

# "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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:** Willa Renken  
(208) 362-3941, Wlr\_dkr@msn.com

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Roxanne Franklin  
(208) 577-7095, rocksfrank@cableone.net

**SECRETARY:** Christine Deveau  
(208) 994-8026, dragonflylight@q.com

**TREASURER:** Debbie Lawrence  
(208) 869-7585,  
debbielawrenceogms@gmail.com

**FEDERATION DIRECTOR:** Ed Moser  
(208) 340-8060, edmoser15@gmail.com

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(208) 590-1848  
robert.murpheyogms@gmail.com

**ASSISTANT:** Dale Rawson  
(208) 283-7900

**SHOW CHAIR:** Kathi Larson  
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**HISTORIAN:** Pauline Prather  
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(760) 331-3443, jewelsmalia@yahoo.com

**WEBMASTER:** Brad Larson  
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**ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP:** Bill Anderson  
(208) 919-3507,  
billybushman1@yahoo.com

### December President's Message

Hello everyone. Hope this month's newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the down time to work the wonderful rocks you found throughout the year. It is with a sad heart that we are not going to be able to hold our Annual Banquet this year. Our monthly meetings will be back on hold as well. We will continue to hold our Board meetings so we can keep the club on an even keel. December's Board meeting will be cancelled but we will have one in January on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We are tentatively planning a General Meeting in February on the 17<sup>th</sup> unless there is a shut down or a limit on attendees. There will be updates in your newsletter.

Keep tumbling your rocks and know that the club still has it's tumble program in place. For every five-gallon bucket full of beautifully polished rock, we will pay you \$125. Contact either Paul Deveau 208-994-8025 or Kathi Larson 208-465-8083. They will arrange for your reimbursement and take your buckets.

We know these are difficult times and want you all to know we are here for you. If you need help with anything, please know your friends can be there to help you. Just contact one of your Board members and let us know so we can arrange for what may be needed. In addition, if you know of members who are in need of sunshine letters please contact Jewels so she can send out cards. We appreciate you all and think of you often! Stay well and healthy and we look forward to being back together soon!

-Willa Renken OGMS President



**OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES November 18, 2020****(CANCELLED)**

As you all know by now, the November General Meeting was cancelled due to Governor Little moving the State back into Stage 2, gatherings of more than 10 people are not allowed. This will probably affect the December Christmas Dinner, too... but Kim is checking for a later date, so hopefully we can have an "After Christmas, Christmas Party"!!!

Paul and I have gone to check the mail several times at the Caldwell Post Office. We have received 13 memberships which we dropped off to Kim Bashford (Membership) for processing.

On a personal note, I want to thank our Sunshine Chair, Jewels Haines, for a nice card after my foot surgery... This is something special that our OGMS organization does for its members, which really makes you feel part of a truly great family. If you know a member that needs a little sunshine, please let Jewels know... she does a great job and I know I really appreciate it!











Want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving... hope you get to share it with those you love. With the odds not looking to much in our favor for December... please take care of yourselves and let us wish you a VERY, MERRY CHRISTMAS and the BEST EVER NEW YEAR! We look forward to seeing everyone and heading out "rockin"!

Respectfully submitted: Christine Deveau, Secretary



# Mohs Hardness Scale



	Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
Increasing Hardness ↑	 Diamond	10	
	 Corundum	9	 Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
	Topaz	8	
	 Quartz	7	 Steel Nail (6.5)
	Orthoclase	6	
	Apatite	5	 Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
	 Fluorite	4	 Copper Penny (3.5)
	Calcite	3	
	Gypsum	2	 Fingernail (2.5)
	 Talc	1	

My Favorite

A little humor from Jim Hopkins.

*Jim Hopkins*MY FAVORITEMy favorite (rock) (mineral) (gem) is GravelWhy I like it It keeps my pickup from getting stuck.Did you find it or purchase it? I bought them from RamboAre there other names for this material? Crushed and road mixIt is (igneous) (metamorphic) (sedimentary) in origin? At the gravel pitWhat form is it found in? (crystals) (nuggets) (rock) small rocksWhat is its relative hardness? like the back of my head.It is made-up of (which element or mineral compounds) sandWhere is it found? Rambo Gravel PitIs it common or rare? I can find it by walking out my front door.

What are its uses? (manufacturing) (jewelry) (medicine)

Other uses? Keeping dust down, and by throwing people off bikes.Is it safe to handle or work with? It's best to hire someone else to shovel it.Are there any special characteristics? slippery when wet.

Radioactive

Fluorescence

Toxic

Large Crystals

Used by ancient humans

Rare fossil

Newly Identified

Federation Director—Ed Moser

Bring your postage stamps to this month's meeting. Remember to **cut ½ inch all the way around the stamp**. The money raised will go to help support cancer research. Thank you all for this. It helps others and it might just help someone you know. Please Respect the Rules when you are out collecting rocks, be careful of ticks and snakes, and have fun.

-Ed Moser, Federation Director  
(208) 340-8060, edmoser15@gmail.com





**Robert  
Murphey**

### **OGMS 2021 Field Trips—Stay Tuned!**

If you have ideas for field trips in 2021,  
Contact Robert or Dale.

Robert Murphey (208) 590-1848  
or Dale Rawson (208) 283-7990



**Dale  
Rawson**

### **USEFUL ITEMS TO BRING ON YOUR TRIP**

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

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.

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



You can sign up to give a short 5-15 minute talk about your favorite rock/mineral/gem at the next meeting. Here is a list of questions to you to help you talk about your 'favorite'. The form is also available on our website ... [owyheerocks.com](http://owyheerocks.com). Contact Roxanne Franklin if you are interested in presenting your information—(208) 577-7095, [rocksfrank@cablone.net](mailto:rocksfrank@cablone.net)

### **MY FAVORITE**

My favorite (rock) (mineral) (gem) is \_\_\_\_\_

Why I like it \_\_\_\_\_

Did you find it or purchase it? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there other names for this material? \_\_\_\_\_

It is (igneous) (metamorphic) (sedimentary) in origin? \_\_\_\_\_

What form is it found in? (crystals) (nuggets) (rock) \_\_\_\_\_

What is its relative hardness? \_\_\_\_\_

It is made-up of (which element or mineral compounds) \_\_\_\_\_

Where is it found? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it common or rare? \_\_\_\_\_

What are its uses? (manufacturing) (jewelry) (medicine)

Other uses? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it safe to handle or work with? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any special characteristics? \_\_\_\_\_

Radioactive      Fluorescence      Toxic      Large Crystals

Used by ancient humans      Rare fossil      Newly Identified

## Vice President's Corner—Roxanne Franklin

### Leave a Rock, Take a Rock

If you have lucked out and found some nice rocks 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.

### Monthly Meeting Topic

If you have an idea for a presentation or information session, please contact me: Roxanne Franklin - (208) 577-7095, rocksfrank@cableone.net



### My Favorite—Mica



I have always been intrigued with mica. So this month I decided to learn more about it.

#### Mica

Mica is a mineral name given to a group of minerals that are physically and chemically similar. They are all silicate minerals, known as sheet silicates because they form in distinct layers because of its excellent cleavage. These tough, flexible sheets are the distinguishing characteristic of the mineral group. Micas are fairly light and relatively soft. Thin sheets are transparent or, if colored, translucent. Micas are stable when exposed to electricity, light, moisture and extreme temperatures.

Mica is heat-resistant and does not conduct electricity.

There are 37 different mica minerals. The most common include: purple lepidolite, black biotite, brown phlogopite and clear muscovite.

Mica was first mined in India about 4,000 years ago, where it was used primarily in medicines. The Mayans used it for decorative effect in stucco to make their temples sparkle in the sun. Today it is used in everything from electrical products to makeup.

**Mohs hardness:** 2.5-4 (lepidolite); 2.5-3 biotite; 2.5-3 phlogopite; 2-2.5 muscovite

The mica industry can be divided into two distinct but interdependent industries: those that produce sheet or block mica, and those that produce flake mica.

Sheet mica is no longer mined in the U.S. because of the high cost of mining, the small market, and the high capital risk. Most sheet mica is mined in India, where labor costs are comparatively low.

Flake mica produced in the U.S. comes from several sources: schist as a by-product of processing feldspar and kaolin resources, from placer deposits, and from pegmatites. It is mined by conventional open-pit methods. In soft residual material, dozers, shovels, scrapers and front-end loaders are used in the mining process. North Carolina's production accounts for half of total U.S. mica production. Hard-rock mining of mica-bearing ore requires drilling and blasting.

The principal use of ground mica is in gypsum wallboard joint compound. In the paint industry, ground mica is used as a pigment extender. The plastic industry used ground mica as an extender, filler and as a reinforcing agent. The rubber industry uses ground mica as a filler and as a mold lubricant in the manufacture of molded rubber products, including tires.

Sheet mica is used principally in the electronic and electrical industries. The major uses of sheet and block mica are as electrical insulators in electronic equipment.

## December Birthdays

- 1 Todd Joyner
- 2 Gregg Austin
- 2 Lisa Gularte
- 3 Steve Powell
- 3 Terry Prince
- 3 David Schmidt
- 4 Marshall Coleman
- 4 Shannon Tharp
- 5 Darell Ehlers
- 5 Lexie Hoekstra
- 6 Gene Babbitt
- 7 Jim Wise
- 8 Theresa Larson
- 8 Lillie Rogers
- 10 Cheryl Link
- 11 McKenzie Sehorn
- 15 Bill Anderson
- 16 Sue Chambers
- 17 William Clark
- 17 Steve McConnel
- 17 Carolyn Whipple
- 19 Doug Renken
- 21 Kenneth Kubosumi
- 22 Natasha Atwood
- 24 Darlene Emry
- 25 Marge Hine
- 28 Lorraine Wright
- 29 Todd Kinney
- 31 Leslie Bonney
- 31 Ryan Boring
- 31 Audrey McDaniel

## December Anniversaries

- 3 Mark & Christine Rednour
- 3 David & Cindy Schmidt
- 7 Dana & Rebecca Schuck
- 8 Paul & Chris Deveau
- 16 Clarence & Lorraine Wright
- 20 Roy & Pat Bethel
- 23 Andy & Helen Krivy
- 24 Steve & Debora Powell

### Newsletter Editor

Please let me know if I don't have your correct information, or if you are not on the lists above and should be.

If you would like just the email edition and not the mailed edition, let me know.

Email me at: [denisemstringer@gmail.com](mailto:denisemstringer@gmail.com)

### Community Corner

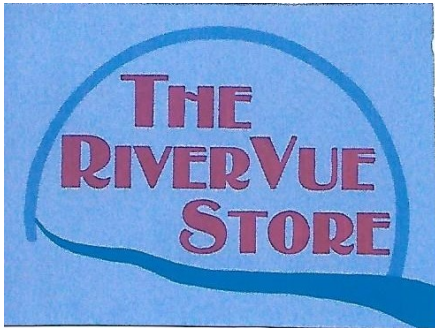
If you are presenting to the community or working with the community on behalf of OGMS, please submit a summary of what you are doing for our "Community Corner". This helps us maintain our non-profit status and gives you a recognition for a job well done.

### Sunshine Report



Hi, I am Jewels Haines and I am your Sunshine Chair. If you hear of anyone needing a get-well card or visit, please give me a call at (760) 331-3443.

- Jewels Haines, Sunshine Chair, [jewelsmalia@yahoo.com](mailto:jewelsmalia@yahoo.com)

**Stone from Arizona**

Anderson Mine—Agate  
 Brenda—Agate & Jasper  
 Burro Creek—Pastelite & Agate

**Stone from Australia**

Noreena  
 Mookite

**Stone from Idaho & Oregon**

Owyhee Picture Jasper  
 Green Moss Agate  
 Tumbled Stones

Amethyst from Uruguay  
 Slabs & Rough  
 Hammers/Tools/Gold Pans  
 Brazilian Agate

Located at the corner of US 95 & Homedale Road  
 26736 Homedale Road, Wilder, Idaho  
 Phone (208) 861-8229 or Text: (208) 258-4250  
 rivervu1@msn.com  
 Open Saturdays 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
 April—October

**STRINGER'S GEM SHOP**

Idaho Opals

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**W.A. (Bill) Stringer**

1812 West Orchard  
 Nampa, Idaho 83651

Halfway between Midland  
 and Middleton Roads

**(208) 466-5169**

M-F 1:30-5:30 pm

Other Hours By Appointment

**Stone Spheres!**

These are hand-crafted in Nampa by Red Larson.

They are made from many different types of stone,  
 both local to Idaho as well as  
 from around the world.

They range in size from  
 2 1/2" to 4 1/2" in diameter.

Pricing depends on both the material as well as the  
 size of the sphere (\$25-\$80).

No two are alike and would make a wonderful  
 addition to your home or office,  
 and make very nice gifts.

Call Red at 208-465-8083

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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  
 for appointment

Nampa—(208) 466-9608



**OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES****November 30, 2020**

The Board Meeting was held at the Elks Lodge in Caldwell and called to order by President, Willa Renken at 7pm. Ed Moser made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter; seconded by Kathi Larson, motion carried.

**Secretary:** Christine was not able to attend the meeting, but has been picking up the mail. Membership renewals that were picked up were given to Kim Bashford, Membership.

**Vice President:** Roxanne was not able to attend the meeting. She submitted information on mica and selenite for the newsletter.

**Treasurer:** An update on the banking accounts was given along with a list of bills that have been paid.

**Show Chairman:** Kathi has been in contact with the O'Conner Field House to see if the club will be able to rent the facility for the annual gem show in March. The new COVID-19 guidelines will restrict the number of people allowed in the building, and there was a discussion about being able to have the gem show with the restrictions. A decision on whether or not to hold the gem show will be made during the Board Meeting on January 25, 2021, after reviewing the guidelines that will be in place at that time. If the gem show is not held, vendors will be given the opportunity to roll over their vendor fees for the following year.

**Federation Chairman:** Ed told us the Federation meetings are in a holding pattern for now, and reminded us to continue to save our stamps.

**Membership Chairman:** An application for a new member, Stanley Grove, was presented. Ed Moser made a motion to accept Stanley as a new member of the club; seconded by Kathi Larson, motion carried.

**Sunshine:** Let Jewels Hines know if there is someone you know who may need a little cheery note.

**Field Trip Chairman:** Robert Murphy and Dale Rawson are putting together a list of field trips for next year. If you have a place you would like to suggest for a trip, you are encouraged to call one of them to give your ideas. They will have a list of scheduled trips for next year ready in March.

**Unfinished Business:** The Christmas Party was discussed. Kathi Larson made a motion to make the responsible decision and wait until next year to hold the event; seconded by Ed Moser, motion carried. The proposed changes to the by-laws will be presented at the next General Meeting.

**New Business:** The January General Meeting is cancelled. COVID-19 guidelines will be reviewed in February and a decision will be made about having the February meeting at that time. The next Board Meeting will be January 25, 2021 at the Elks Lodge in Caldwell.

Meeting Adjourned 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Debbie Lawrence, Treasurer



**Where is Santa's favorite place to deliver presents? Idaho-ho-ho**



## OWYHEE GEM

### OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

#### 67th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

March 6 and 7, 2021

Caldwell Event Center—2200 Blaine, Caldwell, ID

#### Request for Showcase Space

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Club: \_\_\_\_\_

How many cases would you like to reserve? \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit Material: (must be gem or mineral related)

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a: Dealer \_\_\_\_\_ Amateur \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_ (All Junior cases must be prepared by Juniors.)

List name(s) for exhibitor badges:

\_\_\_\_\_

Set-up day: Friday, March 5, 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Show Dates: Saturday, March 6, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Take-down time: Not before 5:00 p.m. on Sunday

The Show Committee Members will help you locate your space.  
Displays shall remain for the duration of the show unless prior authorization  
from the Show Chairman is received.

Send your completed application by February 15th to:  
Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society,  
Attn: Kim Bashford, PO Box 1053, Caldwell, ID 83606-1053  
Email to: [kmcewan1957@msn.com](mailto:kmcewan1957@msn.com)  
or bring to the next general membership meeting.

**Show Chair — Kathi Larson**

***STILL ROCKIN' FUN IN 21!***  
**2021 Show Dates: March 6 and 7**  
**O'Connor Field House, Caldwell, Idaho**

**Tumble Those Rocks!**

Every person who donates a 5-gallon bucket of tumbled rocks for grab bags for the rock show will receive \$120.00!

**Donations Always Accepted**

Silent Auction  
 Critters and Critter Making Supplies  
 Wheel of Gems Prizes  
 Grab Bag Prizes  
 Polished and Faceted Stones for Sand Dig

Show plans are moving right along - All of last year's vendors have secured their places for the 2021 show.

**SHOW VENUE CHAIRS:** - (2-hour sign-up to have fun)

Front Door	Roxanne Franklin	208-577-7095
Sand Dig	Jody & Natasha Atwood	208-409-7377
Wheel of Gems	Chris Rawson	208-371-7639
Grab Bags	Janie Ehlers	208-674-1213
Silent Auction	Don Dixon	208-908-3374
Membership	Kim Bashford	208-454-7287
Grand Prize/Basket Raffles	Deana Ashton	208-794-5628
Demonstrators	Willa Renken	208-362-3941

We will have Jari McClarin and Bill Anderson as our Roving Membership Ambassadors again in 2021.

Kim Bashford (208-454-7287) will be taking reservations for the Showcases, so get your name on her list to reserve one or more for the show.

Diane Stevens (208-454-5406) and Andrea Sawyer (208-323-1345) will Co-Chair the Chili Feed for the Friday show set-up.

Looking forward to another great show!

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*  
 \* **What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Frosted Flakes** \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Membership****We are accepting payment of 2021 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:

Kim Bashford, Membership Director

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

Phone: (208) 454-7287 Email: kmcewan1957@msn.com

**Welcome to our new member!**

**Stanley Grove**

**Remember: Dues are due for 2021!**

**OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY DUES****Year: 2021**

Family  
\$20

Couple  
\$18

Single  
\$12

Child  
\$3

LAST NAME: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ ANNIV: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ BDAY(s): \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
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.

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

Field trips are scheduled once a month. Visitors are welcome at all these events!



**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/>**