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

# *Magic Valley Gem News*



## *October 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](http://www.magicvalleygemclub.org)

## *President's Message*

Sorry for the delay of the bulletin. My internet crashed on Thursday and the repaired didn't happen till Monday. It's amazing how that makes for a boring weekend, especially with bad weather to make a person stay inside. The days seem short now that the time has changed. Did anybody see Drew H., Sandy H., and me on KMVT this last weekend? We went to a BLM Sage grouse meeting in Twin Falls. We had some good conversations with the BLM people on rockhounding on BLM land.

I want to thank all rock club members for attending the show meeting and coming up with some good ideas on how to make our annual show better. With everybody's help, we can make this coming show better than before.

A reminder that this month's rock club meeting will be at Mandarin House by Fred Meyers on Blue Lakes Blvd. The event starts at 6:30 pm with a short meeting afterwards.

Remember that next year's rock club membership dues can be paid in the next 2 club meetings. Rock club members need to start thinking who they want to see on next year's executive board. Nomination forms are available online or from Devone Bates. The forms have to be completed by November 16<sup>th</sup> so the nominees can be vetted by the nomination chairperson by yearend.

If any members want to talk about anything relating to the club or the annual show, please contact me.

Jon Cromer - MVGC President, Ph. (208)308-3364 Email:  
[rokcutter@hotmail.com](mailto:rokcutter@hotmail.com)



## October 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The Magic Valley Gem Club met October 19, 2017. Jon Cromer opened the meeting at 8:20, greeting the members and new guests were introduced. He announced that members, Allen and Mary Fisher have sold their home and moved to Arizona.

The September 21<sup>st</sup> minutes were approved following a motion made by Chris Sutton, and second by Chris Funk. Randy Perkins invited the members to look at the amazing crystal formations he and Mark Livingston had collected at Dismal Swamp.

Sandy Hansen mentioned that the N W Federation is looking for Hosts for the next NW Federation show.



Chris Funk, Show Chairman, discussed many aspects of the upcoming March show. Some changes will be made to location of some booths, and adding new activities. The membership voted to do a "People's Choice" for the displays.

Trudy Hunt talked about our next two meetings and the membership voted we meet at the Mandrin House in Twin Falls, on Thursday, November 16, at 6:30 pm. This will be a no host meal. Our December meeting will be a potluck, with "white elephant" gifts to exchange. It will begin at 6:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (December 20) at our regular meeting place.

Drew Humphries once again announced his demonstration carving fire agates. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50

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

## Rockhounding in the US..... Alabama

*Over 190 mineral species can be found in Alabama. Included are agates, amethyst, andalusite, apatite, calcite, emeralds, fluorite, ilmenite, magnetite, monazite, onyx, opal, rutile, tourmaline, turquoise and gold.*

### Famous Gemstones: The Allnatt Diamond

**One of the few diamonds known to weigh over 100 carats and to have such a distinctively strong yellow color.**

Size: 101.29 carats

Shape/Cut: cushion cut

Current Owner/Location: SIBA Corporation



Paint Rock agates can be found in the Rock River Valley's streams and gravel bars. The mid-eastern region of the state. Fossils can be found in Covington and Russell counties - but the state fossil (Basilosaurus cetoides) CANNOT be taken out of the state without specific permission from the governor. As always, make sure you have permission to look for rocks and fossils before collecting.

Be sure to check out:  
the Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint Site near Jasper, AL  
the Natural Bridge in Winston County (northwest AL)  
the Russell Cave National Monument near Bridgeport, AL  
the Rickwood Caverns State Park near Warrior, AL  
the Cathedral Caverns State Park near Woodville, AL

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# Larimar

*Larimar, also called "Stefilia's Stone", is a rare blue variety of the silicate mineral pectolite found only in the Dominican Republic, in the Caribbean. Its coloration varies from white, light-blue, green-blue to deep blue.*

**History:** The Dominican Republic's Ministry of Mining records show that Father Miguel Domingo Fuertes Loren of the Barahona Parish requested permission on 23 November 1916 to explore and exploit the mine of a certain blue rock that he had discovered. Pectolites were not yet known in the Dominican Republic, and the request was rejected. Miguel Méndez and Peace Corps volunteer Norman Rilling rediscovered Larimar in 1974 on a beach at the foot of the Bahoruco Mountain Range, the coastal province of Barahona. Natives believed that the stone came from the sea, and they called the gem Blue Stone. Miguel took his young daughter's name Larissa and the Spanish word for sea (mar) and formed Larimar, to suggest the colors of the Caribbean Sea where it was found. The few stones that they found were alluvial sediment, washed into the sea by the Bahoruco River. An upstream search revealed the in situ outcrops in the range and soon the Los Chupaderos mine was formed.

**Geology:** Larimar is a type of pectolite or a rock composed largely of pectolite, an acid silicate hydrate of calcium and sodium. Pectolite is found in many locations, but larimar has a unique volcanic blue coloration, which is the result of copper substitution for calcium.

Miocene volcanic rocks, andesites and basalts, erupted within the limestones of the south coast of the island. These rocks contained cavities or vugs which were

later filled with a variety of minerals, including the blue pectolite. These pectolite cavity fillings are a secondary occurrence within the volcanic flows, dikes, and plugs. When these rocks erode, the pectolite fillings are carried down the slope to end up in the alluvium and the beach gravels. The Bahoruco River carried the pectolite-bearing sediments to the sea.<sup>[1]</sup> The tumbling action along the streambed provided the natural polishing to the blue larimar, which makes them stand out in contrast to the dark gravels of the streambed.

## Jewelry:

Larimar jewelry is offered to the public in the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere in the Caribbean as a local speciality. Quality grading is according to coloration and the typical mineral crystal configuration in the stone. Larimar also comes in green and even with red spots, brown strikes, etc., due to the presence of other minerals and/or oxidation. But the more intense the blue color and the contrast in the stone, the higher and rarer is the quality. The blue color is photosensitive and fades with time if exposed to too much light and heat.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larimar>

## Healing Properties: Topaz >>>

♥ Communication ♥ Love ♥ Good fortune ♥ Good health ♥ Attraction  
Topaz is a silicate mineral.

*Chakras* - [Sacral Chakra](#), [Solar Plexus Chakra](#) *Zodiac* - [Leo](#), [Scorpio](#), [Sagittarius](#)  
*Typical colors* - Colorless, blue, brown, orange, grey, yellow, green, red - pink.

Topaz soothes, heals, stimulates, recharges, re-motivates and aligns the meridians of the body – directing energy to where it is needed most. It promotes truth and forgiveness. Topaz brings joy, generosity, abundance and good health. It aids problem-solving and assists in expressing ideas. Stabilizes the emotions, making you receptive to love from all sources. Topaz aids digestion and combats eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia.

<http://www.charmsoflight.com/topaz-healing-properties.html>



## 2017 Board of Directors

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2nd Asst. Show Chair: Devone Bates  
Mining Claims: open

# finalthoughts...

Next MVGC meeting: November 16, 2017, 6:30—8:30 pm  
Mandarin House  
735 Blue Lakes BLVD, Twin Falls  
Next to Fred Myer



## 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



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Magic Valley  
Gem Club News

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