

Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 81 NO 3

MARCH 2020

DIRECTORY

ITEM	PAGE
President's Message	1
Calendars, Special Events	2
Field Trips	3-4
Gem Show	5-7
General Meeting Minutes	8
Board Meeting Minutes, New Members	9
Brad's Bench Tips	10
Federation Director Report	11

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

GENERAL MEETING TIME
HAS CHANGED TO

★ **7:00 p.m.** ★

for all upcoming meetings!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Rockstars!

The 2020 Idaho Gem Club Show was the best year for the dealers, a steady attendance, terrific themes and designs in showcases, and a full crew of demonstrators kept many people engaged watching and learning how to create opals, silver work, cabochons, micromounts, wirewraps and jewelry, which was really great to see! Despite being very short on volunteers to run the activity tables, we worked together and had alot of new members step in and help out. A huge Thank You goes out to every one who volunteered! Set up and tear down crew was extraordinary! We had a few people who went the extra mile: Dana Robinson was a great volunteer coordinator and kept the show smooth in the activity area. Mike Withen stepped in to chair the Garnet Table at the last minute and was a huge help. Larry Friend, Ron Dingley and others assisted Cheryl Link in the Silent Auction area. Logan McCurdy came to us from Facebook, delivered a carved big bear for the basket raffle, and from the minute he arrived, he helped all over the place! Jason Camilo Roys was very helpful throughout show as well! We had to fill the Hospitality Chairperson position in a hurry due to an emergency, so many thanks to Becky Gibson, Cheryl Lawson, Logan and Robert Murphey and Jonathan Barnett, who helped out all weekend keeping the show Hospitality Table running smoothly, calling out door prizes, and selling raffle tickets for the Grand Prize. Thanks for being great helpers! Donations were appreciated as well!

Our show activities have one common link. Tumbled Rocks. Two members have ensured we had plenty of rock for grab bags. Big tumbles were the Wheel of Fortune prizes along with Patsy Bethel's critters and the jewelry she made all year. Without these people making crafts and prizes all year for this part of our show, we would have not been able to run the Wheel. Thanks and gratitude to Jim and Belle Witt who carried the activities with 1,900 pounds of tumbled stones and big boulders that we used. Jim tumbled to perfection enough rock that has kept us stocked up for 3+ years. You saved us, Belle and Jim Witt! Thank you! On April 8 at 7pm we will have a Show meeting to talk about show improvements.

An aPIZZAtion (appreciation) party will be held Tuesday, March 24th to show our gratitude to you all. We cannot list all the volunteer names, but let us serve you some pizza and salad to thank you for your time and effort. Details inside!

ST. PATRICKS DAY MEETING
— Bring a Green rock or a SHAMrock! If your rock isn't green, tell us why!

*Respectfully submitted,
Deana Ashton, President*

MEETING AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Introduce Guests
Door Prizes and Building Fund Raffle
Juniors Meeting
Program
Business Meeting

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	3 Board Meeting 7 pm	4	5	6	7 OGMS Show Caldwell 10 am-6 pm
8 OGMS Show Caldwell 10 am-5 pm	9	10	11	12	13	14 Magic Valley Gem Show Filer, 10 am-5 pm
15 Magic Valley Gem Show Filer, 10 am-4 pm	16	17 General Meeting 7 pm	18	19 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20	21 OGMS Field Trip Bruneau Wood Pile
22 Field Trip Queenstone, Whangdoodle 8:00 am	23	24 Pizza Party! Id. Pizza Co. 6 pm	25	26	27	28 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
29	30	31				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10 NFMS Annual Meeting, Ogden 9am-6pm	11 NFMS Annual Show, Ogden 10am-6pm
12 NFMS Annual Show, Ogden 10am-4pm	13	14	15	16	17	18 OGMS Field Trip Big Egg Claim
19	20	21 General Meeting 7:30 pm	22	23 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	24	25
26 Field Trip Graveyard Point Meet 8:00 am	27	28	29	30		

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
3	4 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	5 Board Meeting 7 pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 General Meeting 7:30 pm	20	21 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	22	23 OGMS Field Trip Rockville Leaf Fossils
24 Field Trip Meet 8:30 am	25	26	27	28	29	30 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Pizza Party!!

Thank You to all who helped set up the show, run the tables, and take it all down again. We have again successfully produced a great show. It is becoming so popular that people drive long distances to come see all of our vendors, cases, and many old friends.

To show our appreciation, we are inviting everyone to a Pizza Party Tuesday, March 24th at the Idaho Pizza Co., 7444 W. Fairview Ave., in Boise. We will meet there at 6:00 pm for dinner and comraderie. The Gem Club will provide the pizza and salad bar.

The location is in the Westgate Shopping Center at the corner of Fairview and Cole Rd. (the former Hastings location).

***We Hope You
Can Join Us!***

WORKSHOP LOCATION

2620 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID
Next door to Stewart's Gem Shop
\$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



IDAHO GEM CLUB MEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Our field trip day is the 3rd Sunday of each month with additional trips on other weekends. The 3rd Saturday is the Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society Field Trip day. This year, you may go to OGMS and IGC trips.

March 21	OGMS Bruneau Wood Pile - Petrified Wood
MARCH 22	A.M. WHANGDOODLE OPAL CLAIM with Greg Sandmeyer and Sandy Blodgett P.M. QUEENSTONE JASPER CLAIMS
April 10,11,12	Ogden, UT, Federation Meeting and Show Topaz Mountain & Dinosaur Park
April 18	OGMS Big Egg Claim - Geodes
APRIL 25	GRAVEYARD POINT CLEANUP DAY
APRIL 26	GRAVEYARD POINT and special tour of collection spots (6 sites) with Sandy Blodgett
MAY 9	REYNOLDS CREEK with Cathy Parsons
May 23	OGMS Rockville Leaf Fossils and Maple Ridge Petrified Wood
MAY 23,24,25	MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EMERALD CREEK GARNETS - There is a fee of \$5 per child (6-12), \$15 per adult Northern Idaho - Overnight camping trip - Site reopening May 22 after being closed during 2019
MAY 23,24,25	MACKAY - CHALLIS with Greg Sandmeyer Overnight camping trip - variety of minerals, crystals, white fortification agate
JUNE 6,7	BEACON HILL with Willa and Doug Renken Both Saturday and Sunday, camping optional
JUNE 13,14	HAMPTON BUTTE with Cathy Parsons in Oregon, 4 hr drive for Green Petrified Wood - Overnight camping trip
JUNE 18-21	FEDERATION TRIP TO BLUE FOREST Big Piney, WY, Blue Petrified Wood, Fish Fossils Overnight trip - camping Thurs/Fri/Sat
JULY 4,5	4TH OF JULY WEEKEND Spencer Opal Mine, East Idaho, Overnight camping trip, cookout with Hayes family
July 18	OGMS A.M. Pink Plume Agate Claim P.M. Haystack Butte Petrified Wood and Jasper
JULY 19	SUCCOR CREEK - Thundereggs
August 22	OGMS Wagontown - Bog Wood
AUGUST 23	SOUTH MOUNTAIN - Ilavite/Hedenburgite/Crystals with Greg Sandmeyer
SEPTEMBER 5,6,7	LABOR DAY WEEKEND SUNSTONE CLAIMS in Plush OR with Cheryl Link - Camping on claim or nearby
September 19	OGMS Blue Egg Claim
SEPTEMBER 20	GLASS BUTTES - NEED A GUIDE!
OCTOBER 17-18	TEXAS SPRINGS - Jackpot, NV Pink Limbcasts and Fluorescent Geodes - Overnight camping trip or lodging in Jackpot
October 24	OGMS Graveyard Point

Field Trip Leaders Contact Information:

Sandy Blodgett, 208-859-4080	Cathy Parsons, 208-957-9938
Greg Sandmeyer, 208-345-1997	OGMS Trips: Robert Murphey, 208-590-1848

MARCH FIELD TRIP

The field trip for March will be on Sunday, March 22nd. It will be to our Whangdoodle Opal and Queenstone Jasper claims. We will meet at the Gem Stop station at the intersection of Highways 55 and 95 outside of Marsing, ID, at 8:00 am, leaving at 8:30 am.

If you have any suggestions about areas you would like to visit on field trips, please contact Sandy Blodgett at 208-859-4080 or Greg Sandmeyer at 208-345-1997.

MARCH PROGRAM

The March program will be Field Trip Overview. Robert Murphey is the Field Trip Director for Owyhee Gem Club. He will show what type of tools to take on field trips, suggest ideas for accessing areas and knowing boundaries, and respecting private property and mining claim laws. We will hand out flyers that have lists of tools, a few maps of collection areas, a copy of the Rockhound Code of Ethics that we all need to follow, and we will review the 2020 Idaho Gem Club Field Trip Destinations in detail.

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 and 10 PRIZES FOR ADULT

BEVERAGES include: juice, punch, tea, other
COOKIES/SNACKS include: cookies, bars, breads, veggies

THANKS TO
FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS!!

DONATIONS TO SILENT AUCTION

I would like to thank Robert "Bob" Burns for the donations this year to the silent auction table. He donated two microscope heads and one used Genii Cabochon Machine. In past years he has donated two metal detectors, hard back books on minerals and other microscope equipment. These type of items go really well at the silent auction table.

I would also like to thank Cathy Parson for the two big boxes of *Lapidary Journal* magazines. These are always a welcome item with great articles to read from days gone by.

I'm not sure who donated the hard back history books, or who gave the blue plastic tumbler cylinder sets, but they were a hit as well.

As you do your spring cleaning and come across items you don't want or need anymore, please give it some thought as to whether you think they would sell at the Silent Auction table. Please let me know by texting me at 208-859-5098 or email me at clink.5.link@gmail.com. I will make arrangements with you to get your items to the club storage unit.

I know there are so many others who gave to the silent auction and please accept my sincere Thank You! For those who need a tax donation slip for your taxes, please get with Teresa Nebeker. She can get this for you. (The club does give out tax receipts as we are a listed non-profit organization – all you have to do is ask).

Thank you so much for all of your support.

Cheryl Link, Silent Auction Table Chairman



SILENT AUCTION TABLE 2020

Hello everyone, I would like to start this article with a **Big Thank You** to all the club members who volunteered to help at the silent auction table during our 2020 show this year.

I have to admit, while I laid in the bed at the nursing home, unable to walk or take care of myself, I pondered whether I should resign from the chairmanship that I had taken care of for the last eight or nine years. The shock that my legs would not fire to allow me to stand was unnerving. I asked the therapist what can I do besides have them lift me in a hooyer machine like a sack of potatoes from the bed to the wheelchair, take me to the therapy room, and then return me back to my room in the wheelchair - the hooyer machine – and lift me back into my bed and help remove the back brace I had to wear. The therapist gave me a set of exercise to do while I laid in bed watching Taco Bell commercials and re-runs of canceled programs. The neurosurgeon told me I could do anything I set my mind to. Will I walk again? Yes, if I work at it. Will I be able to go rock hounding again? Yes, within reason. (I no longer have an L3 vertebra, but instead I have 9 titanium screws holding me together). Will I be able to wear a 20 pound backpack holding my rock hammer, gad bar, sledge hammer and chisels with room for found rocks? No, but I could wear a fanny pack around my waste for reasonable sized rocks found while carrying a rock hammer in my hand. Well, I did not resign the chairmanship. It took me 4 weeks to learn to walk again and another 2 weeks more to have the pic line removed from my arm where I had my antibiotic drip ball three times a day.

I had several club members volunteer well in advance, such as Ron Dingley, Larry Friend, Carl Woodlawn, Janelle Wintersteen, Blaine Dahlstrom, Jay Erb, Tammy Payne, Loren Francis, Don Nafus and Ilse Schreiner. As the day progressed and volunteers moved from my table to other table venues where they had signed up to help, we developed a few gaps in the time slots at the silent auction table. To my delight, other club members simply came by my table and entered the silent auction area to help where help was needed. I would like to call out their names in recognition of their help, as I truly appreciated their generosity in giving their time to help; Andy Housh, Randy Brown and Carl Woodlawn. If I have missed your name, please forgive me...

I would like to give a special thank you to Larry Friend and Ron Dingley, who spent nearly the whole day - both days - back with me at the silent auction table. I really don't know what I would have done without these two fellows!

We still made some money at the silent auction table and we had another successful show. Thank you to all those who came and experienced our show.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Link, Silent Auction Table Chairperson

DISPLAY CASES 2020

This year was the fourth year I was the chairman for the display cases at the show. I will admit I struggled the first three years with getting all the cases filled in time for the show. We have 64 open arena cases and 14 black light display cases to fill each year (we use to have 20 black light cases but this left me with entering 7 cases and it became too much for me, which took the fun away). This year I took a different approach. I called everyone who had entered a display case last year to see if they were interested in putting in a case again this year. I decided to reach out rather than wait for them to come to me. This was very helpful and I was able to fill most of the cases in the two days I called people. I had a few openings and bit by bit filled all the cases. Of course with the flu going around, several cancellations happened the morning of the setup, but other members who wanted a case, but had not reached out to me ahead of time, were able to fill the cancellations. Thank you everyone for the variety of case materials and quality of the display cases. They were awesome this year!

Best regards,

Cheryl Link, Display Case Chairperson

Display Case Popular Vote Winners for 2020

I have tried to keep up with one of the fun parts of the show. The voting for your favorite display case. This was designed to encourage club members to have a little friendly competition with each other, and not to pressure members into going to great lengths to outdo each other. I will admit, there are some very competitive people amongst us. I had planned to do one black light case to give Brent a run for the money against his black light rotating case again this year, but gave my slot up when more people requested black light cases. Next year....

You might wonder why the numbers of votes are so low for the winners, but the truth is there were so many wonderful display cases this year that the voting was all over the place, with almost all cases getting multiple votes. This should speak to the great job done by all exhibitors! Well Done Everyone!!

The only area we lacked in was the representation from the juniors group this year. We will work on this next year. Get ready parents, I will be reaching out to you!

The open arena display case winners:

- 1st place – Phil Stevenson with case number 5 with (17 votes)
- 2nd place – Jim Sly with case number 38 with (16 votes)
- 3rd place – Hayes Family with case number 14 with (15 votes)
- 4th place – Randy Brown with case number 59 with (14 votes)

Junior display case winners:

- 1st place - Maylee Hayes

Black Light Display case winners:

- 1st place – Stewarts Rotation Case with (25 votes)
- 2nd place – Frank York with (22 votes)
- 3rd place – Jim & Belle Witt with (13 votes)

2020 GEM & MINERAL SHOW





Lynn Alan, Grand Prize Winner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Deana Ashton, 208-794-5628
gemdigger2014@outlook.com

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

2nd VP: Brent Stewart, 208-863-9336
gene@stewartsgemshopinc.com

SECRETARY: Gia Stewart, 208-703-0740
eilersg@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Teresa Nebeker
208-890-4500, nebekert1@msn.com

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208-724-3309, barlow596@gmail.com

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208-887-5363, cpete4421@gmail.com

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cpete4421@gmail.com

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clink@micron.com

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cullenanderson@hotmail.com

Rick Corbett, 208-383-0040

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

Sandy Blodgett, 208-859-4080

WEBSITE: www.idahogemclub.com

EMAIL: info@idahogemclub.com

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

New Members & Guests: Dennis Young, Trudy Johnson, Alla Shrader, David Tidmore, Alexa & Jonathan Medema family, John & Jami Hamilton family, Paul & Chris Deveau, Debbie Tidball, David Vinopal, Theresa & Scott Coulter family, Jason Camilo Roys, Neil & Sherri Potts family, Suzi & Justin Vitely, Christine Peters, Zach & Amy Kirk

Deana asked for any corrections to the minutes of last month's meeting as printed in the Grindings. **One correction noted:** Linda Barlow, Federation Director, was left out of the list of Gem Club Officers. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, second by Ed Moser. Members voted, motion passed.

Secretary Report by Gia Stewart: No report

Treasurer Report by Teresa Nebeker: Reviewed the monthly finance activity and totals in accounts.

Federation Report by Linda Barlow: No report.

ROLE Report by Brent Stewart: The next ROLE workshop will be on Monday, March 2.

Workshop Report by Brent Stewart: Regularly scheduled Thursday workshop will be open from 6 pm to 8:45 pm on Feb. 20th. The next workshop will be on Saturday, Feb. 29.

Program: Brent did a display case set up demonstration that showed ideas of assembling a good showcase.

Field Trip Report by Sandy Blodgett: The field trip for this month will be the Gem Show. Field trips for March will be on the 22nd to Queenstone and Whangdoodle claims. April 26th will be to Graveyard Point. Details will be given at the next meeting.

Old Business: Discussion was held for the show. Meeting at 1 pm Thursday Feb. 20 at Lockaway Storage to load trucks; meet at Expo Idaho at 8 am Friday Feb. 21 for show setup. Still need volunteers for tables, sign-up sheets on the back table.

New Business: No new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully

submitted,

Gia Stewart,

Secretary



MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING MARCH 3, 2020

Deana Ashton called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Present: Deana Ashton, Willa Renken, Brent Stewart, Ed Moser, Teresa Nebeker, Cheryl Peterson, Linda Barlow, Cheryl Link, and Gia Stewart

Guests: Dana Robinson, Mike Dome

Absent: Rick Corbett, Sandy Blodgett, Cullen Anderson

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

Secretary Report by Gia Stewart: Check out new March rock magazine in Library.

Treasurer Report by Teresa Nebeker: Teresa reported on the totals for the Gem Show. The show total was \$30,412.97.

Federation Report by Linda Barlow: Linda reviewed the NFMS and AFMS news. See her column on page 10. She will be out of town from March 12-25.

Program Report by Deana Ashton: The March program will be a review of upcoming field trips by Greg Sandmeyer.

Juniors Report by Cheryl Link: No report.

Refreshments Report by Rick Corbett: No report.

Field Trip Report by Sandy Blodgett: No report.

Workshop Report by Brent Stewart: Brent went over the dates for the next workshops. The ROLE Workshop date is April 6 from 6-8:45 pm. The regular workshops will be Thursdays March 19 from 6:15-8:45 pm. The Saturday date is March 28 from 10 am-2 pm.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Dana Robinson asked if the Grindings could be printed in color. It was decided that the extra money could be better spent elsewhere. Members can download and print their own copy.

Scholarship applications need to get out to the schools earlier for the early deadline date of September.

There was discussion for a Pizza Party to thank the volunteers that helped with the show. It was decided to do it on March 24th at 6pm at the Idaho Pizza on Fairview Ave. and Cole Rd. Dana will call and reserve the banquet room for that date.

Twelve new member applications were reviewed. Willa made a motion to accept the applications, Ed seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gia Stewart, Secretary



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John & Jami Hamilton

Paul & Christine Deveau

Theresa Cramer Coulter &
Scott Coulter

Neil & Sherri Potts & Family

Alexa & Jonathan Medina

Debbie Tidball

David Vinopal

Jason C. Roys

Christine Peters

Suzi & Justin Vitley

Zach & Amy Kirk

JUNIORS

Tristan & Trinity Coulter

Emily, Connor & Kayla Medina

Lauren & Sienna Kirk

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

FEDERATION DIRECTOR REPORT

MARCH 3, 2020

By Linda Barlow
IGC Federation Director

NFMS Annual Meeting, Ogden, Utah, April 10, 2020 at 4 pm.

CEQ (Council on Environmental Quality) is proposing process simplification and timeline contractions for NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) of 1969. NFMS President, Kenneth Zahn, encourages each club to write a response by the deadline, March 10, 2020.

Summary Statements: The Feds push to reduce scope and time of environmental reviews, especially highway and energy infrastructure projects. It is necessary to review BLM's and USFS's review process for local-area recreation-related projects in recent past. Keeping up with this is a full-time responsibility of all club members.

1. Limits scope of NEPA review (excludes non-federal projects with minimal federal funding or involvement as agency cannot control outcome of project).
2. Eliminates cumulative impact analysis (due to geographic and temporal scope it's difficult and diverts focusing time and resources on significant effects with encyclopedic documents with irrelevant or inconsequential decision-making process).
3. Requests comments on GHGs (Green House Gases). How NEPA analyses should address GHG emissions is unclear as to the impact of eliminating the analysis as it has a global cumulative effect.

4. Establishes 2-year time limit on EISs (Environmental Impact Statements) completion — current 4 years. Time equals date of notice of intent to date of recorded decision signed.

Items Emailed to IGC Members This Past Month

1. Lowman Ranger District requests grant for vault toilet at Mountain View Campground from Recreational Vehicle Fund.
2. Midas Gold to write key environmental report on its proposed open-pit gold mine in Central Idaho.
3. Oregon Boating Law requires education card by Idaho boaters once they have entered the Powder River Arm of Brownlee Reservoir, but not on border waters.
4. Two-Bit Road Decommissioning Project related to Six-Bit Creek and Curtis Creek subwatersheds.

Idaho Public Lands Access Guide does not include Recreational Rockhounds. I requested they be included.

SME Tech Sessions on March 11, 2020, with regards to Geological Mapping of Mining in Idaho.

Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest Service Revision Plan. I attended the Open House today, March 3, 2020.

1. Talked with forest service supervisor to consider older rockhounds' limited ability to reach areas without vehicle access.
2. Plan and comment before April 20 deadline.

See the NFMS on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NFMS1>

(for the desktop/laptop/tablets)

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/NFMS1>

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

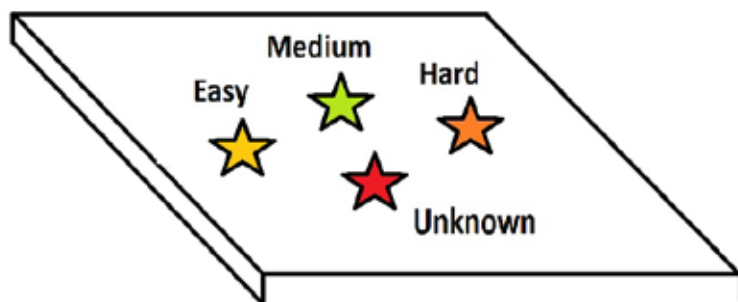
**Two links
for additional newsletters we
receive as members of the rock club.**
NFMS—Newsletter available at:
<http://northwestfederation.org>
AFMS—Newsletter available at:
<http://amfed.org/news/default.htm>

BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC WAX PEN

You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight. As an example of the components, see items #43060 and #47887.

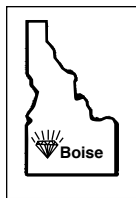
File the tip of the soldering iron into the shape you prefer or even better get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks. Set the dimmer control just hot enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke.

A tip design that I find ideal for some work is a length of small gauge wire that lets me reach in around the model to melt some wax. The wire is 18ga and about 15mm long. I use Sterling wire to conduct heat easily to the tip, and I silver solder it into a hole on the end of a copper or brass rod that fits into the soldering iron.



Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)





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 it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences

Dues:

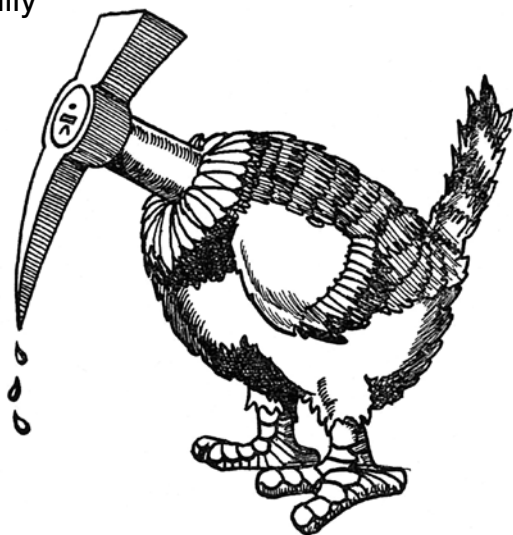
\$22.00 individual

\$25.00 couple

\$28.00 family

Subscription only:

\$10 per year



GENERAL MEETING:

3rd Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING:

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

ADDRESS:

Church of the Brethren

