




# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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

**VOL 84 NO 6**

**JUNE 2023**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds:

Well, what a fun trip we had to the Whangdoodle Opal claim. Beautiful weather and a couple of people found some small opals. I saw a little color. Tough digging, though, and only the toughest rockhounds were persistent enough to find a few. We then traveled towards Succor Creek Road and found a little petrified wood and Owyhee jasper by the roadside. Then we were off to the leaf hill. Everyone found fossil leaves and by the time it was getting hot, I was dirty, tired and ready to go. Good Times!

Our next trip was to Beacon Hill for moss agate geodes. Wow! What a fun trip with some rough roads but mostly easy driving and lots of geodes. I saw a few full buckets and I've already cut some beautiful specimens. Thanks, Willa and Doug, for making the trip possible. Remember, this is an Idaho Gem Club claim and only available to visit on scheduled club trips. If you missed it, we'll have another trip in the fall, weather permitting.

On June 9-11 we were invited to participate in the Gem Faire at Expo Idaho. It's a fun show and it gets me excited for our own show next February. Many thanks to all who volunteered to promote the club at our table. We collected several new applications from interested folks.

Our next field trip will be to Silver City for quartz crystals. It is an old mining town surrounded by mines. We'll be meeting at 8 am on Saturday, June 24th at Logans Market in Marsing, leaving at 8:30. It is on the corner of Hwy. 55 and Hwy. 78. You will need to be aware of open holes and the snakes; best to leave them alone.

On June 30 Deana Ashton is leading a trip up north by Lewiston for sugar garnets (not star garnets) and crystals. It is being sponsored by the Hell's Canyon Gem Club. If you want to go, contact Deana at 208-794-5628 for more information and to sign up.

We are having a Kids' Day Workshop on July 15th from 10 am to 2 pm at our workshop by Stewart's Gem Shop, 2618 W. Idaho St. Put on by Brent Stewart and the Idaho Gem Club, it is a fun day of lapidary adventures. Bring your kids and grandkids! The cost of Kids' Day is \$20 for nonmembers and \$10 for members.

Nyssa Thunder Egg Days is coming up soon. It is on Thursday, July 6, through Saturday, July 8 in Nyssa and setup for the show is on Wednesday, July 5th. We will need help setting up and tearing down again on Saturday evening. I'll have a show schedule sign-up sheet at our next general meeting and would like to see everyone there to help promote our club. You may also sell some of your wonderful slabs, rocks and jewelry. There's a lot going on so bring everyone you know who likes rocks and gems, etc. There is a Fireworks Show on Saturday night at the end of the show. Let's show our support for the Idaho Gem Club and make it a fantastic show. See you there!

*Respectfully Submitted, Rick Corbett, President*

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

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## JUNE

| SUN                                    | MON                                 | TUE                              | WED | THU                         | FRI | SAT                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---|
|  |                                     |                                  |     | 1                           | 2   | 3<br>Beacon Hill<br>Field Trip<br>8 am  |
| 4<br>Beacon Hill<br>Field Trip<br>8 am | 5<br>ROLE<br>Workshop<br>6-8:45 pm  | 6<br>Board<br>Meeting<br>7 pm    | 7   | 8                           | 9   | 10                                      |
| 11                                     | 12                                  | 13                               | 14  | 15                          | 16  | 17                                      |
| 18                                     | 19<br>ROLE<br>Workshop<br>6-8:45 pm | 20<br>General<br>Meeting<br>7 pm | 21  | 22<br>Workshop<br>6:45-8 pm | 23  | 24<br>Field Trip<br>Silver City<br>8 am |
| 25                                     | 26                                  | 27                               | 28  | 29                          | 30  |   |

## JULY

| SUN      | MON                                 | TUE                            | WED                                     | THU  | FRI  | SAT  |
|----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
|          |                                     |                                |   |  |  | 1<br>Workshop<br>10 am-2 pm                  |
| 2        | 3<br>ROLE<br>Workshop<br>6-8:45 pm  | 4<br>Board<br>Meeting<br>7 pm  | 5<br>Thunder Egg<br>Days Setup<br>Nyssa | 6<br>Thunder Egg<br>Days, Nyssa<br>9 am-9 pm | 7<br>Thunder Egg<br>Days, Nyssa<br>9 am-9 pm | 8<br>Thunder Egg<br>Days, Nyssa<br>Tear Down |
| 9        | 10                                  | 11                             | 12                                      | 13   | 14   | 15<br>Kids' Day<br>Workshop<br>10 am-2 pm    |
| 16       | 17<br>ROLE<br>Workshop<br>6-8:45 pm | 18<br>Annual<br>Picnic<br>6 pm | 19                                      | 20<br>Workshop<br>6-8:45 pm                  | 21   | 22<br>Field Trip                             |
| 23<br>30 | 24<br>31                            | 25                             | 26                                      | 27   | 28   | 29<br>Workshop<br>10 am-2 pm                 |

## AUGUST

| SUN | MON                                 | TUE                            | WED | THU                         | FRI | SAT                                       |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---|
|     |                                     | 1<br>Board<br>Meeting<br>7 pm  | 2   | 3                           | 4   | 5   |
| 6   | 7<br>ROLE<br>Workshop<br>6-8:45 pm  | 8                              | 9   | 10                          | 11  | 12<br>Kids' Day<br>Workshop<br>10 am-2 pm |
| 13  | 14                                  | 15<br>Annual<br>Picnic<br>6 pm | 16  | 17<br>Workshop<br>6-8:45 pm | 18  | 19<br>Field Trip<br>Gooding<br>8 am       |
| 20  | 21<br>ROLE<br>Workshop<br>6-8:45 pm | 22                             | 23  | 24                          | 25  | 26<br>Workshop<br>10 am-2 pm              |
| 27  | 28                                  | 29                             | 30  | 31                          |     |   |

## SEPTEMBER

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



## Upcoming Events

**Madras Rock & Gem Show**, June 22-24. 9 am-6 pm, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 430 SW Fairgrounds Rd., Madras

**Bandon Rock & Gem Show**, June 23-24. 10 am-4 pm, The Barn Bandon Community Center, 1200 11th St. SW, Bandon, OR

**Thunderegg Days**, July 6-8. Thursday 12-9 pm, Fri/Sat 9 am-9 pm, South Park, Reece Ave., Nyssa, OR

**Ashland Rocks**, July 7-9. Fri 3 pm-8 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm, Sun 10 am-4 pm, Ashland Historic Armory, 208 Oak St., Ashland, OR

**Natrona County Rockhounds Show**, July 14-16. Fri/Sat 9 am-5 pm, Sun 9 am-4 pm, Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, 800 N Poplar, Casper, WY

**Billings Gem & Mineral Show**, August 3-6. Billings Convention Center, 1223 Mullaney Ln., Billings, MT

## FIELD TRIPS

The field trip for June will be to Silver City for quartz crystals. We will be meeting in Marsing at Logans Market on the corner of Hwy. 55 and Hwy. 78 (aka Marsing/Murphy Rd.). We met at 8 am on Saturday, June 24th, leaving at 8:30 am. It is an old mining district so you need to watch out for holes, and, as always, snakes.

Silver City is an old ghost town so you will have plenty to see as well. Be sure to bring lunch, water and any snacks you may want.

### FIELD TRIP SUPPLIES

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

Good boots or hiking shoes are recommended  
Rain Coat (dress in layers for cooler mornings)  
Lunch/Dinner/Snack Foods/Camping supplies

## AUCTION

We will be having an Auction after our June general meeting to help our Banquet Fund. If you have any slabs or other material you would be willing to donate, that would be great. It is always good fun to trade our material to benefit our club. Many thanks in advance!

## FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

The Youth program has had excellent leadership and curriculum thanks to Instructor L. Paul Verhage! We have completed the Earth In Space Merit Badge and will be awarding 4 badges to: Leah Blaine, Claire Blaine, Alex Blaine and Boulton Blaine. Congratulations to these kids for doing the required assignments and activities!

Now, we are beginning the second badge, Field Trips. Youth will learn rockhounding code of ethics, tool usage, permission from landowners, and more. Once we have some other youth participating, we will schedule special field trips for the class.

## WORKSHOPS

See the calendar for upcoming workshop dates. Come cut your rocks and learn cabochon making. Brent Stewart, Rick Corbett, and Liz Warner keep the club lapidary workshop operating year round.

Third Thursday of each month from 6:00 pm-8:45 pm  
Saturday the week after general meeting — 10:00 am-2:00 pm

### WORKSHOP LOCATION

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

\$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth & Joyce Christensen  
Lynn & Paula Hansen

Brenda Critell  
Angela Gehrig

## WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Ellie Hansen

## New Members:

Our website at [idahogemclub.com](http://idahogemclub.com) has all of the information regarding our club operations. We also have a facebook page for interacting and socializing. Please contact any Officer or Board Member with questions or suggestions! Welcome to your Gem Club!



Perfect timing! Photobombed by a fly!

## IGC LIBRARY

Our Club Library will be open during the general meetings. Take a look at the books, magazines and videos available for check-out.

If you have any books you would like to donate to the library, please contact Cheryl Lawson at [dizzyphalarope@gmail.com](mailto:dizzyphalarope@gmail.com). You may bring books to donate in a bag marked for Cheryl and leave it on top of the library cabinet.



## SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

By Deana Ashton

Congratulations to Cordell and Krista Blaine! Baby Daniel Blaine has arrived! He weighed in at 8 lbs. and 2 oz. He is a happy boy; eats, burps and sleeps well. Welcome!

IGC Sunshine Lady sends cheerful greetings to club members needing , get well wishes, sympathy and anniversary expressions. If you know someone in need of cheer or attention, Please text or call Deana at 208-794-5628.



## MOONSTONE

Moonstone is a sodium potassium aluminum silicate of the feldspar group that displays a pearly and opalescent schiller. Moonstone is also a variety of the feldspar-group mineral *orthoclase*.

An alternative name for moonstone is *hecatolite*. Moonstone's unearthly glow is caused by light scattering between microscopic layers of feldspar. The name *moonstone* derives from the stone's characteristic visual effect. It is also a birthstone for June, along with pearl and alexandrite.

**Adularescence**

During formation, orthoclase and albite separate into alternating layers. Feldspar layers that create moonstone's sheen are similar to the size of a wavelength of light. When light falls between these thin layers it is scattered producing the appearance of a floating, cloud-like, blue to white light inside the gem called *adularescence* (or schiller). Adularescence is the light that appears to billow across a gem. Other feldspar minerals can also show adularescence including labradorite and sanidine.

A blue sheen is produced if the albite crystals are very fine. If the albite plates are thick, the sheen is white. Polished moonstones often display chatoyancy ("cat's eye" effect), where a luminous streak appears through the stone. Asterism is rare and produces four-legged stars.

Along with colorless, white and blue, moonstones also come in gray, green, peach and brown.

**Geology**

The most common moonstone is of the orthoclase feldspar mineral *adularia*, named for an early mining site near Mt. Adular in Switzerland.

Historically, the most valuable colorless, transparent moonstones with strong blue sheen came from Myanmar.

Unfortunately, this material is essentially mined out. Most of the top-grade, blue sheen gems available today are being passed from one dealer or collector to another, which escalates the prices. For cat's eyes and the occasional star, expect to pay in proportion to the beauty, size, and clarity of the eye or star. Today, most commercial moonstones come from Sri Lanka. Despite being somewhat fragile (6.0 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale), this alternative June birthstone is a popular choice for jewelry.

Deposits of moonstone also occur in Armenia, Australia, the Austrian Alps, Mexico, Madagascar, Myanmar, Norway, Poland, India, Sri Lanka, and the United States.

**In Culture**

Moonstone has been used in jewellery for millennia, including ancient civilizations. The Romans admired moonstone, as they believed it was derived from solidified rays of the Moon. Both the Romans and Greeks associated moonstone with their lunar deities. In more recent history, moonstone became popular during the Art Nouveau period; French goldsmith René Lalique and many others created a large quantity of jewellery using this stone.

The moonstone is the Florida State Gemstone; it was designated as such in 1970 to commemorate the Moon landings, which took off from Kennedy Space Center. However, it does not naturally occur in the state.



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## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING MAY 16, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:06 by Rick Corbett, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Eleven guests introduced themselves.

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes, Terri seconded, the membership voted and the motion passed.

Terri drew winning door prize tickets for 4 juniors and 12 adults. Door prizes were provided by Willa, John, and Rick. Thank You!

Juniors excused for their meeting where they will be making meteor craters in flour.

Deana announced that the Hells Canyon club has invited our members to a weekend camping field trip. The location is about 2-1/2 hours from Lewiston and has garnet crystals and sugar garnets. The dates are from July 7 to 9, leaving on Thursday, July 6. Deana has a sign-up sheet. High clearance vehicle recommended.

**Secretary Report:** No report.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statement, disbursements and deposits. Copies are on the front tables to look over.

Rick thanked everyone for their work on the show.

**Federation Director Report:** Debbie went over the stamp program. She also reminded everyone to see her if you want a NFMS Directory. They are handy for contacting other clubs.

**Program:** Cheryl went over the micromount equipment and showed some samples of whangdoodle opal and other gems. It is a very popular display at any of the events we attend.

**Field Trip Report:** The field trip will be to the Whangdoodle Opal claim, and then to Mahogany and Hooker Creeks for petrified wood and jasper. The fossil leaf hill on Succor Creek Road is also a possibility. We will meet at 8 am at the Ion Station at the intersection of Hwys. 55 and 95, leaving at 8:30. Ticks are out so bring spray.

Willa talked about the Beacon Hill field trip. We will meet at the Rest Stop on I-84 just over the Idaho/Oregon border at Ontario. It will be on June 3 and 4 with Willa leading on Saturday and Cheryl leading on Sunday. Don't follow others through the gate; wait for the field trip leader so we go in as a group. There is surface collecting as well as digging the eggs from the ground. You will need a rock hammer and shovel, as well as sunscreen, water and lunch. If you find gates closed, please make sure they stay closed behind you.

**Workshop Report:** Liz went over the ROLE workshop program.

Brent reported on the upcoming dates. The regular workshops will be Thursday after the general meeting, 5-18 from 6-8:45 pm, and Saturday, 5-27, 10 am-2 pm. The June workshops are 6-22 from 6-8:45 pm and 7-1 from 10 am-2 pm. The next ROLE workshops will be on 6-5 and 6-19 from 6-8:45 pm.

The first Kids' Day will be on July 15 from 10 am to 2 pm.

**Old Business:** No old business.

**New Business:** The July and August meetings will be at Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park. They are pot luck picnics with an auction at the end to raise money for the annual banquet.

The Eastern Idaho club has a mineral bench with mineral samples placed where they are found in the state. It is something we should consider in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING JUNE 6, 2023

Rick Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Present:** Rick Corbett, Deana Ashton, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Cheryl Link, Brent Stewart, Jason Smith, Liz Warner, and Dana Robinson

**Absent:** Terri Frostrom

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Deana made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Willa. Board members voted, motion carried.

**Secretary Report:** No report.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. The bill for the Expo building for next year has been received, but it's not due until August.

Willa made a proposal to invest money from our accounts in a 7-mo. bond at ICCU for \$10,000 at a much better interest rate than we are currently receiving. There was much discussion on amounts, interest rates, and length of bonds. The amount could be taken from checking and other accounts. Teresa can call around for best rates and time limits.

Willa made a motion to allow Teresa to research bank rates on CDs with the intent to invest \$10,000 each from the General Fund, the Building Fund, and the Link Fund, for a total of \$30,000. Deana seconded, the Board voted and the motion carried.

**Program Report:** The program for the June 20th meeting will be an auction to support the Banquet fund. Willa put a call for donations in the newsletter.

**Junior's Report:** Deana reported that ten kids have earned their Earth In Space badges. They will start working toward the Field Trip badge next. The program is working well. The leaders want to organize a kid field trip to help earn the badges.

**Field Trip Report:** The trip to Beacon Hill had 27 cars with about 60 people on the first day and 17 cars with 35 or so people on the second day. Everyone found good stuff and Willa barbecued on Sunday.

The next trip is to Silver City on June 24th. We can look for quartz crystals in the tailings piles. Jenny is tied up this month so Rick will check with Tony Griffin for information.

The Hells Canyon Club trip is planning on leaving June 30th to drive to Clarkia. We will meet the Hells Canyon Club at the Lewiston Interpretive Center. There are about a dozen signed up to go so far. They are going to Stocking Meadow for crystals and sugar garnets. Contact Deana with questions.

**Workshop Report:** The regular workshops for June will be on the 22nd from 6-8:45 pm and July 1st from 10 am-2 pm. The July workshops are the 20th, 6-8:45 pm and the 29th from 10 am-2 pm. The next ROLE workshops will be June 19th, July 3rd and 17th, all from 6-8:45 pm.

The July Kids' Day at the workshop is July 15th, 10 am to 2 pm. The cost is \$20 for non-members and \$10 for members. Would like to get neighborhood kids involved too.

The ROLE program has 13 active participants. There are new members too. The machines are doing well.

**Old Business:** Fuzzy is still getting going on the trailer modifications.

**New Business:** Willa presented the Budget Report to the board. After much discussion and a few changes, Cheryl made a motion to accept the Budget as corrected. Deana seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

There was a question about doing work on Beacon Hill. It is too late this year. We need to contact a worker to do the ripping next spring. Queenstone could also use work but the claim needs a plan of operation first. Cheryl will do research on that and what bonding may be needed and report at the next board meeting.

The Gem Faire is this weekend. We will set-up on Thursday and the event runs Friday through Sunday.

Thunder Egg Days is coming up in Nyssa. It runs from July 6 through July 8 with setup on Wednesday, July 5. Rick will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

Five new member applications were reviewed. Dana made a motion to accept the new applications, Willa seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

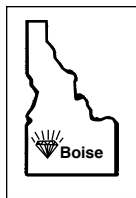


### THE GRINDINGS

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

CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

[www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)



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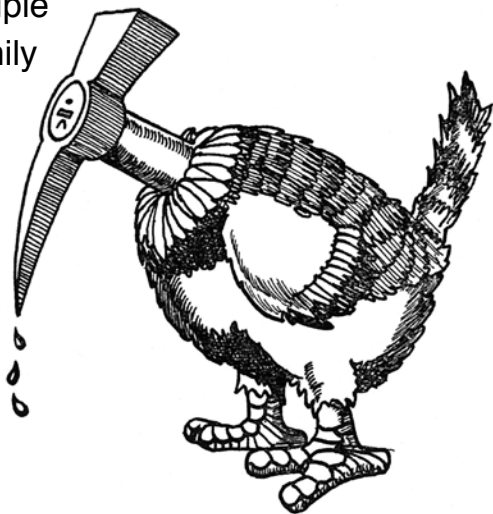
The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences. Applications and/or renewals may be sent to the Idaho Gem Club, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443.

**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:**

Maple Grove Grange  
11692 W. President Dr., Boise

