



Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

VOL 87 NO 10

OCTOBER 2026

DIRECTORY

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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 Fellow Rockhounds.

Fall is here, the leaves are changing and the nights are getting colder. We've had our last two field trips for the year and they were good ones. Our trip to Silver City brought out 22 adults and 4 kids. We stretched our legs in downtown Silver City and then drove to a location for many quartz crystal clusters. Everyone collected many treasures and had a great day.

Then the next weekend Willa Renken led us to Beacon Hill. The fires had ravaged the area, but the 30 people who made the trip both days found lots of geodes on our claim. With the destruction of the area and gates, do not venture into the area. The rancher will be calling the sheriff and prosecuting any trespassers. Do not take that chance. Be respectful to our club, the ranchers and the land. We'll be back in the spring.

This month we're having an auction after our meeting so plan on staying for that. All proceeds help offset the cost of our annual banquet in January. If you have anything you want to donate, please bring it. Equipment, nice slabs or rough, cabs or finished pieces of your work. Quality over quantity is preferred.

Next month is the election for board members. If you are interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please let Willa Renken know and we'll have an election.

December is the Project of the Year contest. A special display case is set aside for our special project winner and your name will be added to a plaque with all the winners of past years, so bring the special project you're proud of and show it off. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Any skill level can be a winner, so don't be discouraged. Everyone has different visions of beauty and you can be this year's winner.

December is also our weekend Holiday Workshop on the 19th and 20th from 10 am to 4 pm both days. It is a pot luck event, so bring your favorite dish to share. Come get your grind on, or maybe get in on the wire wrapping class with Maryann. Eat, grind and visit . . . it's a fun weekend. It is free except for a small charge for the wire wrapping class for wire. So come and have a good time with your friends at the Idaho Gem Club. See you there!

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

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Years	2
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 Annual Banquet 5:30 pm	20	21 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

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



Upcoming Events

Rock, Jewelry & Gem Show, November 14. Caldwell Elks Lodge, 1015 N. Kimball Ave., Caldwell, ID
60th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, February 27, 10 am-6 pm, February 28, 10 am-5 pm. 5610 Glenwood Ave., Boise, ID
Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society Rock & Gem Show, March 6, 10 am-6 pm, March 7, 10 am-5 pm. 2207 Blaine, Caldwell, ID

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



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.

RUCKS PIT CRYSTAL CLAMS

Dig your own Rucks Pit Crystal Clams!

Discovered in the 1990s in Rucks Pit, a quarry near Lake Okeechobee, FL, these fantastic crystal-lined fossil clams and conchs quickly became famous around the world. Ten years later the mining played out and the site was closed for good.

Years later Pacific GeoLab gained exclusive fossil and mineral rights to Rucks Pit. Since then, we have discovered several sites on the old quarry property where we excavate the crystalized clams that made Rucks Pit famous. The quarry will never reopen, and the property remains closed. However, we are providing a very limited opportunity for clients to visit and dig at our site once or twice a year at the Rucks Pit Crystal Clam Festival. The price is \$500 per person, per day with discounts for Military, First Responders, etc. The next event is:

March 17-21, 2027

Registration opens November 6 at Noon
pacificgeolab.com

The digging is not difficult and the staff will assist you throughout the day. You will use hand tools (mostly rakes and cultivators) to dig through loose sediments. As you find specimens, you may wash them off at one of several cleaning stations provided. There will also be sun canopies and a stock of water, Gatorade and snacks, all provided free. For your convenience Porta Pottys will be on site.

There are also matrix pieces that you will encounter, many of which contain multiple clams. You may keep whatever you find, except matrix pieces and scientifically important specimens. You may purchase matrix pieces at the site.

The price comes with our exclusive *Make-You-Smile Money-back Guarantee*. Each entry ticket includes your first 5-gallon bucket of specimens. Keep in mind that you can fit a lot of clams in a bucket. If you find more than that, you may purchase additional buckets at the site for \$250 each. The matrix pieces are for sale at \$5.00 per pound.

Email questions to Jon at: sundialjon@gmail.com



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP



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.

Many people have been making cabs and wire wrapping this year so there should be some great entries for judging. Show off your creations to the club!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Randy Elhassani & Ines Huang Gayle Czoschke

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!



Alice Carol Stewart

January 25, 1945 -

September 5, 2026

Alice Carol Stewart, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, peacefully left this world on September 5, 2026, at the age of 81, surrounded by the love and warmth of her family. Born on January 25, 1945, in Lawrenceville, IL, Alice was the cherished daughter of Jacob and Irene Coonce, both of whom preceded her in death. Alice's life was a testament to love, dedication and resilience. She met the love of her life, Eugene Stewart, in Idaho City, where they married on June 15, 1963. Together, they crafted a beautiful life over 63 years, raising two wonderful children, Gena Svahn (Gerhard Svahn) and Brent Stewart. Alice and Eugene also worked side by side in their family business, Stewart's Gem Shop, which became a cornerstone of their community and a testament to their partnership. Alice's unwavering dedication meant she continued to contribute to the business until her Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Alice was the Matriarch of the Idaho Gem Club in many senses. She was the heart of the Stewart clan and shared in the discovery and love of the Idaho Star Garnet. She was an elegant, beautiful woman with a terrific sense of humor and happy demeanor.

A graduate of Borah High School, Alice had a lifelong passion for learning, which led her to take history classes at Boise State University. Her love for history was matched only by her commitment to service, as seen in her active involvement in the Ladies Auxiliary Post 63, where she served as a past president and held a national position. Her contributions to the community were vast and varied, reflecting her generous spirit and kind heart.

Alice's true joy in life was her family. She was a devoted grandmother to Allison Grissom Smith (Jason Smith) and Alexa Grissom, and her love extended to her cherished grand pups, Star, Garnet and Minty. Known for her sweet and welcoming nature, Alice made everyone feel valued and loved. Her home was a haven of warmth and kindness, where all were welcome.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Eugene; her children, Gena and Brent; her grandchildren, Allison and Alexa; her brother, Jack (Cherie') Coonce; and a host of nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her legacy of love and kindness will endure.

A service to celebrate Alice's life will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 1:00 pm at The Riverside Hotel in the Aspen Room, located at 2900 Chinden Boulevard. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations in Alice's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization she deeply admired.

Alice Carol Stewart's life was a rich tapestry of love, kindness and dedication. She will be dearly missed and forever remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

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.

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.



SAVE STAMPS PROGRAM

NFMS members are encouraged to use and save commemorative stamps. Cancelled stamps are collected and sorted, then sold to stamp collectors. Cut a 1/2" or larger margin around the stamp. The money generated is then donated to scholarships. The collected stamps can be given to Debbie Mitchell, the Federation Director in our club.

ANNUAL GEM SHOW SIGN-UP TIME

It is time to jump on board and participate in the show by signing up for the different events we have. There is a Wheel of Fortune, Garnet Dig, Grab Bag Sales, Basket Raffle, Silent Auction, Hospitality Table and Entry Ticket Sales that all need volunteers! We need to assemble 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 expect 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.

Our annual show will be held February 27 and 28, 2027 at Expo Idaho.

Schedule:

Friday, February 26, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Show Set Up at Expo

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 plan on giving a few hours helping the club bring this great Gem Show to life.

Saturday, February 27 10:00 am-6:00 pm Show is open.

All stations need full volunteer schedules.

Sunday, February 28 10:00 am-5:00 pm Show is open.

All stations need full volunteer schedules.

Sunday at 5:00 pm-8:00 pm Show Tear Down.

Volunteers needed to disassemble 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 10:00 am.



GRAB BAG PATTERN

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

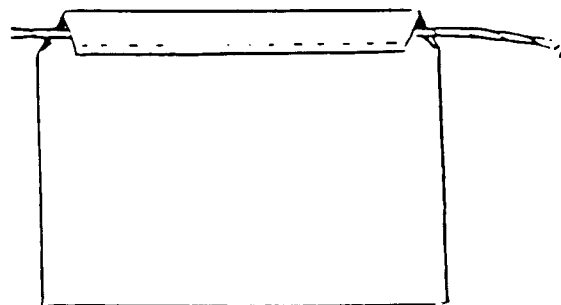
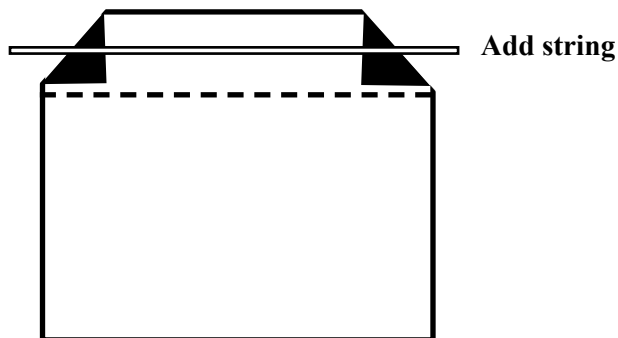
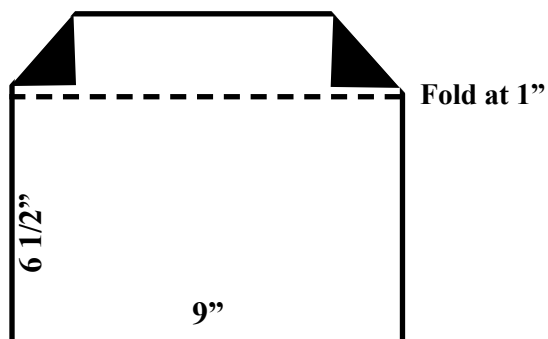
Cut out the fabric to 6 1/2" x 9" size. Press down 1/2" on the top edge of each strip. Following the pattern below, fold over the outer edge of the top hem and make the dog ears, then place your drawstring under the hem (but over the dog ears). You may want to place a few pins in the edge of the hem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

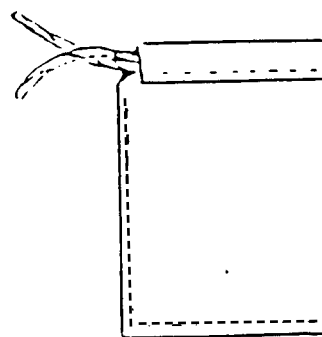
The strings should be made of any heavy cord, yarn or ribbon cut into approximately 14" lengths. Rug yarn is good, strong and colorful. Before sewing, press the folds with a hot iron or crease with the fingers to make the job easier.

Good Luck and Happy Sewing!

Fold corners over



Fold 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



TUMBLING INSTRUCTIONS

ROTARY ROCK TUMBLERS

These instructions will work with any rotary rock tumbler. The specific measurements provided for abrasive materials (grit and polish) is for 3 pound barrel capacity machines. You can adjust the media amounts with the inserted chart. All of the guidelines and approaches are good practice for any rock tumbling project.

Four Step Process

Rotary tumblers use a four step tumbling process:

1. Coarse Grind
2. Medium Grind
3. Pre-polish
4. Polish

Between each of the four steps remove, thoroughly rinse your rocks, and clean out the barrel. Everything must be cleaned thoroughly to remove all grit or rock debris. This is really important as the coarser grits from one step will act adversely in the next steps, scratching your rocks. As always, it is advised not to throw used grit down a drain because plumbing will be damaged/plugged. Use a bucket and a screen to collect used grit and slurry. Do not use an aluminum colander or pan to rinse your stones as it may mark them.

Good Rock Selection

The tumbling process starts with good rock selection. Pick rocks that are of near the same hardness. Use a mixture of small and large stones, but mainly larger ones. The smaller stones will help the grinding action. Gather enough rocks to fill your barrel between 2/3 and 3/4 full. Too many stones and they will roll too short a distance for effective action.

Step One (Coarse Grind)

The goal of this step is for all surfaces of your rocks to be well-rounded. Place rocks in the tumbler and add the 60/90 silicon carbide grit. You are looking to round your rocks in this step over 7 to 10 days. The grit to rock ratio in this step is 2 tablespoons of grit per pound of rock. Add water until it is about 1 inch below your top layer of rocks. Seal the barrel and invert it to check for leaks. Once the tumbling starts watch for a few minutes to be sure there are no leaks. At the early days of this step, check daily on the progress by opening and inspecting the barrel. If the barrel appears to physically swell, open it to vent the buildup of gas which may naturally occur, be prepared with safety glasses and precautions for that. You can also add a teaspoon of baking soda and start with room temperature water to prevent a buildup of gases. Examine your rocks and slurry (the grit and water now mixed with some rock trailings). If it seems thick enough to impede the smooth tumbling of your rocks, thin it with a small amount of water. Once you see rounding has occurred for most or all of your rocks, you can move on to step 2.

Step Two (Final Grind)

In this step your purpose is to conclude the shaping process to your satisfaction. You will be removing any declensions and pitting that may have been present after step one. This step usually takes 7 to 10 days also. Remove any rocks that are not responding sufficiently

or have evolved to an unattractive shape. Put your cleaned rocks in the barrel again, and add a 120/220 silicon carbide grit at 2 tablespoons per pound of load. Add water up to the bottom of the top layer of rocks and add a pinch of baking soda. Seal and tumble as before. Your slurry should be a little thinner than in the last step varying with the softness or fragility of materials you are processing. Your goal again in this step is to see that all the scratches from the first step are ground away and the rocks have a smooth, matte finish.

Step Three (Pre-polish)

In this step the goal is to make the rocks extremely smooth. As before, put cleaned rocks in the cleaned and fresh barrel to make a full load. Use a pre-polish of either silicon carbide 500 or aluminum oxide 500 for this step, about 1 tablespoon per pound of load, and then add water up to the bottom of the top layer of rock. Tumble time here is up to 7 days, with more checking slurry consistency and general progress every day or two. For softer rocks, you may need to do a second pre-polish step or just keep them in a little longer. At the end of this step it is most crucial to really clean the rocks and barrel. It will be more difficult because you are using a finer grit. This is so important because any grit can ruin the progress of your rocks in the final polish step.

Step Four (Polish)

By this time your rocks are looking pretty good and ready for that lasting final shine. You have been extra diligent on cleaning the rocks and barrel. Place your rocks in the tumbler and add Aluminum Oxide Polish, about 1 tablespoon per pound of rock. Step four takes up to seven days, but be sure to check the rocks as you are proceeding because some will be finished earlier. The best check for completed rocks is that they look now as they would if wet. Once that is the case you are done with this step. One final detail, it is best to clean up now by cleaning your equipment thoroughly before everything dries and encrusts. Now you'll be ready for your next project with rock tumbling.

Media Amount Adjustment Chart (for generic tumbler)

Some tumblers require different amounts.

Check the instructions for your specific tumbler.

Barrel Capacity (lbs.)	Step 1 Coarse Grit	Step 2 Medium Grit	Step 3 Pre-polish	Step 4 Polish
2	2 oz	2 oz	1.5 oz	1.5 oz
3	3 oz	3 oz	1.5 oz	1.5 oz
4	4 oz	4 oz	2 oz	2 oz

This chart is a general guideline to grit measurements. The correct amount of grit and polish to use will vary by project task. Hard rocks and particularly rough rocks may require additional grit to be added at some point in the process.

Since most people don't have an ounce measure scale around, the following is an easy way to arrive at ounces and is based on standard measuring spoons.

1 oz. coarse grit	= 4 level tsps.
1 oz. medium grit	= 4 level tsps.
1 oz. fine grit	= 4 level tsps.
1 oz. polishing grit	= 8 level tsps.

CHAROITE

Charoite is a rare silicate mineral first described in 1978. It is named after the Chara River, despite its being 43 miles away from the discovery place. When it was discovered, it was thought to be a fake, dyed purple to give it its striking appearance.

Properties

Charoite, also known as lilac stone, is a rare potassium, barium, calcium strontium, sodium, hydrogen-rich silicate mineral. It is strictly massive in nature, and fractures are conchoidal. It has an unusual swirling, fibrous appearance, sometimes chatoyant (like tiger eye), and an intense color, which can lead many to believe at first that it is synthetic or enhanced artificially. Though it was discovered in the 1940s, it was not known to most of the world until its description in 1978.

When Charoite appears in raw form, it is opaque and does not give the milky fibrous sheen that makes it so desirable. This may have contributed to its late recognition. It is translucent with a pearly luster and the color ranges from a deep purple to a lilac pink. It is commonly found with inclusions of Quartz (white) and Manganese (black).

Inclusions mainly come in the swirly patterns of the mineral. The black spots on some charoite specimens are mostly aegirine-augite, since they commonly grow together. Larger round greenish spots are feldspar. Lighter colored stones or ones with translucent areas are likely due to canasite. The yellowish brown spots are tinaksite, which was discovered at the same time as charoite.

Charoite's silky, fibrous structure results in a shimmery looking polished stone. Sometimes, the very white flashes are tiny white feldspar. Sugilites and charoites can be confused, as both are purple, and sugilite can have black and white inclusions, however sugilite lacks the swirling patterns that are present in charoite stones, and it also lacks the chatoyant effect. It's nearly impossible to fake the natural violet waves of Charoite, so have no fear when purchasing this stone.



Occurrences

It has been found only in Siberia, Russia. It is found where a syenite of the Murun Massif has intruded into and altered limestone deposits producing a potassium feldspar metasomatite. Tinaksite, canasite and charoite are associated and black aegirine is also common where these three minerals grow. Common impurities include aluminium, iron, manganese, strontium and barium. Charoitite is a rock like lapis lazuli, but unlike the latter one, charoitite mostly consists of the mineral charoite.

It is found in massive form in dense fibrous aggregates, and may be translucent to opaque with a slight to moderate chatoyancy and a vitreous silky luster. It is relatively soft for use in rings or bracelets, but works well in other jewelry. It is heat sensitive so steam cleaning and ultrasonic methods should be avoided.



Meaning & Healing Energy

Charoite is a multidimensional stone that assists one in connecting with spirit guides, deities, and entities of other realms. Our third eye, crown, and etheric chakra system is truly stretched to its limits when working with this stone (especially when placed directly on the forehead). The energies released from within Charoite instantly activate the pineal gland and allows for a hasty development of transdimensional vision. Through deep meditation with Charoite, one may soon receive symbolic imagery depicting aspects within our present life.

It is an incredible stone of the Violet Ray with an almost tangible movement of energy flowing in magnificent swirls and eddies of violet, lavender and purple. It is rare and complex, one of nature's best dream stones and illuminators, allowing access to lessons learned in past lives, healing emotional fears to live in the present, and opening to spiritual guidance for the future.

This stone embodies a unique synthesis between the Crown and Heart Chakras, bringing high spiritual energy into union with unconditional love from the physical plane, and grounding it here on Earth where it is needed most. It is a Stone for This Age, assisting in the here and now—conveying the message that one is exactly where one should be during this moment. It is a talisman of acceptance and letting go; a “bestower of good,” encouraging service to humanity, and for attaining approval of the Self.

Charoite is also soothing to the nerves, and is thought to calm those with ADHD, autism and Asperger's syndrome. It overcomes insomnia, promoting a deep sleep, and assists those with sleep problems, including sleepwalking and talking during sleep. Charoite is thought to release cramps, relieve migraines, headaches and other aches and pains. It may be used in treatments of the eyes and heart, and to improve degraded conditions of the liver and pancreas.

Etheric Protection

With so much negativity around us each day, Charoite is an excellent source for etheric and psychic protection. We are frequently under attack from unknown sources as well as our own loved ones. Charoite provides a cloak of protection around your entire auric field, allowing only positive energy to pierce and penetrate your soul. When you are in this “safe space” your mental capacity should feel widely expanded and your emotional body in a serene state.

Charoite Natural Birthstone

Charoite, which is violet in color, is one of the natural birthstones of those born when the year is new, just after the winter solstice (December 21 - January 19). Violet crystals bring you intuition, magic, dreams, and imagination.

GEM CLUB OFFICERS

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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Rick called the meeting to order at 7:12 and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Two guests and one new member stood and introduced themselves.

Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 4 juniors and 15 adults, plus 1 grand prize.

Rick asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Alice Stewart, who passed last week.

Treasurer Report: No report. Barb has a copy if anyone wants to see the activity for the month.

Field Trip Report: The August field trip had 15 adults and 7 kids. Good material was found at Queenstone and one woman found some nice opals at Whangdoodle.

The September field trip is to Silver City to visit the town and collect quartz crystals on the 19th. We will meet at Dan's 66 station at Walter's Ferry at 7:30 am, leaving at 8 am. If you go out 12th Ave. S. in Nampa it will take you right to it. It will take about an hour to get to Silver City where we visit the town and then go on to the collecting site. A higher clearance vehicle is best.

The next weekend on the 26th and 27th will be the fall trip to Beacon Hill. We meet at the Ontario rest stop at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. You will need lunch, water and digging tools. If it rains it may be cancelled.

Workshop Report: Liz went over the next workshop dates. The September regular workshops are on Sept. 17, 6-8:45 pm, and then on Sept. 26 from 10 am-2 pm. The October workshops are Oct. 22, 6-8:45 pm, and Oct. 31, 10 am-2 pm. There is one more ROLE workshop for September on the 21st, 6-8:45 pm, and the October ROLE workshops are on Oct. 5 and Oct. 19, 6-8:45 pm.

Maryann announced next month's wire wrapping project will be pumpkins. For November, crescent moon wraps will be featured. The wire wrapping workshops are on the second Tuesday each month and the cost is \$10 for materials.

The weekend of December 19-20 will be the Christmas Holiday Workshop. It is a pot luck dinner so bring a dish to share. There will be a wire wrapping class on Sunday from 12 pm-2 pm. It is a \$10 fee for wire for the wire wrapping, but no charge otherwise. There will be a porta-potty there for our convenience.

Old Business: The August meeting in the park netted \$737 from the auction. "Buy It Now" went well. Need donations for the next three meetings' auctions. In November we have rough rock and slabs and in December we auction finished pieces for gifts.

New Business: The Gem Show is coming up in February 2027. Setup will be on the 26th at 8 am at Expo Idaho. The show runs from the 27th to the 28th. We need everyone to help with the setup and tear down. See Rick for showcase sign-up. The Owyhee show will be March 6-7, 2027.

Elections for board members are in November. Willa is the chairperson, so let her know if you are interested in joining the board. We will also accept nominations from the floor during the voting.

The Project of the Year contest is coming up in December. Enter a project you've made this year. The winner will receive a display case at the show for their project and their name will be added to the plaque in the workshop.

In January we will be having a Grab Bag Filling party to get ready for the February show. The club will pay \$125 for each 5 gal. bucket of nice tumbles to help offset the cost of grit. The date will be announced soon.

On November 14 there will be a Rock, Gem & Craft Show at the Elks Club in Caldwell, 1015 N. Kimball, from 9 am-5 pm. Another venue for gifts!

Montana Rock Mom is on YouTube. You should check it out. She has some beautiful Challis jaspers.

Lake Michigan beaches in general are good for collecting if you are ever in the area. Lots of agates and jaspers.

The Mining Museum is featuring a Geode Cracking event this Sunday from 12 pm-3 pm. A free geode for each child! You can also purchase geodes for cracking.

Our workshop is well equipped with 10 cab machines and 10 saws. It is a great place to learn lapidary. Come join us!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2026

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

Excused: Jason Smith and Debbie Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 Terri. Board members voted and the motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Barb reported that dealer applications are starting to come in. Also, the porta-potty has been ordered for the December workshop party.

Federation Director Report: No report.

Program Report: October's program will be an auction after the meeting. Look for any donations to put in. Liz will do a "Buy It Now" section as well.

Juniors Report: No report.

Field Trip Report: The Silver City trip had 11 vehicles with 22 adults and 4 kids in attendance. Lots of good crystal clusters were collected.

At Beacon Hill there were quite a few people on Saturday, but only a couple for Sunday. There is still lots of material to collect.

The Beacon Hill trip also showed the destruction from the Tartar Fire. All fence and gate posts have been burned. The claim

had already been cleared so it didn't suffer much. Willa and Doug will reach out to the ranchers to offer support and see what kind of donation we can make to help them out.

Workshop Report: Liz reviewed the workshop dates for October and November. The general workshops will be Oct. 22, 6-8:45 pm, Oct. 31, 10 am-2 pm, Nov. 19, 6-8:45 pm, and Nov. 28, 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops are Oct. 19, Nov. 2 and Nov. 16, all 6-8:45 pm. Thanksgiving is on the 26th so it shouldn't affect dates.

Liz will get four new sturdy metal stools for the workshop. Some of the older wooden ones are not sturdy enough anymore.

Old Business: Maryann agreed to do a wire wrapping class during our Holiday Workshop on Sunday from 12 pm-2 pm. There is a maximum of 6-7 people that can fit in the space we have.

Rick proposed small floating display boxes for the case favors for the next show. Willa suggested printing coins with our logo and the dates 1967-2027 on the front and Thank You on the back to put into the box. It is our 60th anniversary show. The size should be about a quarter or half dollar. We will check on 3D printed coins and metal coins too.

New Business: Willa is checking on who is up for election this year and will email those folks to ask if they want to continue on the board.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

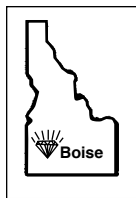
Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary

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.

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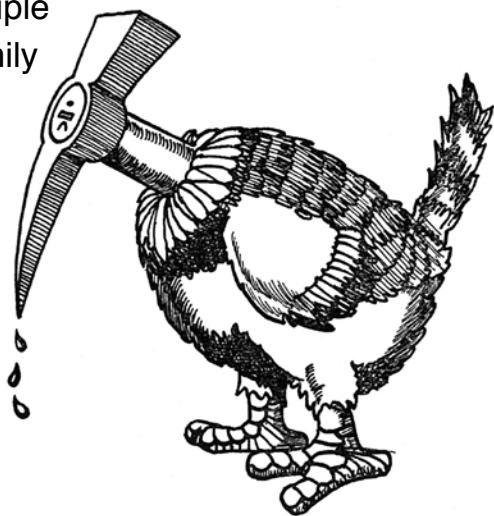
The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences. Applications and/or renewals may be sent to the Idaho Gem Club, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443.

Dues:

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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

