

**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  
chrismerrrellrawson@gmail.com

**TREASURER:**

Ken Christensen  
(208) 250-3815  
kencorn@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

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

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

**WEBMASTER:**  
Needed, Position Open

# “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 58 No. 1

January 2026

## January President's Message



Happy New Year! 2026 is here and there are lots of things happening.

Before we move onto the new year, we finished out 2025 with a fun and festive Christmas party at the Elks in Nampa. The food was great and there were some new activities added. Elves Frances Vance and Jeannie Freeland brought around the Christmas frame and were able to get everyone's photos uploaded to Facebook. Then there was the Ugly Sweater contest with a tie between Dave Korn and Kim Bashford with Dave coming out the "winner". He was awarded the prestigious Ugly Sweater Trophy for 2025. Thanks to all the contestants for their participation! Ruth and Jim Hopkins were honored with lifetime membership for their long-time support and involvement with the club. Willa was awarded a gift certificate to Rio Grande (silver supplier) for her many years of dedication to the club as she stepped down from President. The evening wrapped up with the gift table being cleared up and everyone enjoying their gifts. It was truly a cheerful, fun evening!

On December 31, Cindy, Don, John and I went to check on reported activity at our Big Egg Claim. Lots of big changes are occurring there. John will have some interesting information to tell us about the site!

And now onto 2026... As I step into the role of President, I am seeking your recommendations and ideas for new ways to enjoy the club and its activities. We have had some great responses from the survey but would like to have additional club members' feedback. Please take a few moments to fill in some of the survey questions and drop them off at the front of the room, email them to me or hand them over to any board member. There is a section for open comments where you can add your thoughts, even if it's to keep things the way they are. If it's a case of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", let us know that too.

Deana Ashton has taken on the role of Vice President. Please help her out with ideas and leads for our speaker program. It's always a challenge trying to find new and exciting topics to have presented, so any help you can provide is most welcome.

Our March Gem Show is only two months away, please think about how you can participate to help make it a success. Sign-up sheets will be out including the popular Chili Feed.

See you at the January meeting! If you need to reach out, I'm only a phone call, text or email away.

Sue Cassidy, OGMS President

**Vice-President's Corner—Deana Ashton****"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 Deana at (208) 794-5628

**Monthly Meeting Topics**

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

Sue Cassidy

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 Cassity 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 Web Master. He has done an excellent job.

**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 — December 18, 2024**

The December 2025 General Meeting of the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by OGMS president, Willa Renken at 7:10 pm on 11/19/25 in Nampa Idaho at the Nampa Elks Lodge.

Willa called for a motion to accept the last meeting's minutes to be accepted as printed in the OGMS news letter. Ed Moser 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** – Secretary was not called on to report

**Vice President** – Sue told the members that January's program presentation will be provided by Steve Narkus. He will discuss the Junior Geologists activities and give a short presentation "All About Quartz".

**Treasurer Report** – Ken discussed previous months club accounts and balances, the productivity of the club's CD's, bonds, and money market account. He also reported the November auction proceeds.

**Federation Report** – Ed Moser thanked everyone for their stamp contributions and asked the members to keep saving and bringing in their postage stamps. He announced that the next Federation meeting is in March 2026, in Missoula Montana.

**Field Trip Chair** – John said that he received some field trip suggestions and that he is actively working on the 2026 field trip schedule.

**Membership** - "Welcome new members"

**Sunshine Report** – Kim said she sent Pauline Prather a card. Willa added, that Pauline Passed away on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Willa spent a lot of time with Pauline before she left us and Willa shared with the members what a special person Pauline was to the club and to her as a friend. She will be greatly missed.

**New Business** – **(1)** Lifetime members award presented to Jim and Ruth Hopkins. **2)** Sue presented a certificate of appreciation to Willa Renken for her many years of service and dedication to OGMS. **3)** Willa asked all the new OGMS board members to stand. **4)** Ugly Sweater Contest winner was David Korn.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:38 followed by the Christmas gift exchange.



**Board Meeting Minutes—**

12-29-25 OGMS Board Meeting

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



December 2025 OGMS Board Meeting was called to order @ 7:01 pm by Vice President Sue Cassidy in the Caldwell Public Library at 1010 Dearborn in Caldwell Idaho. Sue called for a motion to accept the previous board meeting minutes as printed in the OGMS news letter. Willa R made a motion to accept the minutes as printed and it was seconded by Ed M. All the board members were in favor, there was no further discussion and the motion to accept the minutes passed.

**Vice President** – Sue introduced Deana Ashton, the new OGMS Vice President. She also stated that Steve Narkus will deliver the next OGMS general meeting's program presentation with a recap of the Junior Geologists activities and a talk about everthing quartz. Sue also said she was going to redistribute the recent feedback survey as there was little response to the survey from the first distribution.

**Treasurer** – Ken Christensen – Ken discussed all OGMS accounts activity in addition to the fact that the 2026 Christmas banquet venue has been secured.

**Secretary** – Chris Rawson said she distributed the mail to appropriate members. She also discussed and presented the board with an estimate for the favors that will be given to the exhibitors participating in the 2026 show.

**Show Chair** – Sue announced that she has an upcoming appointment with KBOI new regarding the 2026 show. All but one vendor contract is paid for the 2026 show.

**Asst Show Chair** – Dale said he needs to meet up with Doug Renken regarding the 2026 show's floor plan. He also shared that almost all of the old show tables have sold.

**Membership Chair** - Kim made a motion to accept new members, Robert and Desere Garner. John W seconded the motion. All the board members were in favor with no further discussion the motion passed and new members were accepted.

**Federation Chair** – Ed Moser – Ed asked that a motion be brought to the floor at the next OGMS general meeting for a \$50 donation be made to the federation in recognition of Bill Stringer and Pauline Prather.

**Field Trip Chair** – John Wright – Is working on the 2026 field trip schedule. Looking at confirming a Tony Funk trip and an overnight trip to Texas Spring for limb casts.

**New Business – 1)** We need a new WebMaster as Brad Larson is retiring. Willa suggested John Meritt. **2)**The board is researching the possibility of a Members only show/sale and a location to do it. **3)** Don and Cindy announced that they have been out and about the past week and came upon work and excavation being done by the power company near the Big Egg Claim and Queenstone.

November 2025 OGMS board meeting adjourned at 7:50 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

### 2025 OGMS Field Trip Schedule

**The new field trip schedule will be out soon. If you have ideas for a field trip, please contact John Wright at 208-571-6873.**

### Christmas Banquet Photos



## Show Committee Report:

Two meetings until the show!

**Advertising:** The focus for January will be to get the advertising lined up. I will be meeting with KBOI Radio to discuss opportunities to expand into that media. We will continue with the TV and some print advertising as well. We are also going to try to get some on-site media presence during the show.

**Showcases:** If you are interested in a showcase, please fill out the form included in the newsletter and get it to Kim. Our showcases are not only instructional and educational but hold such beautiful work on display. We will also be displaying our dinosaur eggs and bones that we obtained and had preserved last year.

**Trailers:** Larry and Kevin Ridley and Ray Vance will be handling the trailer pickup and drop off.

**Setup days (Thursday, March 5 & Friday, March 6)** will be from 8:30 to 4 pm. Showcases may be able to be set up late on Thursday and all day Friday. We must be out of the field house by 4 pm on those days. Last year we had a lot of help so we completed most of the setup on Thursday. On Thursday, we provide coffee, tea and drinks as well as sandwiches and chips. Friday noon is the chili & hotdog feed. Dave Claussen has once again offered his electrical expertise to help with all the wiring. Thanks Dave!

**Rock and Tumbled Stone:** We are all set with stone for the Silent Auction regular drawing, but if you have some special items that we can use in the hourly auction, please reach out to Don Dixon. For Tumbled stone, we are all set based on the commitments that have been made for this year. Remember we pay \$125 per 5-gallon pail of nicely polished, tumbled stone.

**Sign up sheets:** Sheets will be out for everyone to sign up. The Chili feed sheet will also be available, so if you have a good chili recipe, be sure to sign up.



## Membership—Kim Bashford

### We are accepting payment of 2025 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, Jr Geologist—\$10



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!**

**Robert & Desiree  
Garner**



## 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.

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



## Owyhee Junior Geologist Program (OJGP)

2026

### OWYHEE JUNIOR GEOLOGIST PROGRAM

#### EVENTS

**March 7 & 8** – Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society

Show

**April 11** – Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology

Walking tour and museum exhibits

**June 13** – Owyhee Museum and Presentation

**July 25** – Narkaus Open House and BBQ

**Sept 26** – Gooding Rock Hunt and BBQ

**Oct TBA** – College of Idaho Tour and

Presentation at Caldwell Library

**Dec 7** – Holiday Party at Caldwell Public Library

Thank you for a great 2025, 47 people attended our holiday event, and we continue to grow. There were 5 events including museums and a fieldtrip covering SW Idaho geology, mineralogy, fossils, and how minerals are formed.

Now for 2026. 7 events are scheduled. New subjects include : Geomorphology, Gemology, Plate tectonics and much more.

Thank you to club members who have been very generous with their time and resources. Special thanks to:

Kim and Jay Erb,

Dan and Diane Stevens

Don Dixon and Cindy Woolsey

John Clement

Tom Allenby

Allen Beck

Angela Roberts

Karen Davis

OGMS Board



We have room for 20 more Junior Geologists, so SPREAD THE WORD, to ~~Steve Narkaus~~ 10-110 who want to learn more about geology and have fun...!!!



## 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



## Minerals & Fossils For Sale

**Call Steve: (503) 931-9763**



**January Birthdays**

- 2** **Gene Johnson**
- 4** **David Dore**
- 5** **Michael Lennartz**
- 8** **Teresa Nebeker Benedict**
- 10** **Kathiey Powers**
- 12** **Carolyn Connelly**
- 12** **Robert Troyer**
- 13** **Denise Stringer**
- 14** **LeAnna Thomas**
- 17** **Chris Johnston**
- 17** **Barbara Korn**
- 19** **Miranda Henslee-Kinney**
- 19** **Josiah Johnston**
- 19** **Sean Johnston**
- 20** **Archer McGill**
- 21** **Penny Costa**
- 23** **Susan Cassidy**
- 24** **Robert Sudweeks**
- 25** **Conner McCuistion**
- 26** **Diane Stevens**

**January Anniversaries**

- 2** **Phillip & Heather Cooley**
- 22** **Isaac & Betty Ward**
- 24** **Kurt & Charlene Branham**

**Newsletter Editor**

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

**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)

**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**  
**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, 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

Show Dates: Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 8, 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

or bring to the next general membership meeting.

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

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

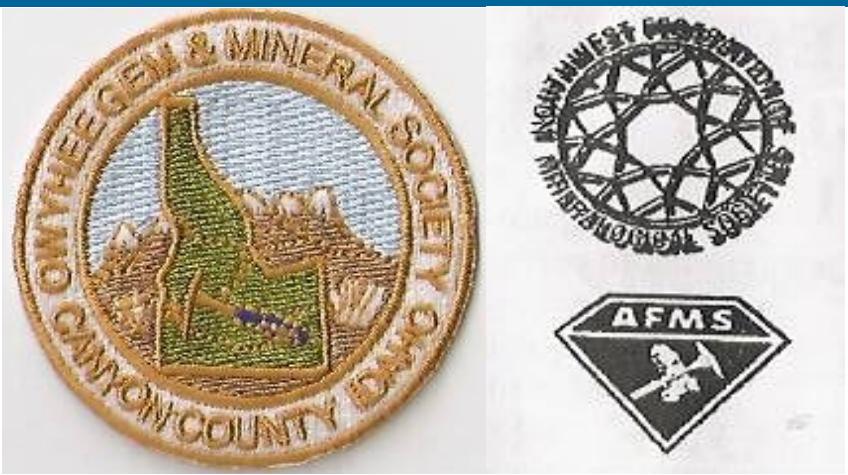
The Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was established in 1938 at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho.

**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/>