

Magic Valley Gem Club



June 2019 Volume 58 Issue 6

In this issue: President's Message, Club Meeting Minutes, MVGC Objectives, Safety Message, Members Request.

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President Message June 2019

The rock club finalized the monthly club meeting prize details at the last month's meeting. The first prize to be drawn next month will be an Estwing type rock hammer donated by me. The drawing method will stay the same, by drawing a red ticket, except with a twist that I will reveal at the meeting. Any rock club member who attends that month's meeting will have a chance to win that month's prize. As usual, you have to be present to win. The rock club will provide the prizes for the drawings each month. Prize donations will also be accepted to be put in the years supply. Randall Deboard has volunteered to run this activity and to acquire the prizes. Randall will keep a list of the prizes so they can all be accounted for. If any rock club member has a good idea for a monthly prize, please contact Randall or me. The dollar limit of the monthly prize is going to be around \$30. Only current paid rock club members are eligible to win. There will be 11 prizes in a year, as December meeting the rock club does a gift exchange.

The rock club also decided to have a 6 foot Subway sandwich as the food item for June's meeting. I will also bring some chips and water. The July and August rock club meetings will be at a city park, yet to be determined. July's meeting food item will be fried chicken, as usual, and the August's club meeting food item is up for discussion. Club members can bring some of their favorite side dishes for all to enjoy at both of these rock club meetings.

Rocky Metts, the Field Trip committee lead person, is putting a field trip list together for this summer. If any rock club member has a place they want to take some members, please let Rocky or me know. Some rock club members did step up and volunteered to go to a few places, dates, times and places will be announced later. The BBQ at Tony's rock pile has been changed from the first of November to September 21, 2019, due to having a better chance of more favorable weather. This is a really good opportunity to get good quality rock at a reasonable price without the drive and legwork of finding or not finding anything in the field.

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: rokcutter@hotmail.com

Greetings Rock Aficionados!

The weather will soon break. I hear whispers everywhere about that new site where they might find the mother-load.

Myself, I am readying my tools.....and comfortable chair! The DeBoards have tumbled their first rocks and were shocked how beautiful they were turning out. What better way to get a look at a possible cab for making jewelry. We learned the process on YouTube and ordered a variety of abrasives online. After the first week's rolling, it was just amazing, I had ordered fire agate pieces online. It was amazing how that first week revealed many potential cabs.

I am looking forward to this summer and meeting more of you. I am thankful for the work that we all do to reach our mission goal. For those wanting to help out in some small or big way...let me know. Participation will bring us closer. Offering to help will share the burden and keep some from getting burned out.

Thank you and ROCK ON!
Randall DeBoard V.P.

May 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Magic Valley Gem Club met May 16, 2019, with 17 members in attendance. President Jon Cromer opened the meeting at 7:15pm welcoming members and guests. Membership for Ron Osterhout was presented and a motion made by Rebekah Yancey and Randall DeBoard second the motion to accept the membership. The members voted in favor.

The minutes were read for last months meeting. Tony Funk made a motion to approve last month's minutes. Drew second the motion and the members voted to accept.

Randall DeBoard wanted to know where the Memorial Plaque was. He said he need it. Rocky Metts is getting names of people to be put on it.

Jon Cromer, Randall DeBoard, and Rocky Metts will be getting together on the trailer issues, legal aspects of the group, etc.

Randall DeBoard will take over responsibility for the monthly prize, rules and ideas.

Jon Cromer asked Rocky Metts if he had any information on how the MVGC Rock Show did and he had no results at this time.

Rebekah Yancey and Rebecca Deboard could use some input on the MVGC Newsletter. Rebekah Yancey gets emails from other club members. Rebecca Deboard deleted the blog in the newsletter because no one was using it. She also mentioned about using the pictures from FaceBook for the newsletter because some of them are really good and would like to share them. Rebecca Deboard would like any ideas if anyone has any and needs all information for the newsletter by the 25th of the month.



Randall DeBoard mentioned he was looking through some of his rocks and on one of them it said "Toxic Rocks".

Mike Deboard mentioned he was helping with the safety issues in the newsletter and about putting some information about Toxic Rocks in there. Andrew Humphries mentioned there was some videos about Toxic Rocks and posted them on FaceBook.

For the 2020 MVGC Rock Show there is a need for more tumble rocks and door prizes .

May 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes continue

Field Marshall Committee ideas on getting it onto Website- pay-to-dig sights.

Texas Springs- found, HX, Areas around it.

People would contact club then a field trip to that area.

Chris Funk mentioned going to the Nevada Claim Opal Mine and pay to dig in the area

Mark Livingston said there are great spots to dig except the man charged too much there but good stuff in the area.

Rocky Metts and Tony Funk will take club on a trip.

Mark Livingston talked about a Dismal Swamp trip late in the season maybe first part of July. Happy to do it!

If any member would like to lead a field trip, please contact Rocky Metts.

Jon Cromer, Rocky Metts, Karen Quinton, and Randall Deboard will meet at the bank for an appointment for photo and other issues.

Monthly prizes price limit will start between \$30 to \$35 and we can adjust later if necessary. What the prizes are can range from rock hammers to items like that. Randall DeBoard motioned and Shirley Metts second the motion. Tony Funk motioned the Vice President should take care of the prize. How often can you win the Monthly Prize- Rules stay the same. Jon Cromer has a nice rock hammer for the next Monthly Drawing .

Next year will be the MVGC Rock and Gem Show 70th Edition. The group talked about CrownAwards.com.

Donation to Kids Science Class Educational Information, maybe a 10-12 page

booklet. Need to check into posters, no rocks, for schools. Push Bulletin to read. Rebecca will put in bulletin.

A letter from Rockhound in Sherwood Oregon about wanting to sell his rocks, saws, beads and 2500 cabs, \$1 lb rock.



A design change for the MVGC Rock and Gem Show flyer logo was talked about. Asking for ideas, art or picture. Bring to club meeting to vote on the design or idea, maybe you could win.

For the June club meeting Jon Cromer wanted to know if we would like Subway or Pizza. Rebecca Deboard motioned we have Subway, Rebekah Yancey second the motion. Jon Cromer will bring chips and Randall DeBoard will bring the drinks.

Pot Lock BBQ at Tony & Chris's house on mid September 21st.

Linda McClain told the club about the 2019 Hagerman Bird Festival on May 17th, 18th and 19th at 160 N State St, Hagerman ID @ the old gym.

Rebecca Deboard mentioned about posting the newsletter on the MVGC Website. Rocky Metts said Jason Metts was not getting the newsletter in his emails. Rebekah Yancey will resend them to Jason Metts so he can post them on the website.

Linda McClain and Andrew Humphries won the drawings.

Meeting adjourned

Chris Funk and Rebecca Deboard

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 events while enjoying and protecting our natural resources. For more information go to

www.magicvalleygemclub.org



Monthly safety article



One of the real dangers rock hounders face are rattlesnakes.

Western rattlesnake: Rattlesnakes (the Western and less common prairie) are the only poisonous snakes in Idaho. They're most common in rocky areas, but can swim so they're sometimes found around water.

An understatement: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!" when it comes to rattlesnake bites! If someone gets bitten by a rattlesnake, get them to the nearest hospital immediately. Limit the victim's activity if possible to keep their heart rate normal. Help the individual to remain calm and comfortable. Reassure the victim that it is not life-threatening. Wash the bite area with water and remove restrictive jewelry or clothing that would interfere with swelling. Position the affected bite area below the victim's heart. Call 911 to contact the hospital to alert staff to facilitate treatment instructions. Steps to Prevention:

1. Wear high leather boots and / or snake-leggings.
2. Stay close to vehicles and transportation routes.
3. Do not rockhound alone.
4. Always assume snakes are active even if the weather is cold and cloudy.
5. Snakes are more likely to be out from under cover on cloudy warm days and especially at night.
6. Use a walking stick or rock scoop/grabber to explore with or overturn rocks. (Baby snakes have venom!)
7. Walk slowly in areas of thicker vegetation, create vibrations with your footsteps and your walking stick.
8. Walk away from the shaded side of bushes or holes when it is sunny and hot.
9. Walk around logs or large rocks or drop-offs where a rattlesnake may be resting.
10. Be especially alert when climbing a steep incline, which could result in a snakebite to the upper body.
11. If a rattlesnake is located slowly move away and warn others. Do not try to kill it and collect its rattles!
12. Rattlesnakes do not always rattle-look for them.

Leave rattlesnakes alone and they will leave you alone. They play a critical role in nature by limiting the number of rodents. You don't have to kill them.

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/outdoors/article40746561.html#storylink=cpy>

Any club related photographs or articles to enhance the Magic Valley Gem Newsletter can be sent to the Bulletin Editor Rebekah Yancey or Assistant Rebecca Deboard.

Idaho mining history:

Stibnite is one of Idaho's youngest ghost towns. Stibnite is also the mineral name for antimony ore. Mining for gold and antimony began at Stibnite in 1931. Later a body of rich tungsten ore was found. During World War II, Stibnite produced ninety-eight percent of America's antimony and most of its tungsten. Both metals were vital for making machines and weapons for fighting the war. The rich tungsten ore had run out by the end of the war in 1945. Later a rich antimony mine opened in Central America. The new mine made the price of antimony drop so low, the Stibnite mine could not stay in business. It closed in 1952. Today only the pieces of a few old buildings and machines remain. The huge open-pit mine, once busy with men, machines, and trucks, has become a small mountain lake.

The **Stibnite Mine** is located about 13 miles from Yellow Pine. **Stibnite** was a “company” town of several thousand people, with its own hospital and school. There was also a bowling alley, a theater, a ski team and a high school football team.



Miners first came to Stibnite during Idaho's gold rush days in 1899. Over the next few years, the number of miners at the site continued to grow and several operators, including United Mercury Mining Company and Bradley Mining Company, started working in the area.

In 1938, miners started focusing their efforts on the Yellow Pine Pit. Miners were able to extract large quantities of gold from this area of the site. However, operations at the pit blocked fish passage and to this day fish in the East Fork of the South Fork of the salmon river cannot swim upstream past the site.

During World War II, antimony became a mineral that was critical to the war effort. It was used to create bullets. Stibnite contained such large quantities of antimony that individuals were able to serve their country by working at the site. At one point, more than 1,500 people were working at the site. From 1941 to 1945 Stibnite mined and milled more tungsten and antimony than any other mine in the United States. During this wartime period Stibnite produced 40 percent of the nation's domestic supply of tungsten and 90 percent of its antimony.



After World War II, operations at the site slowed down and many miners moved out of the area. Mining continued in the area sporadically from the 1970s to the late 1990s.



Rock of the month: Moonstone



Moonstone is a sodium potassium aluminium silicate, with the chemical formula $(\text{Na,K})\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8$. Its name is derived from a visual effect, or sheen, caused by light diffraction within a microstructure consisting of a regular succession of feldspar layers.

The meaning of moonstone is in its energy—a nourishing, sensual, deeply feminine energy that knows how to heal and bring you back to wholeness. It is the stone of the mother moon, deep healing waters, and sacred feminine energies.

Feldspar / moonstone can be found In Idaho Camas creek near Fairfield.

Moonstone is the Florida State Gemstone; it was designated as such in 1970 to commemorate the Moon landings, which took off from Kennedy Space Center. Despite it being the Florida State Gemstone, it does not naturally occur in the state.



Happy Birthday to all the June Club Members!!!!

Club members possessing these specimens of rocks, please bring them to the next club meeting for the enjoyment of the members. Especially you June B-day people.

Upcoming Dates:

MVGC meeting, June 20, 2019

7pm-9pm at the American Legion Hall

447 Seastrom St. Twin Falls, ID 83301

Directions: Take Eastland Drive South, turn left on Wright Ave. then a right onto Seastrom.

Anyone that would like to present a program at the club meeting please contact Jon Cromer for their ideas. Let's make the club meeting fun!



Final Thoughts



Membership Dues

Due October 1

Adult Membership \$5

Junior Membership \$1

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

metts@magicvalleygemclub.org or

Jon Cromer 308-3364

rokcutter@hotmail.com

The club participates in the NFMS stamp program, saving large commemorative, airmail, precanceled 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.

Happy Father's Day June 19, 2019

2019 Board of Directors

President: Jon Comer

Vice-President: Randy DeBoard

Secretary: Karen Quinton

Treasurer: Rocky Metts

Federation Director: Sandy Hansen

Field Marshall: Open

Editor Gem News: open

PR Director: Jim Stanton

Show Chair: Chris Funk

Show Advisor: Shirley Metts

Hospitality Chair: Sandy White

Mining Claims: Open

1st Asst. Show Chair: Wilma Sellers

Committee Chairs

Historian: Harold Waggoner

Librarian: Barbrah Livingston

Safety Officer: Mark Livingston

Webmaster: Jason Metts

Programs Chair: Open

Nominations Chair: Jim Stanton

Education: Open

Youth Leader: Sandy Hansen

Youth President: Open

2nd Asst. Show Chair: Open



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



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Magic Valley
Gem Club News

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