



# “Owyhee Gem”



## Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society

P . O . B o x 1 0 5 3 C a l d w e l l , I d a h o 8 3 6 0 5 - 1 0 5 3

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### May Presidents Message by the Vice President

Spring time in the Owyhees is awesome! We had a great time on our first fieldtrip of the year. We had 47 vehicles with 60+ people. Our Fieldtrip Leader, Robert Murphey, cleared away the big rocks on the last hill when he went out to pre-view the claim. Moving the rocks made it easier for everyone. All but one vehicle made it to the top. The people from that pick-up hopped in with others and went on up. Thunder eggs were found including a very large one that Kim found. May's trip will be to Graveyard Point for Plume Agate and Moss Agate. We will meet at Homedale, Id Park tank just East of the four corners. Meet at 8:00 am and leave at 8:30 am. Graveyard Point Plume Agate is a well-known seam agate. One mine had a deposit that was mined and sold as Regency Rose Plume Agate. Graveyard Point Plume Agate formed in cracks in the basalt.

This month's meeting program will be a talk on mineral twinning. Dr. Terry Panhorst moved here last year after teaching in the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of Mississippi for 20 years. He will talk to us about the curious growth pattern that occurs when two or more crystals of the same mineral are symmetrically intergrown, as defined by their respective crystal (atomic) structures. Several common twin types will be shown using illustrations of different mineral specimens.

Don't forget to bring a special rock to exchange in the "Bring a Rock, Take a Rock" exchange.

Carol, our editor, is looking forward to training a new editor who will be announced at our next meeting. Carol is also starting on gathering material for creating turtles with polished slab shells for next years show. If you have polished slabs you'd like to donate, please let Carol know.

We want to thank all of you who volunteer and give of yourselves to help support the club. We look forward to seeing all of you at our next Meeting Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May in the Boone Science Bldg. room 103 starting at 7:30pm. Keep on rocking!

Roxanne Franklin OGMS Vice-President

# OWYHEE GEM

## ***OGMS 2019 Field Trips***

**ALL FIELD TRIPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER AND ROAD CONDITIONS. Some may also be added.**

**May 18th:** \**Graveyard Point* for Plume Agate & Moss Agate. Meet at Homedale, ID Park tank just E of the four corners. (Meet @ 8am - leave @ 8:30)

**June 8th:** *Beacon Hill* for Nodules. We will join with the Boise club! Meet @9am at the Ontario, Oregon I-84 Rest Stop (just across the Snake River). Leave @ 9:30.

**July 20th:** \**Coal Mine Basin* for Blood Stone & Black Opalized Wood. Meet at the GEM Stop (HWY 55 & 95). (Meet @ 8am - leave @ 8:30)

**August 24:** \**Rockville, Oregon* for Leaf Fossils, Agate, and Jasper. Meet at the GEM Stop (HWY 55 & 95). (Meet @ 8am - leave @ 8:30)

**September 21:** \**Blue Egg Claim* for Geodes. Meet at the Homedale, ID Park tank just E of the four corners. (Meet @ 8am - leave @ 8:30)

**October 19:** \**Haystack Butte* for Red Jasper. Meet at the Homedale, ID Park tank just E of the four corners. (Meet @ 8am - leave @ 8:30)

### **USEFUL ITEMS TO BRING ON YOUR TRIP**

Buckets, Shovels, Rock Hammer, Pick (Large and Small one), Sieve, Gloves, Spray Bottle for Water, Small Scrub Brush, Knee Pad's, Magnifier, Plenty of Drinking Water, Food, Appropriate Clothing, Protective Eyewear, Sun Protection, Day Pack or Back Pack, Umbrella, Pry Bar, Tick Spray.  
(Shovel and fire extinguisher to put out any fires that may start.)

**For Field Trip Information, contact Robert Murphey (208) 590-1848  
or David Baldwin (208) 570-9781**

Trips can last most of the day. Generally, a High-Clearance vehicle and sometimes 4WD or an ATV is required. **Remember, when you are finished, fill in all holes that are dug at the Site.**

### **From our Field Trip Chairman**

We had a great turnout for the Big Egg trip. 42 vehicles and 60+ people turned out to get some great finds. Bob Bashford found a double egg of mentionable size and many others found some solid eggs with beautiful internal layers. Mother Nature granted us a wonderful spring weather day with lots of sunshine and light breezes but held on to her moisture until after our dig was complete. I took some beautiful aerial pictures of the caravan in as well as some nice distance shots of the claim from 400 feet above. If interested in obtaining digital copies, please contact me by phone or email and I would be happy to email them to you.

I want to thank Dale Rawson and others for assisting with my first lead and everyone else from handling the clipboard to answering everyone's questions about the location we were going to. I gained a lot of knowledge from everyone that will help in future outings. I will be doing weekend trips prior to future group outings and welcome anyone interested in going to contact me.

Thank You everyone who attended and making this a memory everyone will remember for years to come.

Robert Murphey



### ***May Birthdays***

5/1 Raymond Rule  
 5/2 Celeste Brose  
 5/2 David Baldwin  
 5/2 Walter Barnett  
 5/4 Gary Chambers  
 5/6 Kurt Branham  
 5/6 Cody Miller  
 5/7 John Farnham  
 5/8 Carol Farnham  
 5/8 Jim Collord  
 5/8 Earl Van Campen  
 5/11 Bob Bashford  
 5/11 Kaitlin Maguire  
 5/12 Ed, Seid  
 5/12 Bill Stringer  
 5/14 Jenifer Katsch  
 5/15 Bill Schuler  
 5/17 Donna Syme  
 5/17 Pauline Prather  
 5/19 Myra Skidgel  
 5/21 Dan Doersch  
 5/21 Connie Powers  
 5/21 Anamara Zavala  
 5/23 Nick Hardman  
 5/24 Howard Roose  
 5/25 Chris McGuire  
 5/25 Tom Morrison  
 5/26 Chuck Fawcett  
 5/27 Helen Krivy  
 5/29 Paul Deveau  
 5/31 Daniel Ferguson

Birthstone: **Emerald**, the birthstone of May, carries the rich green color of Spring and radiates a beautiful vivid tone. They are considered to be a symbol of rebirth and love. **Emeralds** are the rarest gemstones and are typically mined in Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan and Zambia.

### ***May Anniversaries***

5/6 David and Helen Baldwin  
 5/14 Dee and Janet Huntley  
 5/14 Kaitlin Maguire and Martin Saraqueta  
 5/15 Bill and Andrea Sawyer  
 5/17 Guy DiTorrice  
 5/20 Marshal and Stacy Pickens  
 5/20 Jerry and Alicia Sherer  
 5/22 Dan and Alta Doersch  
 5/22 Tom and Connie Morrison  
 5/29 Norm and Sharon Seid  
 5/29 Jim and Vickie Wise

*Congratulations*

### ***Sunshine Report***

Hi, I am Jewels Haines and I am your Sunshine Chairman. If you hear of anyone needing a get well card or visit, please give me a call at

760-331-3443

-Jewels Haines,

Sunshine Chairman





<b><u>Stone from Arizona</u></b>	<b><u>Stone from Australia</u></b>
Anderson Mine - Agate	Noreena
Brenda - Agate & Jasper	Mookite
Burro Creek - Pastelite & Agate	
<b><u>Stone from Idaho &amp; Oregon</u></b>	
Owyhee Picture Jasper	Amethyst from Uruguay
Green Moss Agate	Slabs & Rough Rock
Tumbled Stones	Hammers/Tools/ /Gold Pans
	Brazilian Agate

Located at US 95 & Homedale Road  
 26736 Homedale Road, Wilder, Idaho  
 Phone (208) 861-8229 or Text: (208) 258-4250

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Full Lapidary Lab w/classes  
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Located in Nampa  
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 (503) 931-9763

**OPENING MARCH 2019**

Just a heads up...Polished slabs and/or rocks with a flat side for the turtles are needed for the next show. Carol will be back to the May Meeting if you have anything.

It had been noted that ribbon will be provided for the field trips to put on the cars so we know what group you are with. Sometimes several groups are meeting at one spot to go rock hounding.

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It also had been mentioned that the porta-potti will be packed for the next field trips for those that are interested.

## VICE PRESIDENTS CORNER

### Leave a Rock Take a Rock

We're trying out something new. If you have lucked out and found some nice rock bring one to our meeting. You can leave the rock on the table and anyone who brings one can take a rock. At the end of the meeting if your rock is still there take it home with you. If everyone brings something to trade each month we can have the benefit of others' successful trips.

Stay tuned for info on the July 17th Picnic to be held in place of our general meeting.

We will have an auction of all kinds of items so start working on a special item to auction off. Proceeds go to the club. Auctioned items do not have to be rocks.

## ROCKHOONDING ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII

"Do I see a Reid Trip to Hawaii in the future?"

These were the words that were emailed to me to inform me of the richness of Olivine being spewed, along with the lava, onto the island of Hawaii. All of the Hawaiian Islands were built through volcanic eruptions of lava piling higher and higher from the ocean floor until they were tall enough to be higher than the ocean waters. The older islands are gradually shrinking in size, but the island of Hawaii is still forming very actively through the lava flowing from the Kilauea Volcano. I had not thought of the Hawaiian Islands as being a source of many minerals but in looking at various Web sites, I find that it has quartz, epistilbite, manganese, nickel, cobalt, black coral and gem quality olivine, known as peridot. Residents are finding lovely green crystals of peridot sometimes in great abundance. Someone said that it was literally raining gemstones, and so, maybe it is time to consider organizing a field trip to Hawaii! (From Wasatch Gem Society 10/18)

## Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History

The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History features specimens representing the Biology and Geology of SW Idaho, SE Oregon, and northern Nevada. The focal point of the museum is the Evans Gem and Mineral Collections. The museum hosts a workday and seminar the first Saturday of every month.

The Museum is open to all visitors: Monday-Friday from 1-5 pm, the first Saturday of every month from 8-5 and the third Saturday of every month from 10-4.

The Museum is located in the basement of Boone Hall on the College of Idaho campus. Visit the Museum website at [www.collegeofidaho.edu/cultural-institutions/orma-j-smith-museum-natural-history](http://www.collegeofidaho.edu/cultural-institutions/orma-j-smith-museum-natural-history) to learn more.

## Federation Director

Please save the postage STAMPS for cancer research and bring to this months meeting. Remember to **cut ½ inch all the way around the stamp**. Thanks to all for your help. It helps others and it might just help someone you know.

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



## OBSIDIAN INFORMATION

Obsidian is a naturally occurring glass formed as an extrusive igneous rock. It is produced when felsic lava extruded from a volcano cools without crystal growth. Obsidian is commonly found within the margins of rhyolitic lava flows known as **obsidian flows**, where the chemical composition (high silica content) induces a high viscosity and polymerization degree of the lava. The inhibition of atomic diffusion through this highly viscous and polymerized lava explains the lack of crystal growth. Because of the lack of crystal structure, obsidian blade edges can reach almost molecular thinness, leading to its ancient use as projectile points, and its modern use as surgical scalpel blades.

### Origin and properties

Pliny's Natural History features volcanic glass called "Obsidianus", so named from its resemblance to a stone found in Ethiopia by one Obsius.

Obsidian is mineral-like, but not a true mineral because as a glass it is not crystalline; in addition, its composition is too complex to comprise a single mineral. It is sometimes classified as a mineraloid. Though obsidian is dark in color similar to mafic rocks such as basalt, obsidian's composition is extremely felsic. Obsidian consists mainly of SiO<sub>2</sub> (silicon dioxide), usually 70% or more. Crystalline rocks with obsidian's composition include granite and rhyolite. Because obsidian is



You are invited to the  
**95th Birthday Celebration**

for

**William (Bill) Stringer**

Saturday, May 11, 2019

1:00—3:00 p.m.

Nampa Senior Center

207 Constitution Way

Nampa, Idaho

**No gifts, please.**

Obsidian continued...

Metastable at the earth's surface (over time the glass becomes fine-grained mineral crystals), no obsidian has been found that is older than Cretaceous age. This breakdown of obsidian is accelerated by the presence of water. Obsidian has low water content when fresh typically less than 1% by weight, but becomes progressively hydrated when exposed to groundwater, forming perlite. Tektites were once thought by many to be obsidian produced by lunar volcanic eruptions, though few scientists now adhere to this hypothesis.

Pure obsidian is usually dark in appearance, though the color varies depending on the presence of impurities. Iron and magnesium typically give the obsidian a dark green to brown to black color. A very few samples are nearly colorless. In some stones, the inclusion of small, white, radially clustered crystals of cristobalite in the black glass produce a blotchy or snowflake pattern (snowflake obsidian). It may contain patterns of gas bubbles remaining from the lava flow, aligned along layers created as the molten rock was flowing before being cooled. These bubbles can produce interesting effects such as a golden sheen (sheen obsidian) or a rainbow sheen (rainbow obsidian).

Via-Dusty Rocks 6/09

Via Gems of the Rogue

Via Gems from the Redwoods 11/15

**OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – General Meeting Minutes****April 17, 2019**

The General Meeting was held at the College of Idaho, in the Boone Science Hall, and called to order by President, Willa Renken. Roxanne Franklin made a motion to accept the minutes as printed; seconded by Loren Francis, motion carried. Stan Lutz, a paleontologist from the Northwest Science Museum, shared information about dinosaurs and fossils. Visitors introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.

**Secretary:** One dealer contract and three membership renewals were received. There was a note from Diane Peters stating she is interested in tumbling rocks for the Club. An invoice for the gem show advertising and a newsletter from the Wasatch Gem Society was collected from the mailbox.

**Vice President:** Roxanne is working on getting a program lined up for the meeting next month.

**Treasurer:** A recap of the income and expenses for the show was given along with the standings of our banking accounts.

**Show Chairman:** Kathi is in the process of contacting vendors to get them lined up for the show next year. Clarence would like to turn the tumbling project over to another person. There will be a count done on grab bags to make sure there are enough to keep up with the show. There was a call out to club members to pick up a little extra material when going out on field trips, to donate to the silent auction.

**Federation Report:** Ed reminded us to keep saving our postage stamps. The collected stamps will be taken to the Federation Meeting in the fall and then sold with the proceeds going to cancer research. The midyear meeting will be in June and there have not been any items presented that will need a vote.

**Sunshine:** If you know of someone who may need a note of cheer, contact Jules. She sent out two cards last month. There was no Historian Report.

**Membership:** There are three new membership applications that will be presented and voted on, during the Business Meeting.

**Field Trip:** The field trip will be to the Big Egg Claim. Meet at the Gem Stop at 8am and everyone will caravan to the claim. The claim is approximately 12 miles from the meeting place. Jim Hopkins thanked Dale and Robert for bringing and putting up the portable toilet at the last field trip.

**New Business:** The Club would like to try something new each meeting, with 'bring a rock-take a rock'. If you have been fortunate enough to find some nice rocks, bring one to the meeting and leave it on the table. Anyone who brings a rock is welcome to take a rock. If your rock is on the table at the end of the meeting, be sure to take it home with you. The next Board Meeting is April 29<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Caldwell Library. New patches and badges need to be ordered and Kim Bashford gave information on the cost. Jim Hopkins made a motion to purchase the badges and patches for \$1,340.46; Red Larson seconded, motion carried. The Roadside cleanup will be Saturday, April 27 and start at the top of the hill at Walters Ferry. Meet at the boat ramp at 9am. Weather permitting, there may be a field trip after the cleanup. Add your name and contact information to the signup sheet if you would like to help. Michele Wiles presented the yearly budget. Jim Hopkins made a motion to accept the budget as presented; Ed Moser seconded, motion carried. The Caldwell Library will have cases available for displays in October, let Howard know if you have material you would like to display. There was no Unfinished Business.

Slab drawing. Terri Collet won the door prize. Meeting adjourned 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted. Debbie Lawrence, Secretary

**OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Board Meeting Minutes****April 29, 2019**

The Monthly Board Meeting was held at the Caldwell Library and called to order at 7pm by Vice President, Roxanne Franklin. Ed Moser made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting; seconded by Carol Farnham, motion carried.

**Secretary:** Received an invoice from our insurance carrier and information from the State Tax Commission. There was one new member application and a letter from Steve Iverson requesting membership cards and field trip information.

**Vice President:** Stan Lutz will be doing another talk about dinosaurs in August. The speaker for May will be Dr. Terry Panhorst and will give information about mineral twinning.

**Treasurer:** An update was given on the banking accounts.

**Federation Chairman:** Ed received a letter from the BLM about a hearing on grazing rights in the Owyhees. Ed volunteered to make a presentation about collecting rocks, at The Sportmans Warehouse Store in Nampa.

**Editor:** Margaret Nelson has agreed to be the new editor. Carol will give her the information she needs to put the newsletter together and show her how the process works. There was no **Historian** or **Sunshine** Report.

**Membership:** Kim has six applications for new membership. Ed Moser made a motion to accept: Marshall & Jessica Coleman & Family, Kenneth Grove, Ron & Cathy Huseman, Guy DiTorrice, Jeff & Virginia Ramsey, and Harold & Linda Park as new members; seconded by Robert Murphy; motion carried.

**Field Trip Chairman:** There were 47 vehicles and 60+ people who attended the field trip. The roads were good and everyone found some nice material. The field trip in July may change and go to the pink plume claim. David and Robert will be going out and checking the markers on the claims.

There was no Unfinished Business.

**New Business:** The annual picnic is coming up in July and will be held at the park on Kimball Ave in Caldwell. The picnic is a potluck and auction, and everyone will be encouraged to bring a dish or two to share along with your own table settings. It is recommended to bring a lawn chair. Ed Moser volunteered to be the auctioneer for the evening. Everyone is encouraged to bring something for the auction. Michele will get the park reserved for the evening.

Meeting adjourned 8pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Debbie Lawrence, Secretary





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** - \$20.00 per year
- Couples** - \$18.00 per year
- Singles** - \$12.00 per year
- Children (under 19)** - \$3.00 per year

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

**GENERAL MEETING:** The club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Boone Science Hall at the College of Idaho, Room 103, except for the July picnic and the December holiday party. Field trips are scheduled once a month. Visitors are welcome at all these events!

**Bring a friend**—Wear your name tag— Bring an unidentified rock and we'll help you figure out what it is!



**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/>

