

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

VOL 86 NO 10 OCTOBER 2025

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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

★★ DUES ARE DUE IN OCTOBER ★★

Mail to IGC, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443 or pay at the September or October Meetings Membership Term is from October thru September Single \$22, Couple \$25, Family \$28

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Rockhounds.

The season is changing and fall is in the air. We had our last two field trips in September. One to Haystack Butte on a beautiful sunny day. Everyone had fun and found lots of jasper. The last field trip was to Beacon Hill for moss agate. Not a lot of people, but everyone had fun with lots of agate nodules found. Thank you, Willa and Doug Renken, for leading the club to this unique and beautiful area. Field trips are fun and a big part of our club adventures, but we don't travel on wet roads and damage the area. So our next field trip will be in the spring with the return of nice weather.

This month at our meeting on Tuesday, the 21st, we will have a presentation on Boitroydal Agate from Graveyard Point by Sandy Blodgett. After the meeting we'll be having an auction. Two saws were donated and they'll be in the back of my truck for a visual inspection to everyone interested. One is an 8" trim saw and the other a 16" saw. The auction winners will get the saws delivered by me. You provide the manpower to safely take them out of my truck, and I'll deliver them. Plus we'll have a variety of rough rock, slabs and cabs to auction off.

We'll have sign-up sheets for our Gem Show in February at the next several meetings, so get signed up to help us have a successful, great show next year. There are many jobs to be covered, so come and help out with your show. Display cases are available, so let me know if you're interested in doing a case.

Membership dues are due in October, so let's get them paid this month. They are due every October, but sometimes we can get busy and forget, so let's get that done.

Tickets are now available for our Award Banquet on January 20th. This year we'll be at a beautiful venue called the Waters Edge Event Center in Eagle. Details will be in the *Grindings* for the cost, address and a map. The party starts at 6 pm and goes to 9 pm with dinner and a brief meeting, awards, and the installation of officers. Brent Stewart will be our MC this year. Get your tickets for a great dinner and fun time.

Start working on your Project of the Year entry. We'll be voting on the winning project in December. The winner gets recognition and a special display case in our show. Everybody is welcome to enter a project and I look forward to seeing your creativity and hard work. Come and be a part of it all!

This month our club purchased a new Genie cabachon machine, so now we have 10 machines for grinding and polishing cabachons. Come to a workshop and learn a fun new skill.

In December is our Christmas Workshop weekend, Saturday the 20th and Sunday the 21st from 10 am til 4 pm both days. It is a pot luck party so bring your favorite dish to share. A wire wrapping class, grinding rocks and eating. . . it's a great time, so some and join us.

The second Tuesday of each month is a wire wrapping class put on by MaryAnn and Chris. Details are in the *Grindings*, so come check out their class. It is an informative and affordable class. Thank you MaryAnn and Chris for doing this for our club.

We had a trunk sale at the last meeting with many people bringing slabs and cabs to sell. Thank you to everyone who participated, it was fun. I would like to thank the Idaho Flintknappers and Chris for coming and doing a demonstration. We ran out of light, but maybe we can have him back in the spring for another demo with a longer day.

There are many things going on with the Idaho Gem Club, so come be a part of the best club in Idaho.

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Corbett, President

OCTOBER 2025 GRINDINGS

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

	OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			1	2	3	4							Workshop 10 am-2 pm	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	Board Meeting 7 pm						ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	Board Meeting 7 pm					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
		Wire Wrap Workshop 6-9 pm							Wire Wrap Workshop 6-9 pm					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	General Meeting 7 pm		Workshop 6:45-8 pm				ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	General Meeting 7 pm		Workshop 6-8:45 pm			
26	27	28	29	30	31		23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29	
					Halloween						Thanksgiving		Workshop 10 am-2 pm	
	DECEMBER							JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	2 Board Meeting 7 pm	3	4	5	6					1 New Year's Day	2	3	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		Wire Wrap Workshop 6-9 pm						ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	Board Meeting 7 pm					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	General Meeting 6 pm		Workshop 6-8:45 pm		Christmas Workshop 10 am-4 pm			Wire Wrap Workshop 6-9 pm					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Christmas Workshop 10 am-4 pm				Christmas		Workshop 10 am-2 pm		ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	Banquet Meeting 5:30 pm		Workshop 6-8:45 pm			
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
			New Year's Eve										Workshop 10 am-2 pm	

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



Upcoming Events

Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show 2026, April 17-18, 10 am-6 pm, April 19, 10 am-4 pm. The NEW Livestock Center Expo Hall at National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St, Denver, CO

WORKSHOPS

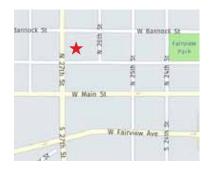
See the calendar for upcoming workshop dates. Come cut your rocks and learn cabochon making. Brent Stewart, Rick Corbett, and Liz Warner keep the club lapidary workshop operating year round.

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 signup 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



PROJECT OF THE YEAR CONTEST

Every December, we hold a contest for projects members have made related to lapidary, jewelry, earth science or geology. There are categories for Adults and Youth. The projects must be made by you, and made within the current year. There is a special showcase dedicated to display the winning entry during the Annual Gem Show and your name is added to the plaque displayed at the club workshop. Take advantage of upcoming workshops to create your project and feel free to ask members for help if you need it.

2026 GEM CLUB BANQUET

IDAHO GEM CLUB ANNUAL DINNER BANQUET JANUARY 20, 2026

Waters Edge Event Center 287 E. Shore Dr., Eagle

6:00 pm No Host Bar 6:30 pm Dinner

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!

- ★ Enjoy a Delicious Dinner
- **★** Installation of Officers
- ★ Special Door Prizes
- ★ Special Recognition
- ★ Table Centerpiece Drawing A Winner at Every Table!
- Awards



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Nominating Committee announced that all three Directors would like to continue for another term. At the time of election, additional nominations will be received from the floor as write-in candidates. The election of Directors will be by written ballot, if necessary.

The newly elected Directors shall officially take office at the regular member banquet in January. New Directors will have no voting powers until after their installation. The election of the President will take place by the board members at the December board meeting.

Board members are required to attend monthly Board Meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. This meeting lasts until about 8:30. All club financial and business decisions are discussed and voted on by the Board. The Directors usually contribute in other areas of the club too.

BOARD NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

Dana Robinson

I joined the Idaho Gem Club in 2000 and have been very active with the Board for the last decade. I served as President for four years and I currently serve as club Secretary and Editor of our monthly newsletter. I love all the events and comraderie the club provides. I look forward to serving you on the Board for another three years.

Liz Warner

I joined the Idaho Gem Club eight years ago. I went to one of the lapidary workshops and learned how to make a plain slab of rock into a polished cabochon. I was hooked. The club offers great opportunities for rockhounds to learn the art of lapidary or to go on rock collecting field trips. I've participated in the club's Recognition of Lapidary Excellence program and achieved the master level in making cabochons. I have been volunteering as a teacher and co-facilitator of the lapidary workshops for 5 years. I would like to continue serving on the Board of Directors and support the activities provided by this club.

Willa Renken

Fellow rockhounds. I am running for the Board of Directors and would like your vote at our November meeting.

I have been involved with the Idaho Gem Club for 29 years and have served in a number of different positions. My first was Building Fund Chair, then Director on the Board, then President for 4 years, and then 1st Vice President after that. My main incentive is to see that our club remains the strong, family oriented, instructional beacon to those who seek the knowledge of rockhounding and the lapidary arts.

Through these 29 years I have been instrumental in seeing our club grow through the Annual Gem Show, it's auctions, workshops and the advancement of the youth program.

My greatest desire is, and always will be, to see our club stay strong and carry forward with the goal of providing information and instruction in the lapidary arts. It is with these desires that I seek your support and vote in the upcoming elections.

OCTOBER MEETING AUCTION ITEMS

These are two saws that have been donated to the club. We will have them at the October auction for any members who are interested in buying them. In the November auction, there will also be a flat lap and two tumblers to bid on. Come obtain that next machine you have been wanting!







8" Trim Saw



16" Saw Made by an engineer





HAYSTACK BUTTE FIELD TRIP

BEACON HILL FIELD TRIP











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SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Chris Seipert from the Idaho Flintknappers gave a very informative demonstration about working with knapping materials.













ANNUAL GEM SHOW SIGN-UP TIME

Once again it is time to start thinking about the annual show. It takes everyone to jump on board and participate by signing up for the different events we have. There is a Wheel of Fortune, Garnet Dig, Grab Bag Sales, Basket Raffle, Silent Auction, Club Merchandise Sales, Scholarship Fundraiser Sales, Hospitality Table at the front door directing visitors, and Entry Ticket Sales that all need volunteers! We also need a good crew for setting up the tables, Black Light Room and Display Cases. Please get involved and help us out. This show is a regional favorite and we always receive a big turnout. This is a fun way to learn more about rocks, meet fellow members and the community. Sign-up sheets will be available at meetings. You may also call the chairpeople to get added on the lists.

Our show will be held February 21 and 22, 2026 at Expo Idaho.

Schedule:

Friday, February 20, 8 am to 6 pm. Show Set Up at Expo Idaho We need volunteers to unload the trailers and set up the entire show, including display cases, dealer tables, blacklight room, demonstration area tables, and tables for the various Club Events. Please pitch in by giving a couple of hours helping the club bring this great Gem Show to life.

Saturday, February 21 10 am-6 pm. Show opens at 10 am. All stations need full volunteer schedules.

Sunday, February 22 10 am-5 pm. Show is open.

All stations need full volunteer schedules.

Sunday at 5 pm-8 pm Show. Tear Down.

Volunteers needed to disassemble the show and load everything back into trailers. We can't do it without you!

Members are encouraged to contact Rick Corbett to reserve a display case where you can show off your treasures to the public. You may install your case during the afternoon on Friday. You must have the glass door fronts on and secured by Saturday's door opening at 10 am.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ace Jones & Emily Donelson Alise Eucker Richard & Yvette Gilleland Madi Hoff Tim & Maria Noone

WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Brendyn Jones

New Members:

Our website at 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!

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.

FLUORITE

Fluorite (also called fluorspar) is the mineral form of calcium fluoride. It belongs to the halide minerals and it is a 4 on the Mohs scale. It crystallizes in isometric cubic habit, although octahedral and more complex isometric forms are not uncommon.

Pure fluorite is colorless and transparent, both in visible and ultraviolet light, but impurities usually make it a colorful mineral and the stone has ornamental and lapidary uses. Industrially, fluorite is used as a flux for smelting, and in the production of certain glasses and enamels. The purest grades

of fluorite are a source of fluoride for hydrofluoric acid manufacture. Optically clear transparent fluorite has anomalous partial dispersion, that is, its refractive index varies with the wavelength of light in a manner that differs from that of



commonly used glasses. That makes fluorite useful in making apochromatic lenses, and particularly valuable in photographic optics.

Structure

Fluorite crystallizes in a cubic motif. Crystal twinning is common and adds complexity to the observed crystal habits. Fluorite has four perfect cleavage planes that help produce



octahedral fragments. The structural motif adopted by fluorite is so common that the motif is called the fluorite structure. Element substitution for the calcium cation often includes strontium and certain rare-earth elements, such as yttrium and cerium.

History and Etymology

The word fluorite is derived from the Latin verb *fluere*, meaning to flow. The mineral is used as a flux in iron smelting to decrease the viscosity of slag. The term flux comes from the Latin adjective *fluxus*, meaning flowing, loose, slack. In 1852 fluorite gave its name to the phenomenon of fluorescence, which is prominent in fluorites from certain locations, due to impurities in the crystal. Fluorite also gave the name to its constitutive element fluorine. Currently, the word "fluorspar" is most commonly used for fluorite as an industrial and chemical commodity, while "fluorite" is used mineralogically and in most other senses.

In archeology, gemmology, classical studies, and Egyptology, the Latin terms *murrina* and *myrrhina* refer to fluorite. The Romans prized objects carved from it.

Occurrence and Mining

Fluorite forms as a late-crystallizing mineral in felsic igneous rocks typically through hydrothermal activity. It is particularly common in granitic pegmatites. It may occur as a vein deposit formed through hydrothermal activity, particularly in limestones. In such vein deposits it can be associated with galena, sphalerite, barite, quartz, and calcite.

Fluorite is a common mineral mainly distributed in South Africa, China, Mexico, Mongolia, the UK, the US, Canada, Tanzania, Rwanda and Argentina. The largest deposits are in South Africa, Mexico and China

Cubic crystals up to 20 cm across have been found at Dalnegorsk, Russia. The largest documented single crystal of fluorite was a cube 2.12 meters in size weighing several tons.

Fluorescence

Many samples of fluorite exhibit fluorescence under ultraviolet light, a property that takes its name from fluorite. Many minerals, as well as other substances, fluoresce. In fluorite, the visible light emitted is most commonly blue, but red, purple, yellow, green, and white also occur. The fluorescence of fluorite may be due to mineral impurities, such as yttrium and ytterbium, or organic matter, such as volatile hydrocarbons in the crystal lattice.

One fluorescent variety of fluorite is chlorophane, which is reddish or purple in color and fluoresces brightly in emerald green when heated (thermoluminescence), or when illuminated with ultraviolet light.

The color of visible light emitted when a sample of fluorite is fluorescing depends on where the original specimen was collected; different impurities having been included in the crystal lattice in different places. Neither does all fluorite fluoresce equally brightly, even from the same locality. Therefore, ultraviolet light is not a reliable tool for the identification of specimens, nor for quantifying the mineral in mixtures.

Color

Fluorite is allochromatic, meaning that it can be tinted with elemental impurities. Fluorite comes in a wide range of colors and has consequently been dubbed "the most colorful mineral in the world". Every color of the rainbow in various shades is represented by fluorite samples, along with white, black, and clear crystals. The most common colors are purple, blue, green,

yellow, or colorless. Less common are pink, red, white, brown, and black. Color zoning or banding is commonly present. The color of the fluorite is determined by factors including impurities, exposure to radiation, and the absence of voids of the color centers.

Lapidary Uses

Natural fluorite mineral has ornamental and lapidary uses. Fluorite may be drilled into beads and used in jewelry, although due to its relative softness it is not widely used as a semiprecious stone. It is also used for ornamental carvings, with expert carvings taking advantage of the stone's zonation.

Meaning and Energy

Fluorite is a stone known for clarity and mental enhancement. Its ability to assist the clearing of negative energy and aiding in decision-making has made this a favorable stone to work with. This powerful crystal is known as an absorber of negative energy, specifically within one's aura and mind. Fluorite will allow the mind to flow freely to balance thoughts and ideas. It is highly recommended for people who have trouble navigating life by assisting in helping you make the decisions you truly want. Fluorite is a very important stone to Libras and can better their confidence, especially when it comes to important decisions that affect your future.

Fluorite's astral energy helps in the activation of your entire chakra column which will lead to the discovery of your true self. Thoughts and ideas that drive us to become a better human can now slowly be transmuted into reality as we radiate our inner-lightbringer. Fluorite helps awaken the environment in which it is placed, uplifting the space while providing a clear channel of thoughts.



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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Rick Corbett and the pledge was recited. Thirteen guests and new members stood and 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 carried, with Mike opposed.

Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 11 juniors and 9 adults. One grand prize was awarded.

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

Field Trip Report: Rick went over the club claims restrictions. Our usage is for recreation only, not commercial.

The field trip is to Haystack Butte in Oregon for jasper. There will be surface collecting, as well as digging. You can also find wonderstone. We will meet at the elementary school in Nyssa at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am. It's about a 15 mile drive to the location. You will need a high clearance vehicle for a rough road. Be sure to bring plenty of water.

The Beacon Hill trip has been changed to Sept. 27 and 28. We meet at the rest stop at Ontario on I84 at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. You will need a high clearance vehicle, digging tools, water and lunch. There are a lot of geodes everywhere, just dig a little. It takes about 45 minutes to go in from the first gate. Please be courteous to all on this last field trip of the year. On the first Beacon Hill trip many good pieces were found.

Program Report: The program tonight will be a demonstration from Chris Seipert of the Idaho Flintknappers. He will show the process of knapping material to make knives, etc.

We will be having auctions at the end of the meetings in October, November and December.

Workshop Report: Liz went over the workshop dates. The next ROLE advanced workshops will be on Oct. 6 and Oct. 20, 6-8:45 pm. The Sept. general workshops are Sept. 18, 6-8:45 pm, and Sept. 27, 10 am-2 pm. The October general workshops are Oct. 23, 6-8:45 pm, and Nov. 1, 10 am-2 pm.

The Wire Wrap workshop for October will be on the 14th, 6-9 pm. MaryAnn would like to have master classes in wire wrapping.

Elections: All directors that are at the end of their term have agreed to continue on the board. Anyone can still be nominated from the floor at the November meeting. If so we will have an election.

Banquet: Our Annual Banquet will be in a new location this year. It is on January 20, 2026, and we have a no host bar so children will not be allowed. Tickets will be available at the meetings from October and at Stewarts Gem Shop, as well.

Old Business: The Project of the Year Contest is coming up in December. There are entries for adults and juniors in this great competition. The winner in each category receives their name on our plaque and a display case in our annual show to show off your entry.

New Business: Rick is in charge of the display cases again this year, so please contact him if you would like to have a display case at the show.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm for the program.

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 7, 2025

Present: Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Lynn Hansen,

Cordell Blaine and Dana Robinson

Excused: Terri Frostrom, Jason Smith, Liz Warner and Debbie

Mitchell

Guest: Sandy Blodgett

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 Cordell. Board members voted and the motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. The dealer fees are coming in for the show. There is a recap sheet showing past year Banquet figures.

Federation Director Report: No report.

Juniors Report: Cordell would like to take the kids out right after door prizes. Some are getting restless.

Program Report: Sandy Blodgett is going to give a presentation on Bruneau Jasper. Rocky Scarrow may also join him.

There will be an auction after the meeting.

Field Trip Report: There were two field trips in September. Haystack Butte had 13 cars with 27 adults and 2 kids. Everyone had a good time and found great material.

The Beacon Hill trip had a smaller turnout, but the weather was much better than it would have been in early October. All went away happy with their haul.

Workshop Report: No report. Check calendar for workshop dates. **Banquet Committee**: The Riverside is not available, so we need a new venue. Rick proposed Waters Edge or Wahooz. Prices are comparable for each venue. Waters Edge is fancier and has an easier entry. After discussion it was the preferred option. Rick will submit a deposit soon.

Rick also showed pieces he acquired for table favors. We will still need a few more.

Election Committee: The three nominees for the board need to send bios for the newsletter. If we have nominations from the floor we will have an election.

Old Business: Dues are due in October. Put reminder in newsletter. Project of the Year is coming up in December. Need to

encourage participation. December's auction is also finished pieces. Sign-up sheets are going for the show. They will be at upcoming

Sign-up sheets are going for the show. They will be at upcoming meetings.

The Christmas Workshop is on December 20-21. It will be from 10 am-4 pm both days. It is a Pot Luck event.

New Business:

Rick has received donated equipment for the October and November auctions. They will be showcased in the newsletter.

Teresa asked if Becky needed any door prize tickets. She has quite a bunch of them and will get some to her.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 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



Idaho Gem Club, Inc. P.O. Box 8443 Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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.

Subscription only:

\$10 per year

\$25.00 couple \$28.00 family

Dues:

\$22.00 individual

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

