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**From within the Gem State comes news that Rocks!**

# *Magic Valley Gem News*



## *September 2017*

### *MVGC Objectives*

The purpose of our club is to stimulate interest in the collection of rocks, minerals, gem materials and legal fossils. To discuss and impart our knowledge of the different phases of collecting, cutting, polishing and displaying them. Also to organize educational meetings, field trips and similar event while enjoying and protecting our natural resources.

For more information go to  
[www.magicvalleygemclub.org](http://www.magicvalleygemclub.org)



## *President's Message*

The summer ending Labor Day holiday is behind us. I hope everyone had a good long holiday weekend and summer for that fact. I think the solar eclipse 2 weeks ago was an awesome, once in a life event that I will never forget. I don't know about you, but I am really tired of the smokey air and the 90 degree temperatures. I'm really looking forward to cooler temps and for the smoke and fires to go away. The club member turnout at last month club meeting at Tony's rock pile was good.

The club field marshal, Terry Folks, had a field trip and camping planned for this coming weekend at Littlewood Reservoir campground. It has been canceled due to weather quality.

A reminder that the rock club meeting is back at the usual place, Rosenau's Community room on east Addison by the BLM offices. On the same note, I have asked some rock club members to start looking around town for a new meeting place. This just a preliminary step to see if the rock club have any options out there.

Funk has advised the club that they are leaving for Quartzite, AZ a month earlier than usual. I think that the rock club should have a show meeting 1 hour before the October regular meeting. I need any club member to write down any gem show ideas that they want to bring up at this meeting. If club members want to remain anonymous, just write the idea down and give to Chris Funk or me before this show meeting.

Just a friendly reminder to be on the lookout this summer, fall and winter for any good items or rock that would work for next year's 2018 MVGC annual show.

If any members want to talk about anything relating to the club, please contact me.

Jon Cromer - MVGC President, Ph. (208)308-3364 Email: [rokcuter@hotmail.com](mailto:rokcuter@hotmail.com)

## August 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The Magic Valley Rock Club met August 26, 2017 at Tony Funk's Rock Pile. Eighteen members and one guest were present. Following a pot luck dinner and lots of searching through the rocks, the meeting was called to order at 3pm by President Jon Cromer. There were no new member readings.

Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed, Dick Morris motioned they be approved and it was seconded by Tony Funk. Terry Folks Field Trip advisor showed rocks collected during the Challis trip including Jasper and opalized agate. He reported that all attending had a great time. He said the area looks promising to claim and includes some 20 ½ acres.

There will be a trip to Carey on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. Terry handed out a note saying, "We are going on Friday after work (approximately 5 pm) It takes about an hour and a half to get to the Little Wood Reservoir camp ground. You will see the sign for the camp ground on the left-hand side of the road. If you don't want to come and stay and camp, meet at the camp ground at 9 am Saturday or Sunday to begin hounding. Look for our green Ford Expedition. We will find agate, jasper, quartz crystal and possibly some petrified wood. If you need to contact me, call or text 208-316-7451." Please note the need for high clearance vehicles or ATV's, they are highly recommended. He added that perhaps we could do the potluck on Saturday night like we did in Challis. **(EDITOR NOTE: THIS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELED)**



Sandy Hansen checked with the BLM for a map of the sites to be affected by closures, but could not find one. We may only have until September to comment on trails and sites where the club would go.

Dick Morris announced the Thousand Springs Festival the last weekend of September. He and Judy will be there with their booth.

Jon Cromer suggested we

find a new (free) place to meet. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Jon Cromer called for a "Show" meeting in October, before or after the regular meeting. If you have comments or ideas send to Chris Funk by e-mail. ([nunachrissy2008@gmail.com](mailto:nunachrissy2008@gmail.com)) Jon suggested we need to do a little changing, due to public comments concerning the show. It doesn't change year to year and is the "same old thing". Chris Funk will be going to Arizona in November and will stay until February. Meeting adjourned 3:30

We are affiliated with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

## Rockhounding in the US..... Alaska

Alaska is a terrific state for rockhounding. In addition to gold, Alaska is well known to recreational rockhounters for its jade, garnets, and fossils.

### Famous Gemstones: The Steinmetz Pink

Perhaps the finest pink diamond in the world to date. It took approximately 20 months to cut and a team of eight individuals to fashion from the original 100-carat stone.

Size: 59.60 carats

Shape/Cut: oval mixed cut with a step-cut crown and a brilliant cut pavilion

Current Owner/Location: The Steinmetz Group



Rockhounding Tip: Knowing state rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, and dinosaurs often can be very useful information for rockhounters. Ordinarily, states with significant mineral deposits, valuable gemstones, fossils, or unusual or significant rock occurrences will designate an official state mineral, rock/stone, gemstone, or fossil to promote interest in the state's natural resources, history, tourism, etc. Accordingly, such state symbols often are a good clue as to potential rockhounding opportunities.

### State Gem: Jade (1968)

Alaska designated jade as its official state gem in 1968. Alaska has large deposits of the gem, including an entire mountain of jade on the Seward Peninsula. In addition, the Kobuk River region in northwestern Alaska (Jade Creek and Jade Mountain) is a famous remote Arctic interior jade locality with an extensive history. The name jade refers to two minerals, jadeite and nephrite (actinolite) jade. Both types are extremely tough, but easily carved which makes them the perfect material for gems, decorative stone, and early tools such as axes, awls and weapons. Jade from Alaska is nephrite jade, a dark green and cream colored jade.



### State Mineral: Gold (1968)

Alaska designated gold as its official state mineral in 1968. Gold has played a major role in Alaska's history. In 1896, the Klondike Gold Rush attracted prospectors and others from all over the world.



### State Fossil: Woolly Mammoth (1986)

Alaska designated the Woolly Mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*) as its official state fossil in 1986. The Woolly Mammoth is an extinct member of the elephant family that roamed Alaska during the Pleistocene approximately 1.6 million to 10,000 years ago.



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# Buy a Rock Collection

Boxed sets of rock specimens can be a good start for a child interested in geology. These rock collections are handy, small, and not too expensive.

Books, maps, a good rock hammer, a magnifier, and the guidance of local experts will take your child much further. But a modest rock set, especially one that includes a pamphlet and some basic information, is all you need to begin. However, the most important part of a boxed set is your personal commitment to the child -- visiting lots of places together where rocks are found -- otherwise the whole experience is sterile.

## What About a Rock Collection Box?

**Skip the fancy, intimidating wooden box; cardboard or plastic is sturdy enough. You can always buy a better box later, and more of them to fit a growing collection. Don't buy collections that are glued to a card, as it discourages close examination. A true geoscientist will pull the rocks off for hands-on learning.**

## Other Items in the Rock Collection

Many sets include streak plates and items to test hardness, like a glass scratch plate and a steel nail. Those are a plus. But the magnifiers that come with boxed collections are generally not trustworthy; they are the most expensive item and are the first place a dealer will cut costs. Children should have a decent 5x magnifier or loupe, purchased separately, that rewards them with a high-quality visual experience. If a pamphlet comes with the set, review it yourself in case the child needs help with it.

## Start Small

You can get huge collections, but a box with about 20 specimens covers the most common rock types, with maybe a few extras for color or exotic interest.

Remember, the point of buying a rock collection is the pleasure of learning to recognize, pursue and cherish the rocks found in your own outings.

## Healing Properties: Sapphire >>>

♥ Creative expression ♥ Intuition ♥ Meditation ♥ Luck ♥ Wisdom ♥ Optimism ♥ Friendliness ♥ Generosity ♥ Love ♥ Loyalty ♥ Independence ♥ Centreing ♥ Balance ♥ Self-appreciation ♥ Spiritual development ♥ Intellect ♥ Study ♥ Knowledge ♥ Memory

Zodiac - Virgo, Libra, Sagittarius Element - Water Typical colors - Blue, yellow, black, pink, white, indigo, green

Known as the "wisdom stone", each colour of Sapphire brings its own particular wisdom. It releases mental tension, depression, unwanted thoughts and spiritual confusion. Sapphire restores balance within the body, aligning the physical, mental and spiritual planes, bringing serenity and peace of mind. It stimulates concentration, brings lightness, joy and peace of mind. Sapphire is also known as a "stone of prosperity", attracting gifts of all kinds and fulfilling dreams and desires.

## Get Rocks, Not Chips

A useful rock specimen is at least 1.5 inches or 4 centimeters in all dimensions. A proper hand specimen is twice that size. Such rocks are big enough to scratch, chip and otherwise investigate without spoiling their appearance.

Remember, these are for learning, not admiring.

## Igneous, Sedimentary or Metamorphic?

**There's merit in getting a set of rocks that reflect your own region—but a set of exotic rock types might fascinate someone who travels or dreams of traveling. Are your local rocks igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic? If you don't know, it's easy to learn yourself—really. Use my simple identification table to identify your rocks. A specialized rock collection would have fewer specimens than a general one, of course.**

## What About a Mineral Collection Instead?

**Rocks are more popular than minerals, and they're easier to learn about. But for the right child, especially in a locality with notable mineral occurrences, a boxed mineral collection may be just the thing to start with. And for most budding rockhounds, a mineral collection is the ideal second step after getting a rock collection. Becoming a real expert in rocks requires strong skills in mineral identification. Another aspect of mineral collecting is the possibility of visiting rock shops, near home as well as on the road, to buy more specimens inexpensively.**

## Reading Matters

A rockhound of any stripe -- whether a collector, a prospector or a full-fledged geoscientist -- must be able to read texts and maps as well as rocks.



## Field Trips for 2017

September 16th and 17th.  
CANCELED



## 2017 Board of Directors

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Education: open

Youth Leader: Sandy Hansen

Youth President: open

1st Asst. Show Chair: Wilma Sellers

2nd Asst. Show Chair Devone Bates

Mining Claims: open

# finalthoughts...

Next MVGC meeting: September 14, 2017, 7—9 pm  
Rosenau's Community Room  
2826 Addison Ave East, Twin Falls  
(Just west of D&B Supply. The community room is on the west end  
of the Rosenau Building.)



## Membership Dues

Due October 1

Adult Membership \$10

Junior Membership \$5

For more information or an application,  
contact Rocky Metts 423-4827

rmetts@magicvalleygemclub.org OR

Jon Cromer 308-3364

rokcutter@hotmail.com

The club participates in the NFMS stamp program, saving large commemoratives, airmail, pre-cancelled foreign and "ordinary" stamps of all values. Proceeds from stamp sales will be used to benefit any charity deemed worthy by the NFMS Endowment Fund.

coming soon >>>

*Magic Valley Gem Club  
64th Annual Gem Show*

*March 10 & 11, 2018*

[www.magicvalleygemclub.org](http://www.magicvalleygemclub.org) or on Facebook @ Magic Valley Gem Club



Magic Valley  
Gem Club News

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