


Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 75 NO 9

September 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

What is the end of summer? When school starts? Labor Day? Or the Autumnal Equinox? Depends on how one looks at it, I guess, but it has either already happened or is about to happen. That doesn't mean that collecting season is over, though, and often the Fall is the best time to get in some pleasant trips in cool, dry weather before snow hides the outcrops for a few months. There are two field trip opportunities this month: the NW Federation trip to various spots in Malheur County Sept. 16-20 and the club's trip (scheduled for Haystack Butte at press time) on Sept. 19. Please be aware that many of our favorite spots have been affected by the Soda Fire, and access may be restricted to those areas (Graveyard Point, Reynold's Creek, Queenstone, Whangdoodle and nearby spots). Be sure to check for closure information before you head out.

Every year our club sponsors a scholarship to support the education of a local undergraduate student studying Earth Science. The deadline for this year's scholarship is September 30. If you are an eligible student or know one, please encourage them to apply. Application forms can be downloaded from the club website.

In November we will hold elections for three positions on the Board of Directors. Any club member in good standing is eligible to run and I would encourage all of you to consider this opportunity to help direct the future of the club. Dana Robinson is in charge of this year's nomination process, please contact her if you are interested.

We will have a busy meeting this month and I hope there will be great attendance. Deana Ashton is putting together a fun program that is described elsewhere in the Grindings. Although the Gem Show is still five months away, we need to start getting ready now. Opportunities to help with this will be discussed at the meeting. Finally, we have a very important matter to discuss. Brent Stewart has offered space to house the club workshop at a property he owns next to Stewart's Gem Shop. Brent will discuss his plans and present a business proposal to make them a reality. The board is hopeful that this plan will come to fruition so we can go back to hosting regularly scheduled opportunities for club members to learn lapidary crafts.

Phil Neuhoﬀ, President

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
August 18th, 2015**

Our meeting was called to order by President Phil Neuhoﬀ at 6:30pm.

The Blessing was given by Linda Barlow (Editor).

We shared the great food and friendship with everyone who attended this evening. We had several guests and new members. Thank you so much for coming.

Door prizes were drawn for 12 Junior and 19 adult winners. Building Fund prizes were drawn for 3 lucky winners.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" was by Phil Worley and seconded by Willa Renken.

There was nothing new to report from the Secretary or Treasurer.

Federation report from Charles McCreath was for folks to keep an eye on updated information for the Federation Field Trip September 16-20.

Old business was to remind folks the next General Meeting will be held at the Church location. Our normal time of 7:30pm.

New business there was none.

An auction followed after a brief clean-up. Our meeting adjourned at 9pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melodee Worley - Secretary*

Idaho Gem Club Field Trips 2015

Haystack Butte

When:

September 19th 2015

What:

We'll be collecting a multi color jasper at Haystack Butte. Plus this trip will also have a demonstration on scouting your hunting area.

Where:

7:00am Meeting @ the GEM STOP at the intersection of Hwy 55 and Hwy 95 just past Marsing

7:30 am Travel to Haystack Butte. High clearance vehicle needed for rocky terrain or hitch a ride with others from the club.

Location to the site is tricky, so the best way is to follow your way with the others.

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.

If you would like more information, please come to our Idaho Gem Club meeting on September 15th, 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain View Church of the Brethren 2833 N. Cole Rd.

Call our Field Trip Chairman

Aaron Wanner @

208-794-9474 cell or

Email: aaronwanner@gmail.com

Or

Brent Stewart @

208-863-9336 cell

NOTICE: PBS OUTDOOR IDAHO TO SHOW ROCKHOUND SPECIAL Sept. 24 @ 8pm and Sept. 27 @ 7pm

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
Board Meeting
September 1st, 2015**

Our meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Present this evening were Phil N., Willa R., Barb W., Brent S., Melodee W., Cheryl P., Dana R., Ed M., and Sandy B.
Excused for this meeting were Deana A., David D., and Charles M.

Guests present were Aaron W. and Doug R.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the "Grindings" was by Willa R. and seconded by Dana R.

Secretary's info, I collected the clubs mail and passed it along to the appropriate person or persons. I received an announcement for "PNWFM". It's their 41st Annual Mineral Show and Symposium. October 9-11, Red Lion Hotel in Kelso, WA. I'll have info available at the General Meeting.

Treasurer's info, Barb spoke of balances and disbursements.

Federation report, Charles M. was excused for the meeting. Keep an eye on the NFMS website or contact any officer or board member for updates.

Juniors info, Ed M. isn't sure what will be planned. "BRING YOUR FOLDERS!"

Scholarship info, Phil N. will be in contact with BSU and other schools, for applications to be submitted by the end of September.

Old business, Our Banquet was discussed (details coming) a committee will be created. New Table Coverings will be needing new containers for safekeeping. Anyone is asked to keep an eye out for sizes and cost. Nominating Committee for 3 open Board Positions, leaving will be Phil N., Deana A., and Brent S. At this time Brent S. is wanting to continue for the new 3 year term. The other openings will be 3 years. Dana R. with help from Sandy B. will Chair the committee. Bio's will be due in time for the November Grindings. Anyone wanting run for open positions, must submit a Bio. At this meeting coming up we'll be looking for people to Chair different locations for our upcoming ID Rock and Gem Show, (Feb 27 & 28) and for volunteers to help in 2 hour shifts. Rock tumbling is an important job for our show, it provides rock for our Grab Bags. Grit for rocks can be gotten from Gene Alvey (info needed contact any officer or board member). Showcase favors have been ordered. They're license plate frames, thanks to Aaron and Barb W. We received the proposal from Brent S. and Phil S. for the use of 50 showcases, for the 2016 Agate Expo. Prior to the Expo they will get the showcases from Lock-away storage and once back will handle the return to storage. A motion to accept this proposal was by Ed M. and seconded by Dana R.

The EXCITING OLD BUSINESS NEWS -----Brent S. has a proposed idea for our Workshop. We've asked him to address members at this General Meeting on September 15, at 7:30pm. Our club has had donated 2 saws, 1 is to be repaired by Jim Witt. A motion to allow him to make repairs was by Ed M., seconded by Dana R. For our shop Sandy B. is giving the club a 5-gallon vibrating tumbler. Phil N. wanted folks to know he has raw rock recently given to him by Charles M.

New business--none.

At this time I would like to let anyone know, if you'd ever want to see and read the Northwest Newsletter, each month I'll be adding mine to the Library for check-out.

There was 1 new membership application. A motion to accept these members was by Willa R. and seconded by Ed M.

We adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted Melodee Worley~Secretary

NFMS NEWS

NFMS Organizational Meeting Notice: October 9th, 2015 10 am – Noon

Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals 26385 NW Groveland Drive, Hillsboro, OR 97124

(Details will be coming up in later NFMS Newsletters)

September 19 & 20 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4 Southern WA Mineralogical Society Castle Rock Fairgrounds 120 Fair Lane, Castle Rock WA Chuck Sonner chucksnnr@yahoo.com 360-785-3909.

October 9, 10, & 11 Fri – 10 – 6 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5 Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Association Washington County Fair Complex 873 NE 34th Avenue Hillsboro OR 97124 L. Smith Portlandregional.DealerChair@gmail.com Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show Association PO Box 5401 Portland OR 97228

October 10 & 11 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 5 Marysville Rock and Gem Club Totem Middle School Café., 7th Street and State Ave., Marysville WA Brian Murril 425 346 9313 bmurril@aol.com

October 17 & 18 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5 Hells Canyon Gem Club Nez Perce County Fair Building, 1229 Burrell Avenue, Lewiston ID Dan Cease 509 254 1720 rockmangem@q.com www.hellscanyongemclub.com

October 17 & 18 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4 Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society Hermiston Conference Center, Highway 395 South, Hermiston OR Mike Filarski, 541 571 2593 stonemorlin1@netscape.net

October 24 & 25 Sat – 9 - 6 Sun – 10 - 5 Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 Ne. 4th Ave, Canby, OR 97013 Beth Heesacker, heesacker@coho.net, 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR 97116

October 24 - 25 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5 Bellevue Rock Club Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Blvd SE, Bellevue WA Bruce Himko bellevuerockclub@comcast.net PO Box 1851 Bellevue WA 98009

November 7 & 8 Sat – 9 – 5 Sun – 10 – 5 Maplewood Rock and Gem Club Maplewood R&G Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA Don Wilcox 206 226 1868 tundrafox@earthlink.net

December 5 & 6 Sat – 9 – 6 Sun – 10 - 5 Winter Bazaar Maplewood Rock and Gem Club Maplewood R&G Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA Mike Collins 206 714 6861

Feb. 13 - 14, 2016 Sat – 9 – 5 Sun – 9 – 4 Whidbey Island Gem Club Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE Jerome Street Oak Harbor WA Keith Ludemann 360 675 1837 rock9@whidbey.net

March 5 & 6, 2016 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5 East KingCo Rock Club Pickering Barn 1730-10th Avenue NW Issaquah WA Cindy Smith cndysmith@gmail.com PO Box 2203, Redmond WA 98073

March 12-13, 2016 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 4 Magic Valley Gem Club Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, Merchant Building #1, 215 Fair Avenue, Filer ID Shirley or Rocky Metts 208 423 4827 rmetts@magicvalleygemclub.org

March 25-27, 2016 Fri – 10 – 6 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun 10 – 4 Rock Rollers Club of Spokane WA Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, N.604 Havana at Broadway Spokane WA Vonnice Dillon 509 951 8173 showchair@rockrollers.org

July 29-31, 2016 Willamette Agate and Mineral Society AFMS and NFMS MEETINGS Linn County Expo Center, Albany Oregon Janice Van Cura 541-753-2401 jvancura@peak.org , www.wamsi.org

ALAA NEWS

The AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA) is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public lands managers. Your annual individual/couple membership fee is \$25 which helps support their activities. Club membership is \$50 per year. Send to Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154. Make checks payable to: American Lands Access Assn. Applications can be downloaded at: www.amlands.org on the left side of the page. For more information contact: Shirley Leeson, President at: president@amlands.org or P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468



NEW WEST, OLD STORY

The transfer of public lands to the states is nothing new. This has all been done before — and in a BIG way.

During the 19th century, the federal government controlled — for decades — as much as 90% of all lands throughout the then “western States,” from Michigan and Iowa to Louisiana and Florida!

These “western States” banded together, refused to take “No” for an answer, and ultimately compelled Congress to transfer title to their lands.

In its 1829 Application to Congress, Illinois appealed to the self-evident principles of liberty, self-government, and the right and control of property, insisting that the transfer of federal lands was a matter “of highest importance to the State and of the most intense interest of its citizens” and of the nation as a whole. Illinois, and its neighboring States, argued relentlessly that:

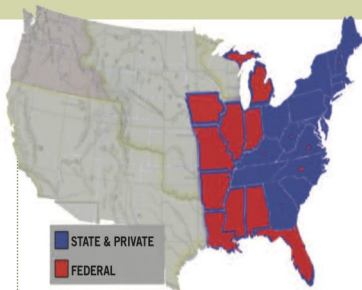
- they should have the same authority as States to the east to govern themselves and to manage the growth and progress of their lands;
- it was unfair for eastern States to have to subsidize federally controlled States in the West; and
- the transfer of their public lands was obligatory per the terms of their statehood enabling acts.

Fortunately, those 19th century “western States” had a true champion for their cause.

For nearly 30 years, U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton (D-MO) worked tirelessly for the transfer of public lands. Senator Benton unashamedly accused the federal government of becoming “the monopolizer of vacant lands in the West: and this monopoly, like all monopolies, resulted in hardships to those upon whom it acted.”

Of Benton’s tenacity to secure the transfer of their public lands, Theodore Roosevelt reflected:

“He never gave up the struggle, although repulsed again and again...for he had to encounter much opposition...As a



U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton (D-MO) worked tirelessly for the transfer of public lands for these “western States”.

whole, his theory of a liberal system of land distribution was undoubtedly the correct one...”^[1]

Congress eventually transferred title to the public lands in those “western States,” which today have on average less than 5% federally controlled lands within their borders. Imagine the economic, political, and societal difference for our nation if the federal government still retained as much as 90% of all lands from Michigan to Florida.

Western States today face the same hardships and seek the same right of sovereignty. Ask yourself, “What can I do to be a modern-day Thomas Hart Benton? How can I help support the only solution big enough?” Become more involved and discover the power you truly have to make a change.

[1] Theodore Roosevelt, *Life of Thomas Hart Benton*, 1886

Bench Tips

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

SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time you make your own earwires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy, and none are as fast as I'd like.

Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip. I find it's worth practicing the maneuver a couple times on some scrap wire before trying it on completed earrings.



BALL BURS

I use ball burs quite a bit for carving and for cleaning up bits of solder that need to be removed. The ball shape seems to be more controllable than other cutting burs. They're less apt to grab and walk over your piece.

As to sizes I've found that 8 mm is a very useful size for carving while a half mm or smaller at high speed works great for signing your name on the back of your work.



From Dean & Judy:

Hello all -

We took a drive into the Soda Fire burn area this morning and turned around at the state line. This fire was huge and seemed to go forever, but a lot of the burn area was hit & miss. Shown below are a few snapshots taken through the smoke.



A scene from Mrs. Holmes grave site is shown.



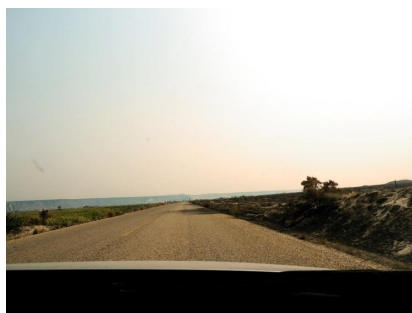
One of the burned power poles.



Looking west from the state line.



Typical burn area



The black smudges on the right-hand side of the road are burn marks on the asphalt.



The gate at the state line seems to be a temporary dump site. All the sagebrush is gone. The debris between the fence and dumpsters are burned power poles.

I invite our NFMS Juniors to contribute articles for the NFMS Newsletter. Write about a rockhounding trip you took, a rock museum that you visited, a favorite rock that you own, etc.
Email the articles to me at heesacker@coho.net.

Also as Grindings editor, I would like to invite our Jr. Rattlers to write for the Grindings. Pictures are welcome. Submission is due via email to barlow596@gmail.com by first Monday following Board Meetings (held first Tuesday of the month)

Workshop Report
No Workshop this month

OPALS

YESTERYEAR

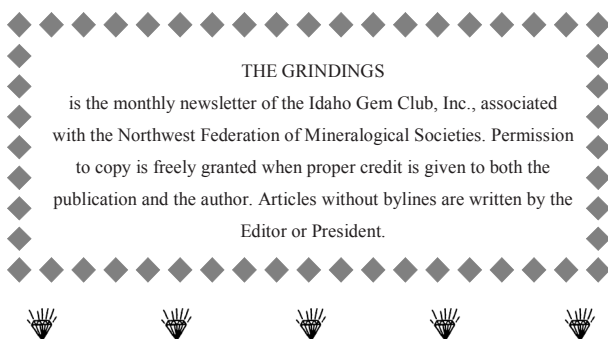
YESTERYEAR 1982

December 1982: Door prizes were drawn. Ed Krivasky, Stan Gilbertson, Chris Blickfelt, and Art Boyd exhibited rocks for the mini rock show. Minutes were corrected to show banquet date as Jan. 22 not Jan. 15. Cornish game hen was selected for the banquet. The banquet will be held at the Kitty Hawk at the airport. Roberta and Clark Elwell resigned their positions on the hospitality board. They requested that a new person or persons be found for 1983, they stated they enjoyed the position, but 16 years was long enough.

The Dec. field trip will be to an area near Oreana for fossils. The Nov. trip was cancelled due to snow.

In Loving Memory of Days Gone By

Marge Conley - Historian



This last year, I visited the Owyhees on a rock hound trip. We were looking for opals. I found some white opals and others in our group found multiple types of opals embedded in basalt or as I call it Lava rock. One lady found a green fire opal. It was a gorgeous day and I enjoyed the sun, getting my Vitamin D allotment. Walking back to my truck as I left it near the road so as not to navigate the rutted road into the site, provided me with my exercise for the day. All those rocks were heavy!!

Why was I looking for opals? Teaching my Crystal Healing Class, I like to provide my students with gems and rocks to see, feel, and take home for their very own. There are all sorts of opals. I have found rock hunting that people label rocks, stones, & gems by where they are found! Interesting! I look at the intrinsic properties of the gem designed by the creator for our use. Whenever I wear a gem, I look up its properties to remind me why the creator sent the message it was necessary for me to wear that gem that day. I look forward to the experiences for the day.

Opals provide amplification of my traits & characteristics; thereby, helping me recognize & feel the creativity within myself. Opals allow for the release of inhibitions. They strengthen my memory & instill faithfulness & loyalty with respect to love, personal affiliations, & business relationships. When I don't want to be noticed in a gathering, it assists me to me "invisible"! Opals are stones of "happy dreams & changes". My happy dreams arise from the understanding my personal higher potentials and gladly accepting my inherent perfection. My happy changes are from events and situations which allow my aspirations to surface. Opals help me to understand my higher powers of intuition and utilize these powers to enhance personal understanding and personal experiences in my being.

Opals have been used by Native American Indians & Australian Aborigine shamans to invoke visions including the "vision quest" and "dreamtime", respectively.

Opals vibrate to #8 and the astrological signs of Cancer, Libra, Pisces, & Scorpio.

For further information on opals and their physical properties, reference LOVE IS IN THE EARTH by Melody.

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER

10/4 Twila Gallaher
 10/8 Debbie Knudsen
 10/9 Cindy Woolsey
 10/9 Sophie Vanpelt
 10/14 Blaine Dahlstrom
 10/18 Woodrow
 Weyerman
 10/22 Betty Trebilcock
 10/24 Dennis Meyers
 10/26 Janelle
 Wintersteen

Cabochon: OPAL



Faceted: TOURMALINE



Owyhee Blue Opal



Welcome New Members

1. Marion Phillips, Boise
2. Doug Pinco, Boise
3. Travis Leach, Boise
4. Kathy & Rick Jones, Boise

HOBBY NIGHT
 9/15/15 IDAHO GEM SOCIETY MEETING

LAPIDARY ART DISPLAY

FEATURING A

VARIETY OF ART PROJECTS

MADE WITH

GEMS, MINERALS, ROCKS.

METAPHYSICAL PROPERTIES
OF STONES & CRYSTALS

GEM: TOURMALINE

COLORS: GREEN, BLUE, PINK, RED,
 YELLOW, BLACK, BROWN,
 WATERMELON, LIME GREEN,
 COLORLESS, & LAVENDER

ASTROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION: LIBRA

CHAKRA: ALL (SPECIFIC VARIETIES
VARY)

HEALING QUALITIES: It is inspiring, connecting, precipitating awareness, creative, & assists challenges and negotiations. Helps you laugh and when with groups. Potentiates physical and aura healing, balances yin/yang, and protects on all levels like accidents and psychic attack. Wands focus energy where directed.

GEM: OPALS

COLORS: COMMON, PINK, BLACK, BEIGE,
 BLUE, YELLOW, BROWN,
 ORANGE, RED, GREEN, & PURPLE.
 CAN BE IRIDESCENT.

ASTROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION: CANCER,
LIBRA, SCORPIO, PISCES

CHAKRA: HEART, THROAT, CROWN

HEALING QUALITIES: Creativity, inspiration imagination, & memory. It assists physically with the kidneys, eyes, vision, circulation, detoxification, infections, diabetes, fever, Parkinson's, & cholera. Emotionally assists with allow bad characteristics to surface and then deal with them including inhibitions. Aids psychic abilities and shamanic visions.

Above information gleaned from THE
 CRYSTAL HEALER by Philip Permmtt

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

**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!

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.

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>

Here is a really good sight from NOAA on weather issues this summer.

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/summer_safety.html#.VaUvP2dFDcu

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:

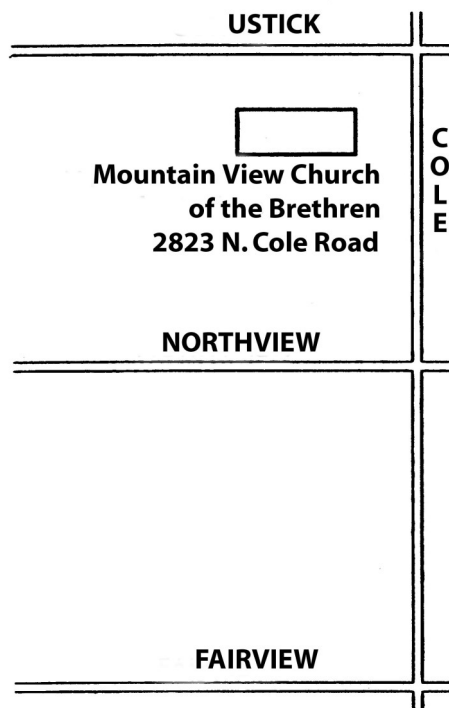
\$22.00 per person
\$25.00 per couple
\$28.00 per family

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)

