


Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 74 NO 5

May 2014



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phil Neuhoﬀ
President
939-4508

pneuhoﬀ@yahoo.com

Willa Renken
1st Vice President
362-3941

wlr_dkr@msn.com

2nd Vice President
Deana Ashton
794-5628

shesteched@msn.com

Brent Stewart
863-9336

gene@stewartsgemshopinc.com

Ed Moser
340-8060

ed.moser15@gmail.com

Melodee Worley
890-6834

melphilw@hotmail.com

Phillip Worley
891-3990

melphilw@hotmail.com

Dana Robinson
343-0487

No email address

Secretary

Melodee Worley
890-6834

Treasurer
Barbara Wanner
794-7968

NFMS Director
Charles McCreath
344-5085

Editor
Tony Griffin
467-9286

highdesert2003@q.com

Club Web Site
www.idahogemclub.com

President's Message

President's Message, May 2014

Every once in a while it seems like it will warm up enough to start thinking about trips to the mountains. In the mean time, your dedicated field trip leaders have two great trips planned in the next month to the Grassy Meadows/Mountain area (May 23) and our club claim at Beacon Hill (June 7-8). These should both be great trips with lots of material to collect. Please remember to be prepared for emergencies (lots of water, first aid kits, can emergency kits, etc.) when you head out. As things start to warm up, keep a watchful eye for ticks, snakes, bears or other hazards that may inhabit a particular field spot. Most of all, have fun!

I would like to give a special shout out to Brent Stewart for sharing the collection of dinosaur eggs at the April meeting. The juniors really enjoyed them, and it was great to see a lot of fellowship during refreshment period as the rest of us enjoyed Brent's collection. This was a great example of what I want to see more of at our meetings more sharing our hobby. There will always be business items that we need to address at the meetings, but hopefully we can spend much of the time enjoying the hobby. I would like to encourage everyone to bring things to "show and tell" at the meetings. It doesn't need to be a whole collection of dinosaur eggs, but maybe a nice cab you cut last month, some goodies you found on your last outing, or a special item from your collection.

We are still looking for a Grindings editor to replace Tony Griffin who needs to step down. Tony has provided great service to the club during his time as editor. Hopefully someone in the club can step up and continue the great tradition of the Grindings.

Lastly, I would like to let the membership know about an important discussion and vote we are going to have at the meeting this month. At the board meeting this month, the Directors voted to bring a resolution to the membership asking for authorization to proceed with plans to find a new space for the club workshop. As you all know, the Renken's have been very gracious in housing the club's lapidary equipment in their home shop for many years. Many in the club have enjoyed the use of the club's saws, cab machines, and the expertise of fellow members in lapidary arts and wire wrapping. Many would also like the opportunity to more frequent availability of these club resources than what can reasonably be asked of the Renken's at their home. Consequently, a group of club members have been researching possible shop spaces in Boise to rent to house the equipment. Several suitable sites have been identified and the board needs authorization from the club to enter into necessary rental agreements in order to make this happen. A number of club members have stepped up to offer to oversee opening of the workshop on at least a weekly basis for general use of the equipment and periodic classes in lapidary arts. Accomplishing this will take additional funding however in order to cover the expenses of rent, utilities, insurance, greater wear on the machines, etc. Thus an additional

(Pres. Message—continued on page 6)

Phil Neuhoﬀ
President

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
April 15, 2014**

President Phil Neuhoff called our meeting to order at 7:30pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carl Woodland.

Tonight we had numerous guests, who also applied for membership to our club. Thank you so much for attending our meeting.

Junior doorprizes were drawn for 9 lucky winners. Adult doorprizes were drawn for 7 lucky winners. Building fund drew for 4 lucky tickets.

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

Secretaries report was to remind members of upcoming shows. The Valley of gems Show, in Bonney Lake, WA, from June 6th, 7th, 8th from 10am-5pm daily. I have available flyers. Of course, don't forget the 2014 NFMS Rock & Gem Show & Convention. August 15th, 16th, 17th. In Hermiston, OR. Flyers and hotel/motel/camping information is available.

Junior's report, Ed is seeing many new faces this evening. Juniors will be given specimens that fluoresce, that came from our shows Silent Auction table from Cheryl Link. Before the juniors retired to their room, I gave them a task to come up with drawings, about what they are learning to be printed for tri-folds to advertize what our Rocky Rattlers are all about. These will be used by Brent Stewart when he visits surrounding schools and available at Stewarts Gem Shop. I've received 6 great drawings and I'm planning on using them all; thank you juniors. Ed advised all members that Brent Stewart has generously brought his Dino Eggs to display for all to see.

Treasurer's report was about balances and disbursements. As always Barb Wanner would be happy to share her reports with anyone interested.

Federation report, Charles wanted to remind members to keep collecting "Stamps for Cancer". He mentioned the Montana field trip was still as scheduled, and there's snow in the area.

Our program tonight is being given on "Caving" by our Scholarship winner, Ms. Hester Mallonee.

Library report, I've received a new Rock & Gem magazine and the library will be open at our refreshment

break.

Old business there was none.

New business, Phil Neuhoff advised members that our Editor, Tony Griffin, will be stepping down, so we're looking for a replacement. Contact any Officer or Board member if interested.

Clarence Buersmeyer wanted members to know he has computer circuit boards he's getting rid of. If anyone is interested, speak to Clarence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melodee Worley - Secretary*

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
Board Meeting
May 5, 2014**

Our meeting was called to order at 7:25pm.

Present were Phil Neuhoff, Brent Stewart, Barb Wanner, Dana Robinson, Ed Moser, Willa Renken, Melodee Worley, Deana Ashton, and Charles McCreath. Excused for this meeting was Phil Worley.

Guests present were Shirley McCreath and Doug Renken.

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

Secretaries' report, I've received a "Thank You" card from Larry Ridley and family, for our recent donation to the Alzheimer's Association, and a letter from the Alzheimer's Association thanking the club, on behalf of the Ridley's.

Treasurer's report was of balances and disbursements.

Federation report, Charles wanted me to remind members to keep saving "STAMPS for CANCER" and turn them into him. As mentioned in my (Board Minutes continued on page 3)

(Board Minutes continued from page 2)

previous meeting notes, check out the field trips coming up.

Junior's report, Ed along with Brent Stewart, will be cracking "Geodes" that will be given to the juniors for the evening. Of course as always "BRING YOUR FOLDERS".

The program to be presented this month will be "Field Trips How to Make the Most of Your Experience".

License plate report, Deana is working on an upcoming trip with a local school, details to come. Plate sales are still occurring. In the future, there is to be a Teachers Science Conference, Deana has been asked to speak to teachers about what our plate sales is used for. She'll also speak about the maps that have been provided. She's asked if Brent Stewart could attend and speak about our club and what we offer.

Willa Renken presented the "New Budget" for 2014. A motion to accept it as presented was by Ed Moser and seconded by Dana Robinson.

Old business, First Phil Neuhoﬀ wanted to "Thank" Brent Stewart for the "Dino Eggs Exhibit". It was great to see all the interest, it was amazing!! We are in need of a new Editor. If interested contact any Of- ficer or Board Member. Phil Neuhoﬀ compiled a list of suggestions or comments from his "Survey" re- sults. Thanks to anyone that participated.

The next Old business discussed, was the progress on the "New Workshop" location. Brent Stewart has been actively looking into several options. We are awaiting a lease agreement. At this time President Phil Neuhoﬀ, with a motion to members to "Authorize" the Board to go forward, pending the lease agreement, to secure the "New Workshop". A \$5.00 an hour use fee will be charged to all members. Additional instructional classes will be available at reasonable costs; the motion was seconded by Melodee Worley.

As mentioned earlier I'll be creating tri-folds with all the great pictures the Junior's have given me.

New business, Brent Stewart was wanting to ask if he could submit gas receipts for his recent traveling ex- penses, for school talks and club field trips. At this time it was suggested he keep mileage information to use on his yearly taxes.

We're looking into a name change on our P.O. Box. Willa Renken, along with Barb Wanners help, will be keeping track of our Gem Show dealers, such as the size of their area, paid moneys, and money still due, as well as their new contracts.

New membership applications, 10 new applications. A motion to accept these new members was by Ed Moser and seconded by Brent Stewart.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melodee Worley - Secretary*

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>

New "Grindings" Editor needed

Responsibilities include putting together our newslet- ter, finding a printer to publish the "Grindings", maintaining an email list of everyone in the club for quick communication, a birthday list to celebrate birthdays, and a USPS mailing list for those that want the "Grindings" by Postal Service.

Please contact a member of the
Idaho Gem Club Board of Directors
to volunteer or for more information

Bench Tips

Stippling

Stippling is a texture applied with a pointed punch. It is quick and easy to apply. A center punch, hammer and bench block is all that is needed.

However, a faster method to stipple is with a hammer hand piece fitted with a pointed anvil. The anvil is easily made from a spare tip. Simply mount it in a pin vise and grind & sand the tip to a point.

Take care not to overheat the point by dipping it occasionally into a cup of water. Overheating can destroy the hardness of the tip.

With a hammer hand piece, applying the texture is as easy as painting it on. Don't forget to back your piece with a heavy piece of steel like a bench block. You can sketch a design and "paint" between the lines or even sign your name.

Raising a Stone in a Bezel

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. Solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. If you're going to raise it up, question is what is the best material to use ?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that might be a problem when used in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose.

In any case, I now prefer pieces of plastic sheet to boost up my stones. Pieces are readily available from product packaging or from old credit cards. I just cut a piece to loosely fit the bezel and drop in the stone to check it's height. (But don't forget the dental floss trick)

REVOLVING SOLDER PAD

Often when we're soldering we have multiple pieces on the pad or a single piece and would like to work

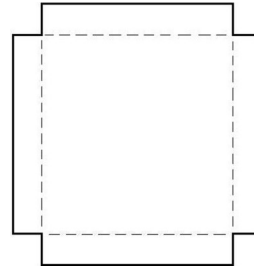
on several sides of it during the same heat.

One of the ways to deal with this is to put your solder pad onto a turntable. That way you can rotate each piece into position when you need to or can rotate the pad to reach another side of a larger piece.



All you need to make one of these is a piece of aluminum sheet and an inexpensive turn table assembly. A good hardware store will have both, although you can usually find the aluminum in the scrap pile of a local sheet metal shop.

In building a turntable for my 6 inch solder pad, I used a seven inch square piece of aluminum and cut out 1/2 inch notches from each corner. Then I used a bench vice to bend the sides along the dotted lines to form a tray that cradles the solder pad. I attached the tray to the turntable assembly with a couple small machine screws and nuts.



QUENCHING

Some jewelers drop the hot piece from soldering directly into the pickle. Do you hear that little hiss? The hot piece sends small droplets of acid into the air. This can rust nearby tools and can't be all that good to breathe either. To avoid this I quench in water.

A coffee cup of water at the solder station lets me cool a soldered piece before dumping it into the pickle. It's also useful for annealing metals and for cooling off tweezers.

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/>

Grassy Mountain

When:

May 24TH 2014

What:

We'll be collecting petrified wood

Where:

8:00 a.m. Meeting @ GEM STOP gas station 5644 BUNTROCK RD MARSING, ID 83639 West on Hwy 55 through Marsing to intersection @ Hwy 55 and Hwy 95.

8:30 a.m. Depart We will travel Hwy 95 to the town of Owyhee.

Parking will be directed and organized as members arrive. Club will depart around midday.

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. Don't forget your EYE PROTECTION!

Other equipment you may need:

Sledge hammer, rock bar, pry bar, and a spray bottle with water.

Beacon Hill Claim: Geodes

When: Saturday June 7th & Sunday June 8th; meet between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. We will leave promptly at 8:00 a.m. both days

Where to meet: Rest area on I-84 just after crossing the Snake River going into Ontario Oregon.

How to get there: Travel West on I-84 to Exit 377 rest area. Pull into rest area.

Equipment needed: rock hammer, bucket, rock pick or chisel, shovel, safety glasses, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, food for the time you will be there, water, full tank of gas, and any items you need for your personal use. The claim is located on private property so club field trips are the only time we can access the claim.

If you would like more information on up coming trips please come to our Idaho Gem Club meeting on May 20th, 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain View Church of the Brethren 2833 N. Cole Rd.

Call our Field Trip Chairmen

Aaron Wanner @ 208-794-9474 cell or

Email: aaronwanner@gmail.com

Brent Stewart @208-863-9336 cell

Joe Nielsen

Rockhounds Rock & Slab Sale

Approximately 1000 slabs

New material—rough rock—lots of good stuff

Top varieties will be available

Stones, garnets, sapphires, blue opal

Date of sale: weekend of May 23rd, 24th, & 25th

For more information call Joe Nielsen at
869-6325

Federation & Other Club News

More Dates to Remember

Madras—Rock * Gem and Mineral Show

June 25th - June 29, 2014

Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Madras, Oregon

<http://www.allrockhoundspowwowclubofamerica.com/#!madras-flyer>

Inter-Regional Fieldtrip in Terry, MT. July 31, August 1-3, 2014. Email dtruefossils12@yahoo.com2014

NFMS Rock & Gem Show & Convention. Hermiston Conference Center. August 15-16 from 10-6pm, and August 17 from 10-4pm. For more information go to: <http://www.amfed.org/nfms/documents/NorthwestNewsletter/NW0414.PDF>

Unique Field Trip

Al Larson has made available his rocks collected over a number of years to the newer members of the Idaho Gem Club. This is an opportunity to see and collect many varieties that are no longer available.

Chris Blickfeldt has made available his property to host this field trip. Chris lives at 236 Tollgate Rd., Boise, Idaho 83716

Directions to Chris's place are: take Highway 21, east of Boise, towards Idaho City; at Milepost 22 go left on Robie Creek, go 6 1/2 miles and turn left uphill on Tollgate. At 1 1/2 mi. yellow cement mixer on left, on right a bus stop sign on Big Bear go straight there. At no smoking sign turn right and you are there.

Date is May 31st between 11 A.M and 2 P.M.

For more info you can email Chris at: grumpies@q.com

Idaho Gem Club

General Meeting Program Schedule

May- ROCKHOUNDING 101 - Making the most of your field trip experience - tools/ techniques by Field trip Committee.

Welcome New Members

Ron & Sharon Alexander
9998 W. Alliance St.
Boise, Idaho 83704-4069
360-903-3726

Bob & Janet Bailey
2925 N. Centrepont Way
Meridian, Idaho 83646-
6266
789-1179

Bruce & Mary Fewkes
517 S. Wooddale Pl.
Eagle, Idaho 83616-7713
598-5760

Garrell Hathaway
1036 N West 13th Ave,
Meridian, Idaho 86342-
1902
412-1747

Dick Johnson
7332 Limelight Ct
Boise, Idaho 83714-2061
859-9826

Max & Mary Johnson
2754 N Argentina Way
Boise Idaho 83704-9407
440-3308

Sam & Dixie Lair
1419 Monte Vista Dr.
Caldwell, Idaho 83605-2123
249-6144

Richard & Barbara Nesbitt
PO Box 913
Meridian, Idaho 83680-
0913
249-2355

Niles & Judy Nordquist
Gaetana & Richard
Quincy, Cyrus, & Cal
4652 N Echo Summit Pl.
Star, Idaho 83669-5362
855-2434

Derek Smith
10919 W. Bumblebee Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83713-1111
378-9778

YESTER YEAR

September 1973

The rate for dealers at our next Gem Show will be \$3.50 a square foot. The Club purchased 100 more yards of material for the show.

Al Larson said he would have a stand ready for the gem case that is to be put in the new library the second of July.

There will be no program at the August picnic, but every one should bring trading and bragging rocks.

The next field trip will be south of Vale for pink plume agate. The August field trip will be to Cow Creek for red moss agates, cinnabar, jasper, red jasper, wood and colored bog.

At the next meeting Jim Waller would demonstrate a short cut to making fire opal triplets instead of having a program.

Carl Cantwell and Al Larson brought their designs for show cases. The most practical design will be selected and the club will make up to twenty show cases, ten will go to club members.

The BLM sent their plans for the Challis area and the President state the rock hounds should send in their requirements. More Challis planning material was sent in by the BLM, and a meeting will be held in Boise.

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

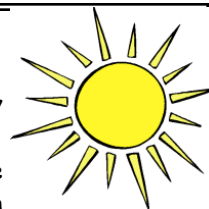
(Pres. Message—continued from page 1)

part of the resolution involves adding a charge for use of the workshop (\$5/hour) and fees for classes to cover these expenses. This is in line with what other clubs charge for similar access and will make the club workshop more accessible to all in the club. I hope that we can have a fruitful discussion and vote on this resolution that will reflect the desires of club members.

Regards,
Phil Neuhooff, President

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

MAY		May Birthstones
5/4	Garrell Hathaway	Faceted — Emerald
5/5	Deb Butte	Cabochon —
5/5	Victoria Johnson	Chrysoprase
5/6	Richard Clark	
5/10	Ronel Selbach	JUNE
5/14	Artie Hutson	6/1 Niles Nordquist
5/14	D.J. Johnson	6/4 June McConnell
5/14	Mary Johnson	6/8 Beverly Hopkins
5/14	Carl Woodland	6/11 Eldon Lutz
5/15	Dick Corbett	6/11 Robert L. Turner
5/16	Mike Witschen	6/15 Douglas Johnson
5/18	Mary Ellen Biebel	6/15 Sarah Neuhoﬀ
5/19	Twila Gallaher	6/16 Chris Blickfeldt
5/22	Janice Egner	6/17 Sandy Blodgett
5/22	Duane Mayer	6/18 Kyle Wold
5/24	Derek Smith	6/18 Sydney Wold
5/25	Mike Egner	6/21 Laura Lindsay
5/26	Chuck Fawcett	6/21 Cheryl Peterson
5/26	Wilma Redman	6/24 Bill Carey
5/24	Cyrus Youngkin	6/30 Jonathan Barnett
5/27	Joan Dethlefs	
5/30	Bob Bailey	June Birthstones
5/30	Gary Dailey	Faceted — Alexandrite
5/30	Richard Nesbitt	Cabochon — Moonstone
5/30	Norma Russell	Traditional — Pearl

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!**

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

Dates To Remember

GENERAL MEETING

3rd. Tuesday of every month
May 20, 2014

Church of the Brethren
2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho
Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEETING:

1st. Tuesday of every month
June 3, 2014

Church of the Brethren
2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho
Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.

May 2014

Chair: Larry and Carol Lugar
362-1277

Need Volunteers to help

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

Need approximately 8 dozen cookies.

Wrapped door prizes are also needed.

Arrive early enough to set up the chairs. The chairperson brings the coffee urn, coffee, punch, tea, 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

June 2014

Chair:

Diane Perkins -

Cheryl Peterson—887-5363

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:

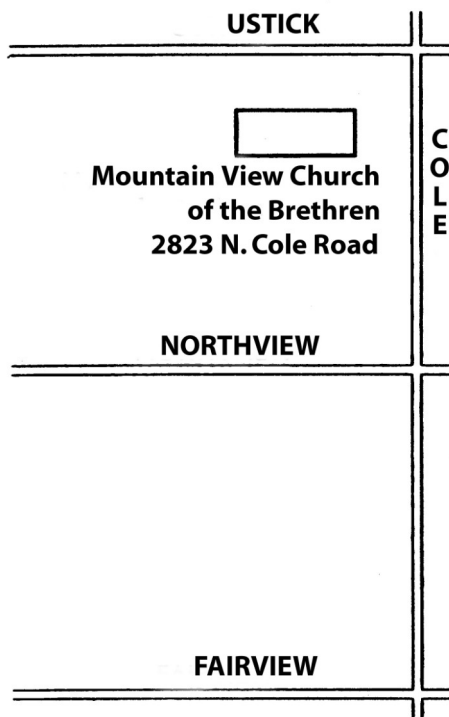
.....\$17.00 per person
\$20.00 per couple
\$23.00 per family

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.

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



Rocky Rattlers

Juniors need to bring their folders to
 the meeting this month