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**WEBMASTER:**

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# "Owyhee Gem"

Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society

PO Box 1053 | Caldwell, ID | 83605-1053

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

Volume 57 No. 12

December 2025

## December President's Message



Hello fellow rockhounds. This month's message brings us to the close of another year. I hope you all had a chance to get out into the outdoors and discover some fantastic items to display for the Annual Show in March. As the time draws closer to our event, hopefully you have contacted Kim for a showcase and are anticipating turning in the rocks you have tumbled, critters you have created, and grab bags you have sewn. These items are an ongoing request in order to keep our club's show funded and the public happy. You all never let us down with all the wonderful donations and time freely given to keep our club strong and functioning well.

This month is our Christmas Banquet and I hope you have all contacted Kim to secure your place, as it is the one event where we get to visit and socialize at our leisure. Our night starts on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm with the No-Host bar and we will eat at 7pm. Be sure to take advantage of some of the fun we will have this night. There will be an "Ugly Sweater" Contest so if you have one let the best one win! There will be a gift exchange as well if you want to participate bring a wrapped gift for the table marked as male, female. or either. There is a \$20 limit and the tables should be marked for you. There will be a wandering picture frame for candid shots of you and your sweetie, or whomever you would like to take a picture with. As always, I look forward to spending the evening with all of you!

John is busy compiling the next year's field trip list so if there is a particular site you would like to explore please let him know so we can fit it in. He will also be needing help this year with some of the trips so be sure to ask him if you can help.

Dale still has some plywood tables available they are buy 4 for \$25 each. Reach out and get one or 4 so we can recoup some of the funds used to secure the new ones for our show.

On that note, I look forward to seeing you on the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Nampa Elks at 6pm for food, fun and some Christmas cheer!

Willa Renken OGMS President.

## Vice-President's Corner—Sue Cassidy

### "My Favorite" Presentations

If you have a favorite rock, gem, mineral, or fossil you would like to talk about and share with the members at the next meeting and in the newsletter, please contact Sue at (603) 548-8822, [pypnhot@comcast.net](mailto:pypnhot@comcast.net)



Sue Cassidy

### Monthly Meeting Topics

If you have an idea for a presentation or information session, please contact Sue.

December 17, 2025: Christmas Party

January 21, 2026: Steve Narkaus Quarts discussion and a recap of 1st year with Junior Geologist program

**Web Master Needed:** Brad Larson who has done our Clubs Web Page for 23 years has announced his official retirement. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Brad and encourage Anyone or know of someone qualified to do web work or willing to learn please reach out to Sue Cassidy for more information. Brad said he has only been putting the newsletters on and updating the show information as well as forwarding any inquiries as necessary.

We would like to thank Brad for 23 years of great service as our WebMaster. He has done an excellent job.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

### General Meetings at The College of Idaho

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



**General Meeting — November 19, 2025**

The November 2025 General Meeting of the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by OGMS president, Willa Renken at 7:02 pm on 11/19/25 at Caldwell Idaho's College of Idaho in rm #203 of the Boone Science Bldg.

Willa called for a motion to accept the last meeting's minutes to be accepted as printed in the OGMS newsletter. Kim Bashford made the motion to accept the minutes. Cindy W seconded the motion. All the members were in favor; there was no further discussion and the motion passed.

**Secretary's Report** – Chris Rawson stated that she picked up the mail and distributed it to appropriate officers.

**Vice President** – Auction is this evening & the OGMS Christmas banquet is December 17.

**Treasurer Report** – Ken discussed previous months club expenses, the productivity of the club's CD's and bonds and OGMS is still solvent.

**Federation Report** – Ed Moser shared his gratitude and thanked OGMS members for all of the special thoughts and prayers sent his way. He also said to keep saving and bring postage stamps for the March Federation meeting.

**Field Trip Chair** – John asked that you contact him if you have any special places you would like to show up on the 2026 field trip schedule.

**Show Chair** – Sue announced that Denise and Aubrey have the 2026 show flyer ready. She also announced that the volunteer sign-up sheets are ready for the show, so please sign up to help where you can.

**Membership-** Christmas party on 12/17, Nampa Elks Lodge. Dinner will be served at 7:00. on the menu, salad, roast beef, ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls. Desserts are spice cake, cheesecake, and raspberry pretzel salad.

**Old Business** – **(1)** The old show tables are now for sale at \$35each. **(2)** December 8<sup>th</sup> is the OJGP (Junior Geologists) last 2025 event will be at the Caldwell Public Library. **(3)** Please fill out the survey questionnaire and turn them in. **(4)** We'll have a photo frame set up for picture at the Christmas banquet.

**New Business** – **(1)** Ed Moser will have a new exhibit displayed at the Caldwell public Library, be sure not to miss it. **(2)** Please contact Deana Ashton if you items you wish to contribute to the 2026 show's basket raffle. Her number is 208-794-5628. **(3)** The November meeting's club auction was quite successful. Thank you to all who participated

Meeting adjourned @ 8:40



**Board Meeting Minutes—November 24, 2025**

Officers present: Willa Renken, Kim Bashford, Ed Moser, Sue Cassidy, Don Dixon, John Wright, Ken Christensen, Dale Rawson,

November 2025 OGMS Board Meeting was called to order @ 7:00 pm by President Willa Renken in the Caldwell Public Library at 1010 Dearborn in Caldwell Idaho. Willa called for a motion to accept the previous board meeting minutes as printed in the OGMS newsletter. Ed Moser made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, and it was seconded by Dale Rawson. All the board members were in favor; there was no further discussion and the motion to accept the minutes passed.

**Secretary** – Chris Rawson was not present. Male picked up and distributed by Dale Rawson.

**Vice President** – Sue announced that we'll be doing the ugly sweater contest at the Christmas banquet.

**Treasurer** – Ken Christensen – discussed disbursements of funds and said OGMS is still solvent.

**Show Chair** – Working on getting tumbled stone for the show from members. Also, the flyer printing will be handled by Kim.

**Membership Chair** - Kim asked for a motion to accept new members, Bob & Peggy Pooley, Curt Farranely, and Cameron & Amanda Warner. Sue made the motion to accept, Ed seconded the motion, board members were all in favor without further discussion further discussion. The motion to accept the new members passed.

**Federation Chair** – Ed Moser – Ed discussed a new program to help finance patches for the Junior Geologists. Then he asked that everyone continue to save and bring your postage stamps to the meetings.

**Editors Report**- Deadline for submissions to the editor is the 4<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

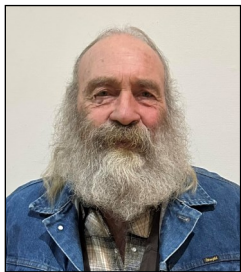
**Field Trip Chair** – John Wright –John discussed the possibility of a couple two-day trips in 2026.

**Juniors- Steve Narkus** - December 8 is the junior's final event for 2025. It will be a fabulous power point presentation from 7-8:30 pm at the Caldwell Public Library. OGMS members are welcome to attend, just call Steve to confirm seating availability 503-931-9763. They are looking forward to seven events scheduled in 2026.

**Old Business** –We'll begin Christmas banquet set up at 5:30 December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Nampa Elks Lodge

November 2025 OGMS board meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.



**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

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Christmas Banquet—Thursday, December 17th**

**6:00 p.m.—Social Hour, 7:00 p.m. Dinner**

**Nampa Elks—1116 1st St. S, Nampa, ID 83651**

The OGMS Christmas Banquet is coming soon. There will be an Ugly Sweater Contest and a Picture booth setup so we can have fun taking pictures. There will be a gift exchange, if you want to take part, bring a wrapped present (\$20 limit), marked as male, female, or either. Kim Bashford is selling tickets. The cost is \$9.00 for members (the other half is paid by OGMS) and \$18.00 for non-members. It will be held at the Nampa Elks Club, 1116 1st Street South, Nampa, Idaho. It is a ham dinner with scalloped potatoes, green beans and dessert of spice cake and cheesecake with 'special' berry sauce. There will be a no-host bar available at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm. This is a fun event, please come and enjoy with



**Show Report****2026 Show Dates: March 7 & 8, 2026  
"Grab your picks in 2026"  
O'Connor Field House, Caldwell, Idaho**

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

We are in good shape for rough rock for the Silent Auction and if everyone that committed to tumbled stone comes through, we are all set for the grab bags for the 2026 show. Remember we pay \$125 per 5-gallon bucket for tumbled stone. It would be great if we could have some extra to set us up for next year, so keep them coming!

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Preliminary sign-up sheets will be available at the December January and February meetings. Please Sign Early for a venue and indicate whether AM or PM works for you. The sign ups are for 2 hour increments. Each venue indicates whether it is a seated or standing task to help you identify which ones would fit your physical needs.

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Denise Stringer created this year's theme poster, "Grab your picks in 2026". I think you will like it. We had to be careful not to use copyrighted material from the internet, so some of the preliminary samples didn't "make the cut". She also kept the colors to a limit to minimize the cost of producing a multi-color poster. Thanks Denise!!! Thanks to all those that contributed to the theme and to Melody Greer for submitting the winning theme.

The Show flyer is being printed and will be available for handout.

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**Be thinking about how you can participate in the 2026 show.**

**Signup sheets will be out at the Christmas Party and the following 2 general meetings**

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**Silent Auction** - Please be thinking about collecting rock for the silent auction as you are out and about rock-hounding. This is an important part of the show and attendees really love it and we go through a lot of it!

DEALERS - DEMONSTRATORS—BLACK LIGHT DISPLAYS - SHOW CASES—WHEEL OF GEMS - SAND DIG

GRAB BAGS—SILENT AUCTION— RAFFLES, DOOR PRIZES - EVERY HALF HOUR

Plus - GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAYS

## Membership—Kim Bashford

### We are accepting payment of 2026 dues

Due to the increasing costs for our club to provide the things we do for our members, we are having to raise our dues this year.

Memberships are as follows:

Family—\$25, Couple—\$20, Single—\$15, Child—\$5

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!

Curt Farrand  
Cameron & Amanda Waner  
Bob & Peggy Pooley

## 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](#)

## Owyhee Junior Geologist Program (OJGP)

Stay Tuned for our Monthly E-Mails and Learning Projects.

For more information call Steve Narkaus, (503) 931-9763, or email: [Steve.OJGP@gmail.com](mailto:Steve.OJGP@gmail.com)

John Clement, brother of Tom Clement, wishes to thank everyone who has donated to make the Junior Geologist Program a success. Rest in peace, Tom.

You may still enroll to become a Junior Geologist. Cost is \$10 per year in addition to an OGMS family membership.

### Junior Geologist Holliday Party

December 8th 7-8:30PM @ the Caldwell Public Library

- Demonstrations
- Prizes & Raffles
- Refreshments

RSVP to Steve Narkaus (503) 931-9763 or [SNARKAUS@msn.com](mailto:SNARKAUS@msn.com)



Steve Narkaus



## 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](mailto:jeffrockhounds@gmail.com)



Special Rocks  
Come view the  
collection



Of Steve Narkaus

All Rocks and Minerals

Are for sale

Please call 503-931-9763

For your own Special time

See the entire collection



ENJOY,  
LEARN,  
BUY





### December Birthdays

1	Todd Joyner
2	Ashley Gans
3	Jim Allen
3	Mark Barnett
3	John Merritt
3	David Schmidt
4	Shannon Tharp
5	Darell Ehlers
6	Marcus Sponseller
7	Avery Allen
7	Jim Wise
8	Theresa Larson
11	Lillie Rogers
13	Heather Fisher
13	Wayne Herbel
13	Kimberly Valenti
14	Jan Pattee
15	Bill Anderson
16	Nick Payne
17	William Clark
17	Carol Klug
17	Steve McConnel
18	Jon McGinnis
19	Doug Renken
19	Dennis Stokes
22	Natasha Atwood
24	Darlene Emry
28	Lorraine Wright
29	Todd Kinney
30	Mia Larson
31	Ryan Boring

### December Anniversaries

3	Joe & Carol Klug
3	Mark & Christine Rednour
3	David & Cindy Schmidt
8	Paul & Chris Deveau
8	Mike & Tuesday Harrelson
16	Clarence & Lorraine Wright
31	Rick & Dixie Fleischman

### Community Corner

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

### Sunshine Report

Hi, I am 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](mailto:kimzstones@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor

If you have articles or information for the newsletter, please submit to [Robert.murpheyogms@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.murpheyogms@gmail.com)

**OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
**Annual Gem & Mineral Show**  
**March 7 and 8, 2026**  
**O'Connor Field House—2207 Blaine, Caldwell, ID**

**Request for Showcase Space**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibit Material: (must be gem or mineral related)

\_\_\_\_\_

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

List name(s) for exhibitor badges:

\_\_\_\_\_

Set-up day: Friday, February 28, 3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Show Dates: Saturday, March 1, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 2, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

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

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

Send your completed application by February 15th to:

Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society, Attn: Kim Bashford, PO Box 1053, Caldwell, ID 83606-1053

Email to: [kmcewan1957@msn.com](mailto:kmcewan1957@msn.com)

or bring to the next general membership meeting.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Family—\$25      Couple—\$20      Single—\$15      Child—\$5

(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

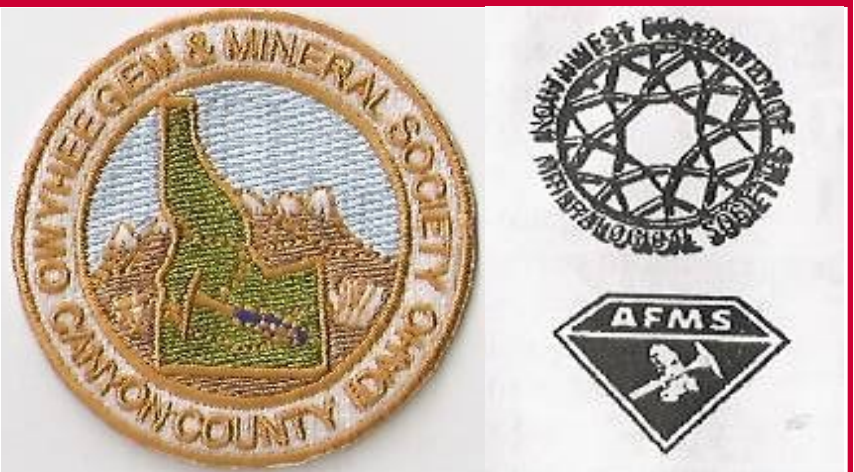
The Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was established in 1938 at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho.

**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/>**