

Board of Directors / Officers:

PRESIDENT:

Sue Cassidy
(603) 548-8822
pypnhot@comcast.net

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Deana Ashton
(208) 794-5628

SECRETARY:

Chris Merrell-Rawson
(208) 371-7639
chrismerrillrawson@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Ken Christensen
(208) 250-3815
kenscorn@hotmail.com

FEDERATION DIRECTOR:

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

FIELD TRIP CHAIR:

John Wright
(208) 571-6873
blackwolfjdw1954@yahoo.com

SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Sue Cassidy
(603) 548-8822
pypnhot@comcast.net

Assistant Show Chair:

Dale Rawson
(208)283-7990

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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

MEMBERSHIP:

Kim Bashford
(208) 454-7287
kmcewan1957@msn.com

PREVIOUS PRESIDENT:

Willa Renken
(208) 362-3941
Wlr_dkr@msn.com

Committee Chair Members:

OJGP CHAIR—Steve Narkaus

(503) 931-9763
steve.ojgp@gmail.com

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP:

Ted Diehr
(713) 301-8684
tdiehr@comcast.net

SUNSHINE:

Kim Erb
(208) 202-9357
kimzstones@gmail.com

HISTORIAN:

Kim Erb
(208) 202-9357
kimzstones@gmail.com

WEBMASTER:

John Merritt

"Owyhee Gem"

Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society

PO Box 1053 | Caldwell, ID | 83605-1053

Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society | [Facebook](#), www.owyheerocks.com

Volume 58 No. 7

July 2026

July President's Message



We hope you had a wonderful 250th Independence day celebration!

The weather was fantastic and allowed for a productive and fun trip for Texas Spring limb casts. Many thanks to Barbara and Dave Korn for leading the team. Everyone came away with some nice artifacts and had a great time. Looking forward to the Graveyard Point trip this month. Don and Cindy will be leading everyone and they know where all the good stuff is!

The Fun Show Committee have met and are in the process of locking down a show location in Caldwell. If you are interested in participating in the show, please contact John Wright and get your name on the list. This is for club members to sell whatever arts and craft items that they would like to. It is not limited to rocks and gems.

The Workshop Committee has also met and will be presenting their recommendation to the club for a vote. We will start out getting the necessary items and then progress with a goal of unveiling at the Annual Gem Show. Please give them your support. There will be a lot of opportunities to help with the mobile workshop to get it read for use.

Don't forget Nyssa Thunderegg days Thursday, July 9 – Saturday, July 11. Also during that time period, Jeff Hill of Silver Hill Lapidary will be serving lunch and his slabs and rough rock as well as gems and opal are discounted to sell.

I will not be at the July meeting, so please enjoy the outing at Memorial Park, bring and buy lots of items at the auction to help the club raise some funds for our upcoming projects.

If you need to reach out, I'm only a phone call, text or email away.

Sue Cassidy, OGMS President



Field Trip Report — John Wright

USEFUL ITEMS TO BRING ON YOUR FIELD 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, Protective clothing and sunscreen to avoid burns.

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. Check with the Field Trip Chair before you go.
- Please remember to not park on tall grass or sagebrush as the fire season is in full swing and watch out for snakes.
- 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.

For further information contact John Wright at 208-571-6873 or David Korn at 208-250-7739

2026 OGMS Field Trip Schedule

July 18th: ** Graveyard point for moss agate, Meet @ Chevron, Hwy 55/95 Junction

Aug 22nd: ** Picture Jasper Claim, Meet @ Chevron, Hwy 55/95 Junction

Sept 19th: * Blue Egg for Blue Opal Thunder Eggs. Meet @ Homedale City Park with Tank

Oct 24th: * Pink Plume Claim for Pink Plume Agate, Meet @ the Owyhee Junction, Hwy 201
and Owyhee Ave

Legend:

* (meet @ 8am – leave @ 8:30)

** (meet @ 7am – leave @ 7:30)

For further information, Contact John (208)571-6873 or David (208)250-7739

General Meeting —June 17, 2026



The June 2026 General Meeting of the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by OGMS president, Sue Cassidy at 7:05 pm on 6/17/26 in Idaho at the College of Idaho's Boone Science Building in room # 203.

Sue called for a motion to accept the last meeting's minutes to be accepted as printed in the OGMS news letter. Willa R made the motion which was seconded by Kim B. There were no objection or further discussion and the motion passed.

Program – Deana announced that she had some lapidary equipment (trim saw, tumbler, etc) displayed on the table at the front of the room. She then introduced Robert Turner who shared his personal experiences of rock-hounding and the evolution of the many things he has tried and done over the years with all the rocks he has found.

Vice President – Deana reminded everyone that the OGMS general meeting July 15th will be at Caldwell Memorial Park for our annual pot luck and auction. Please bring your lawn chair or blanket, a side-dish, and don't forget your paper plates and eating utensils. Auction donations are greatly appreciated. Jim & Ruth Hopkins will need our assistance with the water wagon once they arrive. Jim added that we need to arrange for someone else to bring the water for future picnics. THANK YOU JIM & RUTH!!!

Treasurer Report – Ken C discussed last month's deposits and disbursements as well as our money market, CD's, and bonds earnings and activity. We are solvent.

Field Trip Chair – Barbara and John Korn discussed the Texas Springs field trip Membership-Kim B announced one new member.

Secretary Report – Chris R said she picked up the club's mail and distributed appropriately.

Federation Report – Ed M emphasized that we keep collecting postage stamps. He will be taking them to the next Federation meeting in Walla Walla Wa.

Sunshine Report – Nothing new to report.

Historian Report – Kim E said photos of our field trips and club gatherings are always welcome.

Junior Geologists – Steve said membership is at 77. The oldest member is 84 & the youngest is 9 yrs old. They are having an obsidian and flint knapping event June 25th.

In July they will have a gold panning event with a mineral tour. All mineral tour sales will directly benefit the juniors.

General Meeting —June 17, 2026—Continued from page 3

Old Business- "Fun Show" John W said he and Hildy learned that the Caldwell Elks is a venue option @ \$350. per day & November 7th or 14th are prospective dates for this new event.

Workshop committee – Ken said they will be looking for a workshop trailer and present findings to the board members.

New Business-Next months general meeting will be at Caldwell Memorial Park. Bring auction items, a side dish, eating utensils, and your lawn chair.

Door Prize Winner – Ed Moser

Barbara K made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cheryl E seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

Board Meeting Minutes— June 29, 2026

Board members present: Kim Bashford, Sue Cassidy, Deana Ashton, Don Dixon, Ed Moser, Ken Christensen, John Wright, Chris Merrell-Rawson, & Dale Rawson Guests: Cindy Woolsey, Steve Narkaus, Patty Mansfield, & CJ Mansfield June 29, 2026 The OGMS Board Meeting was called to order @ 6:40 p.m. by President Sue Cassidy in the Caldwell Public Library at 1010 Dearborn in Caldwell Idaho. There was no board meeting in May due to the Memorial Day holiday so there were no meeting minutes requiring acceptance.

Workshop Committee – Presented a powerpoint presentation of estimated costs and logistics for the purchase and renovation of a 2003 Fleetwood 26' toy hauler trailer including the addition of new equipment. There was a productive and lengthy conversation amongst the board members concluding with the decision to present the details to all OGMS members at our next general meeting.

Secretary – Chris Merrell-Rawson stated that the mail was picked up from the post office and distributed appropriately.

Vice President – Deana – Nothing new since the general meeting

Treasurer – Ken Christensen – Nothing new since the general meeting.

Membership Chair - Kim announced new members, Cynthia Ackerman, Philip Kanish, Samuel & Nancy Bolston, Chris & Mary Ann Weed, and Steve & Janine Attlesperger. Ed made a motion to accept the new members. Don seconded the motion. The board members all voted in favor to pass the motion with no further discussion and the motion to accept the new members passed.

Federation Chair – Ed Moser announced that the next Federation event will be in Walla Walla Washington during April 2027. He also told board members he will start bringing a plastic bin to the general meetings for our stamp donations. Don added that there will be a dinosaur bone dig in Jordan Montana next month (08/26) for \$125. Check your email for the Federation newsletter recently sent by Robert Murphey.

Field Trip Chair – John talked a little bit about the Texas Springs field-trip attendance. He then announced our next fieldtrip will be at Graveyard Point. Meet-up time is 7:00 am at the Chevron located on the corner of Hwy 55&95. The group will leave together at 7:30.

Board Meeting Minutes—June 29, 2026—Continued from page 4

Junior Geologist – Steve Narkaus announced the next event will be with the Treasure Valley Gold Panners. on July 25, from 10:00am until noon. The location address is 6058 Canyon Crossing Drive (just north of Ford Idaho Center)

Show Chair – Sue said there are still 11 outstanding contracts for 2027 show.

Old Business –Fun Show committee John said Hildy contacted the Caldwell Elks about venue information. The cost would be \$150 for the day. Price includes tables. The date will be either November 7th or 14th from 9am to 5pm.

New Business –College of Idaho will be increasing the amount charged for our general meeting monthly rent. Sue inquired whether or not the members think an OGMS app would be useful She also informed board members that First Interstate Bank is requesting to review meeting minutes. Kim made a motion for the board to comply with the bank's request. Don 2nd the motion. The members were all in favor with no further discussion. The motion passed.

OGMS Board meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Owyhee Junior Geologist Program (OJGP)**Junior Geology: Summer 2026 Events**

Please RSVP for ALL Events & Watch Your Email for Updates

July 25th 10 am – 12pm Location: Steve Narkaus's Home. Nampa, Idaho**GOLD!! Come Learn About Gold Panning from Treasure Valley Gold Prospectors**

Free Rock Specimens for Junior Geologists and a flake of real Gold. Gold Panning @ 10am. Box lunch & Tour Entire Mineral Collection @ 11pm. Grab your Treasures & Ask final questions@ 12pm.

**September 26, 2026, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm:**

Rock hunt and BBQ in Gooding, ID, with road trip guide

October 17, 2026, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm:

College of Idaho Museum tour in Caldwell, ID followed by presentation at the Caldwell Public Library

December 7, 2026, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm:

Holiday party and presentation at the Caldwell Public Library in Caldwell, ID

Vice-President's Corner—Deana Ashton



Greetings Rockhounds!

Can you believe that this year is half over already! This has been very exciting for me because I love being the Club VP and being part of a group of interesting professional great people! As an 88-year-old social club, I'd say we are doing things right! Motivated people working towards common goals.

Think of this....8 months ago, talk began about possibly creating a Junior Geologist Youth Group. Steve Narkaus really got passionate about finding meeting places, working on rock programs and teaching, when to meet, what to call this group. He was given the approval to get in motion with Juniors Program. Now there are 80 new members recruited and active and the age limit has no ceiling! This is not a simple task by any means! It has bolstered club interest in families and membership has grown.

6 months ago, several members expressed interest in creating a club lapidary workshop. A committee was formed. What kind of building could we find to do this and teach members? Then Willa had a fantastic idea. She said we could turn a trailer into a mobile workshop! Immediately the ambitious committee started seeking trailer options, and now we could possibly have an ideal rock shop by year's end! Our July meeting will have exciting things to discuss and share with all of you! Thank you, CJ and Patty Mansfield, for your hard work!

The other reason I love our Gem Society so much is because of the food you all share at the potluck picnic meeting! You guys actually take the time to make potato and macaroni salad; you take time to contribute delicious side dishes from homemade recipes! Oh yummy!! Your thoughtfulness is appreciated, especially by someone who is a terrible cook and can burn ice.

The wholesome goodness of our members is exemplary!!

****Remember, JULY and AUGUST meetings are held at Caldwell Memorial Park, on Kimball and Irving, 6:30 pm. POTLUCK PICNIC DINNER! Please bring a dish to share!**

*****THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND CALL FOR A MEMBERSHIP VOTE! Please plan to attend and take part in recent club activities!! We will be discussing Club Rock Workshop.**

Also, we have an auction following business meeting. Please bring something nice to contribute to the auction fundraiser.

Thank you, Robert Garner, for presenting program on Lapidary Tools in June! You had excellent suggestions that will help guide members to create a passion for our rocks, a creative process.

Our August 19, 2026 meeting will be held in Caldwell Memorial Park on Kimball. 6:30pm. This will be an ice cream social! Homemade Ice cream and savory toppings to enjoy.

Sept. 16, 2026 meeting, Boone Science Bldg. 7:00pm. Program on Thundereggs by Guy Di Torrice.

Stay cool and hydrated and wear hat and sunscreen! It is easy to overdo it in summer!

Look forward to seeing you!

Texas Springs Photos



Show Committee Chair Report:

These next few months are relatively quiet for the show, but rest assured there is work going on. There are plans to pull out the silent auction rocks in storage and power wash them. Then there will be the task of grading what we have and culling the rocks that are not likely to draw much attention. With that in mind, please continue to collect rocks for the silent auction. If you have some leftover cut rocks, please consider donating them to the show. This would be helpful for the auction as it gives bidders an opportunity to see the inside of what they will be getting if they win and hopefully beef up the bidding.

As always, tumbled stones are sought after, and you would get paid \$125 for a 5 gallon bucket of nicely tumbled stone. The kids especially love getting them in the grab bags. We have also been giving some out at the entrance to the young kids and their eyes light up with delight.

July and August General Meetings—In the Park

**The summer general meetings will be at the Caldwell Memorial Park
618 Irving Street, on the corner of Irving and Kimball
See you there at 6:30 p.m. on July 15th for the July meeting.**

July 16—Pot Luck and Auction

- **We will be having a potluck so dust off your recipes and bring a nice dish or two to share. Please bring your own table service and a chair to chase the shade.**
- **We will have a Silent Auction, so bring your checkbook/cash!**
- **The money collected will offset our December Banquet costs.**

August 19—Trunk/Tailgate Sale-- 5:30, Ice Cream Social-- 6:30

Membership—Kim Bashford

We are accepting payment of 2026 dues

Membership forms are available at every meeting and on the next page of this newsletter. Invite your "rockhound" friends to our next meeting!

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 meetings, 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 on the next page to:

Kim Bashford, Membership Director
P.O. Box 1053, Caldwell, ID 83605-1053
Phone: (208) 454-7287 Email: kmcewan1957@msn.com



**Welcome
New
Members!**

**Attlesperger, Steve &
Janine**

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 the Northwest Federation Jr. Scholarship Fund. 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.

[Website:](#)

[Northwest](#)

[Federation](#)

[Mineralogical](#)

[Society](#)

The Northwest Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. was organized in 1938 to bring about a closer association of Clubs and Societies devoted to the study of the Earth Sciences and the practice of the Lapidary Arts and related crafts in the northwest portion of the United States. Beginning with seven "founding" clubs and seven "charter" clubs, the NFMS has now grown to approximately 60 affiliated clubs and societies with a combined membership of well over 5,000 individuals.

The NFMS is a member of the [American Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#), the umbrella association for the seven regional federations in the United States. It joined the [AFMS](#) in 1947.



Jefferson Rockhounds

Lifelong rockhound and collector of earthly treasures, now sharing our passion with fellow rock lovers. Please visit us at a local gun show (follow us on Facebook) and view our treasures at:

Boise: Antique World Mall 4544 Overland Rd.

Showcases 10, 11, & 12

Ontario OR: Vintage Rose, 204 S. Oregon St.

Vendor #41

Weiser ID: Station 30 Collectibles, 30 E. Commercial St.

Vendor #18

Here are just a few of the rocks we have on display:

Amazonite, Amethyst, Azurite, Carnelian, Chrysocolla, Jasper, Kyanite, Labradorite, Larimar, Lepidolite, Malachite, Moonstone, Obsidian, Petrified Wood, Quartz, Rhodochrosite, Ruby Zoisite, Seraphinite, Tiger Eye, Tourmaline, Unakite, and more!

Available in: Stone & Silver Jewelry, Bookends, Cathedrals, Crystal Points, Flames, Obelisks, Towers, Pyramids, Hearts, Spheres, Skulls, Dragon Heads, Free Form, Natural/Rough, Slabs...

Jefferson Rockhounds

Hildy Langewis

jeffrockhounds@gmail.com



Would you like to see your ad here?

**You can buy an ad like this for one month,
only \$5.00.**

A 12-month ad is only \$50.00!

**Your ad will be seen by over
200 club members, plus online
visitors.**

**To place an ad, please email:
robert.murpheyogms@gmail.com
(Ads are subject to Board approval)**

July Birthdays

6	Howard Emry
8	Leta Collord
12	Ron Cassidy
12	Loren Francis
13	Norman Young
14	Denise Irwin
15	Dennis McManamon
16	Doc Morgan
21	Dustin Baker
22	Tom Rogers
26	Larry Ridley
30	Ken Freeze

July Anniversaries

8	Ted & Lisa Diehr
9	Doug & Willa Renken
11	Robert & Karissa Sudweeks
21	Rick & Tammy Payne

Newsletter Editor

If you have articles or information for the newsletter, please submit to
robert.murpheyogms@gmail.com

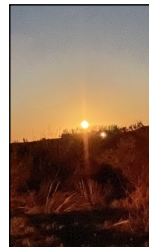
Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History
College of Idaho—Boone Science Hall
basement— Caldwell, Idaho

[Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History | The College of Idaho](#)

As the only natural history museum in the region encompassing southwestern Idaho, southeastern Oregon, and northern Nevada, The College of Idaho's Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History is the premier resource for environmental and natural history education in the region. The Museum is listed in the "30 Most Amazing Higher Education Natural History Museums," compiled by Best College Reviews.

You can check them out on [Facebook](#) and also on [Instagram](#) or call (208) 459-5507.

Sunshine Report



Hi, I am Kim Erb and I am your Sunshine Chair.

If you hear of anyone needing a get-well card or visit, please give me a call at (208) 202-9357.

kimzstones@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.

OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY—2026 Membership Application**Rockhounds' 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 which may be dangerous to livestock.
- 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.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

I have read and understand the Rockhounds' Code of Ethics: Signed _____

Mail this form to: **PO Box 1053 | Caldwell, ID | 83605-1053**

Family—\$25

Couple—\$20

Single—\$15

Child—\$5

Jr Geology Program —\$10

(Please Print)

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ANNIV: Month _____ Day _____ (Name of Spouse/Other if not a member) _____

BDAY(s): First Name _____ Month _____ Day _____ / First Name _____ Month _____ Day _____

BDAY(s): First Name _____ Month _____ Day _____ / First Name _____ Month _____ Day _____

Renewal ___ New ___ Amount Paid: _____ Date Paid: _____ 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 - \$25.00 per year
Couples \$20.00 per year
Singles—\$15.00 per year
Children (under 19) - \$5.00 per year
Jr. Geology Program - \$10 per year

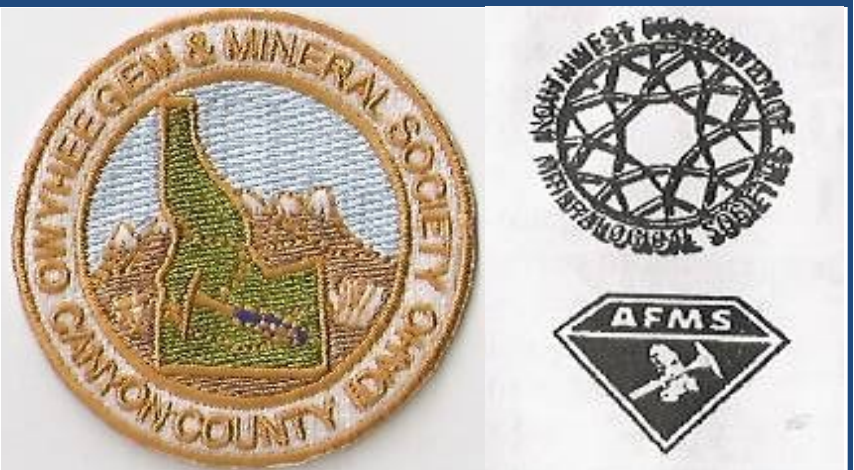
The Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was established in 1938 at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho.

GENERAL MEETING: The club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Boone Science Hall at the College of Idaho, Room 103, except for the summer months 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:

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/>