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President's Message

*Minutes from the December 15th
Meeting*



Volume
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Issue 1

From within the Gem State comes news that Rocks!

Magic Valley Gem News



January 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 want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope this year is better than the last. One of my biggest hopes is that the new administration will slow down the public land restrictions that never seems to end. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. It is always good to be around good friends, family, and great food. I am ready for a little warmer weather, but I'm going to have to wait a bit before that happens. I sure did enjoy the weather in Tucson and Quartzite last year, maybe when I retire I can spend more time down there, when it is so cold up here.

All rock club members need to make it to the next meeting to vote on the new Executive Board members. I am looking forward to working with all new EB members and with the rock club as a whole. Hopefully this coming year there will be more interesting events and rock club field trips with some camping trips also.

The MVGC annual show is just 2 ½ months away. This annual show is the biggest revenue and public awareness event that the rock club does. Time is getting short, everyone needs to get their show items together, show jobs figured out what they want to do, display show case items, and any other things that would make for a better show. Rock club members ought to go to other area rock shows and check out their show. If any club member has a suggestion or experiences something at a different rock show that the club should check out, please let Shirley Metts or me know.

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

December 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The December 15, 2016 was called to order at 7pm with 27 members and 2 visitors.

Minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting were approved. Motion by Sandy Hansen and seconded by Dick Morris.

Officers were ask to give a message. Randy Perkins wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Rebekah Yancey discussed advertising for the upcoming show. Different methods were discussed, including posters, facebook, and publishing software.

Sandy Hansen gave Federation news concerning the collection of fossils on public lands. The ALA is trying to send a group comment in hopes to influence changes to the legislation. January 6 is the last date to comment.

Shirley Metts discussed the upcoming show, encouraging donation of more polished rocks and the size of the bags. She also said there would be an AD in the Idaho Senior Independent, 5 am T.V. ad and fliers to pass out.

Rocky Metts brought up the need for a better black-light set for the show. He stated that sets could be purchased for \$750 each and that the Club would need 3

sets, equaling a cost of \$2100. A discussion ensued. Jon suggested the members think about it until next month, since there is a need to check out the rocks needed to have a quality black-light display. After further discussion it was suggested the club purchase two sets at \$750 each, equaling \$1400. Tony Funk made the motion and Mike McBride seconded it. The motion was approved by the membership.

Jon Cromer will pursue the needed information concerning the proposed Club claim.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45



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

Time to Prep for the Show.....

Crafters Needed

It is time to get ready for our show in March with one of my favorite activities—Craft Day(s).

We will be meeting at Alice Clements house to work on the Wheel of Fortune Crafts this year. She is at **386 Longbow Circle** in Twin Falls. Her phone number is **733-4194**. Bring a snack to share.

We have 4 sessions scheduled because we are extremely low on crafts for the wheel.

We'll be working
Noon to 4 pm
on all 4 days.

January 21st
January 25th
February 11th
February 25th



Famous Gemstones: Andamooka Opal

The **Andamooka Opal** is a famous opal which was presented to Queen Elizabeth II in 1954 on the occasion of her first visit to South Australia. It was discovered in Andamooka, South Australia, an historic opal mining town.

The opal was cut and polished by John Altmann to a weight of 203 carats (40.6 g). It displays a magnificent array of reds, blues, and greens and was set with diamonds into an 18 karat (75%) palladium necklet.



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.

Making Rock Spheres.....

Stone spheres are used for decorative and practical purposes from water fountains to the Atlas Ball that extreme weightlifters hoist in competitions.

Any type of durable stone will make a suitable sphere, but the most common are made from granite. This hard rock takes a long time to chip away, making the end result all the more valuable. While the effort involved is time-consuming, the process for carving down a stone sphere involves just hammer and chisel.

Step 1

Saw off all eight corners of a stone block with a diamond tipped rotary saw blade. Place the stone block at an angle to the saw, so only a corner edge is touching the blade. Turn on the blade and press into the blade with the block. It will slowly cut through the stone, removing the corner. Wet the stone and the blade periodically. You will only be able to remove about an inch of stone with each corner, but this cuts down on some of the chiseling you'll have to do on the stone.

Step 2

Mark a half-circle the size of the sphere you want on one edge of a piece of cardboard using a protractor or compass. Cut out with a pair of scissors. Set the half-circle cutout aside and keep the negative. This negative piece will serve as a template for creating the sphere.

Step 3

Hold a chisel firmly against one of the edges on the stone block at a 45 degree angle. Hit it with a hammer. A small chip of stone will break off. Place the chisel further down the

edge and repeat. Continue this process until all of the edges are chipped away. Try to maintain consistent hits with the hammer so as to remove roughly the same amount of stone each time you strike.

Step 4

Place the cardboard template over the top of the stone. There will be gaps between the edge of the negative and the stone. Use a marker to mark straight lines along all the edges of the stone sphere that make contact with the edge of the template. These are raised areas that need to be chipped away.

Step 5

Chip away all the areas you marked with the marker. Check again with the template. Mark again, going all of the way around the stone sphere. Chisel away the marked areas. Repeat the process until the entire template edge rests against the stone on all sides. The sphere won't be smooth yet.

Step 6

Sand down the stone sphere to make it smooth using a disk sander with silicon carbide disk. Check the stone with the template periodically to ensure you aren't sanding down the stone too much on one side. Use progressively finer grit disks until the stone is smooth.

Step 7

Polish the stone with a buffing pad and some fine polish until it is smooth and shiny.



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: Harold Waggoner
Youth Leader: Sandy Hansen
Youth President: open
1st Asst. Show Chair: Wilma Sellers
2nd Asst. Show Chair: Devone Bates
Mining Claims: vacant

January Birthstone >>>

For babies born in January, the garnet is the perfect gem to represent their birthstone. This beautiful stone, which is most commonly red but can be found in a range of other colors, symbolizes peace, prosperity and good health. Some say it even has the power to give the wearer eternal happiness, health and wealth.



finalthoughts...

Next MVGC meeting: January 19, 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

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.

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

www.magicvalleygemclub.org or on Facebook @ Magic Valley Gem Club



PHD Minerals

coming soon >>>

*Magic Valley Gem Club
64th Annual Gem Show*

March 11 & 12, 2017



PO Box 725
Twin Falls, ID 83303

Magic Valley
Gem Club News

**FIRST CLASS
TIME DATED
MATERIAL**