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Issue 3

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

# *Magic Valley Gem News*



## *March 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 hope all the rock club members like the new club meeting location. I really enjoyed the petrified wood presentation put on by Julie Folks after the meeting. Julie has volunteered to be the new programs manager. If any rock club members have suggestions about what they would like to see in the future presentations, please let Julie or me know. With the new club format, I think current and future rock club members will enjoy the club meetings better and will be more informative.

The annual MVGC show is just 7 days away. Every rock club member should be getting everything together and planned out. If club members have any questions, please contact Chris Funk or me. We need as many people, members or not, to show up and help set up on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. The rock club will furnish gloves this year. I will get an assortment of sizes and types. The show set up will take some extra time this year, as we are going to change up the floor plan of activities.

Looks like winter decided to show up, right before spring is supposed to start. I am looking forward to some of the field trips this summer that Terry Folks mentioned at the last meeting. A short list of locations and months going is elsewhere in this bulletin. If any rock club member has a location that would like to be checked out, please contact Terry Folks or me.

I plan on having the club surveys made up and ready to hand out after the show at the March meeting.

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](mailto:rokcutter@hotmail.com)

## February 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with 39 people present. Introduction of guests was followed by a second reading for Earl & Judy and Kurt Belle & Julie Quayle.

Rocky made an announcement about completing forms for reimbursements and reminded members that they need approval of executive board to buy things. Trudy announced she needed snack sign ups and that she is moving. Terry shared tentative rock hunt calendar. Judy stated we need more rocks and bags.

There was a reminder that the Boise show is coming up. The Pocatello and Idaho Falls shows are April 7th and April 21st & 22nd respectively. The Magic Valley Gem Club Web Page is now mobile friendly.

Mike Scott won the Door Prize.

Sign-ups were sent around for the show. We need as many volunteers as possible. KMVT ad is set up as well as the Scooper Ads and Times News. Meet at the fairgrounds at 9:00 am on Friday the 9th to set up for the show. We need



lots of help for that. Bring gloves and a drill if you have one. We'll schedule food the day of so that we know how much.

At 7:50 time was turned over to Julie & Terry Folks for a demonstration on Petrified Wood. –Rebekah Yancey

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

### Let's go Rock Hunting:

#### Field Trips for 2018 (tentative)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| March     | Graveyard Point, Oregon (day trip)  |
| April     | Wendover, Utah (day trip)   |
| May       | Topaz Mountain, Utah or McDermott, Nevada (camp out)  |
| June      | Dismal Swamp, Idaho (camp out) and possible day trip to Texas Springs, Nevada.                                  |
| July      | Challis to check out the club claim and surrounding area. Agate and opal are some of the material on this trip. |
| August    | Crystal Park, Montana (camp out)  |
| September | Little Wood Reservoir (camp out)  |
| October?  |   |

## Rockhounding in the US.....Delaware



Delaware is okay state for rockhounding. Delaware occasionally is referred to as "The Diamond State" because Thomas Jefferson once referred to it as a jewel due to its geographic location. There are, however, no diamonds there. Delaware does have a variety of fossils and some petrified wood. In addition, the state has some interesting mica specimens.

**Rockhounding Tip:** Knowing state rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, and dinosaurs often can be very useful information for rockhounders. Ordinarily, states with significant mineral deposits, valuable gemstones, fossils, or unusual or significant rock occurrences will designate an official state mineral, rock/stone, gemstone, fossil, or dinosaur to promote interest in the state's natural resources, history, tourism, etc. Accordingly, such state symbols often are a valuable clue as to potential worthwhile rockhounding opportunities.

#### **State Mineral: Sillimanite (1977)**

Delaware designated sillimanite as its official state mineral in 1975. Sillimanite is aluminum silicate that occurs in high temperature, aluminum-rich metamorphic rocks. Sillimanite is a polymorph with kyanite and andalusite. It may take the form of clear or gray-white glassy crystals or form fibrous masses with a silky luster. In Delaware, sillimanite is widespread throughout the schists of the Delaware Piedmont and occurs as large masses and stream-rounded boulders at the Brandywine Springs State Park. Sillimanite has no industrial value and is not mined as an ore or raw material. The mineral is named in honor of Benjamin Silliman, a professor of Chemistry and Natural History at Yale University from 1802 - 1853.

#### **State Fossil: Belemnite (1996)**

Delaware designated belemnite as its official state fossil in 1996. The belemnite was, in essence, a squid with a conical shell. It is an extinct member of the phylum Mollusca, which includes clams, snails, squids and octopuses. Belemnite fossils can be found in dredging piles from the creation of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

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# Board Meeting Minutes 1/11/2018

The Magic Valley Gem Club held an Executive Board meeting January 11, 2018, with 8 board members in attendance. President Jon Cromer had several proposals for the board to vote on and bring to the membership.

The first proposal was term of office, suggesting that the by-laws be amended to allow a two year term, in place of voting every year for a new slate of officers. It was also suggested that if an officer leaves a position within that time period, that the position should be filled by appointment, with board approval. No action taken.

The second proposal was to change the meeting site. The past year's inconsistent meeting place availability has created hardships for members. Occasionally leaving the club without a room to meet in, after arriving at the site. Terri Folks proposed that we check on the new American Legion building located just off of Eastland. He was assigned to check on the availability for future meetings.

The third proposal was concerning the meeting format. It was suggested the meetings begin at 7pm, holding the Business meeting for the first 30 minutes, and the next block of time be dedicated to the presenter/display/etc. with visiting and refreshment to follow. It was also suggested by Trudy Hunt, Hospitality Chairman, that the refreshments be light, only cookies and a drink.

Rocky Metts, Treasurer, reported that the State of Idaho (Attorney General's Office) has asked that all non-profit organizations make meeting and executive board minutes available with indications of approval of proposals (and name of those proposing and approving)... they also want to have a list of board members with phone numbers and e-mail addresses for the State of Idaho register. Rocky Metts proposed we do all we need to comply with State requirements. Trudy Hunt seconded ...the board voted and approved.

Rocky Metts, treasurer, concerning the upcoming Gem show, asked if the club had authorized up to \$1400 for black lights ....and if so he needed to get a quote to make them available for the show.

Jon Cromer, President, asked about the expenses and income from previous shows and suggested we use some of that money to improve the Club show.

Julie Folks proposed that a list of names and numbers of all members be made available to all members through facebook (our club site) or on paper for rock trips and future projects.

Shirley Metts seconded. Approved by the Board.

Sandy Hansen, Federation Director, suggested that a survey be generated to find out what the members really want out of their membership in the club.

President Jon Cromer read the list of Candidates for 2018 Elective Offices:

President, Jon Cromer; Treasurer, Rocky Metts; Secretary, Karen Quinton; Federation Director, Sandy Hansen; Field Marshal, Terry Folks; Bulletin Editor, Rebekah Yancey;

Hospitality Chairperson, Trudy Hunt; Public Relations Director, Julie Folks; Show Chairperson, Chris Funk; Show Chairperson, Shirley Metts; Assistant Show Chairperson, Wilma Sellers; Mining Claims Manager, Andrew Humphries. Rocky Metts Proposed we accept the 2018 list of proposed Elective Officers, seconded by Sandy Hansen. Voted on and approved by the Board.

Meeting Adjourned

Karen Quinton, Secretary



Program Calendar for club meetings.

March club meeting, make and take simple wire wrap demonstration and project for all to participate.

April, (undecided)

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

## MOON METEORITE

Until the 1980s, scientists believed that all meteorites came from the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. This white-speckled rock changed all that. Researchers found it in Antarctica in 1981

and noticed its similarity to the moon rocks that Apollo astronauts brought back to Earth. Sure enough, tests showed that this rock came from the moon. In the next 15 years, 11 other moon rocks would be found on Earth.



# 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



PO Box 725  
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