



# Desert Diggins

## Club Objectives:

To collect and study minerals and rock.

To disseminate a general knowledge of the science of mineralogy and allied subjects.

To provide opportunity for the exhibition and exchange of specimens.



. Annual Membership Dues

Adults: \$ 20.00

Juniors: \$ 10.00 (10-18 yr)

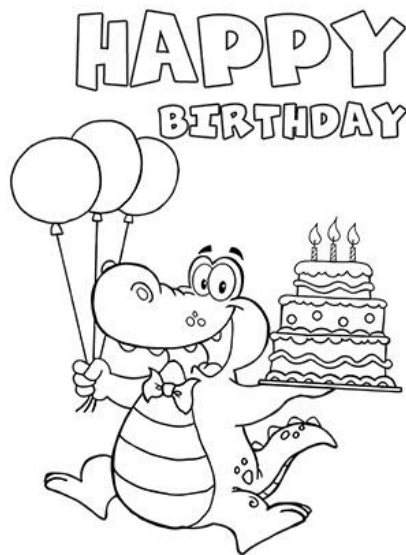
Club business meeting : 1st Friday of the month: 7:00 PM

Workshop: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Fridays of the month 6:30 PM

Location: 25647 W. Main St Barstow, Ca 92311



*To all Rockhounds  
When out exploring always  
carry water  
be safe  
be aware  
be informed*



**Lana Heller-Wood**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>**



President: Danny Watts

Vice-President: Scott Stevenson

Treasurer: Judy Livingston

Secretary: La Vella Tomlinson

Board of Directors

Bill Johnson

Janna Johnson

Joe Sumners

Toni Pizzo

John Printz

Past Pres.: Vivian Watts

Editors:

Wayne Mallon

La Vella Tomlinson

Lana Heller-Wood



**General meeting minutes:****Friday, July 6, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by president Danny Watts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests were the Kaufman family, Derek, Leann & Haden. They have just transferred from Washington, D.C. to Barstow/Fort Irwin. And son Haden likes rocks.

**Business:** Dian Hare motioned and Judy Livingston seconded that the minutes for the June meeting be accepted as read in the newsletter. All members voted to approve motion.

**Scholarships:** Three scholarships were awarded at the Scholarship/Board Meeting: Ludymar Cester, Sarah MacKenzie, & Sam Hassan. Ludymar Cester is doing well in college and earned a second scholarship for this year. All three attended Silver Valley HS and are from Fort Irwin.

**December Mineral Show report:** Danny Watts announced that the show will be on December 1 & 2nd, 2018, with set-up on Friday, November 30th. Ten vendors have accepted with Teton Gems and Grey Wolfe returning this year. Glad to see them back.

The money for our scholarships comes from the Show. After three years, Bill & La Vella are giving up the advertising position for the show and a volunteer is needed. Scott Stevenson volunteered with Dian Hare and Vivian Watts volunteering to help.

Danny gave a report on the tables needed for the Show setup: 85 six foot tables are needed; the rock club has 46 lightweight plastic 6ft tables & two storage/transport racks. 31 eight ft tables are needed; the park & recreation had been providing 25 eight ft tables, but last year down to only 12, leaving the club scrambling for tables on set up day. Danny Watts is recommending that MDGMS purchase two more sets of tables this year, for 44 more tables. Scott Stevenson reported that they are about \$1700 each set on sale with tax added. Judy Livingston gave a Treasurer's Report with enough funds in the Show Budget for table purchase. Dian Hare moved that MDGMS purchase two more sets of tables from Costco at the sale price of about \$1700 each set. Judy Livingston seconded the motion. The membership passed the motion with %100 in favor. Nicolette Grill volunteered to pick up the tables from Costco. The club is selling the old wooden tables for \$5.00 each in as is condition.

**Workshop:** Danny gave a report on the status of the Genie lapidary machines in the club's workshop. Danny pointed out the shiny spots down the center of the wheels, which are worn out areas on the center of the wheels. These wheels are expensive to replace. The club was fortunate that a couple of years ago Bill Depue donated new wheels for the Genies & Bill is viewing the worn out centers tonight. Danny demonstrated how to go back and forth on the wheel, rotating side to side, when grinding/shaping/polishing to prevent early worn out centers on the wheels. John Pitcher described how the 1st resin wheel ( 3rd on the left side of the arbor) wears more because it receives the roughest rock from the first two grinding wheels. At times wear on the 3rd resin wheel can be lessened by jumping over to the green resin wheel (inside first on the right side) and using it next in the grinding/polishing sequence.

Danny then demonstrated how wheels can be removed and spacer bars placed on the arbor, when larger rocks & cabs are going to be polished which otherwise would rub on the neighboring wheel. John Pitcher said using spacers also help when making Hearts or Crosses.

The club has purchased safety equipment for the workshop: Foam ear plugs are available to save your

hearing. Ten pairs of safety glasses are available if you don't have your own. The glasses need to be washed and replaced after your use.

John Printz has found waterproof aprons from a swap meet vendor in Victorville. If 10 are purchased the aprons are \$7 each available in large & small sizes. Chieko's apron was passed around for examination. John also has another source from a catalog. Scott Stevenson motioned and Dian Hare seconded that John Printz purchase 10 large aprons and 5 small aprons from the Swap Meet vendor. The motion was passed 100% by the membership. John mentioned that he could also purchase personal aprons for members if they would let him know they wanted one.

Vivian Watts is working on a Release of Liability form for the club that CFMS is recommending. (Vivian volunteers as the MDGMS representative to CFMS). There will be a separate form for Field Trips. Danny feels that everyone needs to sign the Release of Liability form for the workshop only once a year & the club will keep it on file. Scott also recommends having a sign-in sheet for each workshop. John Pitcher volunteered to type up these forms.

Danny Watts said that the workshop's oldest Genie is from 1995. Danny recommends that the club purchase a new Genie from Diamond Pacific for \$2076.16. Bill Depue is offering this special sale to MDGMS. Danny recommends that the club put the 1995 Genie up for auction at our December Mineral Show. Dian Hare motioned that MDGM purchase a new Genie from Diamond Pacific for \$2076.16. Vivian Watts seconded the motion. The membership voted 100% approval for Genie purchase as motioned. Dian Hare motioned that the oldest 1995 Genie be auctioned at the MDGMS December Gem & Mineral Show. Judy Livingston seconded the motion. The membership approved 100% that the 1995 Genie be auctioned as motioned. John Pitcher volunteered to clean up the Genie prior to the auction. Thank you to Bill Depue and John Pitcher for all their help with the lapidary machines.

**Workshops are on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Fridays of the month-6:30pm to about 9:pm.**

**Hostesses:** Lovely summer fruit was brought by Dian Hare, Scott Stevenson & Leslie Walker for refreshments during break. Thank you. Vivian Watts reminded that August is Root Beer Float night & asked for help with the ice cream as she can't transport frozen that distance.

**Show & Tell:** Danny & Vivian brought Obsidian and a face carved in a small boulder of pumice. Lana Heller-Wood brought Petrified wood and palm from Lenwood. Donna Patterson shared a Stromatolite limb cast and Arizona petrified wood. Danny shared a large petrified palm owned by the club. Peggy Latimer shared a Miocene Mule Canyon Palm. Thank you everyone for sharing.

**Cab of the Month:** There was a tie for first place — #5, Bill Depue's free form Crazy Lace agate and #8, Danny Watts Dechutes Picture Jasper. Second place was Bill Depue's purple cab from the Cady Mountains. Desert safety tips were reinforced.

**Door Prizes:** Coveted prizes were North Edwards Onyx, Jasper and Moss Agate, and some of Lana's sister Mara's fun painted rocks. Lana and Mara have painted many of the rocks for our December Show Wheel of Fortune. Thank you.

John Printz motioned that the meeting be adjourned, everyone agreed. Danny Watts adjourned the meeting at 8.45 pm. Respectfully submitted, La Vella Tomlinson, secretary

## **Rock of the month**

### **Pyrite**

Pyrite-or Iron sulfide, sometimes containing small amounts of cobalt, nickel, silver, and gold also known as ("fool's gold" due to its similarity in color) occurs in numerous shapes and habits. The smaller crystal aggregates may give off a beautiful glistening effect in light, and the larger crystals may be perfectly formed, including fascinating cubes, penetration twins, and other interesting crystal forms.

Pyrite is most often pale yellow to brass yellow, often tarnished with a brown film of iron oxide, also found to be iridescent, metallic, and streak greenish black.

Pyrite crystals frequently form penetration twinning, especially in the cubic form. Cubes are sometimes elongated in rectangular form. It can also form in nodular, tuberose, fibrous, in concretions, and as groups of small crystals. Pyrite crystals are frequently striated.

Pyrite was once used as a source of sulfur, but is now only a minor ore for both sulfur and iron. Pyrite from some localities is auriferous, and therefore is used as an ore of gold in gold-bearing localities. Pyrite was polished by the Native Americans in the early times and used as mirrors. Today, it is used as an ornamental stone, as well as a very popular stone for amateur collectors. It is sometimes used as gemstone by being faceted and polished for use as an inexpensive side gemstone in some rings, necklaces, and bracelets.

Pyrite is an extremely common mineral, and good examples occur in numerous localities throughout the world. In the U.S, Park City, Bingham Co., Utah, large, well shaped pyritohedrons and cubes were once found. The Bingham Canyon Mine, Salt Lake Co., Utah is also a classic occurrence, where few of the excellent Pyrites from the mine are saved from the mining crusher. Large, inter-grown cubes, many times partially octahedral, occurred in abundance at Leadville, Lake Co., Colorado. Pyrite "dollars" are well-known from Sparta, Randolph Co., Illinois. The French Creek Mine in Chester Co., Pennsylvania is famous for the octahedral crystals that occur there, although most are distorted. Ross Co., Ohio, produces rounded tubular growths of Pyrite, some reaching several feet in size, as well as growths of spiky, pineapple-like crystals.



Pyrite dollar specimen



pyrite crystal specimen

\*Notice to readers\* if at any time you have any topic you would like to have printed in our monthly newsletter, please feel free to email me at ( [lhellerwood82@msn.com](mailto:lhellerwood82@msn.com) )

Pyrite

V I Y E J Y O Z F O S N L H D P F S I Y  
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 GOLD  
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 IRONOXIDE  
 IRONSULFIDE

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 ORE  
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 SILVER  
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# word scramble

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Newsletter



# *Desert Diggings*

