

"Owyhee Gem"

Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society

P O B o x 1 0 5 3 C a l d w e l l , I d a h o 8 3 6 0 5 - 1 0 5 3

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April President's Message

Hello fellow rockhounds.

Hope this finds you all well and doing fine. In these trying times, I hope we are all taking life a little bit more seriously. At this time, I feel that we will be postponing our April fieldtrip. The outlying areas are asking for no additional traffic. We will be evaluating May's trip. I believe that our lives will be looking up at that point and we should be able to get out and enjoy our great outdoors once again.



If you have any informational articles that would add to our newsletter, please submit them to me. Since we are being bored this might be a good time to do some research on a subject that interests you and submit it for publication. I know a lot of you have some innovative idea or projects to share with our membership. Please don't be shy as we all enjoy different perspectives on our great hobby.

As of this time, the College is still on lockdown so until they lift the closure we will not be able to meet. I hope you will all take the time to find some fun and inspiring projects to start with your collections. I know that we would all love to hear how you are keeping yourselves busy during this time of change. Better yet, take some pictures to submit to the newsletter. We all can pull closer by contributing to each other's edification in these trying times.

Take care everyone. Your wellbeing is important to us. Please reach out if you need some help. Our Board will do it's best to help you as needed. May the Lord bless you all till we can meet again.

Willa Renken, OGMS President

OWYHEE GEM

OGMS 2020 Field Trips

March 21st: * Bruneau Wood Pile for Petrified Wood and Pine Cones. Meet at Walter's Ferry (across Snake River @ boat landing). Tools for digging down into hard pack and a sieve for finding small fossils suggested.

April 18th: * Big Egg Claim for Thunder Eggs. Meet at Gem Stop (Hwy 55&95).

May 23rd: *(morning) Rockville OR, for Leaf Fossils / (afternoon) Maple Ridge, for Petrified Wood. Meet at Gem Stop (Hwy 55&95).

June 5th- 7th: ***Texas Springs, NV for Pink Limb Casts. (Please attend May monthly club meeting for more details)

June 19-21st: ***McDermitt NV, for Variety of Agate, Jasper and Pet Wood. (Please attend June monthly club meeting for more details)

July 18th: *(morning) Pink Plume for plume agate, (afternoon) Haystack Bute for Red Jasper. Meet Owyhee Junction (Hwy 201 & Owyhee Ave)

Aug 22nd: **Wagon Town for Bog Wood, Meet at Gem Stop (Hwy 55&95).

Sept 19th: *Blue Egg Claim for Blue Opal Thunder Eggs. Meet in Homedale, ID City Park with Tank (just east of four corners).

Oct 24th: *Graveyard Point for agate and Jasper. Meet at Gem Stop (Hwy 55&95).

***(meet @ 8am – leave @ 8:30) **(meet @ 7am – leave @ 7:30) *** (Overnight Trip)**

For further information, Contact Robert (208)590-1848 or Dale (208)283-7990

ALL FIELD TRIPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER AND ROAD CONDITIONS.

Go online to <http://www.owyheerocks.com/> and check the most recent newsletter for trip updates.

USEFUL ITEMS TO BRING ON YOUR TRIP

Buckets, Shovels, Rock Hammer, Pick (Large and Small one), Sieve, Gloves, Spray Bottle for Water, Small Scrub Brush, Knee Pad's, Magnifier, Plenty of Drinking Water, Food, Appropriate Clothing, Protective Eyewear, Sun Protection, Day Pack or Back Pack, Umbrella, Pry Bar, Tick Spray. Shovel and fire extinguisher to put out any fires that may start.

For Field Trip Information, contact Robert Murphey (208) 590-1848
or Dale Rawson (208) 283-7990

Trips can last most of the day. Generally, a High-Clearance vehicle and sometimes 4WD or an ATV is required. **Remember, when you are finished, fill in all holes that are dug at the Site.**





- Jenny Austin
- John Benedict
- Charlene Branham
- Karen Butler
- Susan Cameron
- John Curt
- Don Daman
- Roxanne Franklin
- Jewels Haines
- Darlene Loosli
- Jim Mangrum
- Dick McClarin
- Matt McDaniel
- Ed Moser
- Willa Renken
- Robert Schaffer
- Rebecca Schuck
- Charmaine Schuler
- Saki Vakalala
- Bev Vance
- Michael Weiskircher

- Walter & Thelma Barnett
- Bob & Kim Bashford
- Roger & Cheryl Coates
- John & Carol Farnham
- Chris O'Brien & Mary Eberle



Community Outreach

Sunshine Report

Hi, I am Jewels Haines and I am your Sunshine Chairman. If you hear of anyone needing a get well card or visit, please give me a call at



760-331-3443
-Jewels Haines
Sunshine Chairman



<u>Stone from Arizona</u>	<u>Stone from Australia</u>
Anderson Mine - Agate	Noreena
Brenda - Agate & Jasper	Mookite
Burro Creek - Pastelite & Agate	
<u>Stone from Idaho & Oregon</u>	
Owyhee Picture Jasper	Amethyst from Uruguay
Green Moss Agate	Slabs & Rough Rock
Tumbled Stones	Hammers/Tools/ /Gold Pans
	Brazilian Agate

Located at US 95 & Homedale Road
 26736 Homedale Road, Wilder, Idaho
 Phone (208) 861-8229 or Text: (208) 258-4250
rivervu1@msn.com
Open Saturday 9:00am—2:00pm
April—October

**STRINGER'S
GEM SHOP**

**Idaho Opals
Picture Jaspers & Plume Agate
Rough Rock and Slabs
Bolos & Buckles
Bookends & Specimens
Tumblers & Equipment**

WHITE'S METAL DETECTORS

W.A. (Bill) Stringer
 1812 West Orchard
 Nampa, Idaho 83651

1 Mile South of Karcher Mall
(208) 466-5169
M-F 1:30-5:30 pm

Other Hours By Appointment

Show Chair

Thoughts for Silent Auction

As you go out hunting rocks, please keep in mind our yearly show's Silent Auction!!

If you find a nice sample for our auction, place it in a bucket and label the bucket "OGMS".

By the end of the year, your bucket could be full of great rocks and ready to donate for our show.

It is amazing how just a few rocks can add up if every "rockhound" contributes!

Kathi Larson, Show Chair

FOR SALE

30 year collection of cabochons, slabs, tumbled and world wide specimens. Over 25 years at Quartzite, several dozen field trips in California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon and Utah. Wholesale prices.

Call Dale Brown—Nampa
 for appointment 208-466-9608

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Leave a Rock Take a Rock

If you have lucked out and found some nice rock bring one to our meeting. You can leave the rock on the table and anyone who brings one can take a rock. At the end of the meeting if your rock is still there take it home with you. If everyone brings something to trade each month we can have the benefit of others' successful trips.

Hello Everyone;

My husband and I went out to the club's 'Pink Plume Claim' just before Oregon closed down. We had more fun!

It started off with finding that the windmill is gone. There is a solar panel there now which you can't see unless you drive on up and check it out which we did cuz we were looking for the windmill! Turning around to go back to our road we turned off to soon! We knew it was wrong but decided to have a look see. We went to the end of the road perhaps 1/4 of a mile and started our hunt. After hiking around for about an hour we decided it was a waste of time and went on to the claim. It was the best trip we've had on the claim. Bill and I agreed we would only take home the best of what we found (easier said than done)! We did toss some in the end because we kept finding better. We had full buckets before I was ready to quit though. So Bill set on the edge of a ravine (soaking up the sun) with our full buckets and watched me as I worked my way across and down filling my backpack. The hike back to the truck was a doozy! We found lots of plume agate and some very pretty jasper. We enjoyed that great feeling of a productive and fun trip all the way home.

Like most of you, I didn't really need more rocks to keep me busy but I had more fun washing those rocks and sorting them! Bill is working from home so life is a bit different for both of us but having my rock hobby gives me something to do while we are mostly in seclusion. We will get out and exercise but stay close to home and maintain the recommended social distancing. Besides washing and sorting rocks we plan on walking and biking when weather permits.

Take care everyone I look forward to when we can meet again.

Roxanne Franklin, OGMS Vice-President

Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History

The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History features specimens representing the Biology and Geology of SW Idaho, SE Oregon, and northern Nevada. The focal point of the museum is the Evans Gem and Mineral Collections.

The Museum is open to all visitors:
Monday-Friday from 1-5 pm, and
the first Saturday of every month from 8-5.

The Museum is located in the basement of Boone Hall on the College of Idaho campus. Visit the Museum website at www.collegeofidaho.edu/cultural-institutions/orma-j-smith-museum-natural-history to learn more.

Federation Director

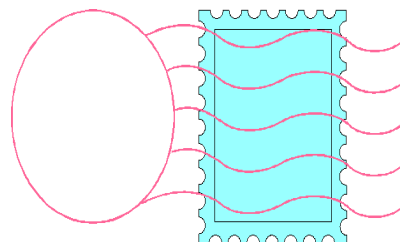
Please save the postage STAMPS for cancer research and bring to this months meeting. Remember to **cut ½ inch all the way around the stamp**. Thanks to all for your help. It helps others and it might just help someone you know.

Ed Moser

Federation Director

(208) 340-8060,

edmoser15@gmail.com





OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY - Board Meeting Minutes

No board meeting in March due to library being closed to prevent spread of the virus.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes before I leave the area.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

**OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY - General Meeting Minutes****March 31, 2020**

Over the month of March, I have gone to the PO Box several times. Six memberships were sent to Kim Bashford (Membership Chair) for processing; one dealer contract for our 2021 show was sent to Kathi Larson (Show Chair); the club insurance policy payment confirmation was referred to Debbie Lawrence (Treasurer); and two account statements for show advertising were given to Paul Deveau (Asst. Show Chair).

We also received advertising flyers from the Yakima Rock & Mineral Club. Their 59th 'Parade of Gems' is scheduled for April 24,25 & 26 2020 at the Central Washington State Fairgrounds, 1301 South Fair Ave., Yakima, Washington. I looked at their website today and their March General Meeting was cancelled, but there is no mention of cancellation of the show. However one related event calendar said most events in April had been cancelled... so if you are interested, check their website; <http://www.yakimarockclub.com/> hopefully, they will be updating their information soon.

Our "Rocks A Plenty in 2020" show was great. Thanks to everyone for helping with this wonderful event!

Most of all... we really miss seeing everyone during these difficult times and hope this finds you all staying healthy! Take care, we hope to see you soon!

Respectfully submitted... Christine Deveau, Secretary

Nuggets for Rock Hounds

Nephrite Jade an introduction to the Jade West Group

There are more than 50 nephrite occurrences in British Columbia (Simandl et al., 2000 Ogden mine article), all distributed along the Cordilleran belt that extends from Alaska to California at irregular intervals along the continent's margins (Leaming, 1995). This belt includes different regions of oceanic origin that contain the rocks necessary for green nephrite formation. These regions became part of the continent during subduction that occurred in the Mesozoic (Davis et al., 1978).

Until the 1960s, almost all of the nephrite produced in British Columbia came from secondary deposits. With the rapid expansion of amateur lapidary activity after World War II, production in British Columbia's jade fields picked up and they became the most important suppliers. About the same time, markets opened up in Germany and the Orient. Mining activity gradually depleted the secondary deposits, but increasing values led to further exploration. These efforts uncovered primary deposits adjacent to the Fraser River area in southern British Columbia, the Mount Ogden area in central British Columbia, and the Cassiar jade fields in the far north. Today, British Columbia is the main supplier for the China market.

Jade West Group, founded in 1981, is the biggest player in green nephrite mining and trading in British Columbia. Kirk Makepeace, the company's founder, is an avid promoter of the stone. He started with a summer job as a jade driller. This involved flying into remote areas and spending summers in tents, with supplies brought by small planes every two weeks. Carrying drills in a backpack, he hiked the countryside in search of jade boulders. He drilled cores from them to determine potential quality. About three out of 100 boulders he drilled were of marketable quality.

More than thirty years later, Jade West has become one of the world's leading producers and exporters of green nephrite jade. The company owns and operates three out of the four active nephrite mines in British Columbia, including the famous Polar Mine near Dease Lake, and the Kutcho and Ogden Mountain mines. The Polar Mine's high-quality production is known as Polar Jade in the trade.

Nephrite mining in British Columbia is very challenging. Winters are long and harshly cold, and deposits are remote, so mining can only happen during the short summer season, about 60 days a year. Almost all of the secondary deposits are exhausted, so current mining is almost all from primary deposits. Transporting the heavy equipment to the mining sites is backbreaking work.

Jade West uses diamond-coated circular and wire saws and modern high-pressure hydraulic splitters to remove the nephrite from the mountain and saw it into pieces of a manageable size. Nephrite's excellent toughness makes it extremely difficult to break out of the rock. While blasting had been used in the past, Jade West no longer uses explosives.

Nephrite deposits range from 12 inches to 12 feet wide. The wider deposits are very challenging to quarry. Nephrite boulders on the surface sometimes reach weights of 200 tons and are rarely under 100 pounds, but Jade West tries to limit the weight of its boulders to five tons, which is a reasonable size for them to mine, handle, and transport on trucks to the nearest town, about 100 miles away. The average weight is two tons, a size that satisfies most of the carving factories in China.

Sophisticated exploration techniques and an understanding of the area's geology are the keys to successful mining operations and lengthening of a mine's productive life. Jade West Group invests a lot of capital in its exploration projects. The company adopted core drilling in 1975, and it's still their most powerful and reliable exploration tool. They drill into the mountain with water-cooled diamond-tipped drills, then extract the cores and examine them to determine if the nephrite is of suitable quality to turn into a marketable finished product. Since the mining season is short, the miners must call on a great deal of experience when determining the areas from which they will take core samples.

Kirk Makepeace predicts a promising future for nephrite mining in British Columbia. His nephrite business involves his entire family. The most important factor, in his opinion, is the growing appreciation for nephrite and the growing desire to keep rough prices high enough to offset the increasing cost of mining. Although environmental regulations for mining gemstones are getting stricter, he does not see them as a challenge for his operation.

Do a search on Facebook, for more information on Jade West Mining. By likening their site, you will be able to follow their mining and marketing operations. Also, search for Jade West Matt as he offers this material for sale.

Membership

We are accepting payment of 2020 dues

Membership forms are available at every meeting. Invite your "rockhound" friends to our next one!

Any member needing a name badge, membership card, or patch, please call me so I can have them ready for you to pick up at the next meeting.

If you need a "replacement" of any of these, there will be a nominal charge of \$2 for the Name badge and \$3 for the Small patch. In addition, large patches are available to members for \$10.

Please remember to **wear your name badge to the meetings**, as it makes it so much easier to identify you.

Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from October 31st through the following October 31st .

You can either pay at a meeting or by mailing the form below to:

P.O. Box 1053, Caldwell, ID 83605-1053

Kim Bashford, Membership Chairperson

Phone: (208) 454-7287

Email: kmcewan1957@msn.com

PAY YOUR DUES NOW Please!

OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY DUES Year: 2020

Family \$20	Couple \$18	Single \$12	Child \$3
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LAST NAME: (Please Print) _____ Date Paid: _____ Amount: _____

FIRST NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ ANNIV: _____ - _____ BDAY: _____ - _____ / _____ - _____
Month Day Month Day Month Day

EMAIL: _____

RENEWAL _____ NEW _____ CASH _____ CHECK # _____ RECD BY _____

Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society
PO Box 1053,
Caldwell, ID 83605-1053

Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society Purpose:

To promote interest in the wonders of nature and in particular, rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils.
To conduct field trips for exploration and collection.
To encourage as wide a participation as possible in the “Rock Hound” hobby and the many activities that go along with it.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Family** - \$20.00 per year
- Couples** - \$18.00 per year
- Singles** - \$12.00 per year
- Children (under 19)** - \$3.00 per year

The Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was established in 1938 at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho.

GENERAL MEETING: The club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Boone Science Hall at the College of Idaho, Room 103, except for the July picnic and the December holiday party. Field trips are scheduled once a month. Visitors are welcome at all these events!

Bring a friend—Wear your name tag— Bring an unidentified rock and we’ll help you figure out what it is!



Have You Visited our Club Website?

Our awesome website has great information on it. There are some great pictures of our outings, and our newsletter is posted on it. Brad Larson, our Web Master, does a great job of keeping it up to date with all kinds of information like upcoming shows, field trip dates, times and much more.

<http://www.owyheerocks.com/>