




Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 86 NO 9

SEPTEMBER 2025

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★★ 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.

Summer is winding down and cooler days are ahead. August was a great month with a meeting/picnic and auction. Thank you Willa and Doug Renken for the beverages and ice cream treats. Nothing is better than ice cream on a hot August night. Many thanks also to Dana and Liz for helping me with the auction. And many thanks to everyone who bought some amazing auction items and for supporting our club. All proceeds go towards our Awards Banquet in January.

This month our field trip will be to Haystack Butte in the Owyhees on August 20th. We're going to meet at 7:30 am at the elementary school in Nyssa. At the light (there's only one) turn left and it's on your right in the south side parking lot. We'll be leaving at 8 am. A high clearance vehicle is necessary, so if you don't have one, talk to other club members in the morning and there's usually lots of room for everyone to get a ride. Follow our guidelines for the tools to bring and clothes to wear. There is a lot of sagebrush and rocks, and watch out for desert animals, including snakes.

Also, the following weekend, September 27 and 28, we're going to Beacon Hill. We are meeting at the rest stop just before Ontario off I-84 at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. Again, a high clearance vehicle is required to travel to our claim. There are several locked gates to pass through, which means no digging here without our club escorts. Willa Renken will guide us to the location and has the authority to ask anybody not following the rules to leave the area. It is a privilege to dig at this location and anybody causing problems will not be tolerated. Be courteous and mindful of other diggers and club members. Bring the tools for digging, eye protection and plenty of water. These are the last field trips of the year, so come and have a great time with the Idaho Gem Club.

At our next meeting on Tuesday, September 16th, starting at 5-5:30 at the Maple Grove Grange, we're having a Trunk/Rock Sale. Bring your rocks, or your money, to pick up some new pieces to sell or work on. Weather permitting, we are going to have an outside meeting, so we'll need some help with chairs and some tables. Following the meeting the Idaho Flintknappers will be giving demonstrations of knapping, so stick around to watch and learn a great skill. They are great guys and love sharing their passion of rocks and knapping.

Fall is in the air and we have many events planned to learn and share our passion for rocks and gems. It's easy living in the Gem State. Come be a part of your club. The best club in Idaho!

*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

TRUNK SALE
from 5-6:45 before the meeting
in the Grange parking lot

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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 FT-Beacon Hill 8 am Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am	29	30				

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10	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 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
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

DECEMBER

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 6 pm	17	18 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19	20 Christmas Workshop 10 am-4 pm
21 Christmas Workshop 10 am-4 pm	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

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



Upcoming Events

Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show, October 3-4, 10 am-6 pm, October 5, 10 am-5 pm. Wingspan Event Center, 801 NE 34th Ave, Hillsboro, OR

Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Show, October 17-18, 10 am-6 pm, October 19, 9 am-5 pm. Cam-Plex, 1635 Reata Dr, Gillette, WY

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

2025 FIELD TRIPS

Sep 20 Haystack Butte
 Sep 27-28 Beacon Hill, Geodes

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

The field trip for September will be to Haystack Butte on September 20 for some beautiful jasper. We will meet at the elementary school in Nyssa at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am.

Bring your lunch, lots of water, shovels, rock hammer and buckets. Long pants are recommended to protect your legs from the sagebrush. You will need a high clearance vehicle as it is a lot of rough road. The last bit up the hill requires 4-wheel drive. We can carpool up that section.

BEACON HILL FIELD TRIP

This is the last Beacon Hill trip for the year. Due to scheduling conflicts, it was moved from October 4-5 to September 27-28 so we can have two days to dig. Both days we will meet at the first rest stop in Oregon, just past the Snake River bridge and before Ontario. We meet at 8:00 am and depart in a caravan at 8:30 am.

If people arrive at the entrance to the claim trail, they may NOT enter until Doug or Willa Renken arrive to lead group in all at once.* They will open the gate at 9:00 and take us up to the claim. Do not enter the gate to get a head start, even if it's open! Crossing a lot of private property in a large group takes planning and good relations with the ranchers, which the Renkens do for us. Please wait for them.

You will need a high clearance vehicle, but you can always find someone willing to share their vehicle. Be sure to bring water, lunch, digging tools and buckets.

** The only access to this claim is twice a year on scheduled IGC field trips with the Renkens.*

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

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



Images from the last class.

WESTERN IDAHO FAIR WINNERS

This year two of our members won ribbons for their jewelry work at the Western Idaho Fair. Jason Smith won a First Place Ribbon for a beautiful bracelet and a Second Place Ribbon for a ring. The bracelet also won Best of Division for Jewelry! Congratulations Jason!



Rick Corbett also won a Second Place Ribbon for a beautiful opal in silver ring. Congratulations!

It is great to see our club represented at the fair. We have so many talented craftspeople!



IDAHO MUSEUM OF MINING & GEOLOGY

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 if you have questions

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

GEM FAIRE VIDEO

This year a young vendor by the name of Frank Zhu made a YouTube video of the Gem Faire while they were here in Boise. He spoke with Rick Corbett and Marge Conley about the club and what we do. He even used Rick's opals on the video display for the article and called it "Opals in Idaho." Check it out at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hod4gllzpoM>



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.

ELECTION TIME

Each October we nominate 3 members for positions on the Board of Directors. The term is 3 years. The President is chosen from the Board members. Then the President selects the officers.

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 as well. A well rounded board is desired to reflect all club members' interests.

The Nominating Committee Chairperson this year is Willa Renken. You can contact her if you are interested. She will then submit nominations at the Board meeting. The nominees will submit a biography for the newsletter and elections will be held in November. You can also be nominated from the floor during the meeting.

Contact Willa Renken if you are interested in serving on the Board. Her contact information is in the newsletter.

AUGUST PICNIC MEETING



QUEENSTONE/WHANGDOODLE TRIP



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca & Fredrick Freeman
Erik & Jessica Moncada

WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Gwen Freeman	Lily Freeman
Mason Moncada	Cruz Moncada

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.

**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.



GRAB BAG PATTERN

For those who want to sew up some Grab Bags for the February show, here are the instructions. The Grab Bag Stuffing Party is coming up in mid-January.

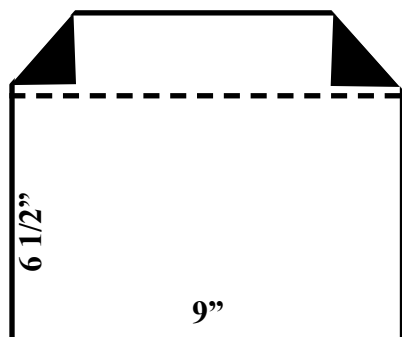
Cut out the fabric to 6 1/2" x 9" size. Press down 1/2" on the top edge of each strip. Following the pattern below, fold over the outer edge of the top hem and make the dog ears, then place your drawstring under the hem (but over the dog ears). You may want to place a few pins in the edge of the hem to make sure it stays put before you sew. Then sew the seam.

Once the hem is stitched down (be careful not to catch the drawstring in the stitching), sew the bag, beginning at the opening where you've placed the "dog ears". Stop the needle at about 1/4" from the bottom of the bag, turn and sew to the end. Then cut threads and turn the bag right-side out.

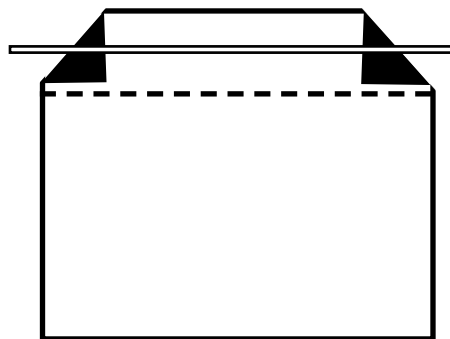
The strings should be made of any heavy cord, yarn or ribbon cut into approximately 14" lengths. Rug yarn is good, strong and colorful. Before sewing, press the folds with a hot iron or crease with the fingers to make the job easier.

Good Luck and Happy Sewing!

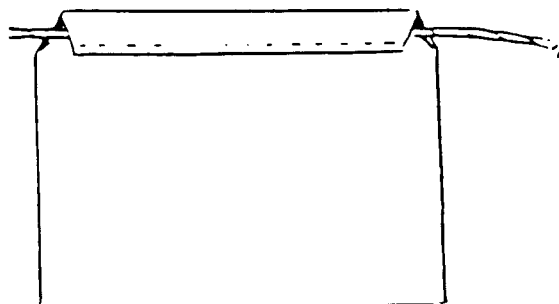
Fold corners over



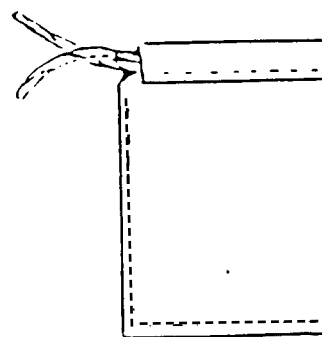
Fold at 1"



Add string



Fold the top down and stitch



Finished bag should be about 4 1/2" by 6"
It is important to have a uniform size of bags for the show



GEM CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Rick Corbett, 208-890-2599

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

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drobinso@boisestate.edu

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WEBSITE: www.idahogemclub.com
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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 19, 2025

Everyone gathered and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Al Johnson gave the invocation and dinner was started at 6:30 pm. Everyone brought great dishes to share and we all enjoyed a great pot luck dinner. Willa passed out ice cream for dessert.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by Rick Corbett and Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 5 juniors and 6 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, Ray seconded, the membership voted and the motion carried, with Mike opposed.

Junior's Report: The juniors are doing sand projects today.

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.

There are fish fossils from Kemmerer on display on the tables, and Rick brought back flyers for other activities in the area. Be sure to take some.

The September program will be a demonstration from the Flintknappers group members.

Field Trip Report: The field trip is to the Queenstone and Whangdoodle claims on August 23. We will meet at the Ion station at Hwy. 55 and 95 at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am. The fire danger is high so park carefully. A spray bottle will be helpful, too.

The September trip will be to Haystack Butte in Oregon for jasper. We will meet at the elementary school in Nyssa at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am. You will need a high clearance vehicle.

The September meeting will start with a Trunk Sale in the parking lot at 5 or 5:30 to 6:45. We will have our meeting outside while it's still nice.

The first weekend in October will be the last trip of the year. We will be going to Beacon Hill for agate nodules. It may only be a Saturday trip this time.

Workshop Report: Liz went over the workshop dates. The next ROLE advanced workshops will be on Sept. 1 and Sept. 15, 6-8:45 pm. The August general workshops are Aug. 21, 6-8:45 pm, and Aug. 30, 10 am-2 pm. The Sept. general workshops are Sept. 18, 6-8:45 pm, and Sept. 27, 10 am-2 pm.

The Wire Wrap workshop for September will be on Sept. 9, 6-8 pm. The next project will be wire wrap pumpkins.

Old Business: No old business.

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

Two guests stood and introduced themselves.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm for the auction.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

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

Guest: Brent Stewart

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 by Rick Corbett.

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

Treasurer Report: Teresa went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. It was another light activity month. We made \$395 from the August picnic auction.

There were questions about membership term. Dana will make a stamp for membership forms to list the term months (October to September).

Federation Director Report: Debbie needs the credentials for the NFMS meeting signed. Dana will print them and get them to her.

Juniors Report: No report.

Program Report: The Flintknappers are coming to do another demo. We will also have a Trunk Sale from 5 or 5:30 to 7 in the parking lot before the meeting. We will need help setting up chairs for an outside meeting.

Field Trip Report: The trip to the Queenstone and Whangdoodle claims went well. There were 13 cars with 23 adults and 5 kids. Many great pieces of queenstone were found and some opal. Everyone had a great time.

The next field trip is to Haystack Butte on Sept. 20th. We will meet at the elementary school in Nyssa. The meeting time is 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am. It's about 15 miles to the dig site. High clearance vehicles are needed.

Workshop Report: Liz went over the workshop dates. The September regular workshops are on Sept. 18, 6-8:45 pm, and Sept. 27, 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshop will be Sept. 15, from 6-8:45 pm. The October ROLE workshops are on the 6th and 20th, 6-8:45 pm. The regular workshops for October are the 23rd, 6-8:45 pm, and Nov. 1st, 10 am-2 pm.

Banquet Committee: It was agreed to use the Riverside again for the banquet. Rick will get a check in for the deposit. No host bar again.

Election Committee: Willa reported that she, Liz and Dana are at the end of their terms. Everyone agreed to continue and will submit bios for the newsletter.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: The Project of the Year Contest is coming up in December and the Christmas Workshop is on December 20-21. Brent will be getting a port-a-potty for the event.

October, November and December will have auctions at the end of the meetings.

The Gem Show for 2026 will be February 21-22. The Caldwell show will be on March 7-8.

Liz filed the claim paperwork for Idaho and Oregon. She requested that we remind her next August 1 so she doesn't forget.

Debbie reported that Ed is doing much better and will accompany her to the NFMS meeting this month.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 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

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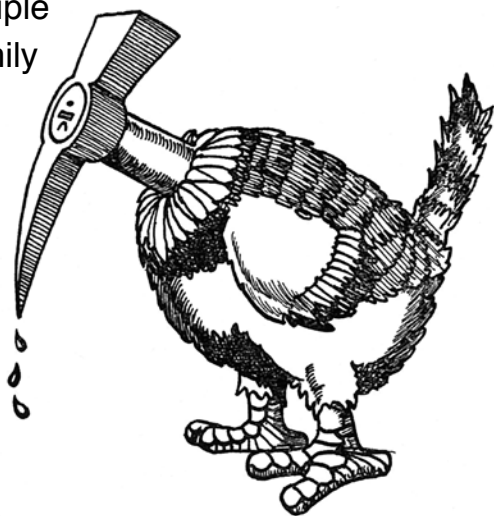
The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences. Applications and/or renewals may be sent to the Idaho Gem Club, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443.

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

