


Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 78 NO 5

JULY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By
**DANA
ROBINSON**

DIRECTORY

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Happy Independence Day!

It's time for picnics again. This month's meeting will be a Pot Luck Picnic at the Old Timers Shelter in Ann Morrison Park on **Tuesday, July 17th, at 6:00 pm**. Please bring a dish to share w/everyone, as well as your plates & utensils. The club will provide drinks & ice cream treats. There will be an auction at the end of the meeting to help w/costs for the January Banquet. If you can, we would appreciate any donated material to auction. There will also be auction material from estate donations to bid on. A map to the park shelter is on page 8.

I would like to thank Chris Dail for the informative program on the Stibnite area. Several people got starry-eyed & started whispering "Field Trip". It would be a fun adventure to include on next year's itinerary. Stay tuned for more information. The recent field trips have also gone very well. I hope everyone was able to join in on one or all. The field trip for this month will be to Reynolds Creek. There is some beautiful petrified wood in this location. Remember the limits for collecting petrified wood: only collect 25 lbs. + 1 rock in each trip w/yearly limit of 250 lbs. The one rock can be large, if it is too large you may have to leave some smaller things behind.

We now have new items for the Building Fund table. New patches have been received with our club logo. There are two different sizes: 3" and 2 1/2". They are iron on, sewn on, or both. Check with Duane Winterroth, Building Fund chairperson, at the picnic for price details & purchases. He will have a sign-up sheet to determine interest in the large 12" patch. It is quite a bit more expensive, but would look great on the back of a vest.

We have two current offers to donate saws, but they need repairs. Is there anyone in the club who would be interested in working on equipment? I would like to know we have the resources before accepting the donations. We also need to think about what we will be doing with them once they are fixed. Auction off on Facebook group, to club member, or put one at the workshop? It's awesome that our name is getting out there & people are willing to donate equipment that is pretty costly to acquire. If you are interested, please contact myself or any Board Member, The contact information is in the officers section of the grindings, page 2.

WARNING: If you receive any emails requesting that money be paid to a "vendor", don't respond to them! This has been going on for some time now & has been addressed in the NFMS newsletter. Scammers are using the contact information from web sites to make the emails look like they are coming from legitimate club presidents. I will never ask anyone to send money from an email. I will work directly with our treasurer, Rochelle, either in person or by phone, to take care of any actual club business. So far the problem is just with the Board Members listed in the newsletter, but it could spread further. If you are not sure, contact me with any questions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Dana Robinson
208-345-3823, 208-713-8582
drobinso@boisestate.edu

1st VP: Willa Renken
208-362-3941
wlr_dkr@msn.com

2nd VP: Deana Ashton
208-794-5628
gemdigger2014@outlook.com

SECRETARY: Christine Anderton
208-703-0740 cah.cuepoc@live.com

TREASURER: Rochelle Eytchison
208-343-4302
dawgkatz@aol.com

**NFMS DIRECTOR/GRINDINGS
EDITOR:** Linda Barlow
208-724-3309
barlow596@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS:
Cullen Anderson, 208-412-6822
cullenanderson@hotmail.com

Cheryl Peterson, 208-991-6631
cpete4421@gmail.com

Brent Stewart, 208-863-9336
gene@stewartsgemshopinc.com

Ed Moser, 208-340-8060
ed.moser15@gmail.com

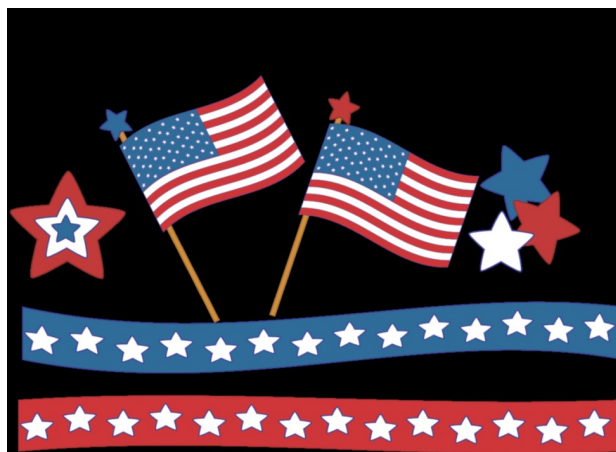
Twila Gallaher, 208-853-6703
tkgboise@cableone.net

Sandy Blodgett, 208-859-4080
(Historian)

Librarian: Christy Powers
CLUB WEBSITE:
www.idahogemclub.com

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING JULY 3RD, 2018

Minutes not available at time of printing.



"THE BEST EVER SUMMARY CHART OF
FEDERAL LAW PERTAINING TO
RECREATIONAL ROCKHOUDING"

Www.GatorGirlRocks
American Rockhounding Law
2016 GGR Federal Law Summary Table.pdf

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING JUNE 19TH, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.,

President Dana Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Several new members & guest were welcomed.

Door Prizes: Rick Corbett drew 9 kids & 12 Adults.

Building Fund Raffle: None, Duane out of town.

Minute Corrections: None as printed in Grindings. Willa motioned to accept. Melodee seconded. Motion carried.

Juniors excused to their program with Director Janelle Wintersteen on crystals.

Secretary Report: No report.

Treasurer Report: by Rochelle Eytchison, Treasurer. May Monthly financial statements reviewed. Trailer expenses will be on June expense report.

Federation Director Report: by Federation Director Linda Barlow

-ALAA website information provided. ALAA provides plenty of information about issues that will affect rockhounds.

-NFMS monthly newsletter & Grindings mailing lists need to be straightened out, so please contact Rochelle or Linda if you are not receiving either/or newsletter.

-Linda will be traveling on extended rockhounding trip in July so Grindings may be late.

-Junior Rattlers will also be getting the Mini-Miners Monthly newsletter provided by agreement between NFMS, Darryl Powell, & Idaho Gem Club.

Refreshment Committee: by Deana Ashton, 2nd VP, who extended many thanks to everyone for participating in bringing snacks & door prizes. Truly a group effort!

Role Report: No current participants in the program.

Field Trip Report: by Cullen Anderson, Coordinator.,

-Trips to Beacon Hill & Succor Creel were discussed. Things went great & the weather was very nice.

-One of visitors on Beacon Hill trip is from Las Vegas area & is willing to share information with anyone interested in rockhounding in that area. Cullen has the contact information.

-Upcoming weekend will be field trip to the Oregon Sunstone Claim site. Cheryl Link will be leading the trip & there is a list of things to bring available on the back table. Our claim has clear, red, pink, green, & watermelon colored sunstones. Cheryl will be leaving from the Flying J outside Caldwell on Saturday, the 23rd @ 7am. It will be an overnight camping trip as it is a 7 1/2 hour drive each way. The Idaho Gem Club Facebook page has additional information, as well.

Library Report: It is open for anyone wanting to check out books. Reminder to return any overdue books.

Workshop Report: by Brent Stewart, Workshop Chair.

-Marge Conley is teaching a wire wrapping class on Thursday, June 14th at the club workshop.

-Workshop open June 21st from 6-8:45pm

-Kids Workshop is on Saturday, June 23rd from 10-2. He needs some help. Please sign up to volunteer at Stewart's Gem Shop.

Program report: The next two meetings will be picnics in Ann Morrison Park followed by an auction. Any rocks donated for the auction will help support the annual banquet in January.

Old Business: There are still questions about the Building Fund monies. It will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

New Business:

-Rick Corbett has many name tags for people at the front table.

-Rochelle Eytchison has membership cards to be picked up. If

you haven't received either, check with them.

-Greg Sandmeyer has brought 2 10" saws from the Timberline Rockhound Club to sell. There are spare motors as well. They will be available to look at after the meeting for anyone interested.

-Linda Barlow thanked everyone for their support of the Garden City Library during their recent sale of beads. They raised \$3,000 for the library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Program : presented by Chris Dail from Midas Gold. It was very informative look at the history of the Stibnite Mining area & Midas Gold's interest in cleaning the stie & restoring fish habitat. He invited the club to come up for a field trip in the future.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, President

Welcome New Members

									
	ADULT:								
	1.	Petra & William Bilson, Boise							
	2.	Krista & Blaine Cordell, Boise							
	3.	Bruce Budge, Garden Valley							
	4.	Heather & Kevin Cornwall, Eagle							
	5.	Chris Dail, Spokane, Washington							
	6.	Sherrie & Rod Eisele, Eagle							
	7.	Kelsey Millett & Mitch Gentry, Boise							
	8.	Lucy & Art Graeber, Boise							
	9.	Maddie Koontz & Jerry Stewart, Boise							
	10.	Lezlie & Steve LeMesurier, Kuna							
	11.	KD & Logan McCurdy, Meridian							
	12.	Diane Runnells, Fairview, Tennessee							
	13.	Mavis & Warren Schiffer, Star							
	14.	Karen & Dan Turmes, Nampa							
	15.	Aaron Wanner, Sr., Kuna							
	16.	Madonna & Ron White, Iowa City, Iowa							
	17.	Ellen Winslow, Boise							
	18.	Vickie & Jim Wise, Star							
	19.	Warren Workman & Alex Poulsen, Boise							

Members, Non-members, clubs, etc. can advertise in the Grindings Newsletter. This service is provided to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and is encouraged by the NFMS. The only criteria for the ad is that it be hobby related (e.g. rocks, equipment, grit, shows, etc.).

2" x 4" (business card size): Non-members \$15,

Member notices are \$5.

4" X 6" AD (1/4 page): Non-members \$30,

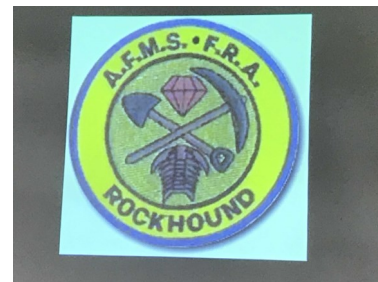
Members \$10 Payable to Idaho Gem Club.

Give monies to Treasurer & AD to Editor

ROCKY RATTLER'S PAGE

By
JANELLE WINTERSTEEN

Juniors bring your parents to the picnic and auction at the General Meeting, July 17th, 2018 at Ann Morrison Park. See directions on page 8. Bring your money and bid on those favorite stones you have been learning about!



Earn this free AFMS badge in our Juniors program!



IDAHO MUSEUM OF MINING & GEOLOGY EVENTS

If you love rocks, minerals and Idaho mining history, you'll dig the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology. We're seeking enthusiastic and friendly volunteers to help with tasks at the museum.

SPRING EVENTS:

Sept. 16: Rock Party 12-4:30 pm A celebration of Idaho's mining & geologic history w/activities for children & adults. Shirley Ewing 208-283-3186

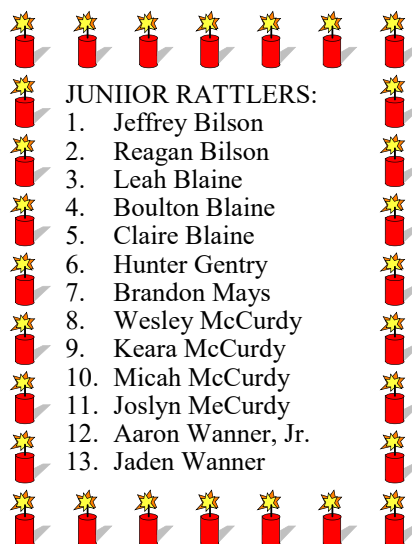
KIDS WORKSHOP! June 23rd
Next Juniors' Workshop:
July 28th, 10am to 2 pm

Welcome New Junior Members



**Junior, Mommy would like to talk
to you about your rock collection.**

*by Erston Barnhart
via Hy Grader 3/94*



JUNIOR RATTLES:

1. Jeffrey Bilson
2. Reagan Bilson
3. Leah Blaine
4. Boulton Blaine
5. Claire Blaine
6. Hunter Gentry
7. Brandon Mays
8. Wesley McCurdy
9. Keara McCurdy
10. Micah McCurdy
11. Joslyn McCurdy
12. Aaron Wanner, Jr.
13. Jaden Wanner



Kenneth Zahn, NFMS 2nd Vice President,

Soooo, your small club has several smart, precocious, and "rock-crazy" junior members, but there are NO adult members -- parents included -- willing to lead them as a group in a formalized Juniors Club. Besides contacting the Chair of our NFMS Juniors Program Committee (see page 2 -- it's there -- I promise), on how to keep them enthused, engaged, educated, and empowered about the rockhounding hobby, what are your other options?

NOT TO WORRY. Jim Brace-Thompson (AFMS Juniors Program Chair) has the answers --- and you are only 3 clicks on the computer from finding out what they are. In my opinion, Jim sponsors one of the world's best resources for achieving all those things for our Juniors. He welcomes your direct phone calls as well. (Darryl "Diamond Dan" Powell has answers and fantastic resources and publications available too, but we'll save that for another Newsletter edition).

At the AFMS website (<http://www.amfed.org/>), click open the "Kid's Corner" page (<http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm>), and click open the "Merit Badge Program" page (http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm). Start by reading **How to Use the AFMS/FRA Badge Program**, then **Clearing Up Misperceptions About the AFMS/FRA Program**, and finally, browse through the

unbelievably well-done tome called the **AFMS_FRA_Badge_Manual_Revised_2016.pdf (2.23MB)**. The colorful badges the kids can earn through the simple application process and due diligence in meeting the badge requirements are free, and all it takes on the part of a club adult is membership in a Federation club, a review of the achievement, and a signature or two. Well, it's almost that simple -- but you get the point. These juniors are the hobby's future; let's get started being pro-active in supporting their passion !!!

(P.S. Want to challenge your club adults?? Have them read the Badge Manual's suggestions for learning about and earning each badge. They'll be as impressed as I was!!)

Juniors Are our Future... By Gayle Butler, NFMS Junior Chair

At the Federation Show in Yakima in April there were 7 outstanding junior members who entered for Achievement Awards. These awards are given based on their own activities - not against each other; each one writing about their hobby activities, education, community achievement and work related (volunteer or otherwise).

A certificate and monetary award were given to the following:

Ages 8-11 Taryanna Cornel (age 10) of Hatrock-hounds (OR)

Gem & Mineral Society

Zoe Ryan (age 11) of West Seattle (WA) Rock Club

Lola Smith (age 10) of West Seattle (WA) Rock Club

Lucas Venegas (age 11) of Lakeside (WA) Jr. Rock Club

Marcus Venegas (age 10) of Lakeside (WA) Jr. Rock Club

Ages 12-15 Jacob Fitch (age 13) of Hellgate (MT)

Mineral Society

Kevin Miles (age 14) of Lakeside (WA) Jr. Rock Club

Congratulations to these Juniors, along with their parents and club advisors.

IDAHO GEM CLUB (IGC) CALENDAR

July 17: General Meeting,
Picnic, Auction
See Directions pg 8

July 19: Workshop
July 26: Wire Wrapping class
July 28: Juniors Workshop
Aug 7: Board Meeting
Aug 16: Wire Wrapping class
Aug 21: General Meeting,
Picnic, Auction
See Directions pg 8



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE By Brent Stewart

THURSDAY after General Meeting (usually 3rd
Thursday),

July 19: : 6pm-8:45pm

SAT./SUN. (Saturday/Sunday after General
Meeting):

July 28: Juniors Workshop, 10-2pm

Reserve w/Brent Stewart (208-863-9336)

Or Stewart's Shop# (208-242-1151)

WIRE WRAPPING CLASSES:

Copper & Brass wire: free, silver & gold: \$10/class

July: Thur., July 26, 6:30-8:30pm

Aug: Thur., Aug. 16, 6:30-8:30pm

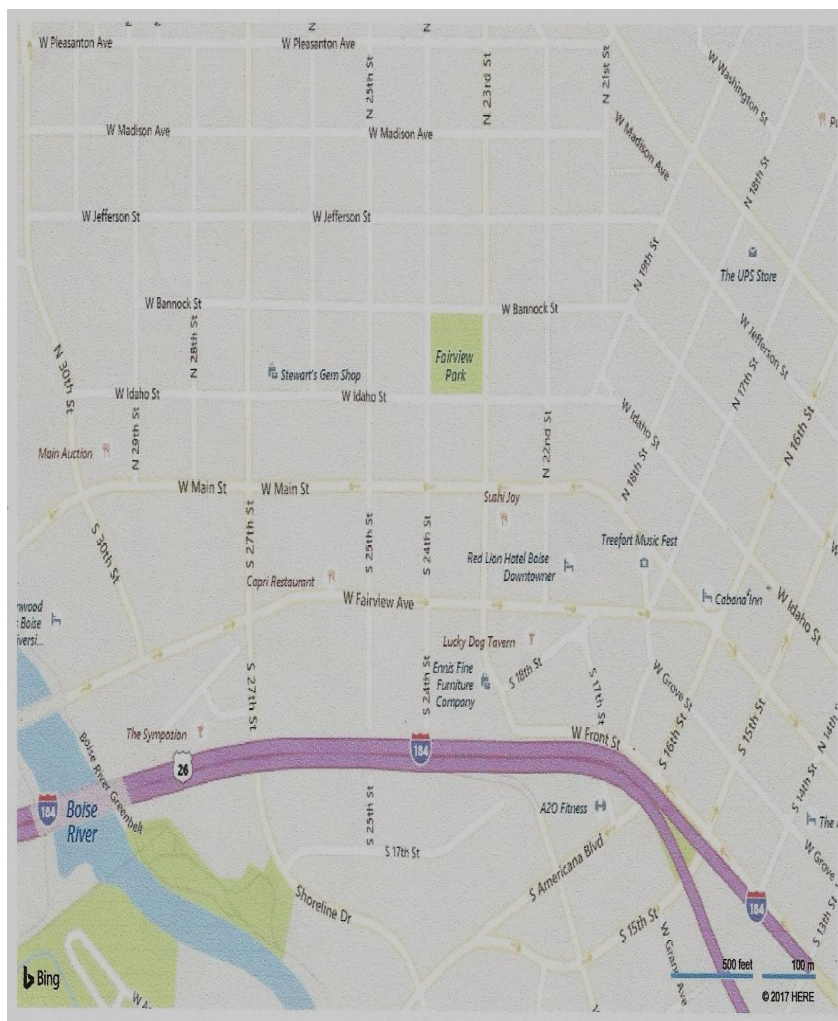
ADDRESS: 2620 W. Idaho St., Boise, Idaho
Next door to Stewart's Gem Shop

NOTICES

One of the great resources for our hobby is the website Mindat (www.mindat.org). It is a comprehensive database of all recognized mineral species and their properties, known locations, and so forth including thousands of wonderful pictures. There is a lot more to it as well: message boards, topical information, book downloads, etc. it is widely used in education (my kids used it in their earth science classes for instance) and rockhounds around the world rely on it. It is a charitable effort (501c3) and they are in a desperate spot right now. You can find out more at <https://www.mindat.org/donate.php>

Please consider them in your charitable giving...any size donation will help keep this resource available to all of us.

Phil Neuhooff



2ND VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

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!

If you know of any members in need of cheer or to request flowers be sent, and to inform us of illnesses and those who have passed on, please contact Deana Ashton at [208-794-5628](tel:208-794-5628).

July 2018 SUNSHINE REPORT

YESTERYEAR
BY
SANDY BLODGETT
HISTORIAN

MOTIONS STILL IN FORCE

Mar. 2, 1993: Patsy Bethel be awarded a Lifetime Membership & be awarded an engraved Past President's Rock Hammer.

June 1, 1993: Receipts from Memorial Day coffee break be dedicated to the Building Fund.

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

We encourage member participation in bringing cookies snacks and beverages to share during break at general meetings. Total provision among members assigned to bring refreshments is for 8 dozen cookies or snacks and drinks/ juice. That can be veggie trays, breads, any other treats.

*We ask for **10 adult and 10 youth door prizes** which are wrapped in a bag. Usually minerals or rocks or slabs. Club provides coffee service and paper plates napkins and cups.*

The basic duties of refreshment committee includes chair set up, cleanup and take down. Please come early and remain late to assist with these.

Please contact **Deana Ashton, 208-794-5628**, and let her know if and what you will be bringing for the current month so she can coordinate and be sure enough is provided for snack, beverage, and **door prizes**. Some could bring food, some could bring beverages, some could bring door prizes. Thanks for your participation.

Members whose last name begins with letter listed below, are asked to bring after meeting snacks and door prizes for the month indicated.

JANUARY	BANQUET
FEBRUARY	A-D
MARCH	E-K
APRIL	L-R
MAY	S-Z
JUNE	A-D
JULY	PICNIC: ALL
AUGUST	PICNIC: ALL
SEPTEMBER	E-K
OCTOBER	L-R
NOVEMBER	S-Z
DECEMBER	HOLIDAY COOKIES BY ALL

Idaho Gem Club Member Field Trips



July 21: Reynolds Creek
 Aug 25: Dismal Swamp
 Sept. 22: Hog Creek
 October 20: Haystack Butte
 (possible joint with Owyhee Club)
 ALTERNATE TRIPS: Squaw Butte

FIELD TRIP SUPPLIES

Rock Hammer	Water
Chisel, Pick, Pry Bar	Sunscreen and a Hat
Shovels	Knee Pads
Buckets or	Gloves
Collecting Sacks	Safety Glasses
Screening Box	First Aid Kit
Map or GPS	

Good boots or hiking shoes
 Rain Coat (Dress in Layers for Cooler Mornings)
 Lunch/Dinner/Snack Foods /Camping supplies
 (Depending on Length of Trip)



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Oregon Sunstone Field Trip @ Idaho Gem Club claim site



Dave Wiles walks away with the find of the Idaho Gem Club field trip to Oregon Sunstone claim site. Then they hunt at the public Collection Area for the morning and 1/2 fill a gallon size zip lock!



Mavis & Warren Schiffer sift and hold screen to light looking for Sunstones. Deana Ashton is climbing the hill while Mike Dome searches the grounds. Our fearless leader, Cheryl Link digs like a badger! What a GREAT LEADER who passes on what she finds to first timer, Eva Roberts, from Owyhee club! Pictures by Your Editor.

The field trips of the Idaho Gem Club in Boise have wetted my appetite but never on the overnight or high clearance vehicle trips (I didn't have the camping equipment or the vehicle). This year started by going with a friend who owns a Suburban, high clearance vehicle, to Succor Creek and finding Thundereggs, Geodes, and 2 limb casts as big as my forearms!



Then took a trip to Spencer Mines in western Idaho in the Suburban. No accommodation close by so went to Lima, Montana, 30 miles up the freeway and stayed at a very nice motel and RV place. The rooms at the motel were efficiencies! Wow best price deal ever and reasonably good food at the restaurant across the street. Could have stayed another day and hunted fossils! What did I find at Spencer? A Fire Opal first thing then lots of other opals including blue.



Next field trip, was with the club to Oregon's Sunstone Collection Area! We went early and stayed 4 days in a RV! We took advantage of the 2 Mines there including Dust Devil and Spectrum. I loved hunting on my own at the Dust Devil and found lots of "John Deer" Green Crystals!!! This was a broken windshield from the tractor they used to excavate! I was hoping it was the Green Sunstones or watermelon Sunstones! I did find some sunstones! Next went to Spectrum and went through a dump load of dirt. Whoever said rockhunting wasn't exercise? Just read on: (1) shoveling the dirt into 24"x 24" screens waist high, (2) sifting out the dirt, (3) washing off the remainder of the dirt, and (4) holding the screen up to the sunlight to see any missed Sunstones!!! It took all day! Eight hours in the sun without a hat but did wear a long-sleeved white shirt. It took me 2 days to wash out the iron color from the dirt! I got lots of sun and Sunstones! The last day, we spent the morning at the Idaho Gem Club's Sunstone claim. My friend dug and I walked the perimeter. We found about the same! Hungry and hot at lunch time we returned to the RV for food and rest. I walked at the public collection site, but the heat drove me back inside. We then went through the conveyor belt at Spectrum for one hour looking for Sunstones – that was more rewarding and very competitive! We switched lead position every 15 minutes so we both had equal time getting the first Sunstones which came out onto the conveyor. (It reminded me of that candy conveyor belt Lucille Ball worked on with her friend Vivian?!! I wasn't popping candy but my fingers were popping to catch the stones first or find any that my friend missed!) The road in and out of Sunstone Collection Area was long (20 miles on Hogback Road & 14 miles at turn off to collections site very well labeled), all dirt, and very dusty. We taped over all our RV vents but to no avail. What a thorough cleaning of everything before and after, including my nose!



Home from Sunstone for 2 days and then left for Emerald Creek, Idaho! Beautiful country Idaho! We hunted garnets. At Emerald Creek, the process is (1) to fill our own buckets from a communal sand pile, (2) carry them to the sifting area, (3) find a 24" x 24" or 12" x 12" screen, (4) sift the dirt and mud (that required scraping with a larger stone), (5) putting the stones into a separate bucket, (6) carrying the bucket to the water trough, (7) waiting for a space (it was opening weekend, so everyone was there!), then (8) look for garnets to shine in the sun. That was fun but who said rockhunting isn't work! My hands were dry and parched – sure used a lot of lotion!

On to Crystal Park, Montana, near Dillon. I had been there a couple of years ago right after a rain-storm. That is the best time to go as all the stones are on the surface and no digging to find the big ones! It rained the day before we arrived and the night we got there it was snowing!!! I wasn't prepared for snow so piled all my clothes on and slowly peeled them off as it got warmer on July 4th. The mosquitoes and No-see-ums found me! What a great way to celebrate our country's independence! I found multiple clear quartz crystals and one small amethyst. My friend did have the find of the day: a 293 carat amethyst phantom recorder!!! Wow, I was so happy for him!



We left Crystal Park, Montana, and traveled north looking at the Rocky Mountains! Then south to Phillipsburg, Montana, to Gem Mountain. Stayed right on the grounds in the RV! They have a deal, buy 6 buckets of dirt and receive one bucket free. We both chose to do that. We each did 3 buckets the day we arrived and 4 the next day!

That is a lot of filling screens about 12" x 12", washing, and flipping onto a black surface to look for sapphires. I found a full tube of Sapphires both days! According to the stone evaluator, Jody, that is a lot to find in only 7 buckets. There were multiple colors of pink, purple, yellow, clear, blue, and green! I chose to have the 7 flawless sapphires heat treated and faceted. The others I will keep raw for healing to use on grids, in meditation, and place around my apartment for their energy! Besides being a "stone of prosperity" Sapphires are also "record keepers". The colored ones have their additional qualities for emotional and spiritual and physical assistance of one's health.

That was the beginning of my summer!

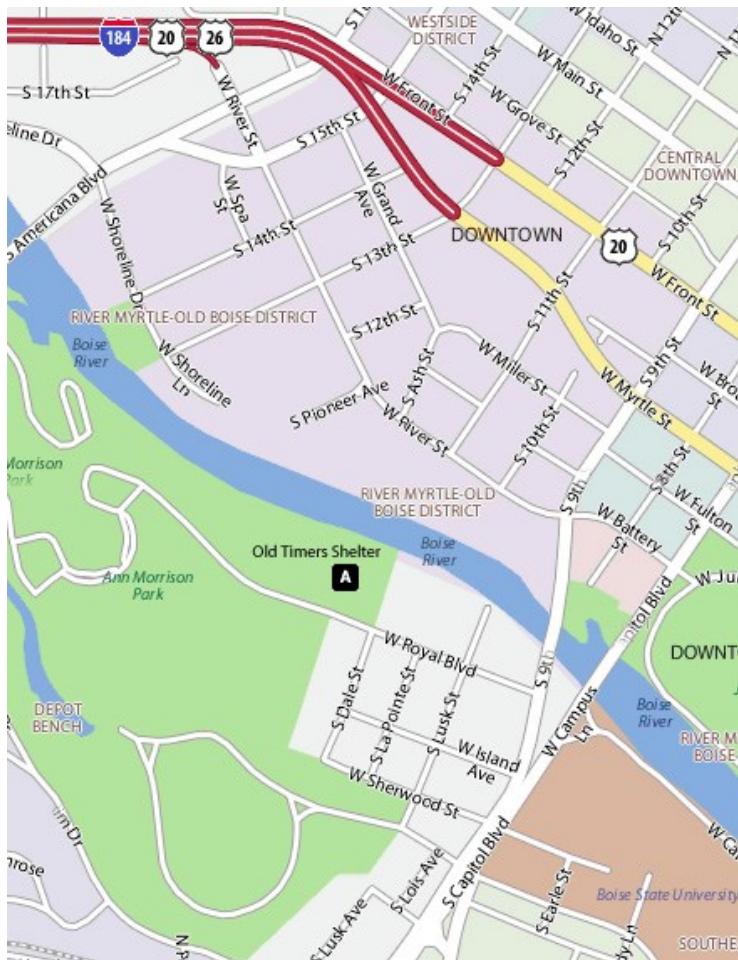


By Linda Barlow, Grindings Editor

JULY PROGRAM JULY 17TH, 2018

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.



PICNIC REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE (ALL WHOSE LAST NAMES BEGIN A-K ARE ON THE COMMITTEE THIS MONTH)

GUIDELINES

1. Have tables covered with paper obtained from Deana Ashton and ready by 6:00 p.m.
2. Bring door prizes
3. Serve ice cream

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

POTLUCK BY ALL ATTENDEES

Ice cream and sodas provided

Bring your own plates and silverware

**PLEASE COME EARLY TO SET UP AND
STAY LATE TO CLEAN UP!**

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.





The U.S. Senate will vote on the “Farm Bill” this week, which is legislation that addresses the needs of America’s farmers and ranchers. I introduced three amendments to the bill, including one that would allow Idaho and other states to have a greater voice in the monument designation process. Knowing of your interest in this topic, I want to share more about my legislation with you today.

Current federal law allows the President to designate large tracts of land as National Monuments, resulting in severe use restrictions without any public process or local input. During President Obama’s Administration, he designated 26 separate monuments for a total of over 550 million acres – equal to 865,625 square miles, an area five times the size of California – without any state review or approval.

The monument designation process is in sore need of greater transparency, which is why I introduced an amendment to the 2018 Farm Bill that would require any new designation to be approved by Congress and the State Legislature where the monument will be located and must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

As a strong supporter of states’ rights, I have cosponsored similar legislation in the Senate: [S. 132](#), the National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act, and [S. 33](#), the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, which prevents unilateral Executive decisions on national monuments. My amendment will be considered among hundreds of others this week as the Senate moves to vote on the Farm Bill. I encourage you to stay engaged and visit my website at www.Risch.Senate.Gov to learn the outcome of the Bill.

Very Truly Yours

James E. Risch
United States Senator

JULY

07/09 Sierrra Sandoval
07/11 Tim Koah
07/12 Steve Fogdall
07/12 Loren Francis
07/14 Irina Barrett
07/14 Stella Russell
07/14 Keara McCurdy
07/14 Stella Russell
07/14 Jason Strid
07/20 Patsy Bethel
07/21 Ann Stewart
07/22 Tom Rogers
07/25 Michael Corbett
07/25 Jerry Ricksecker
07/26 Steve Lauritzen
07/26 Larry Ridley
07/28 Henry Strid
07/28 Philena
Thompson
07/29 Catherine
Parsons
07/30 Debbie Housh

FACETED:

Ruby

CABOCHON:

Carnelian

AUGUST

08/07 Rio Mooney
08/07 Gene Thompson
08/09 Ardyce
Buckmaster
08/09 Scott Smith
08/10 Dan Conley
08/10 Kaeli Hull
08/10 Trevor Steed
08/13 Raymond
Murphy
08/15 Elijah Hull
08/20 Naomi
Davenport
08/22 Debbie Baldwin
08/23 Alissa Williams
08/25 Nathan Reade
08/26 Deana Ashton
08/26 William Bilson
08/27 Christine
Neuhoff
08/28 Mettie Clay
08/28 Ronal Dingley
08/29 Jerry Hopkins
08/30 Joanne Repath
08/31 Rochelle
Eytchison

FACETED:

CABOCHON:



Bench Tips

See all Brad's jewelry books
at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)
www.BradSmithJewelry.com

SAVE WHEN BUYING SILVER

Silver products like sheet, wire, and casting shot are sold by the Troy ounce at what is called the spot price. That's what companies pay for the pure metal on the commodities market, and the spot price changes daily.

But in addition to the spot price, there is also a cost to fabricate the metal into wire or sheet, so the price of the item you buy is the cost of the metal plus the cost to make it. Different products have different fabrication charges because each takes a different amount of labor. Also, different companies will have different fabrication charges because of local labor rates and their desired profit margin.

You can save money by finding a company with a lower fabrication charge. Also, note that the fabrication charge per ounce is less on larger orders, so you can save more by buying more. Find a friend to place a joint order and split the shipping charges.

But for casting purposes, there's an even better way to save. Buy your silver at a coin store. They sell bars and rounds in pure and Sterling for the spot price plus about a dollar per ounce.

The local coin shop adds only a small profit over the spot price. So I save about \$3 per ounce, pay no shipping charges, don't have to wait for mail order, and support a local business.



SAWING JUMP RINGS

The difficult part of making jump rings for me has always been holding the coil while cutting off the individual rings. I use a saw to get the best fit when closing the rings later. I've seen all sorts of suggestions for ways to hold the coil, but the one that works best for me is this little jig made from scrap wood.

It's about 2 inches wide and 4-5 inches long with a groove cut down its length to cradle the coil of wire and a thin stop attached to the front end.

To cut the rings, thread your saw blade through the coil, hold the coil down in the groove and against the front stop, and saw through the bottom of the coil at about a 40 degree angle.

Don't forget to use some wax or cutting lube. It really does make a difference. If you don't believe me, do an experiment while you're cutting a lot of rings. Count how many rings can be cut before the blade breaks. First, do the test without lube, and then do it again while adding some lube to the blade after cutting every 8-10 rings.

It's the best way I've ever found to hold the coils easily and securely. If the coil doesn't move, you break fewer blades. And it is safer than some other techniques because you are cutting away from the fingers.





AFMS NEWS

Calling All AFMS Uniform Rules Judges

During the AFMS convention in Raleigh NC this month, it was brought to our attention that the AFMS Judges roster could use some help being updated. At the AFMS meeting I asked and was given permission to work on updating the roster to present day judges for them.

Those of you who have received AFMS Judge cards over the years, and as recent as last year's CFMS-AFMS Show, I need you to contact me now with 5 bits of information: Your name, snail mail and email address, phone number, and a photo copy of your judge's card. These cards would have been given to you following an AFMS Judges Training Seminar or immediately after judging was completed at an AFMS Show.

Thank you for your help on this project!

Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

407 Tico Rd.

Ojai, CA 93023

Email: ladybuglane@napablogger.com

Remaining Federation Conventions for 2018:

Southeast Federation, Sept. 21-23 @ Jacksonville, Fla.

Midwest Federation, Oct. 6-7 @ Springfield, IL.

Currently Scheduled Regional Federation Conventions for 2019:

-South Central Federation, January 19-20

@ Fredericksburg TX.

-AFMS/Midwest Federation, March 23-24

@ Cedar Rapids, IA.

-Eastern Federation, June 1-2 @ Monroe, NY

PURPOSE OF THE AFMS

To promote popular interest & education in the various Earth Sciences & in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Palontology, Lapidary & other related subjects, & to sponsor & provide means of coordinating the work & efforts of all personas & groups interested therein; to sponsor & encourage the formations & international development of Societies & Regional Federations & by & through such means to strive toward greater international good will & fellowship.



NFMS NEWS

Thank You Sandy Hansen

Sandy Hansen is a member of the Magic Valley Gem Club in Twin Falls, Idaho. Sandy is the club's Junior Advisor. And she works for Walmart and participates in Walmart's "Volunteerism Always Pays" program. For every 30 hours of volunteer work Sandy does with her club, Walmart pays \$250.00 to her designated 501C3 organization. In May the NFMS Junior Fund received \$500.00 from Walmart.

Sandy started participating in Walmart's "Volunteerism Always Pays" program in 2016. To date she has provided the NFMS Junior Fund with \$2,250.00. We are using those funds to provide awards to Juniors, and a speaker's (Darrell Powell of Diamond Dan Publications) travel expense to the NFMS Show at Yakima. In the future we are looking at programs for Juniors and Junior Advisors. Thank you Sandy for all you do for ALL Juniors. Lyle Vogelpohl, NFMS Treasurer

Registration for the 2018 North Idaho College Great Trails Workshop is now open. This workshop will be held in the Post Falls/Coeur d'Alene area on October 2-4, 2018. Classroom portions will be held at the North Idaho College Workforce Training Center and two field days will be held on the Canfield Mountain Trail System. Many of you will remember that this workshop was initially scheduled in April but had to be rescheduled. This workshop will be conducted by the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council and will concentrate on off-highway vehicle trail layout & design, construction, and maintenance. North Idaho College does offer CEU's for participation in this workshop. Find out more about the workshop including how to register by visiting <http://nohvcc.org/Education/Workshops/2018-north-idaho-college-off-highway-vehicle-great-trails-workshop>. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested, and please reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Marc Hildesheim
NOHVCC Project Manager
208-416-3557

ALAA

Using GIS Or Mobile Mapping Apps by Ruth Hidalgo

There are numerous apps for mobile phones that will allow you track your routes and favorite collecting spots. You need not have a separate GPS unit to create maps anymore. These apps work even when you do not have cell service.

My app of choice is Avenza. I started using an iPhone app called Terra Nova well over 15 years ago, and it has evolved into Avenza. I have used the data stored in that app to make several National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) comments. Basically, this is how it works.

You download the app.

You select the maps you want to download. Some are free, some you have to purchase. There are now thousands of maps to choose from. You can even download a geological map that will show you where you are and what the geology is around you. I prefer the BLM maps and USGS Topo maps for trail tracking. You have to have internet service to download a map, but not to use the app once the map is downloaded.

When in the field, you open the app and you will be able to see where you are on the map.

You can then choose to record your track or trail as you drive or hike. Save the trail and the next time you go out in the field, just follow the trail on your map and you will know how to get back to that collecting spot. Gone are the days of trying to remember what fork you took or wondering if you're on the right path. You can then export that information to Google Earth or other GIS programs. You can even email it to your friends.

You can also choose to place markers on the map showing collecting areas and use that data the same way.

You can insert a GPS coordinate a friend gave you and see where it is on the map relative to where you are.

You can use the data to easily create maps to attach to your formal NEPA comments. This gives the agency the exact trail you use and shows it to them on their own map. Alternatively, you can export the data to Google Earth or other GIS mapping programs and create maps to attach from there. I used a trail exported to Google Earth to create a map I attached to a formal comment on the West Mojave (WEMO) Travel Management Plan, where the Bureau of Land Management had not included a road that rockhounds use in their inventory. In this way they could see that the road clearly existed, as you could see it on the satellite image in the map I attached.

Nowadays, making formal comments is much easier, thanks to apps like Avenza. If you are not taking advantage of this technology to make your formal comments, give it a try. If you are not speaking up because you think it is too complicated, try using this kind of technology. You may find it is easier and less time consuming than you think.

via The Quarry, 3/18; via MWF Newsletter, 3/18; via the Minnesota Mineral Club's Rock Rustler News; from the American Lands Access Association Newsletter, 10-12/17

NFMS CLUBS SHOW SCHEDULE

August 3, 4, & 5: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

Far West Lapidary & Gem Society

North Bend Community Center

2222 Broadway, North Bend, OR

Don Innes 541-396-5722

Don-innes.innes20@gmail.com

August 4 & 5: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5

Darrington Rock & Gem Club

Mansford Grange, 28806 463rd Ave. NE

Darrington, WA

Troy Lehman 360-391-1153

littleexplorers@juno.com

August 11 & 12: Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5

Maplewood Rock & Gem Club

Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse

8802 196th St. SW, Edmonds, WA

Mary Ann Collins, 206-714-3922

collma1@comcast.net

September 8 & 9: Sat. 9-5, Sun 10-4

Clallam County Gem & Mineral Association

Vern Burton Community Center

308 East 4th St., Port Angeles, WA

Kathy Schreiner 360-681-3811 or

Kathy Bachman 360-681-3994

PO Box 98, Sequim, WA 98382

September 8 & 9: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5

Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society

Walla Walla County Fairgrounds

Community Center Bldg,

363 Orchard St.

Walla Walla, WA

Jack I. Edwards, (cell) 509-520-1182

jcedwards1475@hotmail.com

September 15 & 16: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

Southern Washington Mineralogical Society

Castle Rock Fairgrounds, 120 Fair Lane

Castle Rock, WA

Robert Klickman & Nicole Doiron 360-785-4417

PO Box 679, Winlock, WA 98596

September 22 & 23: Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-4

Cascade Mineralogical Society,

Green River College, Student Union Building

12401 SE 320th St., Auburn, WA

Mark Hohn, 32009 199th Ave. SE,

Kent, WA98042 253-332-3736

showchair@cascademineraologicalsociety.org

www.cascademineraologicalsociety.org

October 12-14: Fri 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5

Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Assoc.

Washington County Fair Complex

873 NE 34th Ave., Hillsboro, OR 97013

Beth Heesacker, heesack-er@coho.net

4145 NW Heesacker Rd.,

Forest Grove, OR97116

October 27-28: Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5

Bellevue Rock Club, Vasa Park

3560 W. Lake Sammamish PKWY SE

Bellevue, WA 98008

Bruce Himko, POBox 1851 Bellevue, Wa 98009

bellevuerockclub@comcast.net

November 10 & 11: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5

Maplewood Rock & Gem Club

8802 196th St SW, Edmonds, WA

Mary Ann Collins 206-714-3922

collma1@comcast.net

December 8 & 9: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5

Maplewood Rock & Gem Club

8802 196th St SW, Edmonds, WA

Mary Ann Collins 206-714-3922

collma1@comcast.net



P.O. Box 8443

Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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 per year



GENERAL MEETING
3rd. Tuesday of every month

BOARD MEETING:
1st. Tuesday of every month
Church of the Brethren
2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho
ALL Meetings Start at 7:30 p.m.

USTICK	
<div data-bbox="1198 1528 1393 1570" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 120px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">Mountain View Church of the Brethren 2823 N. Cole Road</p>	COLE
NORTHVIEW	
FAIRVIEW	