

# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

P.O. Box 8443



Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

**VOL 80 NO 8**

**AUGUST 2019**

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The deadline for issues is the Friday after each Board Meeting for the current month's edition. To submit article please send them through email to Dana Robinson, Interim Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The dog days of summer are here again. The brief cool-down over this last weekend was much appreciated. I want to thank all of our members that participated in and visited our booth during Thunderegg Days in Nyssa in July. It was a fun event, but definitely a hot weekend. Thank you for braving the temperatures to represent our club!

Remember that the meeting this month will again be a **Potluck Picnic at Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park**. See the map on page 5 for directions. The park is right beside the Fish and Game office on Walnut Street. Bring a favorite dish to share and a couple of rocks to auction off to support our yearly banquet. Don Dorman will be joining us with a gold panning demonstration.

The next field trip will be to the Spencer Opal Mine in Spencer, ID, for opal. This one will also be an overnight trip. We will be meeting at the mine on August 20th at opening time, which is 9:00 am. The closest lodging is in Dubois, but Idaho Falls is only about 40 miles south so that is also an option. There is dry camping as well if you are so inclined. See page 5 for more information.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Dana Robinson,*

*President*

## MEETING AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order  
Blessing  
Dinner  
Introduce Guests  
Door Prizes and Building Fund Raffle  
Business Meeting  
Program and Auction

**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:** Linda Barlow  
208-724-3309, barlow596@gmail.com

**HISTORIAN:** Deana Ashton  
208-794-5628

**SUNSHINE LADY:** Deana Ashton  
208-794-5628

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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

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

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

Rick Corbett, 208-383-0040

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

Sandy Blodgett, 208-859-4080

**CLUB WEBSITE:**

www.idahogemclub.com

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING JULY 16, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:40pm by President Dana Robinson. Ed Moser gave the convocation and everyone indulged in the great food.

New members and guests were welcomed and introduced themselves.

Rick Corbett drew 2 juniors and 9 adult door prize winners. There was not a Building Fund raffle at the picnic.

**Business Meeting:**

Dana asked for any corrections to the minutes of last month's meeting as printed in the Grindings. Willa Renken made a motion to accept the minutes as printed which was seconded by Deana Ashton. Members voted, motion passed. .

**Secretary Report** by Christina Anderton: No report

**Treasurer Report** by Rochelle Eytchison: No report

**Federation Report** by Linda Barlow: No report as Linda is still traveling.

**First VP Report** by Deana Ashton: Deana thanked everyone who helped out at Thunder Egg Days in Nyssa. She reported on the demonstrations that were done by Robert Coggins and Rick Corbett, as well as the fun gem hunting experience provided by Phil and Jackson Neuhooff. Ashley Ludwig, Twyla Gallaher and Jonathan Barnett also had material for sale. It really turned out to be a fun event.

**Refreshment Committee Report** by Rick Corbett: Thanks to those members who volunteered and provided refreshments and door prizes for the July picnic. Volunteers needed to help set up/clean up and bring door prizes for August picnic meeting. Picnic will be at the regular time and held at the Municipal Park covered area off of Walnut St. Auction to follow.

**ROLE Report** by Brent Stewart: There are three people working on the program. He expressed an interest in having a dedicated work day for them. Will discuss more at board meeting.

**Field Trip Report** by Cullen Anderson: The field trip for July is going to be to Texas Springs by Jackpot, Nevada for petrified wood. Meet at the store parking lot next to the Horseshoe Casino in Jackpot. Meeting time is 8:00 leaving at 8:30. Camping is available if you want.

**Library Report** by Christina Anderton: Nothing to report.

**Workshop Report** by Brent Stewart: Regularly scheduled Thursday after meeting workshop will be open from 6pm to 8:45pm and on July 27th from 10-2.

**Old Business:**

A volunteer is still needed to take on the office of Treasurer for our club. Please contact Dana Robinson if you are interested.

**New Business:** Don't forget the August meeting will also be a picnic at Municipal Park off Walnut, See map.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm for the Auction.

*Respectfully submitted, Christina Anderton, Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING AUGUST 6, 2019

Dana Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

**Present:** Dana Robinson, Deana Ashton, Ed Moser, Willa Renken, Rick Corbett, Sandy Blodgett, Brent Stewart, Rochelle Eytchison, Cheryl Peterson, and Cullen Anderson

**Guests:** Deanna Moser and Cheryl Link

**Absent:** Christina Anderton and Linda Barlow

Dana asked for any corrections to the minutes of last meeting as printed in the Grindings. Willa Renken made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Ed Moser. Board members voted, motion passed.

**Secretary Report** by Christina Anderton: No report, absent

**Treasurer Report** by Rochelle Eytchison: Rochelle was a late arrival so Dana went over Thunder Egg Days proceeds. It was decided to write a check for reimbursement of the booth fee to the president. Rochelle submitted the monthly report at the end of the meeting. There were no questions.

**Federation Report** by Linda Barlow: Linda is still vacationing in Alaska.

**Program Report** by Deana Ashton: August program will be a Gold Panning demonstration by Don Dorman from the Gold Prospectors and an auction after the picnic. Ed Moser agreed to be our auctioneer for this picnic. Cheryl is bringing the pop and Willa is picking up the ice cream and water, as well as supplying the coolers.

**Juniors Report:** No report

**Field Trip Report** by Cullen Anderson: The trip for this month will be to the Spencer Opal Mine. It is located 40 miles north of Idaho Falls at 27 Opal Ave. in Spencer, ID. It is a fee dig site that costs \$20 per person for the first pound, then \$10 per pound for extra weight. We will be meeting at the mine at opening time, which is 9:00 a.m. The closest lodging is in Dubois, but camping is available in the area at Stoddard Creek and Beaver Creek, no hookups. See the mine general information on page 5 under the field trip section for more details.

**Workshop Report** by Brent Stewart: Aug. 17th from 10am – 2pm for a kids day, Aug. 22nd regular workshop from 6pm – 8:45pm and July 27th from 10am – 2pm general workshop. Brent is going to check with Marge about starting the wire wrapping classes again in September. More details as they are finalized.

**ROLE Report:** There was discussion about getting more volunteers to help ROLE participants for levels above Novice. It was also decided to have a dedicated ROLE Workshop on Monday, Aug. 19th from 6pm-8:45pm.

**Scholarship Report:** None

**Old Business:**

There was no old business.

**New Business:**

There was a lengthy discussion about current activity on the Sunstone claim at Plush, OR. Cheryl Link will get in touch with the BLM office and report what action needs to be taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT NOTES

by Deana Ashton

Greetings! Thank you for the member support at Thunderegg Days in Nyssa! This was our first time at this event. The heat was too much for our faceting demonstrator Robert Coggins as the instruments he uses gets too hot and seizes! We enjoyed his faceting for the first 2 days with Lori, his wife.

Rick Corbett was on hand to demonstrate with the club Genie Grinding wheels. Twila Gallagher sold some beaded necklaces and loose beads. Ashley Ludwig sold some of her items and demonstrated paintings in the center of field.

Jonathan Barnett cracked geodes until his chain got too hot in the sun. The biggest hit of the show was the Rock Flat Mineral Company (Phil and Jackson Neuhoff) mining exhibit. They had a fantastic assortment of unusual minerals from worldwide. For \$5.00 or \$15.00, you could buy a bag of gem ore, then sift the sand and dirt from the rocks to discover huge rough emeralds, tourmalines, garnets, sapphires, topaz, and ametrine gems to name a few! Next, you place sifted gems in water and wash away the filler and discover a whole bunch of precious gems sparkling in the sun! There was substantial carat weight per bag, and many people purchased 2 or 3 bags! The Neuhoff family has generously offered to bring this Rock Flat Gem and Mineral Dig Experience to our September general meeting! More details next month...

Big thanks to Dana Dancer, Building Fund Chairman, who just received 4 new rock related t-shirt designs! \$18.00 per shirt and variety of sizes and colors. Dana also brought her camping trailer so we could stay overnight on site for security of our area. Overall the IGC flyers were handed out promoting our club to visitors and we were welcomed back next year. Thank you Christine Anderton, Liz Warner, Cheryl Link, Phil Neuhoff and Dana Robinson for your help and support through event set up and tear down.

My goal with this event and the others I've put together has been to keep reaching out to our community and encourage membership growth and interest in lapidary arts. Our members have asked how we can help them sell and show what they create, and this is one answer. Public markets and stores are selling rocks, and we represent Idaho The Gem State. Next year, I hope we can participate at the Western Idaho Fair and have Idaho Gems available. Doing this requires volunteers, and we hope you all consider becoming more involved in our club activities. Our workshop availability depends on the number of trained volunteers to help host and help others. Brent is working with R.O.L.E. students and once they gain skills, they can help. Whenever you have an opportunity to pass out Idaho Gem Club flyers and invite new members to come see what we offer, please ask and we can get you the information to hand out. It has long been my goal to have displays at libraries and public places. Anyone interested in helping with this, please see me and we can work on a plan together.

Idaho Gold Prospectors Association will be demonstrating gold panning at our August 20 picnic. Don Doorman, President will be joining us. We will also have an auction that supplements January Annual Banquet. Please bring some items to auction.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim Gasaway	Janice Ricks
Tyler Gasaway	Jared Browning
Brittnie Heitzman	David Czerepinski
Robert Engle	Nathan Staley
Karen Stinger	Richard & Margaret Andros
Tamara Dougherty	Karl & Abby Lander

### Juniors

Shane Dougherty	Kayleigh Lander
Drake Dougherty	Henry Lander
Hallie Tracy	Mason Tracy

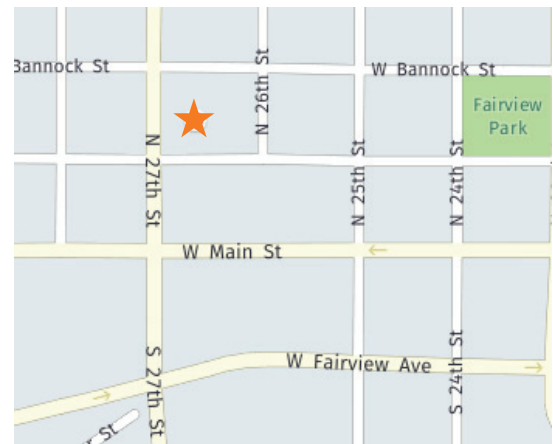
## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

THURSDAY after General Meeting (usually 3rd Thursday); Aug. 22, 6 pm-8:45 pm

SATURDAY (the next weekend after the field trip); Aug. 31, 10 am-2 pm

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

\$5 Donation requested for each visit (kids free)



## SPECIAL SALE!

Jim and Belle Witt have decided to have a yard/rock sale this September. They have graciously decided to open it up to club members for two days, Sept. 14 and 15.

There will be quite a few pieces of equipment available, including genies, polishers, trim saws, sphere machines and more. They are also selling obsidian, geodes, and buckets with mixed media.

The quality of their material is always very good, and they are willing to negotiate on price, within reason, of course. Sales tax will also be charged as some of the material is associated with their mining business.

After this sale things will be put up for auction to the public. Be sure to come check it out!

## SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

The Sunshine Lady is the person to contact with news regarding our members celebrations, anniversaries, illnesses, happy events and sad, such as notices of members passing on and funeral or celebration of life arrangements. Sunshine Lady Contact Deana Ashton at 208-794-5628, text or call. Thank you for keeping me updated so we can show support.

### THE GRINDINGS

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

CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!  
[www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)

## IDAHO GEM CLUB MEMBER FIELD TRIPS

### 2019 FIELD TRIPS

DATE/AREA (nearby town), MATERIAL

- 3/23 - Queenstone (Marsing, ID), jasper  
 4/20- Bruneau Wood Pile (Bruneau, ID), petrified wood  
 5/25 - Graveyard Point (Homedale, ID), agate  
 6/8 - Beacon Hill (Weiser, ID), agate/jasper nodules  
 6/22 - Snakeskin Agate (Rome, OR), agate  
 7/20 - Texas Springs (Jackpot, NV), petrified wood  
**8/24 - Spencer Opal Mine (Spencer, ID), opal**  
 9/21 - Big/Little Wood River (Carey, ID), various  
 9/20-24 - Sunstone Claim (Plush, OR), sunstones  
 9/28-29 - Beacon Hill (Weiser, ID), agate/jasper nodules  
 10/19 - Grassy Mountain (Vale, OR), petrified wood

Possible alternate/additional trips:

Glass Butte and Hampton Butte (central Oregon),  
 obsidian and petrified wood.

**\*\*\*\*Additional Information for Spencer Opal Mine (from their website).\*\*\*\***

Located behind the Opal Country Cafe, material is brought down from the main mine and placed within the mini mine allowing professionals and beginners alike to dig their own opals.

We do not allow kids under 5 years of age. The \$20 fee you pay for digging allows you to take out one (1) pound of rock, additional pounds are \$10.00 each.

### Digging Info

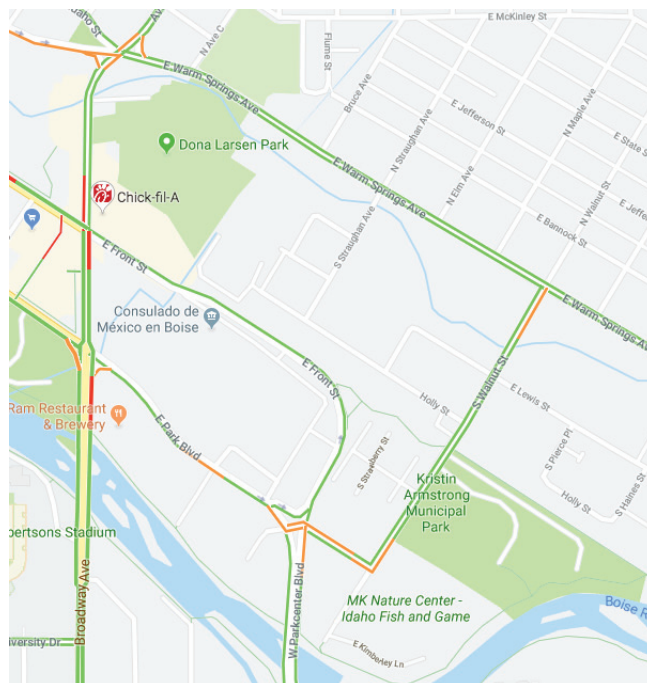
**Everyone that is digging must have eye protection (safety glasses or sun glasses), tools ( hammer, spray bottle, and garden claw) and good shoes.** Open toed shoes, flip-flops and sandals will NOT be allowed. Digging tools will not be provided, so please bring your own.

### Mini Mine Rules

- Check in at the shop before entering
- Safety Glasses / eye protection are Required by everyone
- NO rock throwing
- No Pets
- ALL children must be accompanied by an adult
- ALL rocks will be sorted and chipped in the stockpile, not on the deck of the Cafe
- When finished, weigh out rocks in the shop
- Open toed shoes or sandals are not allowed

## IGC CALENDAR

- Aug. 17: Kid's Workshop Day – 10am-2pm  
 Aug. 20: General Meeting/Picnic – 6:30pm  
 Aug. 22: Workshop – 6pm-8:45pm  
 Aug. 24: Field Trip – Overnighter  
 Aug. 31: Workshop – 10am-2pm  
 Sept. 3: Board Meeting – 7pm



Map to Picnic Location  
 Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park

### 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      |                     |

**If you have questions, please ask Cullen and he will find out the answer for you from the experienced members leading/joining the trips.**

## FEDERATION DIRECTOR REPORT AUGUST 2019

**By Linda Barlow, IGC Federation Director**

### AFMS:

1. For latest info on public lands access for Recreational Rockhounds check web pages of American Land Access Association, ALAA @ [amlands.org](http://amlands.org).
2. ROY (Rockhound of the Year): This is to honor an individual, couple, or Junior who has done something special for our club. Give your suggested nominee to any IGC Board Member. This first goes to NFMS then to AFMS.
3. AFMS Website Contest: NFMS Honorable Mentions are (1) Denise Harrison from Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club (Oregon); (2) Brad Larson from Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society (Caldwell, ID)
4. AFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest: NFMS (1) Large Bulletins: 4th place by Beth Heesacker, Editor, Clackamette Gem, from Clackamette Mineral & Gem Society (Oregon) (2) Original Adult Articles: Honorable Mention: Duane Flackus, Definition of the Month - Limb Cast, Clackamette Gem, Clackamette Gem & Mineral Society (OR) (3) Written Feature: Honorable Mention: Duane Flackus – "How You Fit In", Clackamette Gem from Clackamette Gem & Mineral Society (OR)
5. Endowment fund raised \$6000 for AFMS Special Projects: Junior Badges, Judges training, Digitizing of slide programs, etc.
6. ALAA: It is our responsibility to promote our Recreational Rockhounding hobby to help keep public lands open. Websites of BLM & Dept. of Interior recognize rockhounding. Public education is about doing great public relations for Recreational Rockhounding!
7. Conservation, Management, & Recreation Act became law on 3/12/2019: This affects Public Land Access for Recreational Rockhounding in all 50 states. (S-47 & the Law is 260 pages).

California affect: 118 Mil. Acres BLM Managed lands converted to wilderness areas including Hauser Geode Beds in Blythe, CA (East of LA, West of Phoenix, North of Yuma, & South of Lake Havasu City). No wheeled access or mechanical devices for collecting!

In Death Valley Nat. Pk., The National Park Service added 92,000 acres. Thus, PROHIBITING ROCKHOUNDING.

In Joshua Tree Nat. Pk., The USFS increased wilderness areas to 7,000 acres. This is a total of 185,000 sq. miles for both of these areas!

Positive effects: 6 OHV areas cannot be changed in future legislation & Several WSA (Wilderness Study Areas) were removed and returned to public multi-usage with Recreational Rockhounding temporarily permitted!

BLM has 2 years to create mgmt. plan to include Recreational Rockhounding as Recreational Activity or lose access to collecting areas. This is why ALAA has started a program to compile a list of field trips by clubs & individuals listing # of people, roads used, & GPS Coordinates. The list will be used to provide proof of road usage and help prevent closure of areas. They are our compiled voice.

Currently 87 bills in Congress that may adversely affect your ability to exercise your right to collect Rocks, Minerals, & Fossils for your personal use.



REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR STAMPS  
TO THE GENERAL MEETING  
TO HELP FIGHT CANCER.  
MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO  
HAVE CONTRIBUTED.



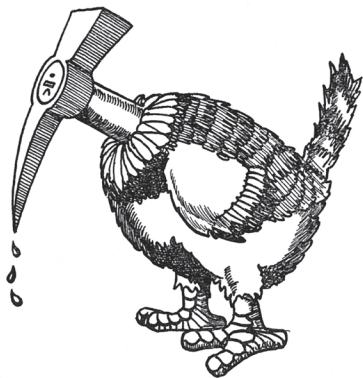
**Two links  
for additional newsletters we  
receive as members of the rock club.**  
NFMS—Newsletter available at:  
<http://northwestfederation.org>  
AFMS—Newsletter available at:  
<http://amfed.org/news/default.htm>

**See the NFMS on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NFMS1>  
(for the desktop/laptop/tablets)  
<https://m.facebook.com/grups/NFMS1>



## IGC YESTERYEAR



## THE ORIGIN OF THE WHANGDOODLE

(as disclosed by H D. ESLICK and J A. HARRINGTON in September, and enclosed in a letter to the members of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc., at that time.)

“I think I can safely disclose for the first time the real facts as to the discovery,

capture and the training of Fabulous Pternodon, of the Cretaceous Petrodactyl Family (note: see Plate on page 1650 Vol. 5, Book of Knowledge).

Well, it happened like this that old pervaricator J. A. HARRINGTON and I were out searching for some red, white and blue quartz xls over in Owyhee County.

We were using his doodlebug to locate them, but were having no luck. Up over the ridge and around the corner we found an old volcanic crater which had some shade so we went down in to the crater.

Well, we were just as hot as the water was so we – er put on our swimming suits and jumped in.

HARRINGTON stubbed his toe on a round pebble a foot – foot and a half – or two feet – diameter, and the words he used smelled just like the sulphur water.

He reached down in the pool and picked up what he thought was a rock and threw it a country mile.

Well, I jammed my toe on one also – then I got so mad all I could say was “ditto doubled” to what HARRINGTON said.

There were seven of those round curious things in the pool.

I picked up one and dashed it against a rock close at hand and busted it.

## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

CONTACT RICK CORBETT

at 208-890-2599

Rick will have monthly sign-up sheets

RESPONSIBILITIES include: Come 1/2 hour early to set up meeting hall. Remain after meeting to clean up. Provide: Door Prizes, Beverages & Cookies/Snacks.

DOOR PRIZES include:

One small wrapped item (cab, slab, other)

10 PRIZES FOR YOUTH

10 PRIZES FOR ADULT

BEVERAGES include: juice, punch, tea, other

COOKIES/SNACKS include: cookies, bars, breads, veggies

THANKS TO  
AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Imagine our surprise when a voice of great antiquity said “Thanks pal for launching me. I’ve been ready for five or ten million years. I was almost afraid I might be getting hard-boiled. Any little thing I can do for you don’t hesitate to call on me.”

So we knew it was a WHANGDOODLE – a holdover from a bygone geological era.

That was the only fertile egg of the seven reposing in the nest – that had been piped with hot water.

That’s the uncensored narration of the birth of the WHANGDOODLE.

Well, I asked him if perhaps he could help us find the red, white and blue quartz xls.

He took a quick squint around – put one wing over his left eye and x-rayed the earth underneath us, and said:

“Nuts, look Bud, I’m willing to help you find agates and even lay a few opals for you, but don’t give me the business of this multi-hued silicon.”

I apologized quickly.

J. A. HARRINGTON quit catching flies – that is: closed his mouth, shook his head as if waking up and said, “Here, my friend, have a chew of copenhagen snoose.”

WHANG said: “I don’t care if I do, haven’t had breakfast yet. You know of course that I eat red pepper and fly to the rear to protect my plumage – but I presume this snuff is the best you can offer on short notice.”

MR. HARRINGTON answered: Yup – sure is.”

Well, to make a short story shorter, we spent the rest of the day teaching the baby Petrodactyl to fly backwards, forwards, sideways, where to find his favorite rock worms (which is his favorite food) – and to drink only from the holes left in the Snake River by Snake River Water Squeezers.

By the time evening came, the bird was so tired and his resistance was so low that we gave him the sacred oath into the Ancient Order of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

This is how he became our Patron Saint.

He does his scouting in the full moonlight of Septober and works about a week, and to favorite sons of the Rock Fraternity imparts the secrets.

So many people often wonder why we are so blessed with so much fine material.

“That, my friends, is the story.”

Truthfully yours,  
/s/ H.D. ESLICK  
1946

## TREASURER NEEDED!

We are looking for a new treasurer for the club. Rochelle Eytchison is stepping aside for personal reasons. We greatly appreciate all of the time and effort she has given to the club. She has set a new standard of excellence for our club. Some accounting experience is very helpful. If you are interested, please contact Dana Robinson at 208-345-3823.



P.O. Box 8443

Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

*Can you find GC Hammer?*

**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: 7:30 p.m.

**BOARD MEETING:**

1st. Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**ADDRESS:**

**Church of the Brethren**

USTICK	COLE
<div>Mountain View Church of the Brethren 2823 N. Cole Road</div>	
NORTHVIEW	
FAIRVIEW	