




# Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

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APRIL 2026

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds.

Spring is here and so are the rains . . . finally! We had a great turnout for our show Pizza Party with 10 kids and 34 adults. It was a fun time of visiting and enjoying dinner with Idaho Pizza. If you missed it, come and join us at the next Gem Show in 2027 and then it's pizza time!

This month's field trip is to our claim at Graveyard Point for some of the most beautiful plume agate in the world. We are meeting up at 8 am on Saturday, April 25, at the Ion Chevron station outside of Marsing at the Highway 55/95 junction. We are leaving at 8:30 for about a 20 minute drive to our claim. It may be cool in the morning, but I'm looking forward to a nice warm day. Bring your buckets and any tools you want to use as the agate is plentiful. Check the *Grindings* for a tool/equipment list. It is spring, so pay attention and watch for snakes and other wildlife. It's their home so leave them alone.

We had a great day with nice weather at our last field trip. 26 adults and 8 kids joined the Owyhee Club on Fossil Leaf Hill. There were lots of rabbits, fossil leaves and ticks, plus a few scorpions. Always be watchful for uninvited guests to our party.

Our next meeting on April 22 will feature guest speaker Greg Sandmeyer, who will teach us about opal triplets from Spencer, Idaho. Greg is a Lifetime Member of the club and does demonstrating with opals at our gem show. Come join us and pick up some useful information about this process. Feel free to ask Greg any questions; he was a teacher and is good at answering questions. In July our club is taking a field trip to the Spencer Opal Mine and will be digging for Idaho opals. Information about our trip will be in the *Grindings*. I will be talking about it in the months ahead.

I have confirmed and secured our banquet venue for next January at the Riverside Hotel. It's a nice venue that we've been to before. Tickets will go on sale later this year and we'll have several auctions to help offset the banquet cost. I'll keep you posted on dates and times.

Debbie Mitchell and her father, Ed Moser, made the drive to the Federation Show in Missoula, MT. They represented our club to vote on issues and show support to other clubs in the northwest. They put on a nice show and Ed claimed to have spent "lots of money" on rocks. Thank you Debbie and Ed for doing this for the Idaho Gem Club.

We have many workshops, field trips and rock adventures ahead this year. Come be a part of it! Show your support for the best rock club in Idaho.

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](mailto:drobinso@boisestate.edu)

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Rick Corbett, President*

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## APRIL

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 Field Trip Graveyard Pt. 8 am
26	27	28	29	30		

## MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
3	4 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	5 Board Meeting 7 pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Wire Wrap Workshop 6-9 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19 General Meeting 6:00 pm	20	21 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	22	23 Field Trip Tony Funk's 8 am
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 ROLE* Workshop 6-8:45 pm	2 Board Meeting 7 pm	3	4	5	6 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am
7 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am	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 6:45-8 pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28	29	30				

## JULY

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 Thunderegg Days Set-up, Nyssa 10 am	9 Thunderegg Days, Nyssa Noon-9 pm	10 Thunderegg Days, Nyssa 9 am-9 pm	11 Thunderegg Days, Nyssa 9 am-9 pm
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 6-8:45 pm	24	25 Field Trip Spencer, ID Overnighter
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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



## Upcoming Events

**Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Show**, May 9, 10 am-5 pm, May 10, 10 am-4 pm. Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E Airport Rd, Hermiston, OR

**Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club Rock Show**, May 9, 10 am-6 pm, May 10, 10 am-4 pm. Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Bldg #1, 901 N Black, Bozeman, MT

**Cache Rock & Gem Show**, May 15-16, 10 am-6 pm, May 17, 10 am-5 pm. Cache County Events Center, 450 S 500 W, Logan, UT

**Butte Mineral & Gem Show**, May 16-17, 10 am-5 pm. Butte Civic Center, 1340 Harrison Ave, Butte, MT

## 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 plenty of room for anyone who wants to come and there is so much to learn. Please call to reserve your place. Check it out!



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

## 2026 FIELD TRIPS

- Apr 25 Graveyard Point for Plume Agate
- May 23 Tony Funk's Rock Yard, BBQ/Pot Luck
- Jun 6-7 Beacon Hill for Geodes
- Jul 9-11 Nyssa Thunder Egg Days
- Jul 25 Spencer Mine Overnight Trip
- Aug 22 Whangdoodle & Queenstone for Opal & Jaspers
- Sept 19 Silver City for Quartz Crystals
- Oct 3-4 Beacon Hill for Geodes

## APRIL FIELD TRIP

The field trip for April will be to our Graveyard Point claim for plume/moss agate. We will again meet at the Ion Chevron station at the Hwy. 55/95 Junction just past Marsing at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. It will be chilly early so dress accordingly.

Be sure to bring buckets, tools, lunch and water. Last month at Rockville the ticks were out in large numbers, so insect repellent and long pants are recommended. A higher clearance vehicle is also helpful.



## 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            | Insect Repellent    |

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

## ROCKVILLE LEAF FOSSIL TRIP



Banded Flat Scorpion



## SPENCER MINE FIELD TRIP

This year we are planning on having an overnight field trip to the Spencer Opal Mine on July 25. You will need to go on the website at [www.spenceropalmines.com/#1/mine-experience-tour-dig-reservation/p/783478365](http://www.spenceropalmines.com/#1/mine-experience-tour-dig-reservation/p/783478365) to make your reservation. The reservation fee of \$45 is due at booking (non-refundable). The remaining balance of \$350 is due at the shop prior to starting the experience. So the total cost will be \$400. If the weather cancels the dig, they will ship one of their digging boxes (valued at \$35 dollars plus \$10 shipping) to any customer that paid the reservation fee. We are working on the cost to see if we can get a club discount.

You should travel to the area on Friday, July 24, and spend the night. We will be meeting at 7:30 am at the Spencer Shop at 27 Opal Ave. in Spencer. Their phone number is 208-374-5476.

There are limited options for hotels. The nearest is in Dubois. There are several camping areas that are fairly close. More information to come as we get closer.

## 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. New issues of *Rock & Gem Magazine* are added monthly.

If you have any books you would like to donate, you may bring them in a bag marked for the Librarian and leave them on top of the library cabinet. If you have questions, please contact Tia Call at [tcall76@yahoo.com](mailto:tcall76@yahoo.com).



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

Kaiya Schmidt did a wonderful presentation highlighting her studies and field trips in geology and landslide technology. She is planning on continuing her studies for a master's degree from the University of Utah in the Geohazards research department. Congratulations on winning the scholarship!



**PIZZA PARTY**

The Pizza Party was great fun. We had a good turnout with 34 adults and 10 kids. It was a good time to just visit and have a great dinner.



**IDAHO MUSEUM OF  
MINING & GEOLOGY**

**Bruneau Fossil Reef  
Geologic Field Trip**

**Date:** April 18, 10 am to 4 pm

Investigate the geology of Fossil Reef and Horse Hill with guide Barb Beatty. This area is 80 miles from Boise and has a lot of fossils, petrified wood, and Moqui Balls. We will meet in the Albertson's Shopping Center parking lot near McDonald's Restaurant, 6574 S. Federal Way, at 9:45 am for a 10 am departure. From here Barb will facilitate carpools. We will need some people with higher clearance vehicles to be carpool drivers. Limited people and cars.

**Admission:**

IMMG Members and Children — Free

Non-members — \$20 plus Eventbrite fee

Full refunds if the IMMG cancels the trip due to the weather.

Please read all details on the link.

Pre-registration is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bruneau-fossil-reef-geologic-field-trip-tickets-1984821299938?aff=oddtcreator>

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

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

**Leslie Gulch-Mohogany Mountain  
Caldera: Driving Tour**

**Date:** April 25, 9 am to 4:30 pm

Join Geologist Mark Ferns for an incredible geologic journey through Succor Creek to Leslie Gulch. During this field trip we will be looking at the Mahogany Mountain Caldera, a large rhyolite complex whose core is well exposed in Leslie Gulch. Meetup at 8:45 am at the Meridian Albertsons, 3301 W. Cherry Ln., for a 9 am departure. Only 6 cars in total and carpools will be arranged at meetup.

**Admission:**

IMMG Members and Kids — Free

Non-members — \$20 plus Eventbrite fee

Full refunds if the IMMG cancels the trip due to the weather.

Please read all details on the link.

Pre-registration is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leslie-gulch-mahogany-mountain-caldera-tickets-1984833724099?aff=oddtcreator>

Contact [operations@idahomuseum.org](mailto:operations@idahomuseum.org) with questions.

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[www.idahomuseum.org](http://www.idahomuseum.org)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Kristi Nunes  
Eric Johnson

Xenia Mardak

**WELCOME NEW JUNIORS**

Parker Nunes

Everly Nunes

**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!

**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.

**AQUAMARINE**

Aquamarine is a pale-blue to light-green variety of the beryl family. It is transparent to translucent and possesses a hexagonal crystal system. It is a fairly common gemstone compared to other gems in the beryl family. Mainly formed in granite pegmatites and hydrothermal veins, the process takes millions of years and is associated with Precambrian rocks.

The name *aquamarine* comes from *aqua* (Latin for 'water'), and *marine* (from the Latin *marina* for 'of the sea'). The word has also been used as a modifier for other minerals like aquamarine tourmaline, aquamarine emerald, aquamarine chrysolite, aquamarine sapphire or aquamarine topaz.

Part of aquamarine's charm is its resemblance to cool blue seas. The finest colors are reminiscent of the sea, and the more like a perfect translucent blue lagoon, the more valuable the stone is considered. The intensity of the color is important, with dark blues and greenish blues being most valued. But admirers of aquamarine also appreciate the pale or pastel colors of a subtly tinted, crystal-clear gemstone. An important part of the color in aquamarine is the evenness of the color; a consistent tone throughout the crystal with no visible color zoning.

The color of aquamarine gemstones can change dramatically when viewed from different angles, but this is only really apparent in deeply colored stones where the color change can be from strong blue to almost colorless. The technical term for this is pleochroism.

**Physical Properties**

Aquamarine is blue with hues of green, caused by trace amounts of iron found within the crystal structure. It can vary from pale to vibrant and transparent to translucent. It crystallizes in the hexagonal crystal system, forming prismatic crystals with a hexagonal cross-section. These crystals can be microscopic to enormous in size and often feature faces with vertical striating. It can have a glass-like brilliance and a sheen when cut and polished correctly.

Aquamarine belongs to the beryl family, which it shares with emerald, morganite, and heliodor. It is chemically stable and resistant to acids, with a hardness of 7.5–8 on the Mohs scale. This rating gives it the chance to be a very suitable gem for everyday wear. While aquamarine often contains no inclusions, it may possess some such as mica, hematite,



saltwater, biotite, rutile or pyrite. Stones which do have eye-visible inclusions are often cut into cabochons, beads or fancy carvings. The Ancient Greeks engraved aquamarine and turned them into intaglios, while the Chinese used it to make seals and showpiece dolls, and the Japanese used it to make netsuke.

### Aquamarine Species

Aquamarine is part of the beryl family of gemstones and is similar in chemical makeup to other members, such as emerald, morganite, yellow beryl, etc. What really sets it apart is its light blue to dark blue colors with hints of green.

Aquamarine is a highly regarded semi-precious stone able to command good prices, so some unscrupulous merchants have tried to take advantage of the name. Brazilian Aquamarine may or may not come from Brazil and is often used as a false name for blue topaz; Siam Aquamarine is usually a blue zircon, and Nerchinsk is more likely to be topaz.

### Geological Formation

Beryllium is a necessary component for the formation of aquamarine, a type of beryl. Although beryllium is a relatively uncommon element in the Earth's crust, it can be found in concentrated forms in some geological settings. These include beryllium-rich hydrothermal systems and granite pegmatites, which contain large amounts of beryllium-bearing minerals.

Pegmatites are coarse grained igneous rocks, and the last component of a granitic magma to crystallize. This residual magma is rich in volatile elements and minerals such as silicon, aluminum, and beryllium, providing an environment favorable to aquamarine formation.

Aquamarine may also be formed by hydrothermal fluids, which are hot, mineral-rich solutions. These fluids may precipitate into minerals, including aquamarine.

### Occurrence

Aquamarine can be found in Afghanistan, China, Kenya, Pakistan, Russia, Mozambique, the United States, Brazil, Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Malawi, India, Zimbabwe, Australia, Myanmar and Namibia.

Aquamarine is mostly found in granite pegmatites. It can also be found in veins of metamorphic rocks that became mineralized by hydrothermal activity. It occurs mostly in association with muscovite, schorl, albite, quartz, microcline, fluorite, smoky quartz, cleavelandite and morganite.

### Mining and Extraction

The initial stages of the aquamarine mining process involve prospecting and exploration. Geological mapping, remote sensing, sampling, etc., are used by geologists to locate potentially aquamarine-bearing geological formations. It is possible to mine aquamarine using both open-pit and

underground techniques. This will depend on the features of the deposit and environmental conditions.

The most popular technique for extracting aquamarine on a large scale is open-pit mining. Underground mining may occasionally be used to obtain aquamarine reserves. This process entails digging shafts and tunnels to reach the ore bodies or veins that contain gems. When the aquamarine deposit is deep or the surrounding rock is too hard for open-pit extraction, underground mining is used, even though it can be more difficult and expensive.

To extract the aquamarine crystals from the surrounding rock, the ore is crushed, processed and cleaned. The aquamarine can be concentrated and purified using a variety of methods. The aquamarine crystals are then sorted according to size, shape, color, and clarity. The gemstones are assessed and graded by gemologists and experts according to the predetermined standards of the four C's (color, clarity, cut, and carat weight).

### Care and Maintenance

Aquamarine is classified as a durable gem, however, it may still be damaged. In storage it should be protected from other gemstones to prevent scratches. Warm soapy water and a soft brush are the best ways to clean it, however, ultrasonic cleaners are relatively safe for aquamarine.

### Value

The value of aquamarine is determined by its weight, color, cut, and clarity. Due to its relative abundance, aquamarine is comparatively less expensive than other gemstones within the beryl group, such as emerald, but it is typically more expensive than similarly colored gemstones, such as blue topaz. Maxixe is a rarer variant of aquamarine with a deep blue coloration, however its color can fade due to sunlight.

Heat treatment of aquamarine is sometimes performed to reduce yellow tones caused by ferric iron. Treated material is less valuable than naturally occurring blue aquamarine. Cut aquamarines that are over 25 carats will have a lower price per carat than smaller ones of the same quality.

### Spiritual Meaning

The water element is a large part of the crystal's legend. Ancient tales have claimed that aquamarine came from the treasure chests of mermaids, which led sailors to believe that it was a gift and they would wear it to protect them from drowning or prevent sea sickness. They would also decorate their vessels with gemstones to encourage calm seas and thus save them from sinking.

Aquamarine is connected to the moon, with its influence over us and the seas. As well as being the traditional Pisces

gemstone, it is the birthstone for the month of March and has been used as a symbol for youth and happiness due to its color.

A stone for calming the sea waters was also seen as a perfect amulet for calming the storms in a marriage, so a gift of an aquamarine from husband to wife smoothed the rough waters at home, as well. In ancient Rome, lovers would exchange gifts of aquamarine to signify pure love rather than lust in their relationship. It is also the official gemstone for the 19th wedding anniversary.

In keeping with the feeling of calm waters and clear blue skies, aquamarine can relieve the stresses of life and help you to relax. It's creating of a feeling of serenity makes it a good crystal for meditation.

### Aquamarine Health Benefits

Aquamarine is described as a panacea for many ailments. Pregnant women can wear this gemstone to protect both mother and baby from harm. It boosts your immune system, heals sore throats, helps prevent thyroid problems, and relieves allergic reactions. It is especially beneficial in all matters to do with the throat, liver, and stomach.

Mental health is just as important, and aquamarine can heal there too - it reduces stress and anxiety and washes your worries away. It improves logic, encourages discipline of the mind, and allows you to calmly and intelligently tackle life's awkward questions.

At work, it can motivate, bring out inner strengths, nurture relationships with colleagues, and give you the confidence to progress your career.

### Physical Healing Properties

Aquamarine healing properties can help with physical, emotional, and spiritual balance. It is a stone of breath, the respiratory tract and lungs. Aquamarine is a cooling stone; countering infections and useful for laryngitis, strep throat, or a sore throat. It can heal sinus conditions and frequent coughing and is effective for hay fever and other chronic allergies. It relieves colds and bronchitis.

It harmonizes the pituitary and thyroid glands, regulating hormones and growth, and is beneficial for teeth and gum problems. It supports the healing of inflammatory diseases of all kinds. It is soothing for eczema, hives, rosacea, and psoriasis. Some skin diseases caused by allergies may be eased by Aquamarine.

Tired eyes and certain vision problems can be relieved if Aquamarine is placed on the eyelids for 20 minutes every night. Placed on the solar plexus, it will calm nervous spasms.

### Emotional Healing Properties

Aquamarine is a Water element stone, powerful for cleansing the emotional body and opening communication.

Its gentle energy brings emotional patterns to the surface. It also identifies where ego is causing one to overreact, manipulate others, or martyr oneself. By consciously releasing these patterns, it allows for better relationships, love and compassion.

It helps balance excessive anger or fear. It can also assist in clearing past emotional, physical, or verbal abuse. It is an excellent stone for children who have been through traumatic situations and acting out aggressively.

Aquamarine is useful for moving through transition and change. Its cleansing energy removes resistance and helps you overcome the fear of the unknown. It helps not only in the release of emotional baggage, but also in the clearing of physical items and clutter.

### Chakra Balancing Healing Properties

Aquamarine is perhaps the strongest stone for clearing and activating the Throat Chakra. It stimulates energy from the heart to the throat, allowing one's truth to be communicated.

The Throat Chakra is the voice of the body, a pressure valve that allows the energy from the other chakras to be expressed. If it is blocked or out of balance, it can affect the health of the other chakras. In balance, it allows for the expression of what we think and feel so we can better communicate our ideas, beliefs, and emotions. When the throat chakra is in balance and open, we have an easy flow of energy within the body and spirit. The energy that springs upward from the lower chakras can continue its path enabling free expression and natural release.



Aquamarine on Muscovite, Pakistan  
By Gunnar Ries - Self-photographed,  
CC BY-SA 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/user:Amphibol>

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**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING****MARCH 17, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Rick Corbett and the pledge was recited. Ten guests and new members introduced themselves and commented on what brought them to our club.

Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 8 juniors and 10 adults.

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

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

**Program:** Kaiya Schmidt did a very nice presentation on her studies and adventures in geology and landslide technology and received her scholarship check.

**Juniors Report:** Juniors take off for their meeting.

**Wire Wrapping Class:** Maryann talked about the wire wrapping class she hosts at her shop. The new class will cover prong setting. The classes are the second Tuesday of each month. Please call and reserve a space.

**Field Trip Report:** Brandon went over the first field trip to the Rockville Leaf Fossil Hill. It will be a group trip with the Owyhee club. We meet on Saturday morning, March 21, at the Ion Chevron station at the junction of Hwy. 55/95 at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. You will need a rock hammer, buckets, water and lunch. Thin chisels are helpful to split the rocks. You can also bring newspaper to wrap the fossils so they don't get broken. It will be chilly so dress warmly. A higher clearance vehicle is helpful but not required; there is parking at the bottom of the hill too.

**Workshop Report:** Liz went over the dates for the next workshops. The ROLE workshops will be April 6 and April 20, 6-8:45 pm. The next general workshops are March 19, 6-8:45 pm, and March 28, 10 am-2 pm. The April workshops are April 23, 6-8:45 pm, and May 2, 10 am-2 pm.

The ROLE workshops are for more advanced learning.

**Old Business:** The shelter has been reserved in Kristen Armstrong Park for the July and August picnics. Both months are pot luck picnics with auctions after the meeting.

We had a great Gem Show again this year with beautiful cases. One cooked goose took out the power for a couple of hours, but it didn't slow anyone down too much. The Caldwell and Magic Valley shows were great as well.

A big Thank You to Brent and Willa for their hard work filling vendor spaces after last minute cancellations.

**New Business:** Next Tuesday, March 24, is a thank you Pizza Party for all of the folks who worked so hard setting up, working the show, and tearing it all down again. It is at Idaho Pizza on Fairview and Cole from 6-8 pm. Just stop up front for your drink glass and let them know you're with the club.

Trunk sales in the parking lot will be starting up again when the weather get better.

Sandy went to Graveyard Point and reported that they are putting in new power lines through the area. Large areas have been dug up, so things could be different this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING

APRIL 7, 2026

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

**Excused:** Lynn Hansen

**Guest:** Barb Lee, Ed Moser and Brent Stewart

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*. Jason 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. There were a lot of show bills; adverts, misc. show expenses. She also showed recaps from the show and previous year comparisons.

**Federation Director Report:** Debbie brought quite a few things from the NFMS meeting for the juniors. It is some cool stuff to do experiments with. Thanks!

She also reported that the Scholarship vote passed. It was a good meeting and a great show and dinner. We also received recognition for our stamp donations.

**Program Report:** Rick will contact Greg Sandmeyer and see if he will do the opal program for us.

**Juniors Report:** They are still working on the badge program. Cordell is planning to have them do a short presentation in May.

**Field Trip Report:** The field trip for April will be to Graveyard Point for plume agate on the 25th. We will meet at the Ion Chevron station at the junction of Hwys. 55/95 at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. It will be chilly so dress warmly. Owyhee will be going to their claim as well, so we will let them leave first again.

The trip to Rockville was well attended with 26 adults and 8 kids from our club and about the same from Owyhee.

The Pizza Party was also well attended with 34 adults and 10 kids.

**Workshop Report:** Liz went over the dates for the next workshops. The next ROLE workshops will be May 4 and 18, 6-8:45 pm. The April regular workshops will be Apr. 20, 6-8:45 pm, and May 2, 10 am-2 pm. The May regular workshops will be May 21, 6-8:45 pm, and May 30, 10 am-2 pm.

**Banquet Report:** Rick has made the reservation for the banquet for Jan. 19, 2027. It will be at the Riverside, in the Cinnabar Room. There will be lots of signage to get everyone to the right place. We can decide on the menu at a future meeting. Rick will turn in the deposit this week.

**Old Business:** No old business.

**New Business:** Brent went over the replacement dealers that were asked to the show at the last minute due to cancellations. After much

discussion decisions were made about refunds and new vendors.

Dana made a motion to replace some dealers with proposed new dealers as proposed by the show chairperson and discussed. Cordell seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Willa will contact the equipment operator to discuss possibly ripping the Beacon Hill claim this year.

Barb Lee has accepted the position as Treasurer and will work with Teresa on transitioning. She will need a good laptop and printer to do the work. Doug has the software and will help with set-up.

Willa made a motion to allocate \$1000-\$1500 to purchase the necessary equipment for Barb Lee to do the job of club Treasurer. Jason seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Liz and Lynn asked about the liability insurance for the workshop. We do have the insurance, but there was discussion about changes to the liability sheet and setting a minimum age for kids to use the machines.

There were 3 new member applications this month. Jason made a motion to accept the new members, Debbie seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

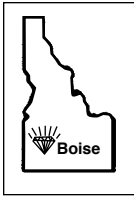
*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

### THE GRINDINGS

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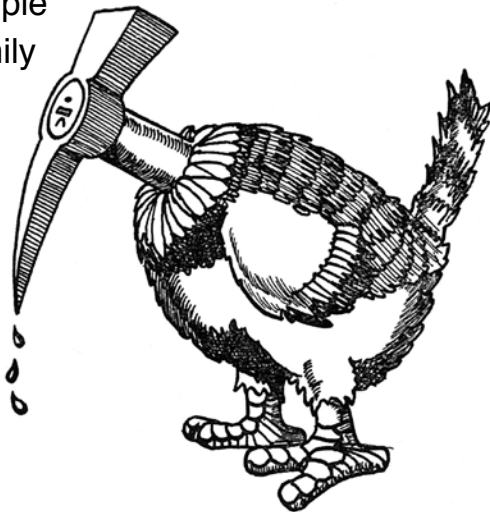
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**GENERAL MEETING:**  
 3rd Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD MEETING:**  
 1st Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**ADDRESS:**  
 Maple Grove Grange  
 11692 W. President Dr., Boise

