigs and headed out over the rough 14 miles of washboard dirt road hardly waiting until we could get back to a decent road and head home.

Submitted by, Cheryl Link

### **Silent Auction rock washing and sorting**

**Patsy and Roy Bethel have donated their rocks to the club for use in the silent auction. Most of the rock**

**was stored in buckets but they are cracking. So we need to wash and sort the rock before putting it in**

**the storage shed. The club did this several years ago which helped clean up the storage shed. This also**

**makes moving the rock to the show easier. So on Saturday & Sunday September 27th**

**a rock washing sorting party. This will be located at our house 12843 S. Five Mile Rd., Kuna, Idaho. The**

**times will be from 9am to about 4pm both days. The more help we get the faster this process will go.**

**Thanks in advance for your help,**

**Doug Renken**

## YESTER YEAR

## December 1973

At the Board Meeting they had a discussion on the new smoking rule. It was decided there be a 10 minute recess before the mini rock show and the program.

Thirty vests were to be made for the show. They were to be black (I didn't know what happened, but mine is green.) The November field trip is to Gibbons Hot Springs for nodules. There will be a field trip December 28th to Grave Yard Point.

75 members signed up for the annual banquet. The program was called "Nostalgia Night" where different members stood up and told why they became members; 44 members participated. A recap shows that rockhounds have a diversity of interest, a warm fellowship for fellow rockhounds, and a great love and respect for nature.

Al Larson was elected for President for the next year.

At the Banquet Al Larson called attention to The National Geographic Magazine, which contains a picture of Quincy Howell surrounded by faceted stones. (Quincy taught over 100 to facet-free of charge and we celebrated his 7000 faceted stone not long before they moved to the Retirement Home.)

Decals for the new vests were on display and sold for 50 cents each. Readings of the two Whangdoodle poems were read regarding the history of the Whangdoodle Bird.

*In Loving Memory  
of Days Gone By  
Patsy Bethel—Historian*

(Board Meeting continued from page 6)  
back the money you were provided to have the book printed, and now you are making a profit. This is also a wonderful experience in marketing. Look around you at a mineral show. There are hundreds of people (thousands, probably) selling minerals and mineral-related items and making a living at it. A project of this type can help your youth gain valuable skills as business people. You can lead them from initial concept through the planning stages through preparation, writing, editing, through production of the product through marketing and sales. You can literally use the mineral hobby experience to teach some life skills that could stay with your youth their entire lives. If you wish to pursue this concept and want some guidance or help, please call or contact me. I'd love to support your efforts. My contact info is: <diamonddan@rochester.rr.com> or 585-278-3047. Good luck! May you find great success in your leadership.

Via Rocky Mountain Federation News, 4/14

## JUNIORS' ACTIVITY

The Program after our meeting will be another auction.

Old Business is that our License Plates are in "DANGER" of not being renewed after this year. Sales are still happening, but not enough. At this time Deana A. is presenting a proposal, to heavily market our plates, 3 days a week and weekends attending Public Events. The Board has approved this proposal. Anyone wanting to see it in writing, may do so by asking Deana A. Or any Board member. She will be doing this for the next 5 months. Anyone interested in helping please contact Deana A. We are at a "use it or lose it" situation. If we don't meet the 1000 plate sales, any moneys will go back to the State.

New business, I've (Melodee W.) advised the Board, that I will be looking into material for our show/vendor tables. The colors of blue, white and yellow. Our current table coverings are getting pretty tattered. I'll keep the Board, as well as members aware of my findings.

Brent S., Our Show Chairman, is looking into giving individual awards to showcases and their submitter.

He's looking into "Rosettes" as the award and deciding on individual award titles.

(Board Meeting continued on page 9)

(Board Meeting continued from page 8)

Willa R. asked that she be granted permission to replace the saw blade, on the 24 inch saw. She advised the board, that some repairs had to be done on our new saw. She's going to be needing help cleaning out the used oil and filling with new. We'll also be having a "Rock Cleaning Day" at her home. To go thru all of our rock used for the Silent Auction tables. We'll be cleaning, sorting, putting in covered and labeled buckets, for our show next year. More information will be passed along in the future.

We had 4 new applications for approval. A motion to accept these new applicants was by Ed M. and seconded by Charles M. Our meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Melodee Worley - Secretary*

## Welcome New Members

**Juston Buckingham**

**Jake & Max**

**4037 Camas**

**Boise, Idaho 83705-2167**

**283-1093**

**Wes Hirons**

**PO Box, 4125**

**Boise, Idaho 83711-4125**

**863-6842**

**Doug Pinco & Marci Mattoon**

**1409 Ada St.**

**Boise, Idaho 83702-3413**

**440-2671**

## Rockhound "CODE OF ETHICS"

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

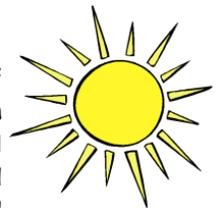
I will report to my club or Federation officer, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", I will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

### SUNSHINE LADY REPORT:

Please let me know if you are aware of any of our members having surgery, an illness, or just in need of cheer. We all can use some good cheer! We try and keep in touch with all our members, and I apologize if we have overlooked any member who has lost a loved one. Please let us know if we can help in any way. Contact Deana Ashton at 208-794-5628 or any Idaho Gem Club Board Member/officer.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND ANY GEM CLUB FUNCTIONS BUT ARE UNABLE TO DRIVE, CALL ME! WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO GET YOU THERE!

Deana- 208-794-5628

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY

## AUGUST

Landon Demer  
 Dixie Lair  
 8/1 Cody Jackson  
 8/1 Gloria Meadows  
 8/5 Paul Jewell  
 8/6 Michael Gartman  
 8/6 Melanie Wold  
 8/7 Gene Thompson  
 8/10 Dan Conley  
 8/11 Max Johnson  
 8/18 Ryan Wold  
 8/20 Hudson Bork  
 8/20 Craig Steele  
 8/23 Chester Carpenter  
 8/23 Suzanne McCorkle  
 8/24 Frank Hederer  
 8/24 Fred Hodges  
 8/26 Deana Ashton  
 8/26 Bob Dodson  
 8/27 Christine Neuhoff  
 8/27 Linda Phillips  
 8/28 Mettie Clay  
 8/28 Leon K. Doar  
 8/29 Jerry Hopkins  
 8/31 Carter Berryman

*August Birthstones*

Faceted – Peridot  
 Cabochon — Jade or  
 Sardonyx

## SEPTEMBER

9/1 Damon Bork

9/2 Steve Murrow  
 9/2 Bob Ruppert  
 9/3 Donald Clark  
 9/4 Roy Bethel  
 9/8 Dianna Pieksma  
 9/9 Afton Johnson  
 9/11 Lynda Selbach  
 9/12 Barb Carey  
 9/12 Sue Witschen  
 9/13 Amanda Huston  
 9/15 Ronald Mummy  
 9/15 Celeste Jackson  
 9/16 Joanna Bork  
 9/16 Dana Robinson  
 9/16 Robin Solt  
 9/16 Aaron Wanner Jr  
 9/17 Daini Carlson  
 9/20 Janet Bailey  
 9/20 Annalies Clark  
 9/20 Clarence  
 Trebilcock  
 9/20 Randy Whipple  
 9/23 Pete Moore  
 9/24 Melodee Worley  
 9/26 Serra Kerpa  
 9/28 Annalies Clark  
 9/29 Harrison Bork  
 9/30 Alan Steele

*September Birthstones*

Faceted - Sapphire  
 Cabochon - Lapis Lazuli

## Dates To Remember

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**3rd. Tuesday of every month**  
**19 August 2014**  
**Old Timer's Shelter**  
**Ann Morrison Park**  
**Royal Blvd.**  
**Picnic starts at 6:30 p.m.**

**BOARD MEETING:**  
**1st. Tuesday of every month**  
**2 September 2014**  
**Church of the Brethren**  
**2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho**  
**Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.**

August 2014

Chair: Dan and Marge Conley  
and\*\*\*

To be held at  
Ann Morrison Park  
(see page 4 for map)

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

1. Have tables covered with paper obtained from Statesman and ready by 6:00 p.m.
2. Bring door prizes
3. Order ice cream and arrange for pickup.
4. Serve ice cream

When picnic is finished, clear all paper from tables and deposit all litter and debris in trash containers

**Potluck Dinner**  
**Ice cream and sodas provided**  
**Bring your own plates and silverware**

September 2014

Sandy Blodgett and\*\*\*

To be held at  
**Ann Morrison Park**  
 \*\*\* need one more person to assist on  
 committee for month. Please let Deana know if  
 you'd like to help the assigned volunteer!

## THE GRINDINGS

is the monthly newsletter of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc., associated with the Northwest  
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CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE! [www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)



## Workshop Report No Workshop this month

### Idaho Gem Club Field Trips for August and September

August 23rd field trip  
McBride Creek

What: We'll be collecting jasper, agate and petrified wood.

Where: 7:00 a.m. Meet at the GEM STOP at the intersection of Hwy 55 and Hwy 95 ; 7:30 a.m. Depart for McBride creek.

Equipment needed: rock hammer, shovel, bag or bucket for specimens collected, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, lunch, water, fuel, and any items you need for your personal use.

If you would like more information, please come to our Gem Club Meeting: Call our Field Trip Chairmen Aaron Wanner @ 794-9474 cell phone or Email: [aaronwanner@gmail.com](mailto:aaronwanner@gmail.com) Or Brent Stewart @208-863-9336 cell

Virgin Valley Trip  
September 6th

Leaving Saturday September 6th and digging on Sunday the 7th with plans to drive home later that evening.

Meeting at the Gem Stop outside of Marsing at 7:00 leaving at 7:20.

Virgin ground land is \$600.00 and you can split with another person. To dig through the tailings it is \$100.00 a day.

Suggested items to bring with you:

Small pick, Small garden rake, small shovel, spray bottle, 5 gallon buckets with lids, another bucket for a seat, Sun block, hat and gloves.

We need to know who is going so we can order the loads or you can call them to reserve your own load. Contact Glen or Donna at 775-941-0270

## Bench Tips

### FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work.

Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.



### Abrasive Wheels

In the finishing sequence there is a step called pre-polishing, between sanding and buffing, and one of the most effective tools I've found to help here is the little silicone wheels used in a Foredom or Dremel. They come in several different abrasive levels and several different shapes. The wheels are color coded to denote their abrasive level. Different shapes (coin, knife, cylinder, point, etc) are available to match the geometry of the area being cleaned up.



For a starter, I'd suggest a medium, a fine, and an extra fine wheel in both the coin shape and the knife-edge shape. The thicker coin shapes are particularly handy. Be sure to get a few extra mandrels so you'll have one of each wheel shape mounted and ready to go.

Cylinder shapes are nice for doing the inside of rings. Knife-edge shapes clean up the base of bezels quickly. Most jewelry catalogs carry these wheels, but often the color codes don't match between different manufacturers.

### Bezel Setting

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone much like a drawstring bag is closed. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

Please use the following attribution with each publication:

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Note: If you distribute your newsletter electronically, I'd appreciate the above title of the book to be a live link to <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

**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:**

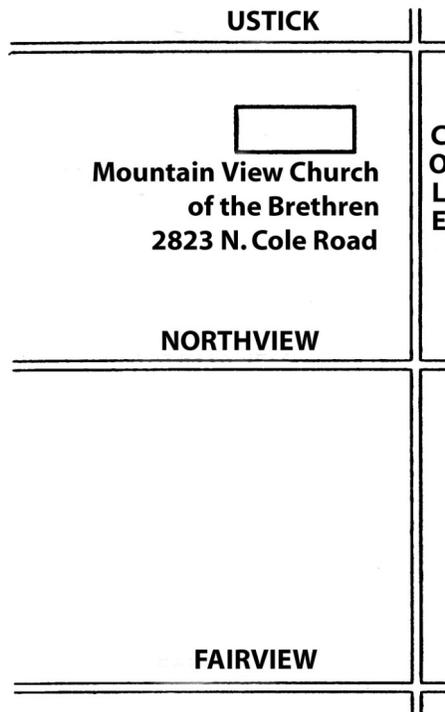
- ..... \$17.00 per person
- ..... \$20.00 per couple
- ..... \$23.00 per family

**Subscription:**

- ..... \$10.00 per year

**General Meeting:**

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



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



**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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