




# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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

**VOL 86 NO 8**

**AUGUST 2025**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Rockhounds.

It's August and time for the Fair. Things are happening with the Idaho Gem Club. We're having our August meeting in the Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park on Tuesday, August 19th, starting at 6 pm. It is a pot luck meeting and auction kinda day. Remember to bring your table service. Come bring and share your favorite dish and stick around for some auction fun. All proceeds go to our Awards Banquet in January, so come help us have a great evening of fun and friendship.

Last month our club field trip took us to Kemmerer, Wyoming. Fifteen adults and two kids were out there at Fossil Safari digging for fossil fish. We had lots of luck with many fish and two stingrays found. The weather was great and a good time was had by all. There are many pictures this month in the *Grindings*, so take a look and see yourself out there next time!

This month we're going to our Queenstone and Whangdoodle claims. We are meeting at the Chevron/Ion station at 7:30 am on August 23rd, leaving at 8 am, so don't be late. Queenstone jasper is one of the prettiest of the Owyhee jaspers, and a lucky break could get you a spectacular whangdoodle opal. Warm weather is here so dress appropriately. There's lots of brush so long pants will help protect your legs. You will need tools for breaking rocks, a shovel, buckets, lunch and lots of water. Also, be careful where you park. Hot vehicles and dry grass can ignite a disastrous fire. If you're not sure where to park, get out and scout around for a clear area. Be safe and have fun!

Last month's meeting/auction brought in \$488 to our club. Great job everyone! Thanks for all the donations and the help doing the auction. We had great club member support . . . and the pot luck food was amazing! I look forward to seeing everyone there again this month.

July was also Nyssa Thunder Egg Days. Thank you everyone who helped set up, manned our booth, and helped tear down on Saturday. It was a good show this year and I look forward to seeing even more of you next year.

Auctions and field trips, workshops and picnics; come be a part of the best rock club in Idaho. It's your club and we are always looking for new members, fresh ideas and creative talent to help our club be even better.

*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

## MEETING AGENDA

Dinner at 6:30  
General Meeting  
Auction

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## AUGUST

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

## SEPTEMBER

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

## OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am
5 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am	6 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Wire Wrap Workshop 6-9 pm	15	16	17	18
19	20 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	21 General Meeting 7 pm	22	23 Workshop 6:45-8 pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

## NOVEMBER

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

\*To participate in the ROLE workshops, you must complete your first level in the general workshops.



## Upcoming Events

**The Crystal Festival - Rock, Mineral, Gem & Crystal Show**, August 23, 10 am-8 pm. Mountain America Expo Center, 9575 State St, Sandy, UT

**JOGS Tucson Fall Gem & Jewelry Show**, August 28-30, 10 am-6 pm, August 31, 10 am-4 pm. Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E Irvington Rd, Tucson, AZ

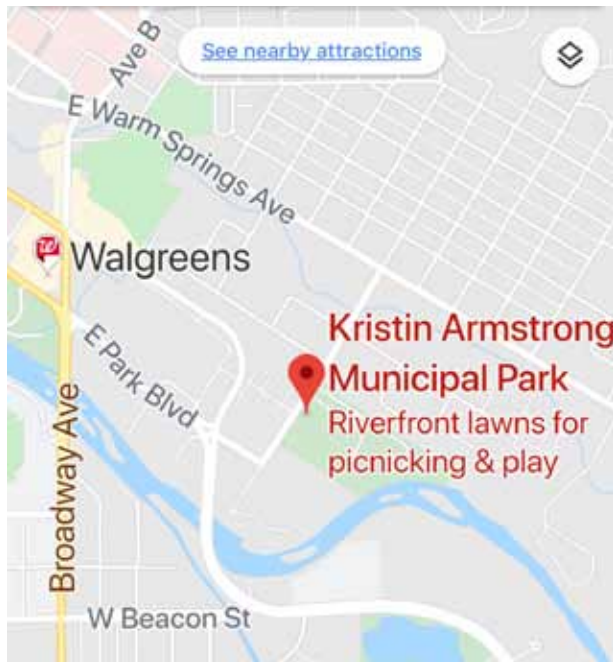
**Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society**, September 6-7, 10 am-5 pm. Walla Walla County Fairgrounds Pavilion, 363 Orchard St, Walla Walla, WA

**Reno Gem & Mineral Show - Jackpot of Gems**, September 13, 10 am-5 pm, September 14, 10 am-4 pm. Grand Sierra Resort, Silver State Pavilion Room, 2500 E Second St, Reno, NV

## AUGUST POT LUCK PICNIC MEETING

August 19, 2025, will be the Pot Luck Picnic at Kristen Armstrong Memorial Park Shelter at 6:00 pm. Dinner is at 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to share for dinner and your table setting. We will have door prizes and a short business meeting to go over current events. The club provides drinks and an ice cream dessert.

After the meeting, the program will be an Auction to help offset costs for our annual Banquet in January. Bring whatever you would like to donate and be ready to look for new pieces for your collection. Come join us for a fun evening. Hope to see you all there!



Map to Picnic Location  
Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park  
500 S. Walnut St., Boise  
Tuesday, July 16, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

## 2025 FIELD TRIPS

Aug 23	Whangdoodle and Queenstone claims Opal and Jaspers
Sep 20	Haystack Butte
Oct 4-5	Beacon Hill, Geodes

## AUGUST FIELD TRIP

The field trip for August will be to our Queenstone claim for jasper and our Whangdoodle Opal claim for opal. We will be meeting at the Ion Chevron Station at the corner of Hwys. 55 and 95 just past Marsing at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am.

You will need lunch, water, and your rock hammer. A spray bottle of water is helpful in locating the opals at Whangdoodle. Eye protection is recommended as well.

## 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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ashley Kalbtuisch	Adrian & Jen Alvi
Nick & Marissa Rynearson	Sue & Bryan Hays
Phyllis Deiter & Robert Lawrence	Alex Meyer &
Emily & Nina Kurpjawit	Lindsay Parisien

## WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Libbie Rynearson	Kendal Rynearson
Jaye Rynearson	Austin Alvi

## 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  
 ROLE Workshops are the First and Third Mondays —  
 6:00 pm-8:45 pm

## WORKSHOP LOCATION

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



## WIRE WRAPPING WORKSHOPS

### Idaho Gem Club Wire Wrapping Workshops

2nd Tuesday of each month  
 6 pm to 9 pm

\$10 to participate, includes copper wire and stone

Maryann Weed is offering Wire Wrapping Workshops for club members at her shop. There is no longer a sign-up sheet. There is plenty of room for anyone who wants to come and there is so much to learn. Check it out!

10417 W. Shiloh Dr.  
 Boise, Idaho  
 208-412-0205

## FUN FIND

This summer a Florida couple were on a road trip and decided to stop at Crater of Diamonds National Park in Arkansas. They rented a kit with a shovel, bucket and box screens and started in. The process is much like Emerald Creek. You dig a bucket of dirt, screen it and see what you have. In a short time they found what the Park calls a "Legacy Diamond." It weighed 3.36 ct. and could be worth as much as \$10K. What a vacation!!

## SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

By Deana Ashton

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.

Ed Moser is doing well and is now reoperating at the Cottages in Middleton, 760B Main St. If anyone would like to visit him, he will be there until Aug. 21st. We all wish him a speedy recovery.





**JULY KIDS' DAY**

Kids' Day was a great time for everyone. The program takes them through the gem shop, the rock yard, and then on to a craft, cracking coconuts and lunch. Brent Stewart does a fantastic program for the group.

The next Kids' Day is August 9. Sign up at Stewarts Gem Shop or contact Brent Stewart. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.





THUNDER EGG DAYS





JULY PICNIC MEETING





## KEMMERER FIELD TRIP



Robin found this baby stingray.



Patty found the biggest fish.



At the Fossil Butte Monument





## IDAHO MUSEUM OF MINING & GEOLOGY

### Mineral Identification

**Date:** August 24, 1 pm to 2:30 pm

Need help identifying rocks you've found or purchased? Coyote Short, Professional Geologist, can identify rocks, minerals, fossils and Native American artifacts. Bring in your specimens and she will help you identify them. Plus, you'll learn steps to identifying rocks and minerals.

**Admission:**

IMMG Members & Kids — Free  
Non-members — \$5 plus Eventbrite fee

Pre-registration is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mineral-identification-class-tickets-1538958499299?aff=oddtcreator>

Please contact [operations@idahomuseum.org](mailto:operations@idahomuseum.org) if you have questions

Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology  
2455 Old Penitentiary Rd.  
[www.idahomuseum.org](http://www.idahomuseum.org)

### Dig into Geodes

**Dates:** September 14, 11 am to 2 pm

Join us for a fabulous time cracking geodes at the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology. Be amazed at the surprise inside.

Every registered child receives one small geode at no cost! Best price in town to purchase larger geodes.

**Admission:**

IMMG Members — Free  
Adult Non-members — \$10 Kids — \$5

Pre-registration is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dig-into-geodes-september-14-tickets-1546009398729?aff=oddtcreator>

Please contact [operations@idahomuseum.org](mailto:operations@idahomuseum.org) if you have questions

Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology  
2455 Old Penitentiary Rd.  
[www.idahomuseum.org](http://www.idahomuseum.org)

## Paleontology: How the Study of Fossils became a Modern Science

**Dates:** September 21, 1 pm to 2 pm

In this talk, Dr. Luna (Boise State University) will discuss some of the major breakthroughs that not only underpinned the development of paleontology, but also completely transformed our understanding of the world.

**Admission:**

IMMG Members & Youth — Free  
Non-members — \$5

Pre-registration is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paleontology-how-the-study-of-fossils-became-a-modern-science-tickets-1564517617309?aff=oddtcreator>

Please contact [operations@idahomuseum.org](mailto:operations@idahomuseum.org) if you have questions

Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology  
2455 Old Penitentiary Rd.  
[www.idahomuseum.org](http://www.idahomuseum.org)

## RUCKS PIT CRYSTAL CLAMS

Hello Fossil Friends:

The inaugural *Rucks Pit Crystal Clam Festival* in Florida was a HUGE success. Every person went home with incredible finds and smiles on their faces. Many of these same people are coming back again.

Based on the reception we've had so far, we're thinking about running the event twice a year. If enough people show interest we will host it both in October and March. If we don't get enough sign ups for two events, then it will be only once a year in March. Here are the dates:

**October 23-25, 2025 and March 19-21, 2026**

Learn more at our website:  
[pacificgeolab.com/pacific-geolabs-rucks-pit-crystal-clam-festival/](http://pacificgeolab.com/pacific-geolabs-rucks-pit-crystal-clam-festival/)

You can also check out a 1 minute video

*Jon Kramer, Director  
Pacific Geolabs*

## GEM CLUB OFFICERS

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## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING JULY 15, 2025

Everyone gathered and Ken gave the invocation. The dinner was started at 6:30 pm and everyone enjoyed a great meal. Doug and Brent passed out ice cream for dessert.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 by Rick Corbett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 8 juniors and 9 adults. One grand prize was awarded.

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes, Liz seconded, the membership voted and the motion carried with Mike opposed.

Five new members and guests stood and introduced themselves.

**Junior's Report:** Cordell takes care of the juniors and plans their activities.

**Treasurer Report:** No report. Please talk to a board member with any questions.

**Program Report:** The program tonight will be an auction after the business meeting with proceeds going toward the Banquet next January. The August 19th meeting will be the same.

**Field Trip Report:** The field trip is to Kemmerer, WY, for fossils on July 18th. There are 20 people signed up to attend.

The August field trip will be to the Queenstone and Whangdoodle claims on the 23rd. We will meet at the Ion station at Hwys 55 and 95 at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am. The September trip will be to Haystack Butte in Oregon.

**Workshop Report:** The first Kids' Day is July 19 and 22 kids have signed up to participate. Brent and Liz will need all the help they can get to help the kids make necklaces, etc. The next Kids' Day is August 9.

Brent also went over the workshop dates. The next ROLE advanced workshop will be on July 21, 6-8:45 pm. The August ROLE workshops are on Aug. 4 and Aug. 18, 6-8:45 pm. The general workshops are July 17 and Aug. 21, 6-8:45 pm, and Aug. 30, 10 am-2 pm.

**Old Business:** Thunder Egg Days was lots of fun for three days the first part of July. Thanks to everyone who helped man the booth and with set-up and tear down. We will need more participation next year if we are going to continue with the event.

The second Tuesday each month from 6-9 pm Maryann Weed is holding wire wrapping classes for \$10 per person. She had more folks this month. We need to add it to the club calendars.

**New Business:** September we will be meeting back at the Maple Grove Grange.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*



## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING AUGUST 5, 2025

**Present:** Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Terri Frostrom, Lynn Hansen, Jason Smith, Liz Warner and Dana Robinson

**Excused:** Debbie Mitchell and Cordell Blaine

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Rick Corbett.

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

Rick pointed out an error on the August calendar. The field trip is on the 23rd, not the 16th.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. We made \$488 from the July picnic auction.

**Federation Director Report:** No report.

**Juniors Report:** Cordell and Crista welcomed new baby Levi on July 31st. Congratulations!

**Program Report:** For the August program, we will be having another auction after our meeting in the park.

**Field Trip Report:** The field trip to Kemmerer had 15 adults and 2 kids. Fossil Safari was great and everyone had fun and found lots of great stuff to take home.

The next trip is to the Queenstone and Whangdoodle claims on Aug. 23. We will meet at the Ion Chevron at the intersection of Hwys. 55/95 just outside of Marsing. The meeting time is 7:30, leaving at 8 am.

May be able to arrange to replace the gate at the same time while there is a lot of help available. Jason will see if it's possible.

**Workshop Report:** Liz went over the workshop dates. The August regular workshops are on Aug. 21, 6-8:45 pm, and Aug. 30, 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshop will be Aug. 18, from 6-8:45 pm. The September ROLE workshops are on the 1st and 15th, 6-8:45 pm. The regular workshops for September are the 18th, 6-8:45 pm, and the 27th, 10 am-2 pm.

The next Kids' Day at the workshop is Aug. 9, 10 am-1 pm. Only one kid is signed up so far, so may have to cancel.

**Banquet Committee:** It's time to start thinking about the January banquet. Terri says she and Becky will pick the menu this year.

**Election Committee:** Rick asked Willa to head the election committee again this year. It is coming up soon as well.

**Old Business:** The August meeting is on the 19th. Bring table service and a dish to share, Willa will be getting drinks and ice cream again; thank you very much, Willa! We meet at 6 pm with dinner at 6:30. Come early to help cover tables and set up.

### New Business:

Liz requested that board members refrain from making any political statements at our events.

Rick noted that anyone entering a project at the Western Idaho Fair should do so next Monday and Tuesday.

The September meeting will be back at the Grange. We should do an outside meeting before the weather changes. Also we can do a trunk sale in the parking lot from 5 or 5:30 until meeting time.

Terri will contact the Flintknappers to do a program for September while we're outside.

Teresa and John have decided they aren't tumbling anymore. She has quite a few pieces of equipment to donate to the club. They also have quite a bit of grit, a drill press with extra bits, and a flat lap. Many thanks! It will all be put to good use.

There were seven new member applications this month. Jason made a motion to accept the new members, Liz seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*



Fossil horse displayed in the hotel lobby in Kemmerer. It is one of two complete horses ever found. It is worth over \$1 million.

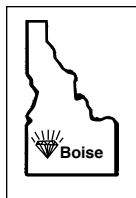
### THE GRINDINGS

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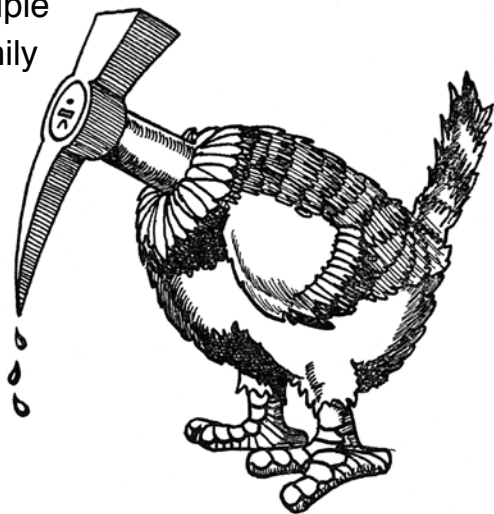
The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences. Applications and/or renewals may be sent to the Idaho Gem Club, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443.

**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

