



Idaho Falls  
Gem & Mineral Society  
P. O. Box 2362, Idaho Falls, Id. 83403-2362  
*"DUST FROM THE DIGGINGS"*  
July 2016 Newsletter



Northwest Federation  
of Mineralogical Societies  
(NFMS) [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)



American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)  
[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

[ifgemmineral.com](http://ifgemmineral.com) and [idahorockhounds.com](http://idahorockhounds.com)

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The next meeting will be Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Fair Bridge Inn and Suites (Same place we have been meeting, just a new name) which is next to the Shilo Inn. Social hour starts at 6:00. The speaker for the July meeting will be Bill Thielbahr. Bill will talk about the differences between the common rocks quartz, agate, jasper, opal and obsidian. He says "We all know what obsidian looks like but it is important to recognize the differences between all these silica family members, especially when on field trips and picking up rocks." Our club is rich with knowledge and experience. The business meeting will start after the speaker is done, usually around 7:30.

**Notes from the President**

I was out of town for a nephew's wedding and missed the June meeting. It couldn't be helped. As you all know, family comes first. Anyway, I'm sorry I missed Jim Bosley's talk. I heard it was pretty good.

I also missed Dave Gunderson's field trip to Kemmerer. Gloria and I were really looking forward to that trip but it was not to be. Oh, well... Anyway, I had a chance to talk to Dave about it.

He said about 13 people were in the group and it was a good trip even though it was pretty much rained out on Saturday, after our time was just about up anyway. They collected some very nice specimens. Some members made the best of it and visited the Fossil Butte National Monument and the National Oregon/California Trail Center Museum in Montpelier. Dave provided a couple of pictures from the fossil quarry for this newsletter.



**Cherry Creek Adventure:** I was supposed to stain my deck on Thursday, June 30, but it looked like it was going to

rain. Steve Davis and a couple of his friends, Eric and Alice, were heading up to the Cherry Creek area looking for tube and plume agates. On the spur of the moment I decided to link up with them. It seemed like a lot more fun than deck stain. An afternoon walking the hills is good for the soul. And, the prickly pear cacti are in bloom.



After a couple of hours walking around and a little digging we found a lot of common agate, a few smaller pieces of nice back agate, and hints of a very nice red and green jasper. But we really didn't have much to show for the day. About this time it starts to thunder and lightning and we head back down off the ridges. Now

comes to the interesting part. If you have been to Cherry Creek you know you can be a long way from any well-traveled roads. Anyway, we get back to our rigs and find that the battery in Steve's truck is stone dead. Luckily, Steve carries jumper cables. I had taken mine out of my truck after winter. It was a spur of the moment decision to join them. If I had not been there, Steve and his friends would have had a long and maybe wet walk ahead of them. I tell this story for a couple of reasons. First, like Steve, I plan to keep jumper cables and basic survival stuff in my truck whenever I go into the back country. Second, I will always tell someone where I am going to be. In this case, I did not tell anybody where I was going. If I had not found Steve at Cherry Creek, and I had car trouble, nobody would know where I was. Things out here can go south pretty fast. So, the experience was a good reminder to be careful.

**Other Stuff:** Kent Chamberlain, I, and a few other members of our club sat in on a lecture at BYU by Dan Moore, “Geology History of Southeast Idaho.” The lecture was part of a continuing education series for the society Master Naturalists of Idaho. The talk started at 7:00 PM. Dr. Moore intended to begin by discussing the formation of the earth and continue to the present time. As with any very interesting talk there were no end of questions, and we rock hounds, as guests, tended to keep quiet. By 9:30 the rock hounds were all past their bed times but the talk had not yet reached the part about Southeast Idaho. We reluctantly bid goodbye wishing we could stay longer. We may connect with Dr. Moore sometime in the future.

**July Meeting:** The speaker for the July meeting will be Bill Thielbahr. Bill will talk about the differences between the common rocks quartz, agate, jasper, opal and obsidian. He says “We all know what obsidian looks like but it is important to recognize the differences between all these silica family members, especially when on field trips and picking up rocks.” Our club is rich with knowledge and experience. I am looking forward to Bill's presentation.

**And, heads up! The Annual Steak Fry and Pot Luck – August 13.** Annual Dues are due at this time. \$23 for individual membership and \$28 for a family membership Thank you! We have a great club!  
Gerry Gibeault

**Important Note:** Please read the information in this newsletter about the July 9-10 Gilmore field trip.

**July 9-10 Field Trip:** Gary Beardall will be hosting the July 9-10 field trip at Gilmore. Dave Gunderson and maybe Steve Davis will help as wagon masters. Please read the following carefully. There is a lot of information to pass on about this field trip.

Saturday, 8:30 am, we will be leaving from Gilmore for Agate Mountain.

Saturday evening after the day’s field trip there will be a pot-luck steak fry. Bring your own meat and a side dish. Also, bring your own plates and utensils.

**Directions:** Hwy 28, just past the Gilmore summit is the turn for Gilmore and Meadow Lake, just at the bottom of the slight downhill incline, before Gilmore, is a left turn (if you are pulling a trailer slow down on the incline, the turn comes up quick!) onto a dirt road, follow the signs.

### IFG&MS 2016 FIELD TRIPS

Committee: Jim Bosley – Chair, 520-1819, Pat Haefner – Co-Chair, 529-3929, Nicole Strong, 768-7953, Linda Bosley, 520-7008

Location – Date	Objective	Wagon Master & Comments
July 9 -10 Agate Mt, McDevitt Creek, Nickola Mine	Petrified Wood, Agate	Gary Beardall 221-1352 Camping at Beardall’s cabin near Gilmore ID.
July 23 -24 Lime Creek, Hole in the Rock	Agate & Jasper	Jim Bosley 520-18198 Camp at Challis Hot Springs 879-4442
July 29, 30, 31 NFMS?AFMS Annual Show, Albany, OR		Janice Van Cura, jvancura (@) peak.org
August 2 – 6 Federation Field Trip Prineville Oregon	Agate, Petrified Wood, Jasper	Doug True See Federation newsletter for information and times.
August 6 Annual Steak BBQ & Potluck	Club supplies steak and members bring a potluck dish	Tom Strong 384-6820
August 13 Carey ID, Wood River Reservoir	Lace Agate, Petrified Wood, Jasper	Steve Davis, 790-7211 Camping at Little Wood River Reservoir Campground
August 20 – 21 Pogo Claim, Copper Basin, Chilly	Jasper	Jim Bosley 520-1819 Camping at Mackey Reservoir
September 24* e.g. Big Piney, WY, Topaz Mt. UT, Owyhee, OR	TBD	
October 1 Learning Day	Classes to be determined, check future newsletter for specifics	Jeanne Hammond and Linda Bosley Skyline Rec. Center
October 8 Rock Club Sale		TBD

It is always a good idea to check with the wagon master about a field trip and get the ‘up to date’ information. There is usually a signup sheet at the monthly meetings for the field trips.

Editor’s Note: The members that get the newsletter by email get the pictures in color and get “breaking news” when something comes up between monthly newsletters. If you would like to change from USPS to email, just send me an email at ifgandms (@) gmail.com.

July Birthdays: Rosalinda Elison - Brenda Gonzales - Carole Howell – Jerry Hunter - Vicki Jones - Bob Later – Delpha Rushin - Nohan Sauerbreit – Denise Scovill – Curtice Smith – Abbie Smith - Lynda Tomlinson – Terri Wilkinson - Harold Wood