



Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 87 NO 5

MAY 2026

DIRECTORY

ITEM	PAGE
President's Message	1
Calendars, Upcoming Events	2
Workshops, Field Trips	3
Field Trips, Library	4
New Members, Sunshine Lady, Mining Museum	5
General Meeting Minutes	6
Board Meeting Minutes	7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds.

The start of summer is here and with it the heat, sunshine and bugs. Now is the best time for rockhounding and we'll be doing that. This month on Saturday, May 23rd, we'll be heading to Gooding to Tony Funk's Rock Yard for a day of digging through piles of his collection for good buys of rocks from all around the world. This adventure is a pot luck lunch with everyone bringing a dish or dessert. Tony and his wife will be cooking hot dogs and cheeseburgers for everyone. This day starts at 10 am with three clubs attending. It is a trip I look forward to every year. Lunch is at noonish, then more searching for treasures. If you want to drive over, the address and map are in the *Grindings*. If you want to caravan over, we'll meet at Blacks Creek Rest Stop east of Boise on I84. Tony provides buckets and rocks, stacking them deep and selling them cheap.

On June 13th and 14th we're going to our claim at Beacon Hill. We'll meet up at the Rest Stop going into Ontario, OR, at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. Bring your tools, buckets and lunch, as well as plenty of water. Be ready to dig the beautiful moss agate nodules and enjoy the beautiful scenic views. This claim is only accessible on the club trips because of locked gates and the ranch lands we cross. If you open a gate, please close it behind you. Willa will be leading this trip both days, so be courteous and thoughtful of those around you. If you cause problems, you will be asked to leave, period! So let's have fun and dig some great rocks.

I want to thank Greg Sandmeyer for doing a presentation on the process of making Idaho opal triplets. It was fun and informative.

At our last field trip to Graveyard Point we had a good turnout with 39 adults and 7 kids. Everyone had fun and found lots of plume agates on a beautiful spring day.

For our July field trip we are taking the long drive to Spencer, Idaho, for opals. The mine tour will be on July 25th, and we will be meeting up at their store by 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am sharp. This is an overnight trip, so don't be late. Idaho Falls is 61 miles away, so plan where you're staying and how much time it will take to get to Spencer. You will have to make reservations before with the Spencer Opal Mine with a \$45 deposit and the balance of \$355 due on Saturday morning. If we can arrange for 25 people to be there we can get a 30% discount. There will be a sign-up sheet and information at our next couple of meetings.

Lots of things happening this year with the Idaho Gem Club. Come be a part of the best rock and gem club in Idaho.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rick Corbett, President*

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

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

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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 7:00 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 <i>Moved Due to Schedule Conflict</i>
7 <i>Moved Due to Schedule Conflict</i>	8	9 Wire Wrap Workshop 6-9 pm	10	11	12	13 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am
14 Field Trip Beacon Hill 8 am	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 Picnic Meeting 6 pm	22	23 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	24	25 Field Trip Spencer, ID Overnighter
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

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

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



Upcoming Events

Coeur d'Alene Rock & Gem Show, May 30-31, 9 am-5 pm. Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Jacklin Building, 4056 N Government Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID

80th Prineville Rockhound Pow Wow, June 17-20, 9 am-5 pm, June 21, 9 am-3 pm. Crook County Fairgrounds, 1280 S Main St, Prineville, OR

Madras Rock & Gem Show, June 25-27, 9 am-5 pm, June 28, 9 am-2 pm. Jefferson County Event Complex, 430 SW Fairgrounds Rd, Madras, OR

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

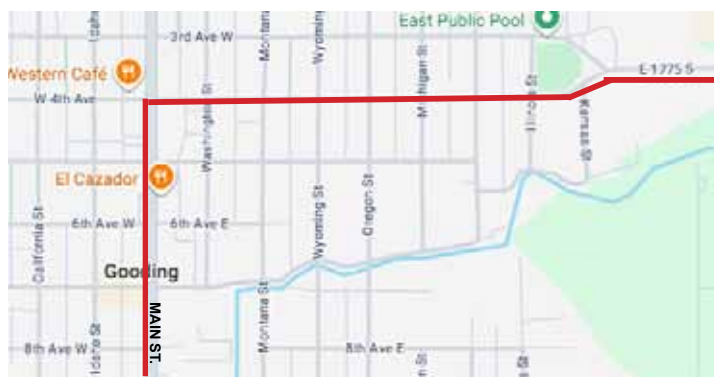
- May 23 Tony Funk's Rock Yard, BBQ/Pot Luck
- Jun 13-14 Beacon Hill for Geodes (*Date changed*)
- Jul 9-11 Nyssa Thunder Egg Days
- Jul 25 Spencer Mine Overnight Trip
- Aug 22 Whangdoodle & Queenstone for Opal & Jaspers
- Sept 19 Silver City for Quartz Crystals
- Oct 3-4 Beacon Hill for Geodes

MAY FIELD TRIP

The field trip on May 23rd will be to Tony Funk's Rock Yard in Gooding. He has several acres of rocks sorted in piles with various prices starting from \$1 per pound. This is a joint trip with the Owyhee club and the Twin Falls club. We will meet at the Rest Stop just east of Boise on I-84 at 8:00 am, leaving at 8:30 to caravan over to Tony's. Or you can just meet us at Tony's place at 10 am. According to Google it will take about 1-3/4 hours to get there so you can plan your departure.

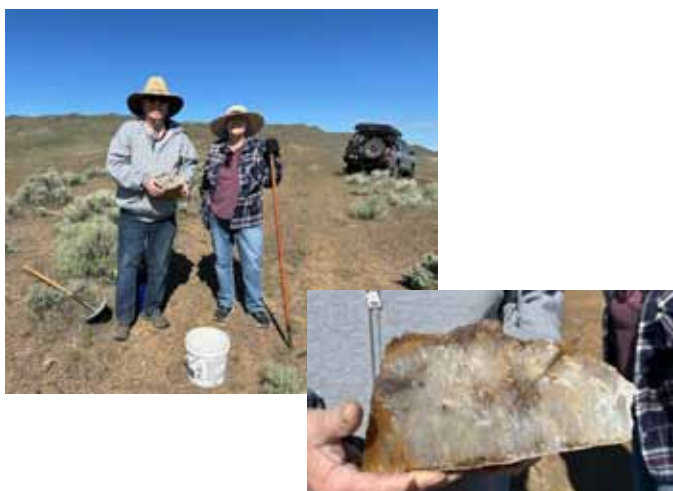
Tony is going to barbecue for us so bring your favorite pot luck dish to share. Also bring drinks, your table service and a comfy chair. No tools are needed for this trip, just bring some buckets to put your finds in.

1727 S. 2150 E., Gooding, Idaho



Take I84 East to Bliss. Take Exit 141 to Hwy 26 and follow it east to Gooding. Turn left on Main St. (Hwy. 46) in Gooding, then turn right on W. 4th Ave. Follow W. 4th Ave. until it turns into E 1775 S. Continue to S 2150 E and turn left. Tony's place is on the left after the train tracks.

GRAVEYARD POINT TRIP



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 to make your reservation. The reservation fee of \$45 is due at booking (non-refundable). The remaining balance of \$355 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, leaving promptly at 8 am. Their phone number is 208-374-5476.

There are limited options for hotels. The nearest is in Dubois or Idaho Falls. There are several camping areas that are fairly close. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meetings for everyone interested in attending.

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.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lori Leonard & Cheri Stow Jim & Stacie Brock
 Gerry & Michelle McMullen
 Benjamin Austin & Betty Austin-Jolley

WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Quin Jolley

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.

**IDAHO MUSEUM OF
MINING & GEOLOGY****Anderson Ranch Dam
and Nearby Sites: Driving Tour**

Date: May 30, 9 am to 5 pm

Join Dr. Terry Panhorst for a tour of some spectacular scenery and geology at the southern end of Boise National Forest. You'll see granite, basalt and rhyolite, plus learn interesting history of the dam construction and its builders. Meetup is at 8:45 am in the Albertson's Shopping Center parking lot near McDonald's Restaurant, 6574 S. Federal Way, for a 9 am departure. The trip is limited to 8 vehicles, so we'll be carpooling. Periodic restroom stops along the route. Home between 4-5 pm.

Admission:

IMMG Members and Children — Free
 Non-members — \$20 plus Eventbrite fee

Full refunds if the IMMG cancels the trip.

Please read all details on the link.

Pre-registration is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/anderson-ranch-dam-and-nearby-sites-driving-tour-tickets-1985867639568?aff=oddtcreator>

Contact operations@idahomuseum.org if you have questions.

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

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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 21, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Rick Corbett and the pledge was recited. Nine guests and new members introduced themselves and commented on what brought them to our club.

Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 9 juniors and 9 adults. Rick commented that the door prizes are to encourage participation in the workshop learning to make cabs, etc.

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. It was noted that the calendar has a wrong meeting time in May. Liz made a motion to accept the minutes, Greg seconded, the membership voted and the motion carried, with Mike opposed.

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

NFMS Report: Debbie went to Missoula for the NFMS Meeting where she voted on the scholarship fund. There was also a minute of silence for members who passed in the last year. Our club was recognized for all the stamps we collected. The show was also good and she and Ed had a great time.

Field Trip Report: The field trip to the Rockville Leaf Hill had 26 adults and 6 kids from our club, along with many folks from the Owyhee club. Everyone found good fossils and some petrified wood, too.

For the May field trip we will be going to Tony Funk's in Gooding. It is a pot luck lunch so plan on bringing a dish to share. Tony will be cooking burgers and hot dogs for us. He has a lot of exotic stuff and many piles to look through. More details in the newsletter.

Brandon went over the field trip this Saturday, April 25, to Graveyard Point. We will meet on Saturday morning at the back of the Ion Chevron station at the junction of Hwys. 55/95 at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. The Owyhee club will also be there. It takes about 20 minutes to get to Graveyard Point. There has been work done in the area so there should be lots of material to find. You will need a rock hammer, picks, shovels, buckets, gloves, water and lunch. A squirt bottle is also helpful. It will be chilly early so dress warmly. Most cars should be okay. Ed suggested you tie the bottom of your pant legs closed to keep ticks out. Watch for them on pets as well.

For the Spencer trip, there will be a sign-up sheet at the next meetings. If we have a group of 25 there will be a 30% discount. You can stay in Idaho Falls; it is about 61 miles away. We need to be there by 7:30 am. The cost is \$400 total; \$45 deposit and \$355 at the mine shop. You must register online. Greg suggested filling your bucket first, then high grading second.

We have lots of field trips planned this year, some old and some new. It should be a good summer.

Juniors Report: Cordell takes juniors to their meeting room.

Workshop Report: Liz went over the dates for the next workshops. The next general workshops are April 23, 6-8:45 pm, and May 2, 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops will be May 4 and May 18, 6-8:45 pm. The next general workshops are May 21, 6-8:45 pm, and May 30, 10 am-2 pm.

More information about location and times is in the newsletter.

Wire Wrapping Class: Maryann talked about the wire wrapping class she hosts at her shop. There were 11 people that participated this month. The next class will cover the basics. The classes are the second Tuesday of each month. The cost is \$10, which includes copper wire and a stone. No reservation needed, just show up. The location is listed in the newsletter.

Maryann also requested that participants be 15 years old or older. If you would like to have instruction for a younger person, she can work with you for a private workshop.

Program: Greg Sandmeyer, long-time Timberline teacher, discussed making opal triplets. He went over the specifics of which wheels or flat laps to use for grinding. Opal is only 5 on the MOHS scale so it can be tricky to remove the harder matrix it is in. He also discussed the cap dome size in relation to opal color and glass versus optical grade quartz for making the domes. He usually uses basenite for the base material. Also, never store opals in the sun.

Old Business: Barbara Lee has agreed to take over the Treasurer position for Teresa. Thank you! She also works for the IRS, so be nice!

Our Pizza Party had 10 kids and 34 adults attend. We ate lots of pizza and had a lot of fun, too.

The 2027 Banquet venue has been confirmed. It will be at the Riverside again. Tickets will be on sale at the end of the year. We have several auctions throughout the year to help offset the costs and keep ticket prices down.

New Business: The Beacon Hill dates are still tentative. We will let you know soon.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING MAY 5, 2026

Present: Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Terri Frostrom, Barb Lee, Liz Warner and Dana Robinson

Excused: Lynn Hansen, Teresa Nebeker, Cordell Blaine, Jason Smith and Debbie Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Rick Corbett.

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

Treasurer Report: Barb filled in for Teresa. She went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. There were still a few show bills to come in for final totals. She also went over the refunds to come.

Brent picked up the amethyst cathedral for next year's show.

Federation Director Report: No report.

Program Report: Cordell was talking about a short kids program, Rick will check with him.

We will have a parking lot sale before the next meeting from 5-6:45 pm.

Juniors Report: No report.

Field Trip Report: The field trip for May will be to Tony Funk's in Gooding on the 23rd. It is a joint trip with the Owyhee and Magic Valley Clubs. We will meet at the Rest Stop just east of Boise on I84

at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 am. You can also just meet at Tony's at 10 am. It is a pot luck so bring a dish to share, your tableware, a chair and buckets for your rocks.

The trip to Graveyard Point was well attended with 39 adults and 7 kids in 24 cars. Everyone found good material and had a great time.

Workshop Report: Liz went over the dates for the next workshops. The next ROLE workshops will be June 1 and 15, 6-8:45 pm. The May regular workshops will be May 21, 6-8:45 pm, and May 30, 10 am-2 pm. The June regular workshops will be June 18, 6-8:45 pm, and June 27, 10 am-2 pm.

Old Business: Liz clarified the insurance coverage for the workshop. We need to enforce safety rules as board members can be sued for negligence. For kids, they must be at least 9 to work on the machines, and ages 9 through 12 need adult supervision at all times.

New Business: The Beacon Hill trip will be on June 6-7, but may need to move to the 13-14. We will meet at the Ontario Rest Stop at 8 am, leaving at 8:30 on both days.

Rick extended thanks to Greg Sandmeyer for his opal presentation. Everyone was quite interested in the process.

There will be no Gem Faire this year as new management gets things going again.

We need to make a sign-up sheet for the Spencer trip in July. If we can get 25 people we can get a 30% club discount on the cost. We will meet in Spencer on Saturday, July 25 at 7:30 am, leaving promptly at 8 am. Details are in the newsletter.

Liz reported that the 10" saw died. Repairs to refurbish it and make it safe will be about \$840. It should be in the budget. She also needs to order 6" and 8" wheels for the genies.

After all the cleaning, a new barrel of oil is needed for the saws. Liz and Willa will check on the prices.

There were 4 new member applications this month. Liz made a motion to accept the new members, Terri seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

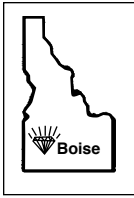
Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

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



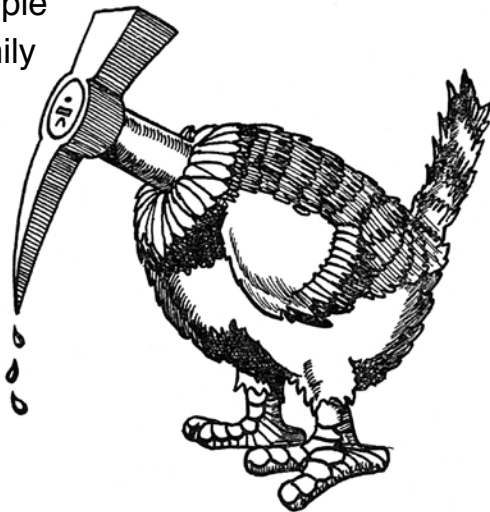
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.
 P.O. Box 8443
 Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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.

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

