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

# Magic Valley Gem News



**April 2018**

## 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

I am glad the warmer weather is back for the season. I am so ready for summer time to get here. I really like to get outside to find new places, go camping and find good quality rocks. It was really nice to see all the new people at last month's club meeting. The rock club members need to welcome everyone with open minds and hearts. Please try to make everyone feel welcomed and to let them know we are all part of an interesting and fun club.

I will not be at the April rock club meeting. Treasurer Rocky Metts will be running the meeting in my absence. I will be back for the May club meeting. If any club member hasn't filled out a club member survey, please do so and turn in to Rocky or me at next month's meeting. I did read some of the surveys that were turned in last month's meeting. I'm making a list of good ideas and will discuss them with the club members at a later date to see if any ideas can be implemented.

Our club Field Marshall, Terry Folks, has revised the 2018 field trip dates, please see the updated list elsewhere in the bulletin. Terry is also doing a "Rockhounding 101" at the April meeting presentation. Please try to attend some or all the field trips, they are always a lot of fun.

If any club member is interested in taking over the Hospitality Executive Board position, please let me know. This is an important club board position. The duties are listed on the club website.

The Pocatello rock show is coming up on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds in Pocatello.

If any club member want to talk to me about any aspect of the rock club, please let me know.

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

## March 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The Magic Valley Gem Club met March 15, 2018 with President Jon Cromer conducting. He opened the meeting at 7:10pm, greeting the members and new guests. The previous month's minutes were presented. Chris Funk made a motion to approve the February club minutes and the January Executive Board minutes. Jim Stanton seconded the motion and the membership approved both. First and second readings for membership were read. Chris Funk made a motion to approve and Sandy Hansen seconded. The membership approved. Rocky Metts, treasurer, discussed the need to present receipts, plus paperwork for Show expenditures. Rebekah Yancey, Editor Gem News, ask for articles for the next or future publications of the news. Sandy Hansen, Federation Director, talked about the request from the Federation, concerning comments on procedural changes before the April Federation show in N.C. She will provide information concerning on the request.



Julie Folks, PR Director, ask for volunteers to give future programs at monthly meetings.

Trudy Hunt, Hospitality Chair, ask for volunteers for refreshments for April, May and June. "keep simple".

Terry Folks, Field Marshal, cancelled the March trip to Graveyard Point, due to weather, and noted the upcoming trip to Wendover on April 21<sup>st</sup>. He will provide more information at the next meeting. Be sure to sign the trip release forms. He also reminded those attending trips to have the following: Good hammer/chisel/safety glasses/gloves/water and high clearance vehicle, also any food for lunch etc. It will be a one day trip.

Chris Funk, Show Chair, reported on the show and stated that there were 1,161 tickets sold at the door. Other information concerning the show still needs to be reviewed.

The executive officers for this year were sworn in as listed in a previous news-letter.

The drawing was won by Mike McBride. Meeting adjourned 7:35pm. Secretary-Karen Quinton

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

## Rockhounding in the US.....Florida

*Florida is a terrific state for rockhounding. Florida has petrified wood, agatized coral, chert, calcite, kaolin, staurolite, and other rocks and minerals. Florida, however, is especially rich in fossils. The state is a fossil-hunter's paradise.*

### **State Stone: Agatized Coral**

Florida designated agatized coral as its official state stone in 1979. Coral is the outside skeleton of tiny ocean animals called polyps, which live in colonies attached to hard underwater surfaces. When alive, polyps combine their own carbon dioxide with the lime in warm seawater to form a limestone-like hard surface, or coral. Agatized fossil coral occurs when silica-rich groundwater percolates through the fossil coral and, over time, replaces the limy corals with a form of quartz known as chalcedony. This long process (20-30 million years) results in the formation of a "pseudomorph," meaning that one mineral has replaced another without having lost its original form. Agatized fossil coral can exhibit a wide range of natural colors, ranging from white and pink to brown, gray, black, yellow, and red. Different trace minerals in the agate create these colors. Agatized coral is found in three main Florida locations: Tampa Bay, the Econfina River, and the Withlacoochee/Suwannee riverbeds.



### **Let's go Rock Hunting:**

#### **Field Trips for 2018**

- April 21st Wendover, Utah (day trip)
- May 19th Graveyard Point, Oregon
- June 15th-17th Topaz Mt, UT
- June ? Dismal Swamp, Featherville, ID
- July 13th-15th Challis, ID
- August 10th-12th Crystal Park, Montana
- September 21st-23rd Little Wood Reservoir
- October 29th Texas Springs, Jackpot, NV

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.

# What is a Cave?

A *cave* is a natural opening in the ground extending beyond the zone of light and large enough to permit the entry of man. The scientific study of caves is called *speleology* (from the Greek words *spelaiion* for cave and *logos* for study). It is a composite science based on geology, hydrology, biology, and archaeology, and thus holds special interest for earth scientists of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The decorative dripstone features are called speleothems. The most familiar speleothems are stalactites and stalagmites. Stalactites hang downward from the ceiling and are formed as drop after drop of water slowly trickles through cracks in the cave roof. As each drop of water hangs from the ceiling, it loses carbon dioxide and deposits a film of calcite. Successive drops add ring below ring, the water dripping through the hollow center of the rings, until a pendant cylinder forms. Tubular or "soda straw" stalactites grow in this way; most are fragile and have the diameter of a drop of water, but some reach a length of perhaps a yard or more. The large cone-shaped stalactites begin as these fragile tubes and then enlarge to cones when enough water accumulates to flow along the outside of the soda straws. Deposition of calcite on the outside of the tubes, most of which are near the ceiling and taper downward, results in the familiar cone shapes.

Stalagmites grow upward from the floor of the cave generally as a result of water dripping from overhanging stalactites. A column forms when a stalactite and a stalagmite grow until they join. A curtain or drape begins to form on an inclined ceiling when the drops of water trickle along a slope. Gradually a thin sheet of calcite grows downward from the ceiling and hangs in decorative folds like a drape. Sheets of calcite that are deposited on the walls or floor by flowing water are called flowstone. Rimstone dams are raised fence-like deposits of calcite on the cave floor that form around pools of water.

Helictites are curious twisted or spiraling cylinders or needles. They apparently develop when water seeps through the ceiling so slowly that slight chemical or physical changes can cause reorientation of the crystal structure of the calcite or gypsum. Cave corals, also formed by slowly seeping water, are small clusters of individual knobs. Most cave passages contain deposits of material that have been washed into the cave. This material, known as cave fill, varies from sand and clay to stratified gravel. The pebbles in these deposits often are highly polished or frosted and sometimes are as large as 6 inches in diameter. Cave fills are particularly noteworthy because they contain materials that reflect a geologic history and a record of past climates of the surrounding area.

Many interesting minerals are found in caves in addition to the calcite which forms the major features. Aragonite, a calcium carbonate mineral similar to calcite but not as common, often occurs in intricate needles known as anthodites. Gypsum (calcium sulfate) and related calcium sulfate minerals are next to calcite in abundance. Some caves, although they are developed in limestone, have extensive passages lined with fine, curling growths of gypsum flowers. In other caves, selenite (a less common variety of gypsum) forms long transparent rods or nests of fibrous crystals. Sulfates of sodium and magnesium are also found in caves, although they are less conspicuous than gypsum. Iron minerals in the form of oxides (limonite) and hydroxide (goethite) occur in caves and in some places form stalactites.



Program Calendar for club meetings.

April, Terry Folks: Rock Hounding 101. What tools should you plan for and what are the best uses.

May, Randy Perkins (topic to be announced)  
June, Mike McBride (topic to be announced)

Anyone that would like to present a program at the club meeting please contact Julie Folks (Program Cheer Meister) for their ideas. Let's make the club meetings fun!

## 2017/2018 Board of Directors

President: Jon Cromer  
Vice-President: Randy Perkins  
Secretary: Karen Quinton  
Treasurer: Rocky Metts  
Federation Director: Sandy Hansen  
Field Marshall: Terry Folks  
Editor Gem News: Rebekah Yancey  
PR Director: Julie Folks  
Show Chair: Chris Funk  
Show Advisor: Shirley Metts  
Hospitality Chair: Trudy Hunt  
Mining Claims: Andrew Humphries

## Committee Chairs

Historian: Harold Waggoner  
Librarian: Barbra Livingston  
Safety Officer: Mark Livingston  
Webmaster: Jason Metts  
Programs Chair: Julie Folks  
Nominations Chair: Devone Bates  
Education: open  
Youth Leader: Sandy Hansen  
Youth President: open  
1st Asst. Show Chair: Wilma Sellers  
2nd Asst. Show Chair: Devone Bates

Manganese Minerals in caves are

## WILLAMETTE METEORITE

The Willamette meteorite is the largest ever found in North America. A settler named Ellis Hughes found the meteorite in Oregon in 1902 and moved the 15.5-ton iron rock to his own property. It wasn't the meteorite's first terrestrial journey: Because no impact crater was found at the meteor's original resting site, researchers suspect it landed elsewhere and was transported to Oregon via glacial action during the Ice Age. The meteorite is now on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City



# finalthoughts...

Next MVGC meeting: March 15, 7:00—9:00 pm  
American Legion Hall  
447 Seastrom St., Twin Falls, ID 83301  
(Take Eastland Drive South, take a left on Wright Ave, then  
a right onto Seastrom)



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



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