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Volume  
56  
Issue 7

**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

The fall weather has moved in fast, with the daytime temperatures cooling down. I was hoping to get out and rock hunt one last time, but I think that window of opportunity is closing for the year. I am thankful for the nice rocks that I collected this year. If I ever find a new house to buy sometime soon, hopefully I can get back into cutting and capping, as I miss that part.

MVGC members need to vote for a restaurant location for the November meeting. December meeting will be at the usual location for a food and small gift exchange with a Christmas story. Has anyone heard when the Fischer auction is going to be, if so please contact me so we can get the word out?

Next year's rock club membership dues can be paid in the next 3 club meetings. Club members need to start thinking who they want to see on next year's executive board. Nomination forms are available from me. The forms have to be completed by November 30<sup>th</sup> so the nominees can be vetted by the nomination chairperson by yearend.

Just a reminder that the October rock club meeting is going to start 1 hour earlier at 7 p.m. The first hour will be discussing anything about the annual gem show in March. The short talk at last month's club meeting brought out some good ideas. I need any rock club member to write down any gem show ideas that they want to bring up at this meeting. If rock club members want to remain anonymous, just write the idea down and give to Chris Funk or me before this show meeting.

Just a friendly reminder to be on the lookout this fall and winter for any good items or rock that would work for next year's 2018 MVGC annual show. 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: [rokcuter@hotmail.com](mailto:rokcuter@hotmail.com)



## September 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Magic Valley Gem Club held its meeting on September 21, 2017, with President Jon Cromer conducting. The meeting commenced at 8pm.

Jon called for information concerning club members and Rocky noted that Shirley was doing well following surgery four weeks ago. He suggested visiting her over the phone.

Rocky Metts, treasurer, stated that member enrollment begins in October and needs to be paid before the December meeting to be a member of the federation. The dues are \$10 for adults, until age 70 and then membership is free, but every member needs to fill out the membership forms to be counted.

Sandy Hansen, Federation Rep., reminded members that the Wood River travel plan comment window would end the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

Trudy Hunt, refreshment chairman, said snacks were covered for the October meeting and that the club needs to talk about the plans for the site of the November meeting for our Thanksgiving dinner.

Chris Funk, show chairman, reminded that she and Tony would be leaving for Arizona following the October meeting and be gone for a few months. They will pick up the grand prize while they are there.

President Jon Cromer proposed to hold a show meeting at 7pm, prior to the regular meeting, in October. He asked everyone to bring their good ideas. It has been suggested we change the booths around, if possible, and add some new activities. Dick Morris mentioned the 1000 Springs Festival next weekend and an October 7<sup>th</sup> event at the Pine Crest Event Center in Idaho Falls. Drew Humphries offered to teach a workshop on carving fire agates. It will be a demonstration concerning how it is done. Tony mentioned having some rocks to buy if you want to participate. Drew passed around a sign-up sheet.

More discussion took place concerning the show ideas, but will put on hold until the October meeting. Meeting adjourned 8:35 (Karen Quinton Sec.)



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

## Rockhounding in the US..... Arizona

*Arizona is an extraordinary state for rockhounding. The state is called the Grand Canyon State, in honor of the Grand Canyon in northern Arizona.*

### Famous Gemstones: The Steinmetz Pink

**It is named after Georges Marciano's (founder of Guess? Jeans) daughter Chloe and is the largest top-quality, brilliant-cut white diamond ever to appear at auction.**

Size: 84.37 carats

Shape/Cut:: Brilliant Cut

Current Owner/Location: Georges Marciano



State Gemstone: Turquoise (1974)

Arizona designated turquoise as the official state gemstone in 1974. Turquoise is an opaque mineral, a hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum. It is also formed by the percolating action of meteoric waters, usually in arid regions or deserts, on aluminous igneous or sedimentary rocks. In Arizona (as well as other



locations around the globe), turquoise often is found near copper deposits. Typically, turquoise is a blue-green stone that has a somewhat waxy surface. The stone commonly was used in Native American jewelry and can be found throughout the state.



State Fossil: Petrified Wood (1988)

Arizona designated petrified wood (*Araucarioxylon arizonicum*) as the official state fossil in 1988. This petrified wood is what remains of large conifers that grew in the warm, wet, and seasonally dry climate of Arizona during the Triassic (about 250 – 210 million years ago). The conifers grew as tall as 150 to 200 feet. Once fallen, the trees were transported by streams and rivers and buried under layers of sediment in a lowland basin. Then, slowly over time, each cell of the plant was replaced by silica derived from volcanic ash. The vibrant colors are from minerals that mixed with the silica. The most famous petrified wood deposits can be found at Petrified Forest National Park located north of Interstate 40 east of Holbrook, Arizona.

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.

# Secrets of a Rock Hoarder

*There seems to be a fine line between rock collecting and rock hoarding. Rock collecting brings to mind the scientific collection of specimens. Hoarders just haphazardly pick up and keep any rocks that appeal to them.*

Wikipedia defines compulsive hoarding as: *"the selfish acquisition of possessions...even if the items are worthless, hazardous, or unsanitary"*

It's easy to cross the line when you begin to pick up every pretty, shiny, interesting rock you see.

## 5 Reasons to Collect Rocks

Collecting rocks is appealing to kids as well as adults. There are many reasons why it's a great hobby:

**Rock collecting is cheap!** If you collect your own on your walks and hikes, rocks are free!

**Rocks are readily available!** You can find rocks on the beach, in the mountains, by the lake, in the desert or in your driveway!

**Rocks are interesting and beautiful.** Each rock is different, with different colors, shapes, textures and consistencies. Some are very beautiful.

**Rocks have history.** Some rocks contain fossils tell a story of prehistoric times and of the formation of the earth. An example is shown in the photo of the face in the rock I found in California. To learn more about it, read my article: [A Rockhound's Discovery - Is it an Alien Fossil or an Ancient Native American Carving?](#)

**Rocks are useful.** Rocks have been used as tools and building materials since the beginning of civilization, but the collector can also make them into jewelry and decorative objects.

<https://hobbylark.com/collecting/>



## Some Uses of Rocks

Some people may view this as a rather useless hobby, but rock collectors like myself know that there are many good uses for the rocks that we pick up everywhere. Here are some of the many uses of rocks:

- Primitive people knew that rocks could be made into useful items like spear heads, arrow heads, hammers, mortar and pestles, jewelry and beads.
- Rocks like granite, marble and travertine (a form of limestone found near hot springs) are cut into slabs and used for building materials, floors and walkways.
- Obsidian, a black volcanic glass, is used for making scalpels and knives, beautiful wind chimes and carvings.
- Marble and granite is used for sculptures, headstones, buildings and monuments.
- Jewelry is fashioned from many, many different rocks and minerals.
- Household items like clocks, picture frames, bookends, paperweights, ashtrays, figurines can be made from petrified wood, jade, turquoise and other beautifully colored and patterned rocks and minerals. Large chunks of rock are made into benches, sculptures, lawn ornaments and landscaping focal points.



## 2017 Board of Directors

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Nominations Chairman: Devone Bates  
Education: open  
Youth Leader: Sandy Hansen  
Youth President: open  
1st Asst. Show Chair: Wilma Sellers  
2nd Asst. Show Chair Devone Bates  
Mining Claims: open

## Healing Properties: Sapphire >>>

♥ Love ♥ Loyalty ♥ Peace ♥ Consciousness ♥ Faithfulness

Birthstone - October Zodiac - [Cancer](#), [Libra](#), [Scorpio](#), [Pisces](#) Element - Water  
Typical colours - white, pink, black, beige, blue, yellow, brown, orange, red, green, purple

Opal is an emotional stone and reflects the mood of the wearer. It intensifies emotions and releases inhibitions. Encourages both freedom and independence. Opal enhances cosmic consciousness and induces psychic and mystical visions. It stimulates originality and creativity. Helps to release anger and claim self worth, aiding in accessing and expressing one's true self. Opal strengthens memory. It encourages an interest in the arts. Wearing Opal brings loyalty, faithfulness and spontaneity. Opal strengthens the will to live and treats infections and fevers. Purifying the blood and kidneys, Opal also regulates insulin. It eases childbirth and alleviates PMS.



<http://www.charmsflight.com/apatite-healing-properties.html>

# finalthoughts...

Next MVGC meeting: October 19, 2017, 7—9 pm  
Rosenau's Community Room  
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](http://www.magicvalleygemclub.org) or on Facebook @ Magic Valley Gem Club



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