



# “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  
362-3941, Wlr\_dkr@msn.com

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Melissa Jones  
340-4545

**SECRETARY:** Sylvia Foreman  
459-4554

**TREASURER:** Janie Ehlers  
674-1213

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

**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:** Larry Beattie  
466-6184, lbeattiejr@aol.com

**ASST:** Gene Alvey  
440-3067, fosselmoss@msn.com

**SHOW CHAIRMAN:** Susan Beattie  
466-6184

**ASST. SHOW CHAIRMAN:** Darell Ehlers  
674-1213, ddehlers@fmc.com

**BULLETIN EDITOR:** Denise Stringer  
283-1903, denisemstringer@gmail.com

**HISTORIAN:** Pauline Prather  
459-4139

**MEMBERSHIP:** Neava Haney  
899-1519, wehnjh99@cableone.net

**REFRESHMENTS:** Jim & Ruth Hopkins  
466-8817, 16654JRHopkins@q.com

**ROAD CLEAN-UP:** Ithel Kildow  
455-7960

**SUNSHINE:** RoseMary Peterson  
546-1897, nuggetcollector@yahoo.com

**WEBMASTER:** Brad Larson  
idrockman@gmail.com

### October President's Message

Happy Halloween to you all. It hardly seems like the year is almost over. I reserved our Christmas party at Orphan Annie's. It should be a very nice time once again this year. I will be presenting the menu for your approval at the next meeting.

This month is the elections and within the newsletter will be the slate of officers. We are still in need of a Field Trip Chairman. I know this position requires a bit of a dedication in overseeing that the field trips are organized and carried out. Larry is willing to support who ever steps up to fulfill this position. I know there are several willing to lead some of the trips so you would not be responsible for all the trips and we could spread them out within the group. We need someone to serve on the board as it is a voted position and as such you are a director. If you can please step forward please do, otherwise we will not be doing fieldtrips this next year. That would be sad as it is one of the reasons many join our ranks.

Ed Moser brought it to the Board's attention that Joe and Debbie Bowman had donated a significant amount of stamps towards the NFMS for their cancer project. We commend them in helping support this great endeavor. THANK YOU!!!

I'd like to thank all those who have been in service to our club this last year. Without the dedication and willingness to give we would not have had as great a year as we have had. I find that the act of giving has brought a lot of fun and growth in my life and thank you all for the chance to strengthen our club within the community. Your support has been a vital part of making this a reality. Thank you so much and I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Sincerely  
Willa Renken  
OGMS President



## Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society General Meeting Minutes—September 18, 2013

**General Meeting:** Held at the College of Idaho, Room 103. Called to order by President Willa Renken at 7:30 p.m. Willa asked if there were any changes to the minutes as printed in the September newsletter. There were no changes, so Brad Larson made the motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter, 2nd by Pauline Prather and approved by the general meeting.

**Program:** There was no program for the evening.

**Guests:** We had the pleasure of six guests for the evening.

**Secretary:** Sylvia Foreman was present, but as Willa can explain important news so much better than she can, she had Willa tell about how members can support the Earth Science & Lapidary Plate Education Resource Program. The proceeds from the sales benefit your local schools. They must be purchased by December 31, 2013.

**Vice President:** Melissa Jones was not present.

**Newsletter Editor:** Denise Stringer was not present.

**Treasurer:** Janie Ehlers gave the Treasurer's report.

**Show Chairman:** Susan Beattie reports that Thelma Brown will be chairman of the show cases this year.

**Federation Chairman:** Ed Moser requested all to keep saving stamps for cancer research.

**Historian:** Pauline Prather gave a report on when Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society began, where the meetings were held, and who was the first officers of the club.

**Sunshine:** RoseMary Peterson says she needs help from members so she knows when, where, and why she needs to send a card, so she can take care of her duties.

**Membership:** Neava Haney had some names of prospective members that wished to be members of our club. Mike Tucker made the motion to accept the new members, 2nd by Ed Moser and approved by the general meeting.

**Field Trip Chairman:** Larry Beattie reports that Saturday, September 21st will be an overnight trip to McDermitt hunting for agate, petrified wood and more. Bring rock hunting tools and water as it may be cold at night. Do not lick the rocks and remember that there is a 25-pound limit of rock per day per person.

**Web Report:** Brad Larson reported that the web site is updated.

**Refreshments:** Ruth and Jim Hopkins thanked the cookie crew and reminded the singles it is their turn to furnish the doughnuts and apple cider at the October meeting.

**Old Business:** Willa reported that a trailer to store club auction rocks has been found and purchased thanks to Darell Ehlers.

**New Business:** Willa announced that she had extra garlic she would share with anyone that would like some, she also told everyone that Nancy Farrell had a new store in Caldwell. Nancy gave any of the members of the club to have a free booth at the Christmas Party at her store and she also had information on the front table about the store.

**Slab Drawing:** Willa had a new little friend helping her with the slab tickets.

**Door Prize Drawing:** Ruth Hopkins won the door prize that was donated by Mike Tucker.

Meeting was adjourned and refreshments were enjoyed by all.  
sfs



### *September Field Trip to McDermitt*



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A good group of rockhounds met in McDermitt, Nevada for a fun weekend searching for rock treasures! A dozen members, (counting Smokey) and an equal amount from surrounding states came together to search for thundereggs, petrified wood, Gary green, wonderstone, chicken tracks, and agate. Mother nature threw just about every kind of weather at us that she could think of, but she couldn't drive us away.



### *October Field Trip to Texas Springs, Nevada*

The **October field trip** will be to Texas Springs, Nevada. This trip will be a joint venture with the Idaho Gem Club. We will meet in front of the Horseshu Casino in Jackpot, Nevada at 8:00 a.m. Mountain Time and leave around 8:30 a.m., Saturday, October 19, 2013. If you need more details please attend the October meeting or call Larry Beattie before the meeting. Hope to see you there!



**October Birthdays**

- 1: Celia Quignon**
- 4: Mayo Hand**
- 12: Dibrell Stowell**
- 13: Dennis Fulk**
- 16: Pat Erichson**
- 16: Dee Huntley**
- 16: Amanda McConnell**
- 19: Terry Goodell**
- 21: Pat McConnel**
- 23: David Sturm**
- 26: Dennis Waller**
- 29: Brad Larson**
- 30: Aubrey Kopp**
- 30: Charles Murphy**
- 30: Dan Stevens**



**October Anniversaries**

- 7: Gene & Joan Alvey**

**November Anniversaries**

- 5: James & Debbie Gundros**
- 8: Stephen & Anita York**
- 10: Lloyd & Heide Summers**
- 11: Larry & Jenny Ritchie**
- 30: Red & Kathi Larson**



**"Must you always bring the biggest one you can find?"**

via Golden Spike News 10/00

Please let me know if I don't have your correct information, or if you are not on the lists above and should be.  
Email me at: [denisemstringer@gmail.com](mailto:denisemstringer@gmail.com)

## October Birthstone - Opal

In Idaho, Opal is the second largest contributor to the total value of gem material produced. The varieties produced include precious (white and pink), yellow, blue, pink, and common.

Opal is brittle, heat sensitive, and breaks and scratches easily; additionally, some varieties self-destruct through the loss of water. Even with these drawbacks, opal's unsurpassed beauty guarantees its status as a premier gemstone. The derivation of its name even adds to its position. Reportedly, opal's name evolved from the Roman word opalus from the Greek word opallios meaning "to see a change of color." The Greek word was a modification of the ancient Indian Sanskrit name for opal, upala, which meant "precious stone." If one spoke in mixed tongues, then opal would be opallios upala, "to see a change of color precious stone."

As indicated by the derivation of its name, opal has centuries of history as a treasured gemstone. Historically, beliefs associated with the wearing of opal have varied. The early Greeks thought that opals gave their owners the powers of foresight and prophecy, and the Romans adored it as a token of hope and purity. Eastern people regarded it as sacred, and Arabs believed it fell from heaven. In the nineteenth century, superstitions grew about the bad luck or fate that could befall one for wearing opal if it were not the wearer's birthstone. Today, these superstitions have diminished, but some people still believe it is bad luck to wear opals.

The most important and most widely known opal is the precious opal. Precious opal may be subdivided further by color modifiers, white, black, pinks, and blue, which describe the body color of the opal. Opal is the most colorful of all gems. Its splendid play of color is unsurpassed, and fine examples can be more valuable than diamond. The play of color consists of iridescent color flashes that change with the angle at which the stone is viewed. This phenomenon is often called opalescence. The play of color may consist of large, individual flashes of color (known as schillers), or may be of tiny, dense flashes. The intensity and distribution of the color flashes is a determining factor in the value of an opal.

A condition called crazing affects certain opals, causing them to form internal cracks. Crazing is a particularly interesting phenomenon, for it lacks consistency and is unpredictable. Although it can occur at random, it usually strikes when an opal removed from damp conditions is allowed to dry too quickly, or when an opal is exposed to sudden intense light -- or a combination of these factors. Crazing may also take place when an opal is subject to vibration, as during the cutting and polishing of a specimen. The severity of the crazing and the time it takes to "craze" varies among specimens. The origin of the specimen is often a determining factor to its resistance to crazing. A very gradual drying process over months or even years can in some cases effectively stabilize the stone and allow it to be cut and polished with a substantially reduced risk of crazing.

Opals displaying play of color are known as precious opals, and opals lacking play of color are known as common opals. Gems are cut from both the precious and common forms, but precious opal is the primary gem form of this stone.

This information is from: <http://www.spenceropalmines.com/About-Idaho-Opal.html>

**Did you know ...**

- that the diamond is the hardest natural substance found on earth?
- that quartz is one of the most common minerals on Earth?
- that marble forms from metamorphosed carbonate rock, most usually limestone?
- that basalt is the most common rock on Earth?
- that breccia is a rock composed of generally large, sharp fragments cemented together?
- feldspars make up more than 50% of the Earth's crust?
- the first recorded use of turquoise dates back to 5000 BC in Mesopotamia, where people used the gemstone to make beads?
- lapis lazul is treasured for its rich blue color and is often used in jewelry? Did you also know that ancient Egyptians used powdered lapis lazul as eye shadow?
- jade, because of it's toughness, has been used for many cultural things like hammers, fish hooks, and stone axes.
- that rubies are one of the most popular gemstones today.
- that the first geologist on the moon was Harrison Schmitt who was part of the Apollo 17 mission? From the rock samples he collected, scientists have been able to learn many things about the moon.
- that the Earth is approximately 4.8 billion years old?
- that gold is so soft and easily worked that you could roll an ounce of it into a hair-thin wire 50 miles long?
- that the biggest pure-gold nugget was found in Australia in 1869 and weighed 156 pounds?
- that platinum is so rare that two million pounds of ore may contain only one pound of metal?
- that meteorites, rocks from space, help scientists learn about the solar system and are very valuable, too?
- that the Taj Mahal built between 1632 and 1654 in India is made entirely out of marble?

This information is from: <http://library.thinkquest.org/J002289/jokes.html>



## **Road Clean-Up: September 28th, 2013**

Thank you for everyone that helped  
with the road clean-up!

We look forward to meeting again in the spring!

Ithel Kildow 455-7960

## Board of Directors Election Nominees

Following is a list of nominees for the 2014 Board of Directors. Elections will take place at the October 16th meeting, so please make sure to attend and cast your vote!

**President:** Willa Renken

**Vice President:** Nancy Farrell

**Secretary:** Sylvia Foreman

**Treasurer:** Janie Ehlers

**Federation Director:** Ed Moser

**Field Trip Chairman:** ?

**Assistant Field Trip Chairman:** Gene Alvey

**Show Chairman:** Susan Beattie

**Assistant Show Chairman:** Darell Ehlers

**Bulletin Editor:** Denise Stringer

**Buy your Earth Science & Lapidary Plate before December 31, 2013**



Contact your local DMV for purchase, or [earthscienceplate.com](http://earthscienceplate.com)

**Proceeds from plate sales benefit your local schools!**

**Average cost is about \$50.00 for two-year registration.  
DMV will give full credit for your active car registration for upgrade to the  
Earth Science & Lapidary Plate.**

### Owyhee & Mineral Society Board Minutes—September 30, 2013

Present for the OGMS Board Meeting September 30, 2013 were President Willa Renken, Editor Denise Stringer, Historian Pauline Prather, Sunshine Chairman RoseMary Peterson, Show Chairman Susan Beattie, Field Trip Chairman Larry Beattie, Asst. Gene Alvey, Federation Director and Assistant Ed & Deanna Moser., Substituting Secretary Joan Alvey.

Meeting was called to order by President Willa Renken at 7 p.m. in room 106 of the College of Idaho. Willa asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes as printed in the September Newsletter, hearing none she asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Pauline made the motion to accept the minutes as printed Larry second the motion. Motion was passed.

**Secretary:** (Joan) had nothing to report

**Historian:** Nothing to report

**Vice president and Treasure** were not present.

**Editor:** Denise reported she needs the articles for the October Newsletter by the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. She also explained the added postage needed for the newsletter.

**Show Chairman:** We need to be thinking of a theme for this year's show as it is our 60-year anniversary of having our show. We should try to think of something around that perhaps. Joan agreed to make some rock lady bugs and smiley faces for the wheel of fortune, We are going to see if Larry Ridley can get us some things for the Sand Dig, Joan Suggested we make some small rock specimen cards the size of a recipe card she volunteered to donate amethyst chips and some clear sunstones, Willa is donating some clear sunstones also. Susan and Larry agreed to put them together. If anyone has some small specimen of any rock that they think can be used please contact Larry or Susan, or any Board Member.

**Federation Director:** Ed told the officers that a special donation of stamps (some still in the Stamp Books) were given to him by Joe and Debbie Bowman. Doug True will be in charge of a show in August 2014, it will be held in Terry Montana. These folks are going all out with a community BBQ and the whole town is turning out to welcome all us Rock Hounds to their town. You can read all about it in the September Federation newsletter.

**Historian:** Pauline had nothing to report.

**Sunshine:** RoseMary reported she sent get well and thinking of you cards to Mike Tucker and Ithel Kildow.

**Field Trip Chairman:** Had a great trip to McDermott. At times very windy but had a great time anyway. Texas Springs down by Jackpot, Nevada will be our field trip for October more info to follow at meeting.

**Membership:** was not present but Willa reminded us it is time to PAY OUR DUES

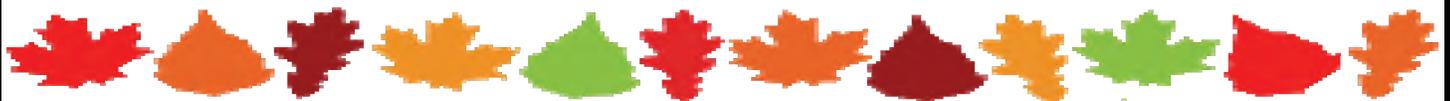
**Web master:** not present

**Old Business:** *Remember election will be at next meeting*

**New Business** Just to give us all a little heads up we will be having our annual Auction at November's meeting.

**Meeting adjourned**

Joan Alvey



# Rock -N- Gifts

942 South Lincoln • Jerome, Idaho 83338

(208) 324-8860

## Bruneau Jasper

Cabs - Slabs - Specimens - Rough

Gerald & Joy Scarrow

(208) 324-4024

Rocky & Kelley Scarrow

(208) 324-1034

rockingift@cableone.net

## 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

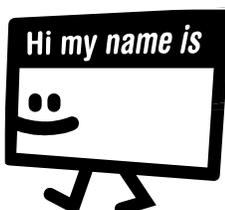
### Membership Report

It is that time of the year, MEMBERSHIP Renewal for the New Year (where has this year gone?). I will have membership forms at the next meeting.

If you have not received your name badge and/or membership card, my contact information is listed below. Please contact me either by phone or email so I can have it ready for you at the next meeting.

Reminder: You get with "New Membership" – A membership card, a small patch and your name badge at no charge. With your "Renewal" you will get your membership card for the New Year. (Usually you can pick up your name badge at the next club meeting while enjoying refreshments and meeting new friends after the meeting.)

We have had some inquires for replacement of Name Badges or small patches that have gone astray. You can purchase the Name Badge for \$2.00 and/or the small patch for \$3.00 each. We also have the big patches for \$10.00.



Remember to wear your name badge at the monthly meetings so everyone knows who you are.

- Neava Haney  
899-1519

wehnh99@cableone.net

### *Refreshment Report*

Hello Fellow Members,

October is the month when single members of the club bring refreshments!

Donuts, apple cider, or other “fall” treats are suggested.

Thanks again to all you members for volunteering to bring refreshments.

It sure makes a nice ending to our meetings and adds to enhance our fellowship after the meeting.



-Ruth & Jim Hopkins, Refreshment Chairmen

466-8817

16654JRHopkins@q.com



### *Have You Visited our Club Website?*

Our awesome web site 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/>



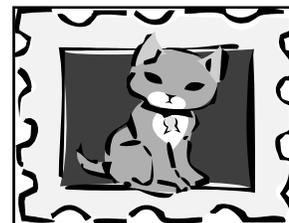
**Federation Director**

Bring your postage stamps to this month's meeting.

Remember to *cut 1/2 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.



-Ed Moser, Federation Director

409-2410

edmoser15@gmail.com

**Upcoming Events**

**Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society September Meeting**—October 16, 2013—7:30 p.m.  
Boone Science Building at the College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho

**Hells Canyon Gem Club - 47th Annual - From Rocks to Gems**

When: Sat, October 19—Sun, October 20

Where: Nez Perce County Fairgrounds, 1229 Burrell Avenue, Lewiston, ID 83501

Adults \$2.00 Children 12 and under free with paid adult

Dealers, Rough Rocks to Fine Jewelry, Displays, Demonstrations, Kid's Corner, Rock Crafts & Activities, Silent Auction, Great Bargains, Door Prizes, Grand Prize Drawing on Sunday,

Contact: Linn Enger 208 746 4957 [engerocks@yahoo.com](mailto:engerocks@yahoo.com)

**Talk: Serpentine--Ecology and evolution on a strange soil**

California's Central Coast has some amazing ecosystems, and one of them centers on serpentine. What is serpentine? It's the mineral class that makes up our state rock. It's formed where oceanic and continental plates collide. It's often green. It creates soils where specialized plants survive.

An upcoming talk by Dr. Susan Harrison (Professor at U.C. Davis) will focus on how serpentine soils offer a window to understanding the evolution and ecology of stressful environments.

**Saturday, October 19, 2013, 3:00 p.m.**

at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

165 Forest Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Phone: (831) 648-5716

\$5 admission at the door

(Free for Museum Members)

**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 18)** - \$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 Building at the College of Idaho, 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 identified slab



Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society  
Denise M. Stringer  
5730 N Lilybrook Way  
Boise, ID 83713