



Club Web Site [www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)

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**Grindings**  
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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**Editor**  
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President's Message, November 2014

The wet weather of the past week is a reminder that we all need to be careful on backcountry roads. Please don't add to the deterioration of these roads by driving on wet surfaces this time of year. That said, late Fall and Winter can be great times during dry spells to explore the canyonlands of the Owyhees and adjacent areas. It's also a great time to catch up on those lapidary projects left over from Summer collecting.

This month the club will be holding elections for board positions. Four positions are up for election: three terms of three years each and one for one year. The nominating committee has selected a group of applicants whose bios can be found elsewhere in the Grindings. I would like to remind everyone that any member in good standing can be nominated from the floor by themselves or others. If you are interested in running for the board, please come to the meeting. Board membership is your opportunity to shape the direction of the club.

As is our tradition, there will be auctions after the November and December general meetings. Typically the November meeting has focused on lapidary rough and specimens. The December auction typically has featured finished jewelry and lapidary craft items that make great Christmas gifts. As always, the items for auction are supplied by club members, so please be generous in donating items for the auction and in bidding. Proceeds of these auctions benefit the club banquet in January. Speaking of the banquet, tickets will go on sale at the December meeting.

Just a reminder, for those of you who haven't turned in dues for the next year, they are due now (pun intended). Please note the new dues structure listed in the Grindings.

Phil Neuhoff, President

## General Meeting

October 21, 2014

Our meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. President Phil Neuhoff was excused for the evening, 2nd Vice President Deana Ashton was presiding over the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carl Woodland.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" was made by Brent Stewart and seconded by Dan Conley.

We had several guests and new members present this evening.

Junior doorprizes were drawn for 2 lucky winners.

Adult doorprizes were drawn for 15 winners.

Building Fund had 3 winners.

**Juniors report**, Ed Moser was absent this evening. But Janelle Wintersteen and Coyote D. Short for the Juniors to study Volcanology.

**Federation report**, Charles McCreath wanted everyone to keep in mind the Annual Meeting is just a few months away. It will be held in Ogden, UT. April 10-12, 2015.

There were no new reports from the Secretary or the Workshop. (The months of October/November no shops to be held).

**DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!** Keep in mind the new costs this year. Single \$22, Couples \$25, and Families \$28.

Brent Stewart spoke of going to several nearby shows. He's looking into some ideas for our show in 2015, such as Special Awards for showcases, raffles, etc.

Our program tonight was of the **"70" year Anniversary of Stewarts Gem Shop**. He had early photos of how buildings and business locations looked. Thank you Brent for sharing your families business history.

**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>

## Board Meeting

November 4, 2014

Our meeting was called to order by President Phil Neuhoff at 7:20pm.

Present tonight were Phil N., Dana Robinson, Brent Stewart, Deana Ashton, Charles McCreath, Barb Wanner, Phil Worley, Ed Moser, and Melodee Worley. Willa Renken was excused.

Our guest was Shirley McCreath.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" was made by Phil W. and 2nd by Dana R.

**Secretaries report**, I sent a couple of emails to local news stations, (KIVI tv and KTVB) to ask for any help, in regards to our license plate sales. As of now I've had no response. I've received a business card from a member, about a rock shop, called Pearls of Paradise, located in Dayton, OR.

**Library report**, a special "Thank You" to Diane Perkins for her donation of a few books to our library. I've gotten 2 new Rock & Gem magazines to share.

Treasurers report, balances and disbursements.

**CLUB DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!**

**Federation report**, Charles spoke of the Annual Show is just a few months away. In Ogden, UT April 10-12, 2015. There's additional information of the 2016 Annual Show. It's to be held in Albany, OR from July 27-Aug 1. As Charles or myself get information we'll pass it along.

Our **program on November 18**, will be by our Scholarship recipient, Danielle Terhaar. She will be contacted to confirm this date. If she wouldn't be available, Brent S. will speak about Jaspers.

**License plates report**, Deana A. is meeting with the "Statesman" and placing an ad in this months paper. There will be a mass mailing going out also. Deana has been in touch with a representative of the DMV, to get an accurate count for our sales, to see where we stand, as far as reaching our goal.

**November and December** we'll be having auctions. Raw materials and finished items any member would like to donate. These moneys help offset our Banquet cost.



Rocky Rattlers

Juniors, "BRING YOUR FOLDERS!"

**No workshop** will be held this month, but the workshop will resume in December 20-21. Details of time will be passed along.

**Dealer and vendor applications** are rolling in for our upcoming show in 2015. Our current cost for their space is \$14.00 a foot. Through further discussion, we'll be raising those fees to \$18.00 a foot. A motion to raise our dealer set up cost from \$14 to \$18 was by Charles M. and seconded by Deana A.

**Old business**, Dana R. our **Nomination Committee** Chair, has received 4 nominees for the open board positions, with their biographies. Brent S. and Phil Stephensen are working together on a business plan and talking with local persons with adequate space for our needs.

**New business**, sales of Banquet tickets will happen on December 16. After that date they'll be available at Stewarts Gem Shop. There will be 4 meal choices.

In the future, if anyone is needing reimbursed for moneys they've spent for the club, PLEASE attend a board meeting or general meeting. Unless arranged with our treasurer, these are the best options for reimbursements.

The club has received some agate information from the University Press of Kentucky. They have a **book for sale**, I'll have information available for anyone interested.

We had 5 **new member** applications. A motion to accept these new members (4 with 1 pending) by Ed Moser and 2nd by Dana R.

We adjourned at 8:55pm.

## **NEW MEMBERS:**

1. Kathy Purdham
2. Emily Wheeler
3. Robert McCrea
4. Mike Allen

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## **Earth Science & Lapidary License Plate report:**

WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?  
404 plates need to be sold  
by Dec. 31, 2014 to save our plate.  
Have you upgraded yet?



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Refreshment Committee:  
NOVEMBER - Andy and Deb Housh

DECEMBER: ALL MEMBER COOKIE EXCHANGE!!

Share holiday goodies with other members !  
Cookies, fudge, candies, any goodies you create, bring a "sack of 12" to exchange with others!

Please bring a second plate for the refreshment counter to share as well. Last year was an amazing and delicious assortment of homemade candies and confections we all enjoyed! Please participate!

Come early to help with chair set up and clean up after meeting.

## **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!

Report from Nominating Committee by Dana Robinson:

The Board nominations for board members for three year terms are:

1. David Douglas
2. Andy Housch
3. Cheryl Peterson
4. Phil Neuhoff has been nominated for the remaining one year term position

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the next general meeting.

#### NOMINATED BOARD MEMBER PROFILES:

##### 1. David Douglass

I joined the Idaho Gem Club 3 years ago as a beginner. That's when I started to learn what to look for when collecting. I knew I liked to collect beautiful stones, but didn't know what they were or all of the things that can be done with them. I've been on 6-8 field trips each year since joining and helped with show set-up and working booths last year. I would like to become much more involved in the workings of the Gem Club. Having workshops with available equipment and classes is very important to me.

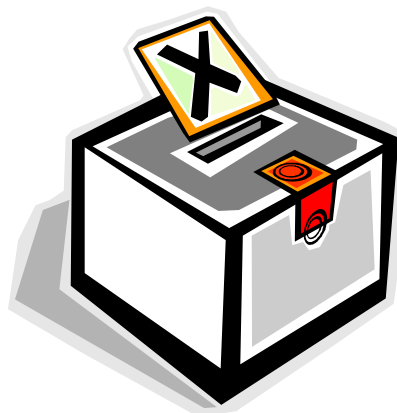
##### 3. Cheryl Peterson

My interest in rocks and gems got started about 5 years ago while still living in California. I was mainly interested in beads, making jewelry and wire wrapping. After a few trips to Quartzsite, I truly got interested in rocks and gems. I joined the rock and gem club in Stockton, CA, and learned about cutting and polishing cabachons. After moving to Idaho, and on another trip to Arizona, I got my own Genie. Wanting to meet other like-minded people, I

found the Idaho Gem Club. I have met so many knowledgeable people and true rockhounds, even going on a few field trips. I have added to my collection of rocks and rock slabs and look forward to doing more field trips and classes that come available in wire wrapping.

##### 4. Phil Neuhoff (1 year term)

I joined the Idaho Gem Club in 2008 after I moved to Eagle from Florida. I was born in Iowa, and after studying geology at the University of Iowa I moved to California for graduate school at Stanford University. Our family moved to Florida in 2001 where I was a geology professor at the University of Florida for seven years. I currently work as a geologist in the mining and geothermal energy industries. My wife Christy and I have two children, Jackson (14) and Sarah (11) who love going on field trips and participating in Rocky Rattlers. I am running for my third (partial) term on the board because I really value the camaraderie and dedication to the Earth sciences hobby of the members of the club. I am currently club president and while on the board I have served as second vice president and am currently the scholarship chairman as well as being involved in the license plate program. I hope to continue working with and through the club to support educational opportunities for students of all ages.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

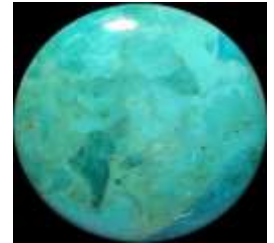
11/1 Peggy Dean  
 11/2 Wes Hirons  
 11/5 Hauns Snyder  
 11/6 Jaden Wanner  
 11/7 Peggy Blickfeldt  
 11/7 Larry McConnell  
 11/13 Rick Bidwell  
 11/14 Cooper Berryman  
 11/14 Robert Burns  
 11/19 Steve Ostrander  
 11/20 Donna Ford  
 11/21 Gary Hanes  
 11/21 Jeff Hines  
 11/23 Marge Conley  
 11/23 Dakota Ford  
 11/24 Dan Doersch  
 11/26 Phil Neuhoff  
 11/27 Gary Smith  
 11/30 Sandra Jewell  
*November Birthstones*  
 Faceted - Topaz or Citrine  
 Cabochon — Amber



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sam Lair  
 Jan Martinek  
 12/3 Kris Berg  
 12/3 David Schmidt  
 12/4 Shannon T. Tharp  
 12/4 Tenaya Madsen  
 12/5 Brad Hoots  
 12/6 Carol Lugar  
 12/7 Micole Mayfield  
 12/8 Lillie Rogers  
 12/9 Mary Fewkes  
 12/9 Robert Redman  
 12/10 Joan Alvey  
 12/10 Cheryl Link  
 12/11 Deanne Hoots  
 12/11 Michael George  
 12/11 Gia Stewart  
 12/12 Ryan Petross  
 12/15 Randy Benson  
 12/17 Carolyn Whipple  
 12/18 Janet French  
 12/18 Dan Phillips  
 12/18 Michael Snyder  
 12/19 Doug Renken  
 12/21 Dee Hanes  
 12/22 Steve Longbottom  
 12/23 Joe Nielson  
 12/23 Christi Hogle  
 12/30 Tony Griffin

*December Birthstones*  
 Faceted - Blue Zircon  
 Cabochon - Turquoise



## THE SUNSHINE LADY



The Sunshine Lady relies on member notification for Idaho Gem Club members who are in need of sunshine and cheer. I will send good wishes, flowers, & greetings on behalf of the Idaho Gem Club.

If you know of any members in the hospital, needing get well cheer at home, or who have lost a family member, please call **Deana Ashton at 208-794-5628** or email at **gemdigger2014@outlook.com**

Thank you for showing concern for your fellow members!



## BENCH TIPS

### FANCY RIVET HEADS



For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin"

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.

### RESHAPING SILICONE WHEELS

Silicone polishing wheels in the Dremel or Foredom are a great time saver, but after using them a bit they often need to be reshaped. This is particularly true with the knife-edge wheels.

The natural thought is to grab one of your files and hold it up against the rotating wheel to reshape it. But this gives you a problem. The grinding grit in the silicone wheel is much harder than steel, meaning that you end up grinding down the teeth of your file.

The best way to reshape your polishing wheels is to use a diamond file or a separating disk. If you don't have one and must use a steel file, I sacrifice the area of the file that is closest to the handle. That's an area which is not used in normal benchwork.



### MOBILE FLEXSHAFT STAND

A handy mobile stand for your flexshaft can be made easily and quickly from the base of an old swivel office chair. You can find these chairs being thrown out at office buildings and schools. I just asked the custodian in my building to set one aside for me.

To separate the chair from the wheeled base, simply remove the spring clip from the center bottom. I use a small screwdriver or a pair of pliers.

To make the stand, you'll need two pieces of threaded galvanized steel pipe and a pipe fitting from a hardware store. The first length of pipe is 3/4 inch diameter to fit the hole in most chair bases. The second piece is a length of less expensive 1/2 inch pipe.

The total length of the two pipes should be five feet. I used a two foot length of 3/4 pipe and a three foot length of 1/2 pipe. They are joined together by a pipe fitting called a 3/4 to 1/2 reducing coupler.



## History of Amber

Although Baltic amber is well known, the history of amber includes many countries and cultures, not just those in the Baltic region. Amber gem stone artifacts and jewelry have been found in many places, and this may be because it was possibly a trade item that ended up in the hands of those who had the wealth. Archaeologists have found many beautifully carved amber pieces in graves...dating back around 2000 b.c. or before.

Many of the artifacts made of amber had insects within them. These were probably thought to have magical virtues, as they were carved into hunting talismans... worn to ensure safe and abundant hunting. A well known find was made in Britain at Hove near Brighton of an Amber cup. There has even been Amber discovered in Egyptian tombs... including that of Tutankhamen.

You may be able to find interesting things in the pieces you buy... including small bugs in amber... and sometimes a spider or a dragonfly in amber. Within this resin were trapped many different things, including parts of the trees... such as leaves and pine needles.

### Where Does Amber Gem Stone Come From

Amber is available from sources in quite a few countries, and depending on where it is found, the quality may vary. It comes from Russia, Poland, Britain, Italy and Germany.

It can be obtained reasonably easily... and comes in various shades from pale yellow through to a dark orange color. The traditional

Amber color is middle of the range... and the best specimens are fairly clear, although pieces of Amber may have inclusions of plant matter or insects within them.

Baltic Amber is highly prized for its high quality. Polish craftsmen have long been reputed for making beautifully crafted pieces from it. Green amber may be natural... but most green amber jewelry sold, is made from stone that has been through a process that creates the color artificially.

It has an electrical charge when rubbed... and was called '*elektron*' by the ancient Greeks... and this is thought to be the origin of the word electricity.

## What Is The Origin Of Amber Gem Stone?

When looking to find out, what is the origin of Amber... the search goes back millions of years. Amber resin is from trees, that went solid then became fossilized... over many, many thousands of years. Around 45 million years ago, pine trees in the Baltic regions, the Scandinavian countries... discharged resins.

Gradually this resin moved from the pine forests and ended up close to the coastal regions.

From the coastal regions the resin again moved and it ended up in the bottom of the sea where it fossilized.

Much later it was brought to the surface by glaciers and deposited on the land, where it has been found since that time.

All of this process happened many thousands of years ago, evidenced by the fact that Baltic Amber jewelry dates back to well before Christ. Celtic Amber jewelry has been found, made from beautiful Amber gem stone.

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:**

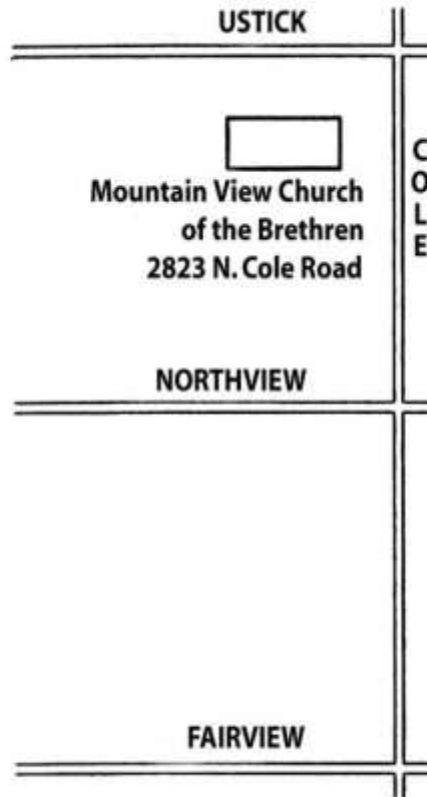
- .....\$22.00 per person
- .....\$25.00 per couple
- .....\$28.00 per family

**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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