

Magic Valley Gem Club

September 2019 Volume 58 Issue 9

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President Message September 2019

The Labor Day weekend is here, so that means the end of another Idaho summer. The rock club meetings will return to the American Legion Hall with a 7:00 pm open doors and 7:30 to 8 pm meeting start time. I hope all the rock club members had a good summer filled with their favorite activities. It seems the wild fires and smokey skies weren't as bad this summer as in past years, but the fire danger isn't over yet. With the fall season coming up, I need to arrange an Executive Board meeting to talk about some budget items and other things pertaining to the rock club. EB members need to start thinking about and writing down items to discuss at this meeting. I will probably announce at the next rock club meeting when the EB meeting will be.

Rock club members need to keep coming up with ideas to help advance and increase interest in the club. As I have stated before, the club needs to keep the club's finances level. I know that it sounds like a good problem to have, but being a non-profit organization, we are obligated to give back to the community and not keep increasing our bank account. I do think that giving away good quality monthly meeting prizes is a good start, but we as a club should do more. I'm open to ideas so bring them to the meetings and let's talk about them.

If any rock club member go out rock hunting just remember that it's hunting season now and to be extra careful, wear bright clothing, and make yourself highly visible.

Included in this bulletin is the June and July rock club meeting minutes, please read them over and see if any changes need to be made for final approval. The August 2019 rock club meeting at the park wasn't an official meeting, so there isn't any meeting minutes for that gathering. I do want to shout out to Tony Funk for bringing some outstanding slow cooked tri-tip, it was mouth watering good.

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

Jon Cromer - MVGC President

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Email: rokcutter@hotmail.com



July 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The MVGC meeting was held in Cascade Park Twin Falls, ID

Meeting was brought to order by President Jon Cromer. 17 members were present.

The Northwest Federation has a listing of all the rock & gem museums in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Utah, and Idaho.

No field trips scheduled yet. Sandy White looking into possible trip to Koohopeli Mine in Nevada. Next month rock club picnic will have tri-tip brought by Tony Funk. Jon Cromer stated that the show medallion and pin designs for next year's 70th show need to be decided on soon. Chris Funk talked about having one more vendor for next year's show. Most all of the rock members agreed that there is a need for more rock club members to help set up, tear down and volunteer at next year's show. "It is OUR show". The club talked about using 10 x 10 black shade type tent with black plastic to enclose it. Rocky Metts volunteered to get the shade tent and covering. Jon, Rocky, and Randall went to the bank and rearranged some of the club funds. The rock club is still gaining money. Some of the funds were put in a 4 year CD. The club needs to start spending money on prizes, school kids, black lights, and other things to better the club. Rocky Metts suggested putting together some field trip kits, consisting of rock hammer, safety goggles, satchel, and other things for new club members or kids to use on a loan type arrangement. Shirley Metts won the monthly drawing which consisted of a Rock and Mineral Book with a handheld black light. Meeting was adjourned. Sandy Hanson recorded minutes, condensed by Jon Cromer



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

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

Monthly safety article

Where Am I?

Life in the outdoors carries an extremely rare, but terrifying risk. The risk of getting lost. Losing a trail, getting caught in weather, getting separated from your party and other extenuating circumstances can lead to getting lost, which is the worst case scenario for anyone who lives for adventure. The most important thing to remember when you get lost is to remain calm. Panicking will get you nowhere, literally. There's always a way out. **Just remember the S.T.O.P. acronym:**

S – Stop. Just stop. The realization that you are lost is going to set off your fight or flight response and will send you into a fit of hurried panic. This can lead to you aimlessly wandering around unfamiliar areas, ultimately ending up with you becoming even further away from where you need to be. Hours could seem like minutes due to the haze of this primal response. This is the most critical time for you to limit the damage and increase your chances of being found. Drink water. Eat food. Stop. Collect yourself by taking deep breaths. Stay where you are. Be of stable mind before you assess your situation. The first step is acknowledging that you are lost, then moving forward from there.

T – Think. Start asking yourself simple, necessary questions. What landmarks have you passed? Who was the last person you saw? Is someone looking for me? Last person you talked to? When was the last time you recognized your surroundings? When did you last have cell coverage? What direction are you facing? The average hiker travels at only two miles an hour. You probably aren't as lost as you think.

O – Observe. Take landmarks into account. How much daylight do you have left? Is there a vantage point somewhere close so you can get your bearings? What's the terrain like? What kind of resources do I have at my disposal? Take out your camera or phone and see if you can recognize anything in the background of a picture you recently took. Pay attention to the weather. Look for materials for shelter in case you have to sleep outside. What kind of wildlife can I expect to encounter? Is there freshwater nearby? Shelter, food and water and staying warm should be your top priorities.

P – Plan. At this point, you have assessed your situation. Now you need a plan. Under no circumstances should you move without a plan. Do not aimlessly wander in hopes of stumbling across some sort of civilization. If you can't retrace your steps, the fastest way out of heavily forested areas is to move downhill. The lower 48 states are littered with old state highways and back roads. The odds are that you are never more than 10 miles from a road in the continental US. Even the most remote regions of the US, like Yellowstone or the Rocky Mountains, are less than 25 miles from roads, trails or railways. At the most, you are never more than a 10-12 hour hike from being found as long as you head in the right direction. Make a plan and stick to it.

The best way to prevent getting lost is to have redundancies at your disposal. A paper map, a two-way GMRS radio, a compass, portable weather radio and a fire starting kit are all things any hiker should have in their pack. Prepare for the unexpected. Having a cell phone in an area without coverage is not an option to being saved. Some cell phones are capable of having an app that has as gps or compass **not dependant** on a connection to the internet. Consider downloading these apps and testing it before going out in the wilderness.

<https://midlandusa.com/getting-lost-outdoors/>

Information

If you would like information about claims, rules, use of public and BLM land or have any other questions about rock hounding just call, or email Brian Longstreth at the information below. He has a lot of information to offer.



Idaho Ghost Towns:

Did you know that Idaho has over 100 documented ghost towns scattered across the state? That's a LOT of history to explore! Mining is as deeply embedded into Idaho's history as its agriculture, the former as a trade which only a mere century ago would cause dozens of clustered communities to spring up seemingly overnight... but all too often, would disappear just as quickly when the money dwindled.

While many of these old, historic boom towns are still standing and well-preserved as shining examples of living history — places like Silver City and Custer — others have fallen victim to time, forgotten by all but a few dedicated historians and left to decay. While these scarce remnants and their stories are so skeletal in their remains that they may not be worth a trip on their own, you can bet that armed with a map and a camera, you'll still find a lot to love about these decrepit pieces of Idaho history.

Here are just a few of the Ghost Towns you might know.

Gilmore



[Pattys-photos/Flickr](#)

[Jim Howard/YouTube](#)

Snug in rural Idaho between Idaho Falls and Salmon, the green expanse of Lemhi County's high altitude prairies showcases the ghost town of Gilmore -- as well as its twin, Nicholia. Of the two, far more remains of Gilmore than one might think: an abandoned hotel, post office, and a few small remnants laid out in a cluster in the shadow of Sheep Mountain. Its name was a misspelling of John T. Gilmer, the owner of a western stage company, and perhaps if it had been named accurately it would have survived. Today the railroad tracks that brought its residents are long-gone, but the main road through the town's post-apocalyptic remnants creates an eerie thrill unlike any other.

Rocky Bar



[Pattys-photos/Flickr](#)

[J. Day Photography/Wikimedia Commons](#)

Driving through Rocky Bar, it's nearly impossible to imagine that this was once one of Idaho's major metropolitan areas back in the 1860s. Spanish prospectors were the first to settle here, and the growth of the town was so explosive that it rivaled Idaho City as a contender for the title of Idaho's capital. When visiting Rocky Bar, just a few miles north of Featherville, add an extra dose of history to the journey by taking a side trip up to Atlanta on the outskirts of the Sawtooths.

Idaho Ghost Towns continue

Ulysses



[Patty's Photos/Flickr](#)

You won't hear about it in history circles (do they have those?), but Ulysses was once home to Idaho's largest active gold mine. The original town had an ideal setting near Indian Creek, from which the mill processed low-grade ore for a major profit, but the community was set back in 1904 by a major fire that

completely destroyed the plant and Ulysses' hope of riches. Today, a few dilapidated cabins and mining remnants are all that remain.

Leesburg



[Larry Myrhe/Flickr](#)

Rumors of riches in the Salmon Valley brought prospectors over the Montana border in 1866 and straight to what later came to be known as Leesburg, which was named for famed general Robert E. Lee. The findings here were plentiful, at Napias Creek especially, and a second town sprung up (literally) right across the street from Leesburg as a result

-- Grantsburg. Uniquely, the two towns shared their main street until Leesburg finally won out as a catchier name for the community. For its brief stint, it was the largest town in Lemhi County.

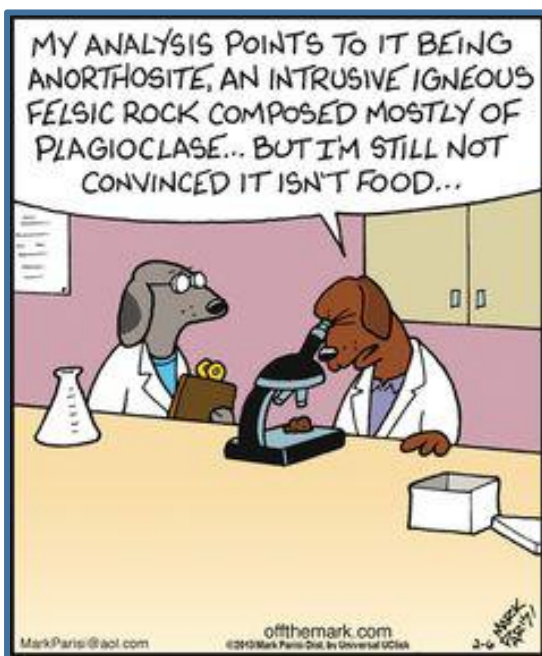
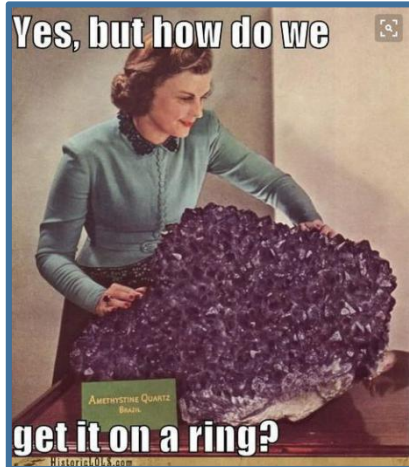
Yellow Jacket

[Pattys-photos/Flickr](#)



Located in the vicinity of the sunken town of Roosevelt, Yellow Jacket was a 19th century gold rush camp that houses one of the most visually impressive relics of Idaho's mining days: a five-story boardinghouse with a beauty and charm that is fully "Idaho." One of Idaho's most ignored mining camps, which you'll miss if you blink, was never a roaring town like its counterparts. With a population that only peaked around 200, this placer gold town dwindled after 1900 until both mine and mill operations fully shut down in 1942.

The history of Idaho is one filled with the same ups and downs that characterized the entire development of the West. But these near-nameless remnants paint such a unique picture of life over a century ago that they seem just as vibrant as any bustling town alive today. Don't you think? For a visit to one of Idaho's best-preserved mining towns — haunted hotel included — check out this [incredible](#) historic ghost town. <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/idaho/forgotten-ghost-towns-id/>





Rock of the month: Sapphire



Sapphire is a precious gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum, consisting of aluminum oxide ($\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$) with trace amounts of elements such as iron, titanium, chromium, copper, or magnesium. It is typically blue, but natural "fancy" sapphires also occur in yellow, purple, orange, and green colors; "parti sapphires" show two or more colors. The only color corundum stone that the term sapphire is not used for is red, which is called a ruby.^[2] Pink colored corundum may be either classified as ruby or sapphire depending on locale. Commonly, natural sapphires are cut and polished into gemstones and worn in jewelry. They also may be created synthetically in laboratories for industrial or decorative purposes in large crystal boules. Because of the remarkable hardness of sapphires – 9 on the Mohs scale (the third hardest mineral, after diamond at 10 and moissanite at 9.5) – sapphires are also used in some non-ornamental applications, such as infrared optical components, high-durability windows, wristwatch crystals and movement bearings, and very thin electronic wafers, which are used as the insulating substrates of special-purpose solid-state electronics such as integrated circuits and GaN-based blue LEDs. Sapphire is the birthstone for September and the gem of the 45th anniversary. A sapphire jubilee occurs after 65 years. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

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

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

Upcoming Dates:

MVGC meeting, September 19, 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 September!

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: Barbra 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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