

Board of Directors / Officers:

PRESIDENT:

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

VICE-PRESIDENT:

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

SECRETARY/ASST SHOW CHAIR:

Chris Merrell-Rawson
(208) 283-7990
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
blackwolfjd1954@yahoo.com

SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIR:

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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

MEMBERSHIP:

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

Committee Chair Members:

SUNSHINE:

Jewels Haines
(760) 331-3443,
jewelsmalia@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER:

Brad Larson
ogms.webmaster@gmail.com

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP:

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

OJGP CHAIR—Steve Narkaus

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

HISTORIAN:

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

"Owyhee Gem"

Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society

PO Box 1053 | Caldwell, ID | 83605-1053

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

Volume 57 No. 11

November 2025

November President's Message

Hello fellow rock hounders. This month is our Annual Auction, which is one of our fundraisers for the club. If you have, the ability to create something that we could auction off it would be well received. This is a time to do a little Christmas shopping for those last minute gifts. Therefore, come prepared to bid on that special item to brighten someone's Christmas.



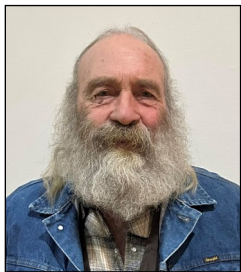
John is asking for field trip ideas for the New Year. If there is an area you would like to go hounding in please let him know. He is willing to schedule some different explorations in the next season. Also, if you are able to help in leading some of these trips please let John know so he can get that arranged.

December the 17th will be our Christmas Banquet at the Nampa Elks. The tickets go on sale at this November meeting and we will need the head count by December 6. The tickets will be the same as last year \$9 for members and \$18 for non-members. Kim Bashford will be taking your money and keeping track for this event. Our meal will be the traditional ham & beef, scalloped potatoes, green beans, spice cake, cheesecake with berry topping and Dale's famous raspberry dessert. My question is do we want to do a gift exchange? I will take a vote at this month's meeting.

We still have a number of old tables for sale and the board felt that we should drop the price to \$35 each. If you are interested, reach out to Dale Rawson so he can coordinate a pickup time for you.

Due to the Auction, we will not have a slab draw this month. I look forward to seeing you all on November 19th to have a little fun and support your club through participation and donations. Thank you all for your continued support in making this club as strong as it is!

Willa Renken 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

Thanks everyone for a great year of field trips!

Photo Credits: Jeannie Freeland



Pink Plume Club Claim



Show Report

2026 Show Dates: March 7 & 8, 2026

"Grab your picks in 2026"

O'Connor Field House, Caldwell, Idaho

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

Signup sheets will be out at the Christmas Party



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!

Preliminary sign-up sheets will be available at the November and December meetings. Sign up 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.

We have added two new dealers to the show with an extra dealer location next to the sand dig.

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.

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!

Vice-President's Corner—Sue Cassidy**November—Annual Auction**

Our annual auction will take place at the general meeting on November 19, 2025 at 7 p.m. Bring an item to auction off. It does not need to be rock related, but rocks are always nice!

Art, household items, rock tools, jewelry, treats, holiday presents, etc.

The money raised from this auction will help pay for the holiday dinner in December.

Remember to bring your checkbooks/cash, because you will want to buy something!

December—Christmas Party

December 17th is our Christmas party to be held at the Elks club in Nampa. See Kim for tickets to the Christmas party. We need a headcount at the November meeting, so bring your checkbooks!

Also sent with this newsletter email is a request to complete a questionnaire. We are looking for your feedback and recommendations so that we can make sure we continue to make improvements to club content and events. We would really appreciate any and all feedback –positive or negative. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can send it to the PO box, or drop it in a box at the front of the room. You can also send it via email to pypnhot@comcast.net.

General Meetings at The College of Idaho — November 19, 2025

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



Hello fellow OGMS members,

I have been so busy giving rock presentations and dealing with church commitments that writing this report was something I just put off. The guilt has finally reached an intolerable level :). So here is my report for the years 2024 & 2025.

One year ago, I gave a presentation to the club showing what I do in my rock classes. Those who were there might remember we played the game, "Are you Smarter Than a 4th grader" and several of you won homemade chocolate chip cookies! At that meeting I gave a report on the success of my rock & mineral presentations. Even I was surprised that at the end of the 2024, I had given 29 rock presentations (1st to 4th grades), to a total of 840 students who learned facts about rocks & minerals, how to use magnifiers, seeing fluorescent minerals up close and being amazed at the "magic" floating rock (pumice). My classes are very interactive and always generate lots of questions.



And of course, every student was given a polished rock on completion of the presentation.

In Jan. 2025, I posted on a Treasure Valley Homeschool Facebook page that I gave free classes on behalf of OGMS and was overwhelmed with homeschool groups wanting/needing science type classes. I did 11 classes in my garage and for 2 larger groups I went to their homes, and yet several more, I just couldn't fit in. So here are my statistics for 2025: 58 classes that included 1,081 students! What was different about this year? I gave a modified presentation to high school students where they had to study & identify different crystal habits in minerals and they learned and used the Moh's hardness scale to help identify minerals. I also gave out rock/mineral boxes to 4 more schools to help students have a hands on way to learn and put together a simple fossil class for use in my garage/homeschool presentations. Most public schools don't have units on fossils in their curriculum.

I am deeply grateful to all those who have donated rocks...Don Dixon, Cindy Woolsey, John Wright, Diane Rahn and a few others whom I just can't remember your names right now. Thank you!

Don donated a huge piece of soapstone, that I chip small chunks off of, so students can feel "nature's fidget stone". And lastly, I am always asked why I do this for free...it takes hours and hours of my time, I use my own money to supplement my displays, buy magnifiers and of course polish rocks 24/7. The only honest answer I can give... it gives me great satisfaction to teach others what I love and have already learned. These kids are the world's future geologists, rock hobbyists, petroleum engineers, etc. If I can spark an interest in earth sciences by teaching a bit about rocks and minerals and give them a hands on experience, it gives me a purpose beyond my ordinary life and enriches theirs immensely. If you would like to help teach classes or donate rocks don't hesitate to text me.

Karen Davis 208-409-8936

General Meeting — October 15, 2025

The October 2025 General Meeting of the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by OGMS president, Willa Renken at 7:04 pm on 10/15/25 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 news letter. Kim Bashford made the motion to accept the minutes. Dale Rawson 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 – Sue Cassidy announced that we'll be having our auction at next months meeting. Then she introduced Ted Diehl for a very informative program presentation about natural gas extracted from sandstone in a tiny place/area (in comparison to other areas) called Red Oak.

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

Federation Report – Ed Moser was not present, but Don Dixon and Cindy Woolsey shared information about the recent Federation gathering in Walla Walla.

Field Trip Chair – John Wright - announced that Don Dixon and David Korn will spearhead the upcoming field trip to the Pink Plume claim. Meet up at the rock store near Hwy 201 and Owyhee Ave.

Show Chair – Sue announced that the 2026 show theme will be "Pick up your Picks in 2026" and volunteer sign up sheets will be available at the November meeting. Also, the club pays \$125 per bucket of much needed tumbled rock. The club received a Jasper donation from Tom Clement for the 2026 show's silent auction.

Membership- Kim thanked everyone for getting their membership renewals in. And asked that anyone wanting a showcase for the 2026 show should talk to her asap.

Old Business –The old show tables are now for sale at \$50 each

New Business – board members are discussing the creation of a poll or survey to be used at the door during the show in an effort to find out how the public learned/heard about our show. Sue stated that the club is interested and open to advertising ideas.

From the floor – *Hulu, radio, digital pkg with the Idaho Press, PBS...*

Junior Program – Steve Narkaus discussed past and future events, trilobites, and their mineral display at the Caldwell Public Library. He then offered his definition of a Junior Geologist.

New OGMS Officers - President/Sue Cassidy, Vice president/Deana Ashton, Secretary/Chris Rawson, Treasurer/ken Christensen, Membership Chair/Kim Bashford, Field trip/John Wright, Asst field trip/David Korn, Show chair/Sue Cassidy, Asst show chair/Dale Rawson, Federation/Ed Moser & Don Dixon, Newsletter/Robert Murphey, Cheryl made a motion to accept new officers and Cindy Woolsey seconded the motion to accept. All the members were in favor, there was no further discussion & the motion passed.

Barbara Korn announced vendor space available at the Homedale Senior Center Fall Bazaar November 15th & 16th.

SLAB DRAWING

Door Prize winner for October was Liz David.

Adjourned 8:25

Board Meeting Minutes—October 7, 2025

10-27-25 OGMS Board Meeting

Officers present: Willa Renken, Kim Bashford, Ed Moser, Sue Cassidy, Don Dixon, John Wright, Dale Rawson, Chris Merrell-Rawson

Guest/Members: Cindy Woolsy, Steve Narkaus



October 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 news letter. Kim Bashford made a motion to accept the minutes as printed and it was seconded by Ed Moser. All the board members were in favor, there was no further discussion and the motion to accept the minutes passed.

Secretary – Chris Rawson distributed mail to appropriate officers in attendance.

Vice President – Auction at November OGMS general meeting.

Treasurer – Ken Christensen – not in attendance

Membership Chair - Kim Bashford announced new membership applications from Rick & LuAnn Shubert – Anne Bolla – Kyly Blanchard – CJ & Patty Mansfield – Ken & Shawn Miller. Ed Moser made a motion to accept the new members, Sue Cassidy seconded the motion. All the board members/officers voted in favor. With no further discussion the motion to accept the new members passed.

Federation Chair – Ed Moser –Ed requested a copy of the 2026 show flyer without an admission price on it so that he may add it to the OGMS display case in the Caldwell Public Library. The display case will be available for viewing December through March.

Editors Report- Deadline for submissions to the editor is the 4th day of each month.

Field Trip Chair – John Wright – Trip to pink plume claim was a good trip. John said he is working on adding new destinations to the 2026 field trip schedule and is open to suggestions.

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.

Old Business –Old show tables are now for sale at \$35 ea. Chris Rawson will post them on Facebook marketplace.

New Business – Auction on November 19, 2025 during the general OGMS general meeting (no slab drawing).

Show sign ups will be available during the November meeting.

Sue passed out a questionnaire that will be given out at the next general meeting. They can be filled out and returned anonymously into drop box that will be provided at future meetings, mailed into our PO box, or however the member would like to submit their responses.

Christmas banquet just around the corner 12/17/25 @ the Nampa Elks lodge.

Members are \$9 and non-members are \$18, see Kim Bashford. The menu includes salad, ham or roast beef, scalloped potatoes, & green bean. Desserts will include, spice cake, cheese cake topped with Willa's huckleberry topping, or Dale's raspberry pretzel dessert.

October 2025 OGMS board meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Membership—Kim Bashford

We are accepting payment of 2026 dues

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
Returning
Members!**

Jeff & Rhonda Voth

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

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



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, Cathedral, Crystal Points, Flames, Obelisks, Towers, Pyramids, Hearts, Spheres, Skulls, Dragon Heads, Free Form, Natural/Rough, Slabs...

Jefferson Rockhounds

Hildy Langewis

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



November Birthdays

1	Hildy Langewis
2	Louie Golling
4	Debbie Mitchell
5	Ruth Kerns
6	Mike Bell
6	Shirley Neville
7	Tuesday Harrelson
8	Shauna Marceau
9	Patty Davila
13	Caden Stanger
13	Kyly Blanchard
14	Justin Baker
14	Mary Baker
15	Kenneth Christensen
15	Diane Rahn
19	Nathan Carpenter
20	Tamie Kennedy
22	Kim Erb
23	Misty Joyner
24	Alta Doersch
27	Jody Atwood
28	Kim Bashford
30	Thelma Barnett

November Anniversaries

6	Bryce & Lindsey Donahue
7	Robert & Marilyn Troyer
8	Bill & Linda Vermette
9	Mansfield, CJ & Patty
18	Mike & Ruth Kerns
24	Daryl & Carolyn Hood
30	Red & Kathi Larson

Newsletter Editor

If you have articles or information for the newsletter, please submit to 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) 202-8410.

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—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

(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

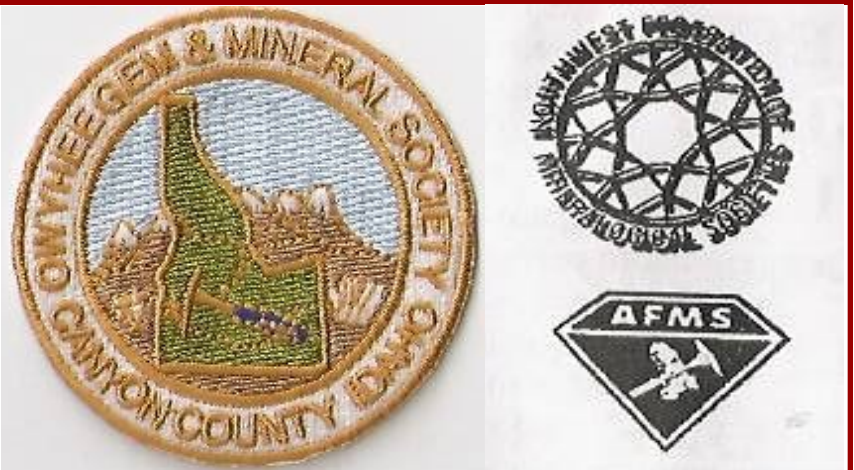
The Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was established in 1938 at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho.

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/>