Volume 53 No. 2 February 2021

"Owyhee Gem" Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society

P.O. BOX 1053 CALDWELL, IDAHO 83605-1053

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billybushman1@yahoo.com

February President's Message

Hello fellow rock hounds. It is with a heavy heart that I let you all know that we will be postponing our Annual Gem Show till 2022. We ask that you keep tumbling, making critters, grab bags and refining your show cases for next March. We as a Board felt that it was not going to be cost effective not only for the club but also our vendors. Since the numbers allowed in the buildings were so low along with how many folks it takes to run an event of this size we felt obligated to cancel this year. We would never want to put any of our rock family or the general public in harm's way!

Until the Governor lifts the size of those allowed to meet we will not be able to hold our monthly meetings. As soon as we are able to have at least 50 in one spot then our general meetings will be resumed.

On a brighter note we are going to start our fieldtrips beginning in March. Check out the list in the newsletter for time and location. Robert and Dale have come up with a number of fun outings for the coming year. At least we can get out into the outdoors and blow off some of the confinement we have all felt this winter. If you had somewhere that isn't listed please let Robert and or Dale know. I am sure if it can be arranged we would gladly include an extra trip out.

Just to let you all know there has been an email scam within the various clubs. So if you get an email from any of the Board Members requesting you to purchase gift cards for anyone no matter the cause DO NOT fall for it. They request you to purchase gift cards and send them to them. ALWAYS review the email address and call me if you are ask to give out money! I will never request anything from

you without actually talking to you first. It is unfortunate that there are these kind of thieves out there but just be aware and don't fall for their scams.

Our next board meeting will be on February 22nd at the Caldwell Elks. We miss all of you and look forward to being able to gather again.
-Willa Renken OGMS President

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OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 20, 2021 (CANCELLED)

Happy New Year to one and all! The January General Meeting was not held, again due to Covid-19 restrictions. We hope this can all settle down soon, so we can get back to business as usual and GET BACK TOGETHER!

We have gone to the Caldwell Post Office several times during the month of January... gets us out for a ride! A second notice for the OGMS liability and trailer insurance and a notice from 1st Interstate Bank were scanned and forwarded via e-mail to Treasurer, Debbie Lawrence. Both items were then forwarded through regular mail along with the receipt for the PO Box payment to Debbie. Information from the Bureau of Land Management was mailed to David Schmidt to create an online account for managing the OGMS mining claims. Three memberships were forwarded to Kim Bashford, Membership.

Hopefully, everyone is doing well... healthy and happy! We are looking forward to a beautiful, warm spring and the start of a great 'rockin' season'!

Respectfully submitted, Christine Deveau, Secretary

How did the telephone propose to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day? It gave her a ring!

Federation Director—Ed Moser



Bring your postage stamps to the next 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

What did the boy squirrel say to the girl squirrel on Valentine's Day? I'm nuts about you!

Idaho Fire Opal Triplet



Submitted by Bill Stringer, OGMS member for over 45 years, 96 years young (with a little help from his daughter Denise)

The picture on the right shows some of Bill's beautiful stones, and he continues to make opal triplets to this day.

It is called a triplet because it has three layers: basalt backing, fire opal, and quartz cap.



Fire opal has a Mohs hardness of 5.5 to 6, which is weak enough that many items will damage it during daily wear. Fire opal is also poor in tenacity, meaning it can be chipped or broken quickly. By making a triplet, the opal is stronger and lasts longer against the elements, which is perfect for setting them in jewelry.



Idaho Fire Opal is found in Spencer, Idaho, which is in the northeast corner of Idaho, close to Yellowstone National Park.

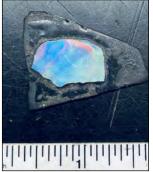
It is formed in a "vug", which is a mudball from the primary formation of the mine of rhyolite and obsidian flow full of gas pockets. The Opal Solution or silica, was a secondary deposit carried by geyser activity. As a result of several eruptions over a period of time, the opal lays in layers. Most of the layers are thin, resulting in some of the most beautiful triplet opal in the world. Occasionally the layer will be thick enough for cutting a solid opal.

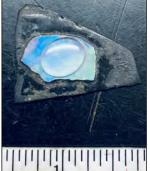
The Opal is Hydrothermally deposited inside hollow geodes in successive layers making Spencer Opal ideal for triplets as the thin layers of extremely high quality precious opal are very transparent with great color intensity.

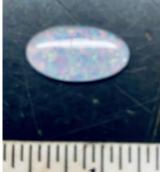
To make a triplet, the opal is ground perfectly flat parallel to the fire layer until the intense fire shows completely across the surface. Then a flat piece of black Basinite, basalt, or obsidian is epoxied to the flat fire layer. The opal is again ground flat on the opposite side until the fire layer is exposed and shows its greatest intensity against the black background. At this time the opal should be about the thickness of a hair. A Crystal cap is applied with epoxy and the opal is ground to its final shape. Thus is how an Idaho Opal Triplet is created. https://spenceropalmines.com/mineralogy/











OGMS 2021 Field Trips

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.



OGMS Field Trip Report February 2021

Attention all Rock Hounds, as we begin our 2021 season, it is very important in these uncertain times that we still need to focus on positive things and keep ourselves healthy. One of the best activities in doing so is getting out into the great outdoors and getting plenty of sunshine and exercise. What better way to do this than to go rockhounding! Yes, this is a safe activity as long as everyone understands that this COVID-19 bug is real and dangerous to many. We are asking that everyone respect the health of others and keep a good distance while we partake in our constitutional right to rock hound. Our 2021 schedule is confirmed and we do anticipate having trips this year but keep in mind that everything is uncertain and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dale or myself. There may not be a Club meeting in March at the time of this writing, but the trip to the Bruneau Wood Pile is a go. The schedule for all trips is below. We have one Overnighter scheduled for Texas Springs the first weekend in September for those that were unable to make it last year due to weather.

Please keep in mind if you do go out over the next few months on your own, be prepared for anything, to include weather changes, cold, windy and muddy conditions and just be safe out there. Please tread lightly and help to preserve our land access by not driving on wet and muddy roads. Thank You and hope to see you all soon.

OGMS 2021 Field Trips

<u>March 20th:</u> * Bruneau Wood Pile for Petrified Wood and Pine Cones. Meet at Walter's Ferry (across Snake River @ boat landing). *meet @ 8am – leave @ 8:30am

April 24th: * Big Egg Club Claim for Thunder Eggs. Meet at Gem Stop / Chevron (Hwy 55&95)

<u>May 22rd:</u> * (morning)Rockville OR, for Leaf Fossils / (afternoon) Maple Ridge, for Petrified Wood. Meet at Gem Stop / Chevron (Hwy 55&95).

June 19th: ** Pink Plume Club Claim for plume agate. Meet at Owyhee Junction (Hwy 201 and Owyhee Ave)

July 24th: ** Coal Mine Basin for Petrified wood and agate, Meet at Gem Stop / Chevron (Hwy 55&95)

<u>Aug 21st:</u> ** Wagon Town for Bog Wood, Meet at Gem Stop / Chevron (Hwy 55&95)

<u>Sep 4th - 6th:</u> *** Texas Springs, NV for Pink Limb Casts and opalized wood. (Contact Robert or Dale for more information)

<u>Sept 18th:</u> * Blue Egg Club Claim for Blue Opal Thunder Eggs. Meet @ Homedale City Park with Tank (just east of four corners).

<u>Oct 23rd:</u> * Graveyard Point for agate and Jasper. Meet at Gem Stop / Chevron (Hwy 55&95). *(meet @ 8am – leave @ 8:30am) **(meet @ 7am – leave @ 7:30am) *** (Overnight Trip)

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

6 Places to Dig Thundereggs in Oregon

The formation of thundereggs are the results of flows of lava. The gas pockets in lava act as molds where the thundereggs are formed, silicas form within voids and pockets in the lava flow. The cavity of the porous rock is filled with a matrix material followed by the inner agate or chalcedony center. The outside part of the thunderegg is formed by complex magmatic processes, the inner part may be formed and changed by being subjected to cycles of

hydrothermal fluids. Other complex processes may include pressure, temperature, magma composition, ground water composition and the composition matrix rocks. Digging is usually required.

Remember to do your research for directions before heading out, you cannot rely on your smartphones.

Owyhee Reservoir

Take the drive through Leslie Gulch to reach the upper end of the Owyhee Reservoir. There is a lot of ground to cover and an abundance of good material. There are thundereggs as well as petrified wood, agates, jaspers, and some fossil specimens. When the reservoir levels are low in the late summer is a good time to search.

Succor Creek

Succor Creek in Oregon is near the Idaho border. It is a large collecting area. There are many areas where good eggs can be found. There are also good picture jaspers and petrified wood around. I've also found some beautiful opal material.

Whistler Springs

Along the northern boundary of the Mill Creek Wilderness is the Whistler Springs Campground where you'll find there are many collecting sites. This is a long drive from the main road. The thundereggs you'll find there are smaller than some areas.

White Fir Springs

This area is located between Prineville and Mitchell off of Highway 26. There are picnic areas and campgrounds and good agate beds that you can dig. You'll see dig pits all over this area and there are signs pointing the way. Choose one of the old pits and start digging for eggs. There are also pits up the road at White Rock Campground. Be careful Mill Creek Wilderness is nearby and you cannot collect in the Wilderness.

Alvord Desert

The Alvord Desert in Southern Oregon has nice thundereggs at Pike Creek along the Fields/Denio Highway. Search the creek bed and hunt the desert. You'll also find agate and jasper.

Thunderegg Lake

This is higher altitude and is a good site for summer. South of Lakeview and just north of the California border. The pits are just north of Thunderegg Lake.

Pay-to-Dig Thunderegg Sites in Oregon

Richardson Rock Ranch

This is a cattle ranch that operates a rock shop and several active dig sites where visitors pay a fee to dig thundereggs. The price to dig is based on the amount of material that you dig and keep. There are several different dig sites where each provides a slightly different egg. https://richardsonrockranch.com/

The Lucky Strike Gold and Gem Mine

The Lucky Strike Mine is located near Mitchell and is open to the public during the summer. The fees are very reasonable and the thundereggs are beautiful with a variety colors. Some of the centers have moss, plumes, and banded agates. Keep in mind this is not an easy drive. Finding the mine can be a challenge. You'll want to drive a high clearance vehicle. Secure clear directions before you start out. Your smartphone is not going to get you there. www.luckystrikegoldandgem.com



February Birthdays

- 1 Russell Hone
- 1 Ruth Hopkins
- 1 H.G. Smith
- 3 Tanya Hoekstra
- 7 Sebastin Coleman
- 10 Doug Merrell
- **Rulon Darez Allred** 11
- 13 Arlene Dore
- 19 Brian Newman
- 20 Bonnie Lutz
- 22 Avery Brosa
- 25 Deanna Moser
- 27 Carolyn Roberts
- 28 Allan Beck

February Anniversaries

- 2 Eddie & Jamie Gamez
- 11 Jewels Haines & Miguel Lantz
- 14 Robert & Linda Schaffer
- 24 Neil & Carolyn Roberts
- 25 Terry & Mary Beth Prince

January 1— Matt & Debbie Davis

In Memoriam

Pat McConnel passed on 1/25/2021.

Mike Jones and Laura Lindsay, fellow rockhounds and former OGMS members died due to a fire.

Mike passed on 1/15/21 and Laura passed on 1/17/21.



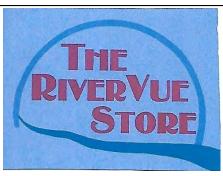
What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day? I'm stuck on you!



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



Stone from Arizona

Stone from Australia

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

Noreena Mookite

Stone from Idaho & Oregon Amethyst from Uruguay

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—Octoboer

STRINGER'S GEM SHOP

Idaho Opals

Picture Jaspers & Plume Agate
Rough Rock and Slabs
Bolos & Buckles
Bookends & Specimens
Tumblers & Equipment
Grit and Polish

Close-Out on White's Metal <u>Detector Accessories!</u>

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

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 for appointment

Nampa—(208) 466-9608

February Birthstone—Amethyst



The official birthstone for the month of February is the stunning purple **amethyst** and hence the February birthstone color is **purple**.

February is one of the few months that only have one birthstone, so there is no alternative February gemstone. Amethyst is one of the Zodiac birthstones for both for both Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19) and Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) star signs.



Besides being a meaningful February birthday gift, Amethyst jewelry is the also given to celebrate a sixth wedding anniversary. The name *amethyst* is derived from Greek legend and words that mean 'to prevent intoxication'. Amethyst is a well known and admired quartz crystal that occurs in beautiful shades of purple. During the formation of the crystals, iron and manganese produce the purple color, varying from pale lilac through lavender and mauve to deep violet. Amethyst is found on all continents with the larger deposits occurring in South America, Africa and North America. Amethyst crystals are often found in geodes, which are rock cavities lined with crystals. These cavities formed as gas bubbles when lava cooled many years ago and later various mineral rich solutions filled the voids and deposited crystals. Historically only royalty wore amethyst due to its rarity, however once vast deposits were discovered in Brazil, amethyst became a popular gemstone in everyday jewelry and in particular February birthstone jewelry.

www.monthlybirthstones.com/february-birthstone/

Items for sale from Pat McConnel's Estate

18" Lortone Saw—\$2400

24" Frantem Saw—\$3000

Covington 6" Combo Saw and Polishing Machine—\$500

Trim Saw, Two 6" diamond wheels, Expando Sanding Drum—Excellent Condition 6" Flat Lap—Several 8" flat diamond disks—\$400

16" Flat Lap—Several 8" flat diamond disks—\$400

14" diamond saw blade—\$100

Two barrel Lortone tumbler—\$75

Large amount of agate, jasper, and petrified wood

For more information and an appointment to view the items, please contact: Steve McConnel 208-899-0799 or Isabell McConnel 208-407-1217

Earth Brite LLG Rock & Gem Shop, Massage Therapy



Charlene & Kurt Branham

Owners

Office:(208)475-4550 Cell: Charlene (208)369-1067 Kurt (208)866-3741

Silversmith Feleashia (707)327-9209

3506 Cleveland Blvd Caldwell, ID 83605

www.ebrockshop.com Mon thru Fri 11 am to 6 pm Sat thru Sun 10 am to 4 pm

FB: Earth Brite 2
FB: Earth Brite Rock Hounders
honeyonyx1@gmail.com

OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 25, 2021

The Board Meeting was called to order by **President, Willa Renken** at 07:00pm at the Caldwell Elks Lodge, 1015 N. Kimball Ave., Caldwell, Idaho. Ed Moser made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter, Kathi Larson seconded, the motion passed.

Secretary, Chris Deveau gave the 1099 for the OGMS bank account to Willa. Two copies of the Annual Report from the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History at the College of Idaho were received and are available to any member that would like to see them. OGMS received information from the Oregon Dept. of Geology about a video conference regarding a new gold mine in Malheur County. Five memberships and one request for a showcase were given to Kim Bashford, Membership.

Vice President, Roxanne Franklin was not available for the Board Meeting. If you would like to submit a "My Favorite" to the newsletter or for presentation please contact Roxanne.

Field Trip Chair, Robert Murphey said the list of field trips is in progress. He and Dale are hoping to do a couple of overnighters. He is planning to begin in March, so we can get out and get started for the 2021 season. Watch for the list in the newsletter.

Treasurer, Debbie Lawrence advised that she had made out checks for several bills and club obligations.

Show Chairs, Kathi Larson (2020) and Paul Deveau (2021) reported on the venue at the O'Connor Field House. Covid-19 restrictions are causing lots of complications for having an event of this size.

Federation Chair, Ed Moser has not received any official information from the Northwest Federation. There is a possibility of a meeting in April. It is important to help keep our public lands open for ALL recreational opportunities. He did ask if anyone hears about any public meetings regarding shutting down public lands to please let him know via e-mail or by phone. Also, he reminded us to keep saving our stamps... and to be safe in all our outdoor activities.

Membership, Kim Bashford presented five new memberships to the Board for acceptance, Tom and Cheri Gordon, Joan Hamilton, Laura Costa, Blaine and Jane Dahlstrom, and Jay and Connie Nielson and family. Kathi Larson made the motion to accept the new members into OGMS, Ed Moser seconded, the motion carried. We would like to sincerely welcome all the new members to the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society!

Unfinished Business:

After much consideration and checking of current Covid-19 restrictions and potential changes, Kathi Larson made the motion to cancel our Rock Show "Still Rockin' Fun In 21", Ed Moser seconded, the Board voted to cancel our show for this year... 2021. OGMS will move forward to have the best show ever in 2022!

Also due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be no General Meetings until we can have at least 30 people attend. The February General Meeting is cancelled.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, 22 February 2021 at the Caldwell Elks Club, 1015 N. Kimball Ave., Caldwell, Idaho at 07:00pm.

Willa advised the Board of the passing of Mike Jones and Laura Lindsay, fellow rockhounds and former OGMS members that died in a fire recently. Our condolences go out to their families...

Please take care of yourselves... we look forward to seeing everyone soon.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 08:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Deveau, Secretary



2021 Show Chair – Paul Deveau STILL ROCKIN' FUN IN '21! HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Kathi Larson and I met with O'Connor Field House / City of Caldwell representative Juan Avila to verify the current restrictions that would be imposed on the OGMS show, due to COVID-19. The limitations of admission as well as social distancing make holding the show impractical. The information was presented to the Board for their consideration, and an agreement was reached. Kathi Larson made the motion to cancel the show, Ed Moser seconded...by unanimous vote the motion passed.

All our vendors have secured their places for the 2021 show, however, they will be given the option of a refund or have OGMS hold their deposits for the 2022 rock show. Kathi is currently working with them.

I will be in contact with all the show venue chairs, hoping to retain all of them for the show in 2022. It is with the help of all our great volunteers that we can put on a show of this size. We appreciate everyone's efforts and will continue forward with plans for the SHOW on March 5th and 6th, 2022.

Please continue tumbling rocks for grab bags, OGMS will pay \$120.00 for a 5-gallon bucket of nicely, tumbled rocks. Save a few of your rock hunting specimens to donate for the 2022 Silent Auction.

The Board is still looking for a volunteer for the Assistant Show Chair – "advertising", if you think this sounds right for you, please contact myself or Willa.

2020 Show Chair — Kathi Larson

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 members! Laura Costa

Laura Costa
Blaine & Jane Dahlstrom
Matt & Debbie Davis
Tom & Cheri Gordon
Joan Hamilton
Jay & Connie Nielson and family

OWYHE	EE 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	i:	ZIP:
PHONE:		ANNIV: Mor	BDA nth Day	AY(s):	/ h Day Month Day
EMAIL:					
RENEWAL NEW	_ CASH	CHECK	C#	_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/