


Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 75 NO 4

April 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Phil Neuhoﬀ
939-4508

pneuhoﬀ@yahoo.com

1st Vice President

Willa Renken
362-3941

wlr_dkr@msn.com

2nd Vice President

Deana Ashton
794-5628

shesteched@msn.com

Secretary: Melodee Worley

890-6834

melphilw@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Barbara Wanner

794-7968

NFMS Director:

Charles McCreath
344-5085

Board Members:

David Douglas
208-559-7216

douglas.dm@gmail.com

Sandy Blodgett
208-376-8051

Cheryl Peterson
208-887-5363

cpete4421@gmail.com

Dana Robinson
343-0487

drobinso@boisestate.edu

Brent Stewart
863-9336

gene@stewartsgemshopinc.com

Ed Moser
340-8060

ed.moser15@gmail.com

Editor: Linda Barlow

724-3309

barlow596@gmail.com

Club Website

www.idahogemclub.com

President's Message

I just returned from the Northwest Federation show in Ogden. The Golden Spike Club put on a very nice show and it was an excellent opportunity to meet rockhounds from other clubs. A special treat was the presence of Bob Jones, who many of you know from his columns in *Rock and Gem* magazine. It was great to see a good contingent from our club at the show. Several of our members participated in the field trips, and I hope they will bring some of their finds to the next meeting to share with the club. Representing our club in the Federation business meeting were our Federation delegate and alternate, Charles and Shirley McCreath. Charles and Shirley provide a great service to the club by representing us at these meetings.

Field trip season is now upon us. This month we have a field trip to Graveyard Point (additional details are provided elsewhere in the Grindings and will be discussed at the meeting). This is a great area for a field trip, especially for new members. I also want to alert the members to a special field trip coming up on June 6. Thunder Mountain Gold has invited the club to come up to their mining operation at South Mountain for a tour and mineral collecting. For those not familiar with South Mountain, it is one of the premier mineral localities in Idaho, providing perhaps the best ilvaite and hedenbergite specimens in the world along with a host of other minerals. Further details about the trip will be provided next month as they become available, but mark your calendars now for this special full day adventure.

Charles and Shirley McCreath have donated a significant parcel of fist sized Graveyard Point agate to the club for someone to tumble for upcoming gem shows. This material will need to be broken down a bit to be tumbled. The club also has one or two large tumblers that could be employed in these efforts. If anyone is interested in tumbling this material for the club, please contact me.

One of the meetings at the Federation show was a discussion about public lands access. We had a healthy discussion about the ongoing efforts to limit access to public lands for rockhounding and other activities, as well as potential avenues for maintaining access. As part of this discussion and other conversations with members, I have become aware of several situations where commercial poaching of petrified wood and other materials accompanied by significant unmitigated land disturbance has occurred. One of these was at the Lolo Pass crystal locality, which has now been closed to all collecting. Another is one of our favorite field trip sites. These activities threaten access to public lands, as rockhounds like us engaged in small scale activities get blamed for the reckless land destruction of poachers. If you have information about these activities, witness them or their aftermath, please report it. I see this situation and its effects to be much like poaching of wildlife. Most hunters are responsible and follow rules and regulations governing their sport, just as most rockhounds do. Expect to hear more about these issues in the future as the Federation is partnering with other groups affected by access issues to keep our public lands open.

Phil Neuhoﬀ, President

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
March 17th, 2015**

President Phil Neuhoft called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

He asked Jim Dillion to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

We had quite a crowd this evening, including new members and guests.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" was by Phil Worley and a 2nd by Duane Mayer.

Door prizes were drawn for 7 Junior winners and 1 adult winner.

Building fund drew door prizes for 5 lucky winners.

There was nothing new to report from some committees this evening.

Federation report, Charles McCreath stated he's collecting "Stamps" for cancer. The last time for turn in would be the Board Meeting on the 7th of April. He and Shirley will be loading up to head to the Ogden NFMS Annual Meeting.

The Library is currently open.

Deana Ashton asked for refreshment committee volunteers for upcoming meetings.

Brent Stewart had a special "Thank You" for Phil Sandmeyer and the Timberline Students who helped at our recent Idaho Rock and Gem Show. They volunteered with set-up and numerous booths in the show.

Brent S. donated 2 new books to the Library. Rainbow Minerals of Franklin/Sterling Hill N.J. by Bob Jones. Thank you Brent.

Before his program tonight. He gave some basic examples of florescent specimens. Available to members, at Stewarts Gem Shop are portable lights.

Phil N. showed members what different specimens do under UV light. He also used short-wave lighting.

New business: Barb Wanner wanted anyone who might have recently joined, but hasn't received their member cards or badges, to see either herself or Rick Corbet.

Old business: There was a bag left at the Silent Auction table, at the recent show. If you're missing a bag, contact Phil N.

Linda Barlow is going to the Ogden NFMS Annual Meeting. She has a room, with an extra bed for anyone needing a place to stay. Contact Linda.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melodee Worley - Secretary*

THE GRINDINGS

is the monthly newsletter of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc., associated with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Permission to copy is freely granted when proper credit is given to both the publication and the author. Articles without bylines are written by the



**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
Board Meeting
April 7th, 2015**

Our meeting was called to order by President Phil N.

PRESENT: Ed M., Charles M., Phil N., Brent S., Deana A., Melodee W., David D., Willa R., and Sandy B. **Absent** was Barb W., due to an illness. **ABSENT:** Dana R. and Cheryl P. **GUESTS:** were Shirley M. and Doug R.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" was by Willa R. & seconded by Ed M.

My secretary report was my visit to collect the clubs mail, a new Rock & Gem Magazine for the Library, and a "Thank You" card from our past Scholarship recipient, Danielle Terhaar. I've asked at this time if someone would take over my secretary and librarian duties, while I'm out of town. Deana A. will be doing so for me. Thanks Deana.

TREASURER REPORT: About balances and disbursements. Most of the info of numbers for the show are rolling in.

At this time Willa R. is wanting to discuss the increase of our vendors at our Id Gem Club Show. She was wanting to inquire about the cost going from \$14 to \$18 per foot. She was absent on the evening of November 4th's board meeting. Everyone thought the increase was only \$2 not \$4. So after some discussion, a motion to amend the increase in pricing will be from \$14 to \$16. This was by Willa R. and seconded by David D. A vote was asked for and the motion passed. Through further discussion, one of our vendors had paid moneys in advance. A motion to reimburse his overpayment was made by Ed M. and seconded by Sandy B. The treasurer will be contacted to carry out this refund.

FEDERATION REPORT: Charles M. of course, made mention of the NFMS meeting in Ogden, UT is this weekend. He said according to the NFMS newsletter, there will be several DVDs for sale, on different subjects. The Board asked that he purchase a few of interest and possibly get a price list for others. These will be added to the Library.

LICENSE PLATE REPORT: Deana A. has been at the Capital building on several occasions. To get our license plate quota eliminated, as of now it didn't get in this past time, but she's been assured it'll be on the Docket come the new year. For now sales of plates are still happening and through the end of this year. She is asking that moneys she's been receiving be lowered, to provide money for Brent S. to still continue his talking at local schools.

JUNIORS REPORT: "BRING YOUR FOLDERS" emphasised. Ed M. is wanting Juniors to recap their recent study of florescent specimens. Anyone having a specimen that might be florescent, please bring it in for the meeting. Anyone who may have a State of ID map that we gave out to schools, Ed is wanting to have one available to show the Juniors specific locations in the state.

Phil N. has revised the "scholarship" application and sent it out to possible applicants.

OLD BUSINESS: I've been on the hunt for ideas for new show table coverings. I have shown the Board some info, and a motion was by Willa R. and seconded by Deana A. for me to order the table coverings. An additional motion was made about pricing, from \$300 to \$500, by Willa R. and seconded by Deana A.

At this time David D. inquired on any new information about our workshop. Brent S. and Aaron W. have been looking into some locations. Such as the upper level of the Mining Museum. Brent's had several rock saws donated to the club for our shop. The

donating persons would like a recognition plaque, when everything is in place. Other Board members are also looking into locations and possible funding for startup.

NEW BUSINESS: Deana A. said that our new Editor Linda Barlow, is looking into some training at the Ogden NFMS Meeting.

We had 2 new membership applications, a motion to accept these new members was by Sandy B. and seconded by Deana A.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

Just a reminder folks if you haven't paid your dues, please do so. Paying your dues keeps your newsletter coming, so you know what's going to be happening. Field trips, etc.

Respectfully submitted Melodee Worley - Secretary

Idaho Gem Club Field Trips 2015

APRIL 25: Plume Agate @ Graveyard Point, Idaho
 May 23: Fire Opal & Jasper @ Whangdoodle-Queenstone, Idaho
 June 6: Ilvaite & Hedenburgite @ South Mountain, Idaho
 June 20: Petrified Wood @ Bruneau, Idaho
 July 24-26: Obsidian @ Glass Butte, Oregon
 August 22-23: Agate @ Carry, Idaho
 September 19: Jasper @ Haystack Butte, Oregon
SOMETIME THIS YEAR:
 Agate Nodules @ Beacon Hill, Idaho
 Field Trip Contacts:
 Aaron Wanner: aaronwanner@gmail.com or 208-794-9474
 Brent Stewart: rocksbybrent@gmail.com or 208-863-9336

Graveyard Point

When: Apr 25th 2015

What: Collecting agate, agate, agate

Where: 7:30 a.m. Meet at the **GEM STOP** at the intersection of Hwy 55 and Hwy 95
 8:00 a.m. Depart for Graveyard Point.

Equipment needed: rock hammer, pick, 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. A pry bar could be useful also.

If you would like more information, please come to our Gem Club Meeting or Call our Field Trip Chairmen

Aaron Wanner @ 794-9474 cell phone

Email: aaronwanner@gmail.com

Or Brent Stewart @208-863-9336 cell

ALAA NEWS

ALAA Report

New Wilderness Areas in Montana and the Reason Why
 A News Report from: Citizens for Balanced Use (summarized)

CBU has always been opposed to new wilderness and "land of no use," and we will continue to fight for multiple-use recreation, active forest management, and responsible resource development on our current federally managed public lands.

The Defense Spending Bill was a must-pass piece of legislation and legislators attached their pork in order to pass some things they wanted. Senator Tester added his Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, setting aside another 650,000 acres of new wilderness in Montana.

CBU worked hard to have this added piece of legislation removed and in the end Congressman Daines succeeded. But in return for removing the FJRA, the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act was inserted. It adds approximately 67,000 acres to two wilderness areas and designates roughly 208,000 acres of adjacent federal land as Conservation Management Areas.

Are we happy? No. But it could have been worse. CBU is very disappointed in how Congress jammed bills into a must-pass Defense Spending Bill. We are saddened for the people close to the Rocky Mountain Front because of the further restrictions and closures they received. The Rocky Mountain Front wilderness bill was opposed by local government, recreation, agriculture and resource groups. If we had more control over these lands, rather than the D.C. bureaucrats, these actions would not occur. —Adapted from *ALAA Newsletter* (Oct.-Dec., 2014).

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, Working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

Workshop Report No Workshop month

Federation Fieldtrip July 2-5

Vale, Grassy Mountain and Hoo Doo Basin

Save the date for this year's federation field trip in eastern Oregon. This will be in the Vale, Grassy Mountain and Hoo Doo Basin areas. GREAT Petrified wood. The permit process for this area will take some time. Watch for updates and if you would like to help with this one, contact Doug True, dtruefossils12@yahoo.com

NFMS NEWS

NFMS ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 10-12, 2015



NFMS MEETING FIELD TRIP 4/10/15 TOPAZ MOUNTAIN



ABOVE: PURPLE TOPAZ FOUND AT
TOPAZ MOUNTAIN, UTAH



Above: IGC Delegation
to NFMS Annual Meeting
Charles & Shirley
McCreath, Pres. Phil
Neuhoff, & Brent Stewart

← Deana Ashton with
Bob & Carol Jones from
Rock & Gem Magazine



IGC 1ST VP DEANA ASHTON FOUND THIS +
10 MORE TOPAZ ON FIELD TRIP TO TOPAZ
MOUNTAIN DURING NFMS ANNUAL MEETING!

IGC President Phil Neuhoff
with Miss Rodeo Idaho at
NFMS Golden Spike Gem
Show held at Golden Spike
Arena in Ogden, Utah



**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>

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!**

Bench Tips

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/

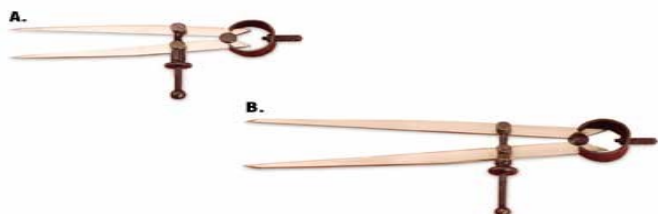
DIVIDERS

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them.

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.



PIECE OF LEATHER

Leather has a multitude of uses in the shop. I often use a scrap of it to avoid scratching the back of a piece of jewelry while setting stones. It's also great for times when you need to clamp one of your tools in a vise, for instance a drawplate



Welcome New Members

1. John Conklin, Caldwell
 2. Phillip Thompson, Boise
- Junior Rattlers:
1. Bobbie Cooperman, Boise
 2. Mike Cooperman, Boise

YESTERYEAR

April 1975

President Eugene Stewart opened the meeting. Our next field trip will be on April 27 to the club's Beacon Hill nodule claim for assessment work. An invitation from the Emmett club to their annual Pow Wow on May 3rd and 4th at Graveyard Point was read. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the upcoming rock show. Carl Cantwell suggested that in view of the value of the material on display and brought in by the dealers it would be prudent to have an armed and uniformed guard in supplement to our own security forces.

Gene Stewart said a possible remedy to bolster the paid attendance to the show would be to issue a coupon in the paper offering 25 cents off each adult admission.

Del Blickfeldt said he felt that by offering field trips during the time of the show we could attract more out of town attendance.

Several said they thought a good type of material offered in the grab bags would sell real well. Gene Stewart offered to donate the paper bags and Pauline Randolph said she would contact Thelma Dresser to put her crew to filling grab bags to be sold for 25 cents each.

In Loving Memory of Days Gone By

Marge Conley - Historian

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, sups, & napkins.
Afterward, put meeting tables & chairs away, clean kitchen, & sweep the room.
Gather & take all trash with you. Don't forget it is the responsibility of the chair for the coming month to pick up the coffee pot, take it home, & bring it to the next meeting.

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY

April

4/2 John Benedict
 4/3 Marcy Belcoe
 4/4 Jean Church
 4/8 Sherry Hederer
 4/10 Roger Johnson
 4/13 Edwin Moser
 4/13 Rick Olmstead
 4/14 Linda Barlow
 4/15 Jack Gambassi
 4/17 Ann Basley
 4/17 Jeanmarie McAlvoy
 4/19 Rick Corbett
 4/22 Willa Renken
 4/27 Terry Belcoe
 4/28 Jim Yandle

April Birthstones
Faceted — Diamond



**Cabochon — Rock
 Crystal**

**MAY**

5/3 Len Corless
 5/4 Garrell Hathaway
 5/10 Robert McCrea
 5/14 Michael Gartman
 5/14 Dick Johnson
 5/14 Jan Johnson
 5/14 Glenn Mumford
 5/16 Mike Witschen
 5/17 Amy Watson
 5/18 Mary Ellen Biebel
 5/18 Diane Wheeler
 5/19 Larry Friend
 5/22 Janice Egner
 5/22 Randi Gladwell
 5/22 Duane Mayer
 5/24 Larry Ridley
 5/25 David Douglas
 5/25 Mike Egner
 5/26 Nancy Schlossman
 5/30 Blaine Dahlstrom

May Birthstones
Faceted — Emerald



Cabochon-Chrysoprase



METAPHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF STONES & CRYSTALS

The **Diamond** symbolizes purity, commitment, fidelity, & wealth. It blocks geopathic or electromagnetic stress (especially worn as earrings).

As an energy amplifier, it never needs recharging because it increases energy, positive and negative.

Psychologically, it imparts fearlessness, invincibility & fortitude, clears emotional & mental pain, reduces fear, & initiates new beginnings. As a creative stone, it stimulates creativeness & inventiveness.

Mentally, it brings clarity of mind & aids enlightenment.

Traditionally in healing it has been used for counteracting poisons; treating glaucoma, allergies, & chronic conditions; and it can rebalance your metabolism. Summarized from The Crystal Bible by Judy Hall.

Rock crystal is one of the most powerful healing stones which can be applied to a broad scope of metaphysical problems. It is very suitable for healing wounds that originate in the past, for example those impressed in a troublesome childhood. Rock crystal helps with improving self-respect. It increases energy in general, and in particular the energy of all the other crystals. This wonderful crystal also possesses the ability of accommodating and incorporating the other crystals' energy. Therefore, at least in principle, it can replace any other stone. Rock crystal is quite like a diamond in every respect, except maybe in its pure material value.

Rock crystals are transparent and have glassy appearance. Their color can vary from milky white to colorless. Rock crystal is one of the most abundant mineral in the lithosphere of our planet. It is often referred as quartz, rocky quartz, or quartz crystal.

Rock crystal shapes: Rock crystal can have many different shapes; it can be short or lengthy, terminated on one or on both sides, it can be a member of an extended cluster formation. It can have different inclusions throughout its bulky structure, like bubbles, wedges, phantoms, keys, eyes, bridges, etc. It can be faceted very differently in all [crystal shapes and forms](http://www.sunnyray.org/crystal-shapes-and-forms).

Credited from www.sunnyray.org

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

Dates To Remember

GENERAL MEETING
3rd. Tuesday of every month

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.



Rocky Rattlers
Juniors need to bring their folders to
the meeting this month

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:

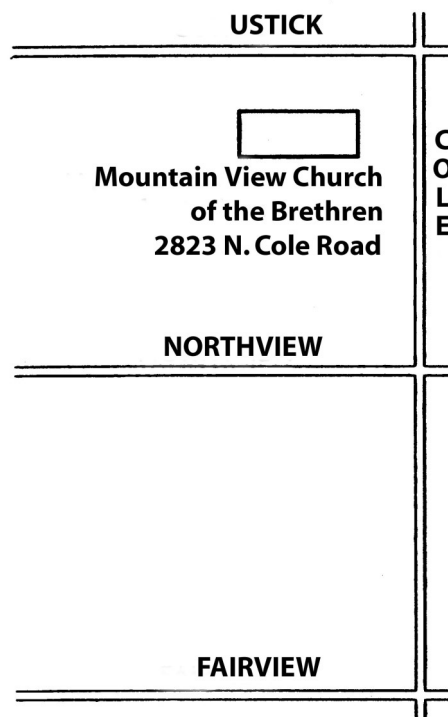
.....\$22.00 per person
.....\$25.00 per couple
.....\$28.00 per family

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)

