

DESERT DIGGINS

Club Objectives

To Collect and study minerals and rocks. To disseminate a general knowledge of the science of mineralogy and allied subjects. To provide opportunity for the exhibition and exchange of specimens.

Meetings and Workshops

Meetings: 1st Friday, 7:00PM
 Workshops: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Fridays, 6:30PM.
 Location: 25647 W. Main St., corner of Western & Main, Lenwood/Barstow.

MDGMS Officers 2018

President:
 Danny Watts
 Vice-President:
 Scott Stevenson
 Treasurer:
 Judy Livingston
 Secretary:
 La Vella Tomlinson

Board of Directors 2018

Bill Johnson
 Joe Sumners
 Janna Johnson
 Toni Pizzo
 John Printz
 Past President:
 Vivian Watts

Editors:

La Vella Tomlinson
 Wayne Mallom

Gem & Mineral Show 2017



Rob Stapp's Turquoise Display - how many annual turquoise displays is this?



Paul Bunyan Agate

ROCK OF THE MONTH - PAUL BUNYAN AGATE

Scott Stevenson picked Paul Bunyan agate as our local Plume Agate for bragging, with beautiful red flames in a white chalcedony. Articles on Paul Bunyan Agate say that it is depleted.....it IS harder to find, however we have club members that know more than the articles.

Sources say that Plume, Moss, Dendritic & Sagenite agates form in much the same way: Plumes form in gas bubbles (Thunder Eggs) or a cracked opening in lava (Vein Agate). These cavities will fill with a mineral solution, then

drain during a dry cycle. A metallic solution from the host rock (usually lava) seeps into the cavity and builds up from the outside edge to the center, forming the plumes and mosses. Mosses grow in a more humid dry cycle and the plumes during the driest cycles. There can be numerous wet-dry cycles. When the metallic solutions stop, a wetter filling cycle of silica can start, causing the plumes to be surrounded by a thin layer of “ghost” chalcedony, showing that the plumes formed first and were then covered by the chalcedony. This “ghost” layer is easy to see in Paul Bunyan Agate. The last cycle is a further input of silica solution which will form banded agate, chalcedony or a layer of quartz crystals.

The theory of formation is complicated especially where dendrites appear to have formed into the soft gel of silica. And there is the agate that shows both moss & plume agate—and different colors of plumes from different mineralization during the cycles of plume formation.

If you don’t have any Paul Bunyan Agate to share, bring another Plume agate—or any agate you want to brag on. All are beautiful & mysterious.

Bring your heart shaped rocks - It’s Valentine’s Day !

Natural heart shaped or man-made (lapidary or painted). Enter your own heart shaped cabochon in the “Cab of the Month”. How about a Paul Bunyan Heart?

General Meeting Minutes — January 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order by president Danny Watts at 7:05 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Happy Birthday wishes were made to our members with birthdays this month.

GUEST Greg Chatman wants to learn more about our local rocks & became a new member.

PROGRAM was a film on Thunder Eggs. Have you wondered what makes the host rock around the outside?...rhyolite, glassy shards, fine ash, pumice, feldspar & tufa! The many different kinds of Thunder Eggs from the Richardson Ranch, Oregon, area were shown. Also Willey Wells, in the California southern desert. Danny Watts spoke of the ones they found in McDermitt, Nevada, & included some neat finds in the door prizes tonight.

HOSTESSES Vivian Watts & Dian Hare brought the delicious goodies for our break time. Thank you.

Annual Membership Dues

Adults - \$20.00

Juniors - \$10.00

(10 - 18 yrs)

Contact & Information

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/mojavedesertgemandmineralsociety

Web Site:

www.mdgms.net

Email:

mdgms.contact@gmail.com

Our February Happy Birthdays

7th Norm Sheppard

11th Ron Millard

11th Ed Deren

14th Judy Witte

16th La Vella Tomlinson

20th Joan Bird

24th Melita Crowell

26th Vivian Watts

p.s. If your birthday is not on the list, it is because we don't know it!

ANNUAL DUES

******ARE******

*****DUE*****

Minutes (cont.)

BUSINESS: Danny reminded that the club is still looking for DVDs related to rocks, minerals & lapidary for our club library & programs. The newest Rock & Gem is here in the club library. Lana Heller-Wood reports that she has seen DVDs, mostly geared to children, for sale on Ebay.

The two paragraphs of minutes that made the January newsletter untitled, were voted approved.

Danny Watts gave a report of his trip to Quartzite to visit one dealer that has a great discount special on Jan 1st. Dian Hare reported that Regina Oxley donated findings for jewelry to the club. Bill Johnson requested that the speaker for the meeting program be announced in the newsletter. Possible speakers were discussed. Lana reported that one of the saw blades is nicked & needs replacement. The workshop instructors will check it out.

The members want to thank the Diamond Pacific crew for helping with set-up & take-down for the show. A special thank you to Bill Depue for all the advice, help & field trips he gives during the year. Thank you also to Wayne Mallon, behind the scenes editor of our "Desert Diggins" newsletter.

There was a discussion about selection of Vendors for our annual Gem & Mineral Show. Danny Watts described how the vendors are chosen and suggestions were made by the members.

John Printz suggested a banner be hung across the club's Wheel of Fortune & Grab Bag table that announces that the proceeds go to our scholarship fund. Gayle Gilpin donated a large bag of colorful fabric to sew for grab bags. Bill Johnson is going to give the post-show presentation to the City Council—he just needs to know the date & time.

La Vella Tomlinson requested volunteers to choose the Rock of the Month - Scott Stevenson chose Paul Bunyan Plume Agate for February & Lana Heller-Wood chose Beryl for March. We are also going to share Heart Rocks for the February meeting.

Minutes (cont.)



Bill Johnson volunteered to be one of the Field Trip Directors. Tomorrow he & Janna are going to 4-5 sites in the Calico Mountains. Thank you, Bill & Janna.

Photo of Field Trip - Rockhound search of the rocky hillside, Calico Mts. The way to find agate is to look for something different among the rocks!

CAB OF THE MONTH winner was #8, Plume Agate from McDermitt, made by Danny Watts. #3 and #6 tied for second place; Lana Heller-Wood's cab of Onyx from North Edwards and Scott Stevenson's wire wrapped cab, Top Notch from the N. Cady Mts. ROCK OF THE MONTH was Peridot and Dian Hare excelled by bringing Olivine - Peridot in Lava from Mort Lake, Australia... Dian collected it there!

For SHOW & TELL Bill and Janna Johnson brought their agate & crystal finds from Jackhammer Pass, near the Paul Bunyan Agate site & the Mitchell Mts. Janna found a crystal bowl ... her foot slipped going up a bank & the crystals were left sticking out! DOOR PRIZES: Danny Watts gifted some of his McDermitt, Nevada, finds of Thunder Eggs, agate & opal. Thank you.

The happy winners were Donna Patterson, Leslie Walker, Sandy Wagner, Toni Pizzo, Janna Johnson, Gayle Gilpin, Scott Stevenson, Joe Sumners, Christian Bigham, John Printz, Preston Bigham.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by president Danny Watts.

Respectfully submitted, La Vella Tomlinson, secretary.

The sad news is that Val Costello passed away. She was a long time member of our MDGMS club and the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Society. Our condolences to her family.

John Hill is letting us know that Mike Lewis says his site where the bridge dig occurred (east of the Tomahawk Store) is still open to Rockhounding. Remember this is where our members found the new Barstow Jasper. But please be careful as they plan to clear it soon.

Workshop Report: All the Genie's have been humming this month. Scott Stevenson repaired the last Genie in our lineup. Our Junior Members have been polishing — Christian Bigham cut & polished his door prize Thunder Eggs from McDermitt. Our new member Greg Chatham was cutting his petrified wood found at Castle Mt. Danny Watts was showing his new find of green marble/serpentine discovered on the way to Quartzite. Amorette Santos brought her daughter to the workshop. Seems her daughter became a rockhound at the show when she saw the treasures in her grab bag. She was so excited to polish her first agate.

CFMS Field Trip-South Collecting Trip to Lavic Siding near Barstow, February 17th, 2018. To sign up for the trip contact Adam Dean, email: theagatehunter@verizon.net, phone: 909-489-4899. Roy Isaac is the second contact: 1bionicdj@gmail.com, 818-633-3350.

Meet at Hector Rd, off I-40 on the south side (Route 66), before 8 am, for orientation and sign in. Must sign a waiver of liability. Then field trippers will caravan about 20 minutes to Lavic Siding to collect Jasper & Agate. No low-clearance vehicles. Gas and food are available in Barstow.

Bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water, collecting bags/buckets, rock hammer, digging equipment, safety glasses, spray bottle, sun screen, first aid kit, camera - the usual for a field trip. No shade is available here. The weather can be unpredictable so dress accordingly.

Remember to sign in and out with the field trip leader. Treat the desert with respect; abide by the AFMS & CFMS Code of Ethics (as you do on all field trips), follow the directions of the field trip leader, and practice safe rock hounding.

The trip may be cancelled at the last minute due to bad weather, so please feel free to contact Adam or Roy the night before if weather is questionable.

The San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society annual show is at the Riverside County Fairgrounds & Date Festival, Indio, CA. Daily 10-10. Admission \$9 adults, \$8 seniors, \$7 students, under 5 free. 108 displays & demonstrations plus the Date Festival.

Check Rock & Gem Magazine for more show dates.

Remember March 9,10,11 is Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Society's Tailgate on Stoddard Wells Road. No admission. See their web site for directions.

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Gem & Mineral Society
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Stamp

First Class Mail



Newsletter



Desert Diggings

