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
chrismerrellrawson@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. 9 September 2026

September President's Message



Thanks to all that participated in the auction, folks were able to get some good buys and the club did well overall. Thanks to those that donated.

In October we will be voting on board members. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Willa Renken or Kim Bashford (they are the nominating committee). If you can let them know if you are interested, we can create the ballot ahead of time. All current board members will be running for their positions again.

The "Fun" Craft show is being finalized. Please contact John Wright or Hildy Langewis if you are interested in participating. They are finalizing table space and have information to distribute.

We are winding down on field trips, so please plan on participating while the weather has cooled and enjoy getting some nice blue thundereggs this next trip!

Welcome Jay Erb who will be working alongside Ed Moser as liaisons with the Northwest Federation.

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

Sue Cassidy, OGMS President

Field Trip Chair 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

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)

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

All Donations:

With the new workshop build and the junior geology program, several have asked about making donations and we are happy to accept whatever you can give. The donations, however, must go through the Treasurer and Secretary for IRS reporting purposes. Monetary donations will go to Ken who will segregate the funds to be used for the specific project(s). Equipment donations will go initially to Sue or Dale and then be distributed to the appropriate project. Rock donations can be given to the intended recipients directly but let us know so that we can report value and provide a letter. All donors will receive a letter of contribution that can be used for IRS reporting purposes. We need to report all donations received to maintain our 501 c3 status.

OGMS Mobile Workshop:

This is a club project, and we would like to involve as many club members as possible. If you have any skills in trades such as HVAC, please get in touch with Dale. Rough demolition has been completed. Rebuilding is underway. Some water damage was found that is a bit more extensive than expected. We are working with the appropriate people to resurface the roof as well as the water damaged areas.

Several people have asked about what they can do to help. This is the current list of items that we are looking for: **Safety Equipment –**

N95 masks,
Respirators,
Hearing protection,
Various sizes of rubber gloves
5-gallon buckets (10-15)
Dopping materials and supplies
Shape stencils to be used for cabbing
Trim Saws (4),
Flat Lap

Donations already committed to or received:
Fire Extinguishers (3) - Curt Farrand
First Aid Kit and supplies – Deana Ashton
Slab Saw – Rulon Alread
New Tumbler – Rulon Alread (This will be used for Jr. Geologists as tumblers will not be used at workshop).
Aprons – Robert Murphey
Safety Glasses – Cindy Woolsey
A big THANK YOU to SUZI DECKER for her generous $5,000 donation toward equipment for the workshop! That will be a big help for the workshop.
If you are interested in providing any of these items or providing items you are interested in selling at a discounted price, please contact Sue so she can track and avoid duplication of items.

OGMS History by Kim Erb

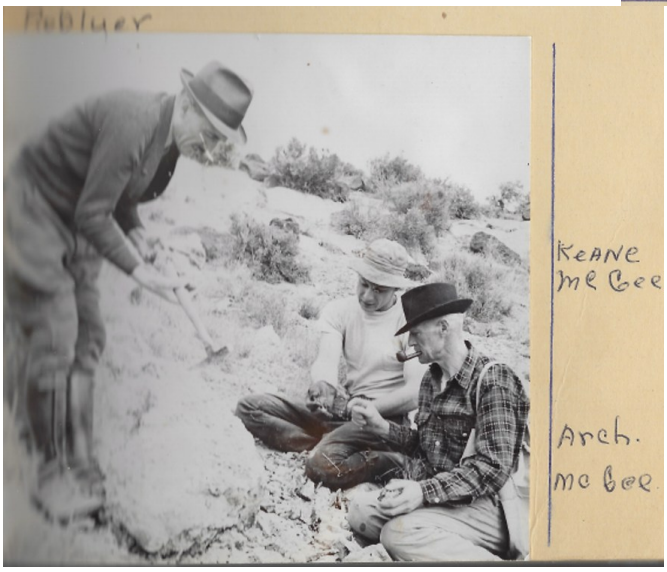
OGMS FOUNDING & EARLY SHOWS

Our club was formed in 1938, organized largely by College of Idaho faculty: Professor and head of the chemistry department for 43 years, John H. Roblyer; Professor and later head of the biology department, Dr. Lyle M. Stanford; and zoology professor Harold M. Tucker. Also involved in the founding were Archie McGee, Mary Elizabeth Arnold and Edna Ballantyne. The organizational meeting was held on June 10, 1938.

The first regular meeting was held on June 17, 1938 at Sterry Hall at College of Idaho where meetings continued to be held on the 3rd Friday of each month for some time until they were held at Boone Science Hall after it was built in 1968. Charter members included Archie & Keane McGee, Francis Pickett, John H. Roblyer, Edwin Brandt, O.J. Smith, Edna Ballantyne, C. O. McDaniel, Harold Tucker, Henry Fujii and Betty Arnold, plus student members Ed Brandt, Everett Clark, Gorden Gipson and Donald Roblyer.

OGMS hosted the Northwest Federation Show at College of Idaho's Kirkpatrick Gym in 1952 at which professors Roblyer, Tucker and Stanford spoke. The club had annual banquet & displays beginning in 1938, but did not begin having club shows until 1955 where its first annual show





was held at the American Legion Chateau in Nampa. Thereafter the shows were held at various club halls and schools in Canyon County, and many times at the Caldwell Armory, until in 1976 it appears to have found a home at the O'Connor Field House.

These are photos of some of the early members during a field trip.

Show Committee Chair Report



These next few months are relatively quiet for the show, but rest assured there is work going on. Contracts have been sent out and the dealers have been sending in their deposits. There are plans to pull out the silent auction rocks in storage and power wash them once the weather turns cooler.

As always, tumbled stones are sought after, and you would get paid $125 for a 5 gallon bucket of nicely tumbled stone.

Any funds spent on behalf of Annual show must be pre-approved by the Show or Assistant Show Chair to allow for proper tracking against project plan and budget. Non approval will be considered a donation.

SHOW COMMITTIE CHAIR:
Sue Cassidy
(603) 548-8822
pypnhot@comcast.net

Vice-President's Corner—Deana Ashton



Deana Ashton

Join us for a great presentation at our September 16, 2026 meeting!

Guy DiTorrice, Fossil and artifact expert, will be sharing knowledge about Thunder Eggs!

Please attend and learn interesting facts about one of our favorite specimens to collect! Meeting starts at 7:00pm at Boone Science Building.

October program will be on Idaho Yellow Opal Mining by owners of this historic mine!

That's all folks!

Deana Ashton

General Meetings at The College of Idaho— September 16, 2026

Caldwell, Idaho—Boone Science Hall (#12 on map below), Room 103 at 7:00 p.m.

Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology

2455 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712 (Next to the Old Pen)

Saturdays Only: 1—4 p.m.

Free Admission—tours and other programs available

contact.us@idahomuseum.org

Idaho Museum of Mining & Geology – Free Admission

General Meeting — August 19, 2026


Chris Merrell-Rawson

The August 2026 general meeting & annual ice-cream social of the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by OGMS president, Sue Cassidy at 6:42 pm on 08/19/26 at Memorial Park in Caldwell Idaho.

The last newsletter was available by email only. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes. Deana seconded the motion. All the members were in favor with no further discussion so the motion to accept the minutes passed.

Secretary's Report – Chris Rawson was not present.

Vice President – Deana announced that Guy DiTorrice will provide the September meeting's presentation.

Treasurer Report – Ken C presented OGMS July expenses and discussed money market and bonds earnings in addition to all OGMS accounts balances.

Junior Geologists – Steve Narkus was not present

Federation Report – Keep saving and bringing your postage stamps.

Field Trip Chair – John Wright informed members that the August 22 field trip will be for picture jasper. He also asked for someone to volunteer to do the September 19 Big Egg claim field trip. Ken C answered the call. Thank you Ken!

Worksop – A ***SPECIAL THANK YOU*** to Steve Narkus, Ken Christensen, Patty & CJ Mansfield, Dale Rawson and Kim & Jay Erb for locating and negotiating the purchase of a toy hauler trailer for our OGMS mobile workshop. This completes phase one of our workshop program. Project plan is underway with the goal being to have the workshop ready for our annual spring show.

Fun Show – Venue is confirmed for November 14 at the Caldwell Elks lodge (thank you Hildy) $30 per table/two tables per person.

Roadside Cleanup – October 10

Meeting Adjourned
Meeting minutes transcribed from notes taken by Cindy Woolsey. (Thank you Cindy)


Chris Merrell-Rawson

8-31-26 OGMS Board Meeting

Board members present: Chris Merrell-Rawson, Sue Cassidy, Kim Bashford, Ed Moser, Ken Christensen, Willa Renken, Dale Rawson, Deana Ashton, John Wright, Robert Murphey,

Guests: Cindy Woolsey

August 31, 2026 The OGMS Board Meeting was called to order @ 6:25 p.m. by President Sue Cassidy in the Caldwell Public Library at 1010 Dearborn in Caldwell Idaho. Willa Renken made a motion to accept last month's minutes as printed in the July OGMS newsletter. John Wright seconded the motion. All the members were in favor, there was no further discussion and the motion passed.

VP Report – Deana confirmed that Guy DiTorrice will be presenting the September OGMS general meeting's program. She also gave an update about the Wolf Pack emergency first aid kit were trying to acquire for the club's mobile workshop.

Secretary – Chris Merrell-Rawson - nothing to report

Treasurer – Ken Christensen discussed deposits and outstanding checks

Membership Chair - Kim announced one new member. Her name is Suzanne Decker. Chris made a motion seconded by Deana to accept the new member. All the officers were in favor of the motion without any further discussion so the motion passed. She also reported that Suzanne made a size-able donation to the mobile workshop trailer remodel.

Federation Chair – Ed Moser announced that the second 2026 Federation meeting will be in September in Walla Walla Washington.

Field Trip Chair – John said that there were many new faces at the Picture Jasper field trip and everyone seemed to have a really good time. The next field trip will be at the Big Egg Claim. Ken volunteered to chaperon the trip. Meet-up in Homedale at 8:00 am and leave as a group @ 8:30.

Annual Show Committee – Sue said there are still five vendor contracts outstanding. She'll be calling them in the next week and for those not fulfilled she'll be contacting people on the waiting list to take their spots.

Assistant Show Chair – Dale Rawson still working with Dave Claussen on phase two of the electrical upgrades for the show cases.

Fun Show – 11/14/2026 First table will be $20. Second table will be $15. Still working on set-up time and hours of business details.

New Business – Dale reported that things are moving right on schedule with the mobile workshop trailer renovation. Ken said he's working on the trailer's insurance policy.

Elections – Kim Bashford and Willa Renken agreed to steer our nominee committee

OGMS Board meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

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!

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

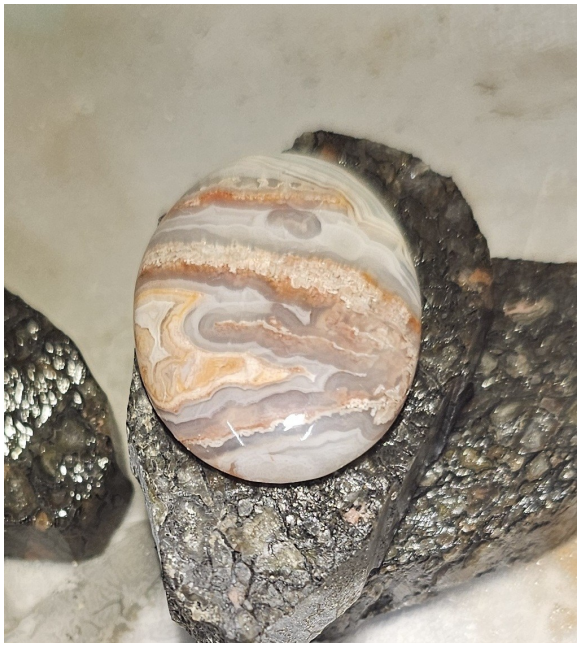
Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History
College of Idaho—Boone Science Hall basement— Caldwell, Idaho
Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History | The College of Idaho

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.

September Birthdays

7	George Davila
7	Denise Eason
12	Mary Clark
12	Jeannie Freeland
12	Koda Sudweeks
14	Andrea Sawyer
22	Bill Franklin
25	Eva Roberts
26	Brent Stewart
29	Daniel McCann



September Anniversaries

1	Wayne & Barbara Herbel
3	Darell & Janie Ehlers
10	Mike & Kathiey Powers
11	Doc & Linda Morgan
12	Steve & Barb Narkaus
18	Loren & Luva Francis
20	Mark & Jeannie Freeland
20	Earl & Jennie VanCampen
24	Dan & Diane Stevens
28	Rod & Shauna Marceau

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

Newsletter Editor

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

Would you like to see your ad here?

You can buy an ad like these for one month for 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.murheyogms@gmail.com

(Ads are subject to Board approval)

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

Owyhee Junior Geologist Program



Steve Narkaus

Events to Wrap Up 2026:

SEPT 26th ROCK HUNT IN GOODING

Meeting Place: Gooding McDonalds at 9:30am

BBQ to follow at 12pm.

OCT 24th GOLD PANNING

1pm in Nampa.

All Junior Geologists will

receive a real speck of Gold.

Tour The Narkaus Collection

Add to your Rock & Mineral Collection

All sales go to support Junior Geology

DEC 7th GEMOLOGY & FACETING 7PM

Learn how stones are Faceted

Caldwell Public Library

REMEMBER TO RSVP to ALL EVENTS

RSVP to snarkaus@msn.com

EXCITING PLANS FOR 2027

Will be announced in January!!

Watch for the Newsletter

Steve Narkaus

OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY—2025 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 I Caldwell, ID I 83605--1053**

Family—$25 Couple—$20 Single—$15 Child—$5 Jr. Geology Program — $10 per child

(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.

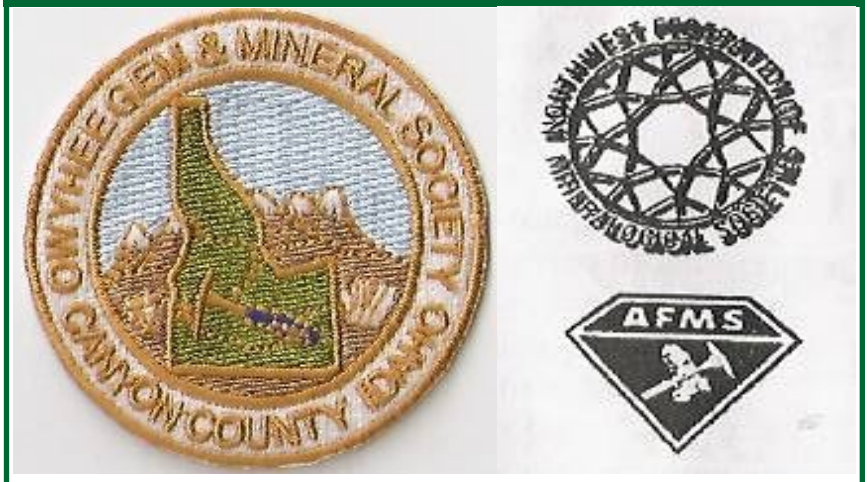
MEMBERSHIP DUES:
Family - $25.00 per year
Couples - $20.00 per year
Singles -$15.00 per year
Children (under 19) - $5.00 per year
JR Geology Program - $10 per year

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/