



Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 86 NO 7

JULY 2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Rockhounds.

What a wonderfully cool, rainy 4th of July! Such a nice break from the heat. Speaking of heat, Nyssa Thunder Egg Days starts this week. Wednesday, July 9 is set-up day. We'll start at about 10 am at the elementary school in Nyssa. We'll need lots of help setting up the new large pop-up tent we just purchased. There are also lots of tables and a cabachon machine to set up. The show starts on Thursday at noon and goes on until Saturday. At 8:30 pm Saturday we'll be taking everything down again and heading home. We will be manning our booth to get new members and it's an opportunity to sell some of our hard work. There will also be a cab machine for demonstrating to promote interest. Please come and help us have a great show this year.

Next Tuesday, July 15, we're having our meeting in Kristen Armstrong Park off of Walnut St. It starts at 6 pm so come early to get a good parking spot and a seat in the shade. We'll also need help covering the tables. Don't forget it is a pot luck dinner, so bring your favorite dish and your table service. The club will provide drinks and an ice cream dessert. After a brief business meeting we will have an auction, so come and enjoy great friends, food and an auction!

On Friday, July 18, we're heading to Kemmerer, WY, for fossil fish. We are digging at the Fossil Lafe Safari quarry on Saturday the 19th. It's approximately 30 minutes from town so plan accordingly. Book your room or RV spot, or camp if you're adventurous. You'll need to reserve your spot at Fossil Lake Safari. The information is in the *Grindings*, so come and have an amazing adventure digging the nicest 50 million year old fish in the world. There are also several fossil galleries that are amazing and the Fossil Butte Visitor Center is a wonder to behold. Kemmerer is the hometown of JC Penney as well, with a museum in town.

Kids' Day is coming up on Saturday, July 19th at Stewart's Gem Shop and our workshop from 10 am to 1 pm. Anybody who wants to help out is welcome. Bring your kids and grandkids for an amazingly good time. Cracking geodes, making jewelry and lunch are just a few of the things they will be doing. Brent Stewart puts a lot of time and thought into providing a great experience of lapidary wonders for Kids' Day, so come and join us for a great time.

Picnics, workshops and gem shows! There are things happening with the Idaho Gem Club. Come be a part of it. Good times mean you are welcome!

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

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rick Corbett, President*

MEETING AGENDA

Dinner at 6:30
General Meeting
Auction

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

JULY

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

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	13	14	15	16 Field Trip Whangdoodle 8 am
17	18 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19 Picnic Meeting 6 pm	20	21 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	22	23
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	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 8 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	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	

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Adam & Jessica Sharkey
 Matthew & Wendy Duncan
 Susan Lawrence & Elizabeth
 Lawrence Bowes

Tony Richard
 Cristina Gallegos
 Jeff Hershey

WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Titus Sharkey
 Aheni Sharkey
 Luke Duncan

Ansley Sharkey
 Kathryn Duncan
 Mahalah Duncan

2025 FIELD TRIPS

Jul 10-12	Thunder Egg Days, Nyssa
Jul 18-20	Kemmerer, WY, Fossils 3-day trip, Rick might lead this trip
Aug 16	Whangdoodle and Queenstone claims Opal and Jaspers
Sep 20	Haystack Butte
Oct 4-5	Beacon Hill, Geodes

KEMMERER, WY, FIELD TRIP

DIG YOUR OWN FOSSILS IN WYOMING

Unearth the fossil hunting adventure of a lifetime at our exclusive Fossil Lake Safari. Located near Kemmerer, Wyoming, dig your own 52 million year old fossils in one of the world's premier fossil sites. Even if you have never collected fossils before, you will not leave empty handed.

We will be discussing any carpooling options at the next meeting.

A great activity for the entire family. Let our friendly and experienced staff help create memories that will last a lifetime. The best part? You get to keep the fossils you find! You will need to call and reserve your spot in the quarry.

Please Book your group at this website:
www.fossilsafari.com
 Ph: 567-367-7457

You can do a full day for \$158 per Adult 17 and up, and \$79 for Kids 7-16. 6 yr and younger are free. Or you can do a half day for \$79 per Adult and \$49 for Kids 7-16. Again 6 yr and younger are free.

WHAT DOES THE PRICE INCLUDE?

- Piles of fossil laden rock for you to split and find fossil fish.
- We provide all of the required tools including hammers and chisels.
- Guides who will show you how to find fossils will be available to assist you throughout the day. They can also help you identify what you find.
- We have tile saws onsite and can assist you in trimming your prized finds for transport.
- We have free water, coffee and WiFi powered by Starlink onsite.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- In the rare circumstance a fossil over \$100k in value is found, royalties will have to be paid to the land owner in order to keep it.

- The quarry is at high altitude (7,300 feet) and the weather can be a little unpredictable. It's typically quite sunny during the summer reaching 80-90 degrees in July and August, but can be substantially colder early in the day. Thunderstorms and brief rain showers are also quite common, so come prepared.
- Driving through the town of Kemmerer you will come to a Ridley's grocery store on the North side of town.
- Just past this grocery store there will be a junction between Highway 189 and Highway 30. Turn onto Highway 189 heading north.
- Drive 1.3 miles and take a left onto Highway 233 at the sign for Lake Viva Naughton.
- Drive 3.9 miles and take a left onto Dempsey Road (dirt road). There will be a large ranch on your right at the turn off. If you cross a bridge you have gone too far.
- Follow the dirt road for about 8 miles. You will cross four cattle guards.
- From the last cattle guard proceed three miles and you will see Fossil Lake Safari signs pointing left. Take the left.
- Drive another 2 miles and the road will fork, take the right fork to go to the Fossil Lake Safari quarry.



Baby Priscacara from Kemmerer

Actual size

JULY POT LUCK PICNIC MEETING

July 15, 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.

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)



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.

Please keep Ed Moser in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from hip surgery.

IDAHO MUSEUM OF MINING & GEOLOGY

Mineral Identification

Date: July 27, 1 pm to 2 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.

Pre-registration is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mineral-identification-class-tickets-145064222939?aff=oddtcreator>

Admission:

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

Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology
2455 Old Penitentiary Rd.
www.idahomuseum.org

Willow Creek Jasper Mine Field Trips

Dates: Sunday, July 13, 8 am to 1 pm
Saturday, July 26, 8 am to 1 pm
Saturday, August 9, 8 am to 1 pm

Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology (IMMG) is pleased to offer this amazing field trip to a local privately owned jasper mine. Each trip is limited to 25 people. Members of the IMMG receive free admission. Non-member fee is \$20 plus the Eventbrite fee. Children are free with a minimum age of 7 years. We'll leave at 8 am so plan to arrive at Little Gulch Parking area by 7:45 am to arrange carpooling and hear a short mandatory safety meeting.

If you have already been to Willow Creek one time this season, please hold off going again until next year, leaving a place for someone who has not yet been. If you cancel for any reason it's important that you let us know in advance at operations@idahomuseum.org. We appreciate your understanding.

This should be a fun and exciting field trip. We will have a shade awning, chairs and extra water set up for your comfort.

Willow Creek Jasper Mine field trip is led by Barb Beatty, and with the permission of mine owner Larry Ridley and the offset property owner, Avimor.

General Information

- Vehicles are limited to 6-8 4WD vehicles, so pack accordingly. If you bring a folding camp chair, make it as compact as possible.
- The Museum has approval from Avimor for motor vehicle access on the specific dates of this field trip as long as weather permits (no muddy roads).
- 1st stop will be at Willow Creek Canyon overlook and Sue Newbie Memorial Cross. This will be a short stop, 30 minutes, before we come to the mine.
- At the mine Barb will give a short geologic overview. Larry will talk about the mining process and the jasper and thunder eggs. People can buy gem-quality jasper from Larry for cash and pick through the tailings for interesting rocks. So bring cash (\$30-\$100) if you want to purchase any finished jewelry or other product from Larry. Most of the trip involves searching for jasper and other rocks in the mine tailings piles.

Directions:

- Take Hwy 55 from Eagle up to Beacon Light Rd. (2 miles from State St.)
- Turn Left onto Beacon Light and go 1.6 miles to Eagle Rd.
- Turn Right (North) on Eagle Rd., which is now called Willow Creek Rd.
- Go 3.3 miles up Willow Creek and pull into the large dirt parking lot area on the right side of the road. This is the Little Gulch Parking area. We will be carpooling from this location after signing waivers and a safety discussion, which are Mandatory.

This adventure requires a Liability Waiver

Please visit the IMMG website for additional information about the Waiver and General Information. Contact operations@idahomuseum.org if you have questions.

Pre-registration is required for each trip

July 13:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/willow-creek-jasper-mine-field-trip-tickets-1414314656209?aff=oddtcreator>

July 26:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/willow-creek-jasper-mine-field-trip-tickets-1419629493029?aff=oddtcreator>

August 9:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/willow-creek-jasper-mine-field-trip-tickets-1435606390359?aff=oddtcreator>

GEM CLUB OFFICERS

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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING

June 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 by Rick Corbett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Ten new members and guests introduced themselves. Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 7 juniors and 8 adults.

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes, Dennis seconded, the membership voted and the motion carried (no Mike tonight).

Juniors Report: Juniors were excused to their meeting room to look at various sands with the microscope.

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

Field Trip Report: Willa took us out to Beacon Hill on May 31st and June 1st. There were a lot of participants and everyone found material.

Brandon Favreau and John Wright took a group of 22 people to Glass Buttes for obsidian. It was an overnight trip and lots of material was found.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Gem Faire and volunteered to man our booth. There were many members who came to visit as well.

The next trip is to Kemmerer, WY, for fossils on July 18th. There is a sign-up sheet on the front table. Bring cardboard, bubble wrap and tape to transport your finds home. We are planning to do the half day dig to avoid storms. You can camp in the desert if you like or some are staying at the Best Western in Kemmerer. The plan is to travel on Friday, dig on Saturday and travel back on Sunday. You can always do the dig on Sunday if you want.

Program Report: The meeting for July 15th will be a pot luck picnic at Kristen Armstrong Park on Walnut St. We will have an auction after a brief business meeting with proceeds going toward the Banquet next January. We meet at 6 pm with dinner at 6:30. Bring a dish to share and your table service. The club provides drinks and an ice cream dessert. The August 19th meeting will be the same. We will also be doing an auction in September.

Scholarship Winner: Logan Nye gave a short presentation on his work at the Texas Institute of Jewelry Technology. He is in a two-year program to be a bench jeweler and won 3rd Place for Design at a competition in Houston. He also shared the skills he learned here and taught several fellow students to make cabachons. He went to some club shows while in Texas. The plume agate from Idaho is very popular down there!

After his talk he was awarded a \$500 check from the club.

Congratulations Logan!

Workshop Report: Brent went over the workshop dates. The workshop for July 5 on the calendar should have been on June 28th. It will be corrected next issue. 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, 6-8:45 pm, and July 26, 10 am-2 pm. The general workshops for August are Aug. 21, 6-8:45 pm, and Aug. 30, 10 am-2 pm.

The first Kids' Day will be July 19 from 10 am-1 pm. It includes the rock yard, making a necklace, a picnic lunch and more. The cost is \$10/child for members and \$20/child for non-members. Please sign up at Stewarts Gem Shop. The next Kids' Day will be August 9.

Liz runs the ROLE program. She reminds everyone to start in the regular workshop for the first two cabs, then join the ROLE program to advance.

Old Business: Maryann Weed is hosting wire wrapping classes for a minimal charge for club members. A sign-up sheet is on the front table. They will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, the next class is July 8 at 6-9 pm. She is working on rings and bracelets for this month. The next class is August 12, 6-9 pm. She is making a very generous offer to club members with a small charge of \$10 per person. Sign up and learn to wrap!

New Business: Thunder Egg Days is the weekend before the Kemmerer trip. It is held at the elementary school in Nyssa, OR. Set-up is on Wednesday, July 9th at 10 am. The show starts on Thursday at Noon and runs til 9 pm. Friday and Saturday it opens at 9 am and closes at 9 pm. We will need volunteers for set-up, tear down and manning the booth. You can bring items to sell while working the booth if you want. It is a great event with lots of kid's stuff and many food vendors. Come help support and promote the club.

Everyone enjoyed the Trunk Sale and agreed we should do it again in September.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING

JULY 1, 2025

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

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

Excused: Debbie Mitchell

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 Liz. Board members voted and the motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. It was another light month. There were a few memberships and renewals. The money market interest will be going down slightly.

Federation Director Report: No report.

Juniors Report: The microscopes were a big hit. Will do it again.

Program Report: For July and August programs, we will be having auctions after our picnic meetings in the park. The July meeting is on the 15th. Bring table service, Willa will be getting drinks and ice cream. We meet at 6 pm with dinner at 6:30.

TED Report: Set-up is on Wednesday, July 9th at 10 am in Nyssa. It runs Thursday through Saturday. On Saturday we can begin tear-down at 8:30. Rick will take sign-up sheets to workshop. There was discussion about sellers helping with booth fee.

Field Trip Report: The next trip is to Kemmerer on July 19th. Friday, July 18th will be for travel to Kemmerer. At 8 am on the 19th we will go to Fossil Lake Safari to dig. We will return on the 20th.

Workshop Report: Liz went over the workshop dates. The July regular workshops are on July 17, 6-8:45 pm, and July 26, 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops will be July 7 and July 21, from 6-8:45 pm. The August ROLE workshops are on the 4th and 18th, 6-8:45 pm. The regular workshops for August are the 21st, 6-8:45 pm, and the 20th, 10 am-2 pm.

The first Kids' Day at the workshop is July 19, 10 am-1 pm. Anyone that can help out will be very much appreciated. The August Kids' Day is on the 9th, same times.

Liz is expanding the tool selection for the ROLE Artisan level studies. It was decided that the expensive nova points should be purchased by the student as a consummable, not the club.

Budget Report: Willa presented the Gem Club budget for 2025. After discussion, Dana made a motion that we accept the budget as presented, Jason seconded. The board voted and the motion carried.

Old Business: Teresa asked about reminding people with unpaid dues with an email. She will do that.

New Business: Jason reported that someone has driven through the gate at the Whangdoodle claim. It needs to be replaced. Jason will research replacements and plan a field trip to install it sometime in August.

Teresa has a Lortone 40 lb. tumbler she would like to donate to the club. It needs work and Jason volunteered to repair it.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

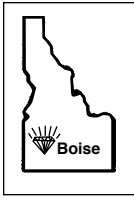
Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

THE GRINDINGS

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CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

www.idahogemclub.com



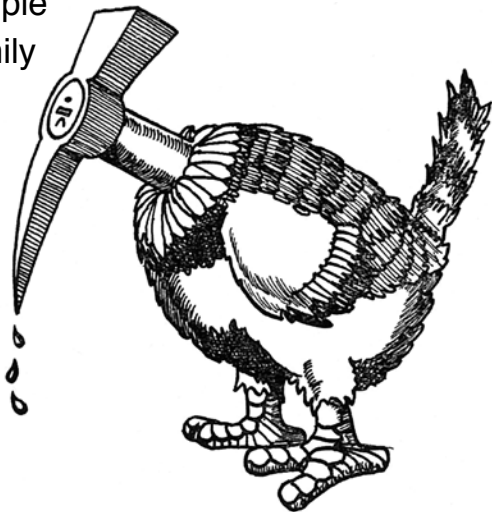
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

