

in this issue >>>

President's Message

Minutes from the March 16th Meeting

Found—Diamonds in the USA

Letter from a Mom



Volume
56
Issue 4

From within the Gem State comes news that Rocks!

Magic Valley Gem News



April 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



President's Message

I hope everyone that collect rocks, gems, and fossils from federal land was able to send a comment to the BLM about their proposed new ruling about rock collecting on BLM and Forest Service land. I never thought in my lifetime that something like this would ever happen, something as simple of how you can pick up a rock on federal land. Hopefully this episode has a good ending for us, but we all know how the government works sometimes.

The 2017 MVGC annual show looks to be another good return on our investment. I haven't seen all the numbers yet, but what numbers I have seen looks about average or a little better. I do want to thank everyone again for the jobs that they did to make the show a success. I do plan on having an Executive Board and show planning meeting sometime real soon. I will let club members know when this meeting is, so they can attend for their input and ideas to make things better.

The weather is starting to warm up and is making me want to get out and do some rock hunting. At next month's MVGC meeting, there will be possible list of field trip locations and approximate times. If any rock club member has a favorite place they want to go to and would want to show the club, please contact Terry Folks our new Field Marshall.

Hopefully at next month's club meeting enough new Executive Board members show up so we can swear them in as new board members.

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

Jon Cromer - MVGC President, Ph. (208)308-3364 Email: rokcut-ter@hotmail.com

March (16) 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

On March 23, 2017 at 8:10 pm, the Magic Valley Gem Club was called to order by President Jon Cromer with 18 members and eight guests present. The meeting occurred a week late due to scheduling problems. John ask for an introduction of guests.

It was noted that our own Sandy Hansen had been recognized by the Federation for her part in acquiring a grant for the Youth programs. Readings for new members: Hollie Graham and Dana Covington were given. Trudy Hunt made a motion to accept and Sandy White seconded. The membership approved. The minutes of the February meeting were discussed and approved following a motion to accept by Dick Morris and a second by Alice Clements.

Treasurer Rocky Metts reminded show chairmen to remember to fill out the necessary paperwork for any bills that were generated. Don't just give him a bill without the written paperwork. Hospitality Chairman Trudy Hunt ask for volunteers for April meetings snacks. It was suggested we change the location of the summer picnics. That is something members need to think about for future discussion.

Show Chairman Shirley Metts thanked everyone who helped with the Show.

President Jon Cromer also thanked those who helped with the Show. He announced that there would be an executive board meeting in a few weeks. He will announce the date later.

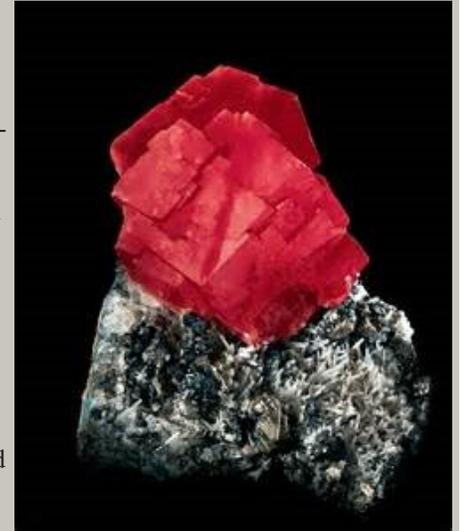
He mentioned that another BLM proposal concerning the right to collect on BLM land as an "unintended consequence" of the newest Sage Grouse Protection Program. Check out the information on Google: Sage Grouse Protection Program. Members need to write letters letting BLM know how important these areas are to the hobby of rock and gem collection.

Discussion was held concerning the Show results: Tickets sold, performance of each show station and areas for change next year.

Education Director Harold Wagner reported school presentations were beginning, and that he had given a presentation to the Hagerman School. He said he had enjoyed it, but does need others to step forward to assist him.

Dick Morris announced upcoming Gem Shows, encouraging members to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM



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

Rockhounding in the US.....

Diamonds in Arkansas

Teen Finds 7.44 Carat Diamond In Crater Of Diamonds, Arkansas. *(This article came out shortly after our March bulletin was printed. I thought it was a great follow up to the Arkansas dig sight.)*

A 14-year-old boy named Kaleb Langford found a 7.44 carat diamond at the Crater of Diamonds State Park, Arkansas. The boy and his father were surprised to know that the diamond they found was the largest brown diamond to be found at the park in 40 years.

The officials also said that this was the seventh largest diamond to be discovered since the establishment of the park in 1972, according to several media reports published Thursday.

Kaleb Langford found the pinto bean-sized brown stone while he was walking along the side of a riverbank in the park on Saturday. He knew it was not an ordinary rock and showed it to his father. Craig Langford, Kaleb Langford's father said they both "knew we needed to have it looked at." Kaleb Langford named his diamond "Superman Diamond" because he is a fan of the superhero and as per the park's policy, he was allowed to take the precious stone home as a souvenir.

Several others have also found diamonds at the park in the past few years. In April 2015, Susie Clark found a white, 3.69 carat teardrop-shaped diamond and named it as "Hallelujah Diamond." In October 2016, Dan Frederick and his daughter Lauren Frederick found a 2.03 carat diamond on their first visit to the park. Vanessa Yurkevich of CNN Money also tried her luck but failed in 2015.

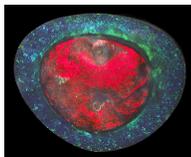
"Uncle Sam," a 40.23 carat diamond was the largest diamond ever to be unearthed on land in the United States in 1924, according to the Associated Press.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/teen-finds-7-44-carat-085101381.html>



Famous Gemstones: Fire Queen Opal

The Fire Queen has an interesting and somewhat sad history. Found roughly around 1906 in the Angledool diggings. It was alive with color and dubbed too beautiful for words. Not only that she weighed in at 6.5 oz. which is nearly 900 carats an expensive Opal in today's market! However unfortunately back then Opals didn't have much of a market so all it could manage to sell for was the tiny sum of £100. The Fire Queen was passed from buyer to buyer with each seller having trouble finding a buyer due to the uneducated market for Opals. It wasn't until 18 years later in 1928 that it ended up in the Chicago museum with a valuation of £40,000 a far reach from the original £100! In the 1940's it was resold to non other than J.D. Rockefeller for £75,000 who then donated The Fire Queen to his family collection.



The Magic Valley Gem News is published monthly. The Editor is not responsible for the accuracy of the articles accepted, items for sale, nor are the opinions expressed therein necessarily those of the Officers, Members and/or the Editor of the Magic Valley Gem Club, Inc.

The Hard Work Does Pay Off

We received this on our Show web page. I thought I would share it because it really does make the hard work worth it.

Good morning! I see that it's time for your annual Gem Show. That brought a smile to my face, and I wanted to tell you why. I grew up in Twin Falls, and now live in Bellevue. When our kids were little, we would always stop by your show and look at all the displays. Well, my daughter, who is now 30, took such a liking to all the rocks and 'shiny things', that she developed a keen interest in gemstones. So much so, that she went on to the GIA to study gemology, bench work, and jewelry design. She is now an award-winning fine jewelry designer with her own business, www.jellenjewels.com, and also does some design work for her husband's company, www.herneranddunn.com.

She has such a love of stones, and I partially attribute that to her developing her interest at your show. Also, one time we stopped at the rock shop in Bliss, and the owner (I don't know his name, but he was an elderly gentleman about 15 years ago) spent almost two hours with her, telling a 14-year-old girl everything about nearly each and every rock in his shop. She was delighted! If you happen to know him, could you send our thanks? Anyway, I just wanted to relay this story to you because sometimes in life, we never really know the impact we have on others around us. And you folks have helped carve a career path for our daughter - thank you! Barbara Neiwert, Bellevue



Interested in Faceting?

Ultra Tek V2 faceting machine with all discs and dopping parts is available. Contact Dick Morris at 543-8869 if interested.



Healing Properties: Agate >>>

♥ Love ♥ Abundance ♥ Wealth ♥ Good luck ♥ Longevity ♥ Acceptance ♥ Courage and strength ♥ Protection, security and safety ♥ Balance ♥ Harmony ♥ Generosity ♥ Appreciation of nature

Zodiac - [Gemini](#), [Virgo](#)

Planet - Moon

Element - Earth

Typical colors - Clear or milky white, white to grey, light blue, orange to red, black

Agate is an excellent stone for rebalancing and harmonizing body, mind and spirit. It cleanses and stabilizes the aura, eliminating and transforming negativity. Agate enhances mental function, improving concentration, perception and analytical abilities. It soothes and calms, healing inner anger or tension and creates a sense of security and safety.

Agate heals the eyes, stomach and uterus; cleanses the lymphatic system and the pancreas; strengthens blood vessels and heals skin disorders.

<http://charmsflight.com/agate-healing-properties.html>



2016 Board of Directors

President: Jon Cromer

Vice-President: Randy Perkins

Secretary: Karen Quinton

Treasurer: Rocky Metts

Federation Director: Sandy Hansen

Field Marshall: vacant

Editor Gem News: Rebekah Yancey

PR Director: Sandy White

Show Chair: Shirley Metts

Show Advisor: Harold Waggoner

Hospitality Chair: Trudy Hunt

Committee Chairs

Historian: Harold Waggoner

Librarian: Barbra Livingston

Safety Officer: Mark Livingston

Webmaster: Jason Metts

Programs Chairman: Rocky Metts

Nominations Chairman: Devone Bates

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: April 20, 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-canceled 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 or on Facebook @ Magic Valley Gem Club



PO Box 725
Twin Falls, ID 83303

Magic Valley
Gem Club News

**FIRST CLASS
TIME DATED
MATERIAL**