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President's Message

The Black Prince's Ruby



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Issue 1

From within the Gem State comes news that Rocks!

Magic Valley Gem News

January 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



President's Message

As this year comes to a close, I look forward to the new opportunity to do a little more with my life. I have already created some personal specific goals I'm going to try and accomplish. I have even created some goals for the MVGC to get a better club experience, more on that later. I hope everyone had a good holiday season.

I need to call for an Executive Board meeting within the next two weeks, so EB members please try to attend. I will personally contact all of the EB members when I get a place and time set up. The board needs to urgently go over a few things, so the meeting shouldn't last long.

Rock club members could start thinking about some new field trip areas for next year. Hopefully this winter the snow is not too bad, like last year that we can get out earlier without the bad road problem.

The annual MVGC Rock and Gem Show is coming up very soon. Club members need to start thinking and getting an idea about how they can help, either by displaying their special rocks and gems or by helping at the many jobs at the show. The show can only happen with the help of everyone, so let's make it the best show yet.

One of my club goals for next year is to find a different place for monthly meetings. With last month's meeting place being double booked, the usual place was not available one third of the time for the year.

If any club member has a good ideas or a possible better ways to do anything at the show or club meetings, please let me know.

Jon Cromer - MVGC President, Ph. (208)308-3364 Email:

December, 2017 Meeting Minutes

It was an interesting month that started with an error in the newsletter. It the date for the meeting ever sounds out of place....it might be. Please, please correct me.

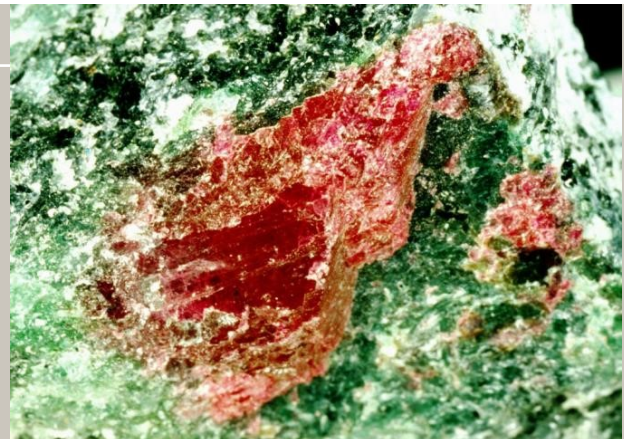
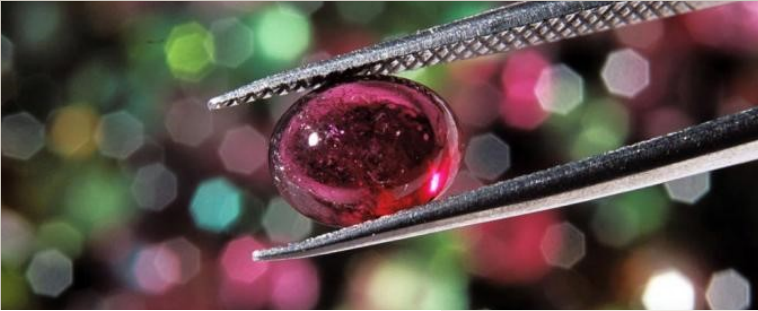
When we went to meet at the 21st, the Community Room had another group there. Yikes! The downside to our current meeting location is that we have to share. The meeting was then rescheduled to the 28th.

On the 28th our numbers were pretty low, so we just went ahead and visited and did our Christmas story present exchange.

So, there are no minutes to report.

Just as some reminders though.... The Show is getting close. We need tumbled rock and bags. We need lots of hands to set up and take down, so please schedule time in to help.

Have a great New Year and we'll see you January 18th for our regularly scheduled meeting (hopefully).



We

are affiliated with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federa-

Famous Gemstones: The Black Prince's Ruby

The gem's origin is thought to be a mine in what is now Tajikistan. During the middle of the 14th century, it was owned by Abū Sa'īd, the Moorish Prince of Granada, who was murdered by Don Pedro the Cruel. Don Pedro took the jewel, but was obliged to give it to the Black Prince, son of Edward III of England, in return for help to put down a revolt. Technically, it's not a ruby but a spinel, which is now considered different, since it is not quite as dense or hard as a "true ruby." The Black Prince's "Ruby" is uncut, but polished, and is about the size of a chicken's egg.



Rockhounding in the US.....Connecticut

Known as the birthplace for modern mining, Connecticut has more than 600 forgotten mines.

Although most geologists believe Connecticut's mineral deposits are sparse and scattered, modern mining techniques have not been used to locate minerals in Connecticut. Connecticut's gems include amethyst, topaz, green beryl, rose quartz, tourmaline, yellow beryl and aquamarine, and they are found primarily in the Bronson Hill anticlinorium, east of the Connecticut Valley. Roxbury Falls holds the best-known Connecticut garnets. Gemstone prospectors should follow a few simple steps to have a better chance of finding gemstones and stay within Connecticut's prospecting regulations, especially with regard to public lands.



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.

Cutting the Small Stuff

Do you have some smaller rocks and don't really know how to cut them? Here are some tips from an experienced cutter.

To saw small rocks, you'll need to glue them to a board. This is good for items too small to fit in the vise, for small rocks when you want to cut all of it at once without re-chucking, and for heel or end cuts. My saw's vise can hold a rock 4" tall x 7" long, so I cut up a scrap piece of standard 2x4" lumber so that it just fits in the vise. In this case the wood is actually already almost 4" tall so it was just cut 6 1/2" long.

It is best to use wood glue, in this case, Elmer's wood glue that can be found at Wal-mart for \$2.50. The only disadvantage to using wood glue is that it takes 4 to 7 days to properly cure.

Once you have slabbed out the rocks right down to the wood, you can just throw the wood into a bucket of water and a week later the glue dissolves and you get your wood back plus the heel or end cut that was on the board. You may want this end cut for cabbing, or tumbling. In any case, you only need water and you have salvaged your wood with no hazardous chemicals.

If you are in a hurry (or have a large heavy stone) you can use 5 minute epoxy. This is a lot more expensive to use but it cures in 24 hours instead of 4 days to a week.

The drawback to using the epoxy is that the rock is permanently stuck to the board so if you want your end cut or your wood to re-use, you'll have to use a strong, dangerous chemical that you'll have to dispose of later. Best thing to do is just discard the wood and the adhering end cut, but if you just gotta have them back you can soak the wood in acetone. You'll get your end cut back and a smelly piece of wood to re-use and you'll have used acetone to dispose of.

You could also try to freeze the epoxied wood and trying to snap or pry the rock off.

You'd have to be pretty desperate to try that, but if you find yourself in a desperate situation.....



2017 Board of Directors

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ALLENDE METEORITE

This 3-inch (8 centimeter)-wide meteorite fragment is part of the Allende meteorite, the most-studied meteorite ever. This car-sized chunk of rock flamed through Earth's atmosphere in February, 1969. It broke into thousands of smaller pieces, found strewn over the desert in the northern Mexico state of Chihuahua.

The Allende meteorite is a carbonaceous chondrite, a rare type of meteorite that makes up only about 4 percent of known meteorites. The Allende meteorite contains components that are more than 4.5 billion years old, making the rock a snapshot of the conditions present in the earliest days of the solar system.



<https://www.livescience.com/15445-fallen-stars-gallery-famous-meteorites.html>

<http://www.digforcrystals.com/lapidary.html>

*final*thoughts...

*Next MVGC meeting: January 18, 7:00—9:00 pm
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



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Twin Falls, ID 83303

Magic Valley
Gem Club News

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