



Bob Regner

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505-288-8835

V.P. Programs

# July 25th Program -- Jim Van Loan Minerals of China

China, one of the world's largest countries, has a long history of mining as well as rich mineral resources. However mineral specimens from China were rarely available in the US for many years. That changed in the 1980s, as reforms opened China to the west, and people began to recognize the value of minerals as collectible items.

Red cinnabar and realgar, and shiny stibnite clusters from Hunan Province, were among the earliest Chinese minerals to appear in western markets. Fluorite, aragonite, azurite, quartz and pyrite specimens are all popular with US collectors.

The July program will feature Jim Van Loan, a former member of AGMC for many years, who will be speaking about the minerals from China in his personal collection.

Jim moved to New Mexico in 1991 and started collecting minerals in 2003. His focus shifted from fossils to minerals, as he was able to find far more minerals during his field trips. Jim has collected extensively in New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona, and reports that he has fluorite specimens from about 15 NM locations, as well as minerals from about 30 countries and 30 states. Until Covid in 2020, Jim collected at old mines several times a month.



Jim is retired from the NM Corrections Department where he was a unit manager. In the past, the club has recognized him for his many donations and other contributions.





#### About the Junior Club --- Leader Needed!

Junior club will not be meeting in July because our leader has stepped down due to developments with her job. The AGMC would like to thank Kerri Costantino for heading up the juniors this year and she will be missed. Our kids enjoyed fun activities like building a volcano because of her. Until a new leader can be found, all junior club activities will be paused.

Like to work with kids and have fun? Then please consider filling this important club role! You don't have to be an expert but can learn along with the kids. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies has a Junior Rockhound Program with lots of free projects and activities online.

If interested, contact AGMC President Dean Klassy at the upcoming meeting or via email at president@agmc.info.

Doug Johns



# President's Message

Dean Klassy, President President@agmc.info 262-749-9008

Hello all,

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather, well at least Albuquerque hasn't been too bad....yet. Let's keep in mind those people who are dealing with the fire and flooding, that seems to come together here in NM.

The Board has been busy with trying to update the bylaws for the Club. I want to acknowledge both Joan and Megan for their hard work in moving this project moving. Once the Board gets done with the updates to the bylaws and have completed our final review, we will be asking you for your help.

As I mentioned at the May and June General Meeting, AGMC has been invited to have a booth/table at 2024 Turquoise United, Aug 8 – 10 10am to 4pm on Friday and Saturday. Here is a link for the Event Schedule, so you can check it out. <a href="https://turquoiseunited.com/2024-2/">https://turquoiseunited.com/2024-2/</a>, as you can see there are some interesting sessions. Also see the information on the next page. We will have a 10'x10' booth and a table for display. There are many sessions that are open to the public and classes and symposiums that require registration and fee. I plan on attending as a participant in the classes. If you are interested in helping with the Club's Booth, please let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A thought I had for our booth is to have some New Mexico stones for show and tell, either rough or polished and a lapidary machine for show and tell, it will not be running, and we have a case in the studio that shows the progression of making a cab.

For those who like to be on the internet, AGMC has a presence on Facebook and Instagram, please check us out and make some comments as well.

Last month's Field Trip was great. This was the first Field Trip that I have been on for a while. All I have heard is how much fun it was. Now I want to know who brought back the most specimens? For those who were not able to make it, we went to the Last Chance Mine in Creed, CO with a group of 38 club members who were able to collect from an area that is not open to the public. See Grant's report on page 5 for more trip details.

Stay cool, hydrated, dry, safe, and well. Dean

#### **Lapidary Studio Update:**

As for the Lapidary Studio, we had a few members come out to the studio already, some with experience and some without any. It is great to watch the students come in not knowing what they are doing and by the time they have spent an hour or so, they are doing great. I find it relaxing and enjoyable to see what you can make. My wife and I always said, we make a pretty rock, prettier. Often you don't know what these rocks will look like once polished, which an be a pleasant surprise. See the photos of members in action.

We do have the Studio Calendar working, if you are interested in joining us at the Studio, please send me an email at <a href="mailto:lapidary@AGMC.info">lapidary@AGMC.info</a>. I will then send you some training information, location, explain the calendar and give you the link.





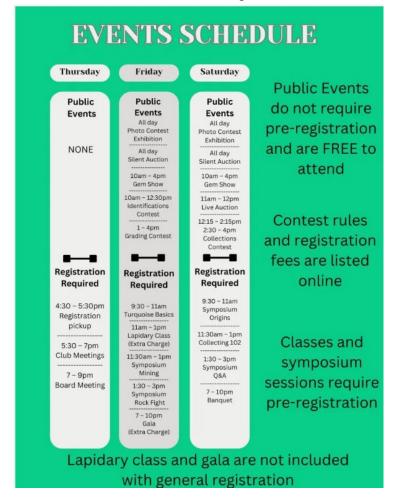




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#### Turquoise United, August 9-10 at the Albuquerque Convention Center

A chance to promote AGMC and learn more about turquoise!





#### **Fossils in the News** (From ABC7 News)

The nearly complete fossilized remains of a 161-million-year-old stegosaurus discovered in Colorado in 2022 will be auctioned by Sotheby's in New York next week, auction house officials said.

The dinosaur that Sotheby's calls Apex stands 11 feet (3.3 meters) tall and measures 27 feet (8.2 meters) nose to tail, according to Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's global head of science and popular culture.

The stegosaurus, with its distinctive pointy dorsal plates, is one of the world's most recognizable dinosaurs.

Apex, which Hatton called "a coloring book dinosaur," was discovered in May 2022 on private land near the town of Dinosaur, Colorado. The excavation was completed in October 2023, Sotheby's said.

Though experts believe stegosauruses used their fearsome tail spikes to fight, this specimen shows no signs of combat, Sotheby's said. The fossil does show evidence of arthritis, suggesting that Apex lived to an advanced age.

Hatton said Apex was found "with the tail curled up underneath the body, which is a common death pose for animals."

The dinosaur will be auctioned on July 17 as part of Sotheby's "Geek Week" series.

Sotheby's is estimating that it will sell for \$4 million to \$6 million, but that's just an educated guess.

"This is an incredibly rare animal," Hatton said. "A stegosaurus of this caliber has never sold at auction before, so we will find out what it is actually worth."

# **NEXT AGMC MEETING**

THURSDAY, JULY 25TH, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Monte Vista Christian Church.

3501 CAMPUS BLVD. NE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87123

PUBLIC AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club normally meets
on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.
The meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.
There is a short business meeting prior to the evening's presentation.

Junior Club is suspended until further notice!

Door prize drawings begin after the presentation.

Be sure to get a ticket as you enter the room.

Get extra tickets for wearing your name badge and/or club vest!

Attend club meetings for all the latest details.

Have some rocks you want to get rid of? Maybe some lapidary equipment or tools you no longer need? Did you know that as an AGMC member you can place a **rockhound-related classified ad** in the News Nuggets for **free?** 

Have a business that deals in rocks, gems, minerals, geology tools, lapidary equipment and the like? You can place a **commercial ad** in the News Nuggets. **Reasonable rates** Send an email to <a href="mailto:editor@agmc.info">editor@agmc.info</a>

Next Board Meeting -- Thursday, August 1st, 6:30 p.m.

Zoom meeting -- Contact Dean for a link

All members are welcome to attend.

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### July 20th - Fossils near Socorro

Grant Kuck, VP, Field Trips
vp-field-trips@agmc.info
505-323-1520

#### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE JULY 20TH FIELD TRIP

Following our expedition to Creede, Colorado, you will probably be relieved to find out that our next field trip is almost in our back-yard. Because of road work going on at the Kinney Brick site we will be going to an area east of Escondida (small town just north of Socorro). The original plan was to go fossil hunting and that has not changed. The list for this site includes brachiopods, crinoid stems, sea fans and I have found horn coral. Some specimens even have calcite crystals in them.

The trip from the heart of Albuquerque to our meeting site will take a little over an hour. (One source said 1 hour 2 minutes and another said 1 hour and 12 minutes.) Just allow yourself enough time. Anyway, the directions are pretty easy.

#### **DIRECTIONS FOR THE JULY 20TH FIELD TRIP**

Take I-25 south for 73 miles

Get off at Exit 152, turn left on 408 and go east.

There will be a lot of parking space just east and next to I-25. This is the meeting place. We will leave promptly at 9:00 am.

The collecting area is about 9 miles from our meeting site in the Quebradas Back Country Byway. I have made the trip in a Buick Century with no trouble, so car clearance is really not an issue (just make sure your car has some). The dirt road tends to be narrow in places and we will end up parking on the side of it and leaving enough room for other cars to go by. For that reason alone, I am tempted to consolidate cars to make it easier for everyone to park. We will see how many people and vehicles show up.

The Quebradas can really be hot so do not skimp on the water, bring plenty. And by now you know the mantra: Wear a hat with a big brim, wear a long sleeve shirt or take copious amounts of sunscreen and continually apply them to any exposed skin. Wear a good pair of pants (please no shorts) to protect you from heat, the sun, cacti, and our much-loved rocks and minerals, some of which can scrape you really good. Also take some snacks for energy . . . which you will be burning a lot of with the sun's help.

Things to remember: You have to be a member to go on a field trip. You will have to leave your pets at home with the exception of a mule. And only if you let him carry my equipment for me as well. Regarding equipment bring a hammer and a chisel, something to wrap the specimens in and finally a bag or pail to carry them in. By the way Members' kids are always welcome but because of the rocky terrain parents will need to keep a real sharp eye on them.

One last suggestion, since it is going to be so hot, it might be a good idea to stop early in the afternoon and head into Socorro. The Mineral Museum and Gift Shop will be open until 3 pm and there are some good places to go and eat with gallons of drinks (water, cola, lemonade – your pick) to wash it all down with.

See you on the next Field Trip!

Grant

# One wild weekend in the west - The June 15th Field Trip

One wild weekend in the west, 38 people gathered in the tiny, touristy town of Creede, Colorado. The 38 were members of the AGMC and they were just itching to do some serious rock and mineral collecting at the Last Chance Mine. So, at 9 am the posse saddled up, took the Bachelor Loop out of town, and headed for the famous mine.

We arrived shortly before 9:30 and then spent the next hour or two finding a place to park. However, Jack Morris, the owner of the mine, made up for it by letting us collect on a spot not available to the general public. Club members found sowbelly agate with amethyst, quartz, zinc sphalerite, some pink rhodonite I think and some micro specimens of silver and turquoise,

Collectors were able to keep what they found for \$2.00 a pound. Jack brought an earthmover down to the collecting area so we didn't even have to carry all our specimens back up the mountain! There were also a lot of bins and tables with minerals on them for sale and I bought a piece of sphalerite, 2 pieces of pyrite, and some specimens of polished, sowbelly agate.

The mine also boasted 3 museums, which were free and 5 different mine tours that you could pay to go on. And then there was the sheer beauty of the Colorado Mountain Wilderness which we captured on our cameras, our cell phones, and our mind's eye.

Thanks, and a tip of the hat to Bob and Donna Regner for suggesting this trip. A big thanks to Doug and Marti Johns for all the work they put into this event to make it special for everybody. And a shout out to all of the 38 people, who came, collected, and had a good time. I had a great time spending the day with you. Thanks again.

#### Grant

#### Field Trip Schedule for 2024

Month	Site	Specimen Material	
July 20	Quebradas Backcountry Scenic Byway Brachiopods, Crinoid Stems, etc.		
August 17	Jones Camp near Bingham	Magnetite, Alabaster, Sphene	
September 21	Nacimiento Mining District	Petrified Wood & Copper minerals	
October 19	Blanchard Mining Claims Fluorite, Galena, Linarite		
November 16	Apache Mine near Hachita	Malachite, Azurite, Chrysocolla	
December	Holiday Party	White Elephants, other minerals	



# AGMC SOCIAL MEDIA

Megan Lindstrom, Social Media Chair Social-Media@agmc.info 612-810-1096

# Watch out for email scams!



On rare occasion, you may get an "urgent" email from a club member asking you to buy a gift card to give as a gift. The email usually contains correct club member names and titles and the "sender" is often "in an important meeting and not able to talk on the phone." These are scams!

Only scammers will ask you to buy a gift card, like a Apple card or a gift card for Target and ask you to give them the numbers off the back of the card. No matter what they say, **that's a scam.** No one from the AGMC will ever tell you to buy a gift card for them. Always keep a copy of your gift card and store receipt. Use them to report gift card scams to the gift card company and ask for your money back.

If you receive a suspicious email with an unusual urgent request, check the sender's email address - it may sound like an AGMC email, but contain various extra numbers and an unusual domain name (like "President842291@imac.com").

If you receive one of these emails, report the email to WebManager@agmc.info.

Help support our social media by sending your photos to Social-Media@agmc.info

Include your first name, a description of the photo, general location, and any other information you'd like to share.

You can also send other Gem & Mineral Club events, news stories, events, anything!

#### Visit us online

Web: www.agmc.info Facebook: @agmc.info Instagram: @agmcnm



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# Joan Karrie, Secretary secretary@agmc.info

# AGMC General Meeting Minutes — June 20th, 2024

Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club General Meeting Minutes June 20, 2024 7:30 P.M. Monte Vista Christian Church

**Dean Klassy, President, opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.** 

One new member introduced himself and was welcomed.

Dean announced that **Roy McKinney** is now the official TotE Show Chairman.

Dean said that the Lapidary Studio is up and running, but with limited steward support at this time. Stewards need to give Dean their availability schedule. Student should email Dean at <a href="mailto:lapidary@agmc.info">lapidary@agmc.info</a> and he will give you a link to the Google Calendar so you can sign up for times. The cost is \$5.00 for 4 hours.

Bob and Donna Regner were heartily thanked for their amazing refreshment buffet!

**Amy Penn**, TotE Show Treasurer, told us that due to a printer error and subsequent reprinting, she has many extra 2025 TotE Show postcards that you can pick up from her and start passing out. She suggests doctor's offices and other places - anywhere you can get permission to put the postcards.

Caroline Trespel discussed the Summer Picnic, which will be at Carolino Canyon on June 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:30. Further details are in the News Nuggets. The amount of food and supplies supplied by the club is dependent on how many people are planning to attend, so people were asked to RSVP to her at special-events @agmc.info as soon as possible and let her know how many people and what pot-luck food you intend to bring.

Margie Mock noted that no one had yet signed up to provide refreshments for the next (July) meeting. Remember that you can be reimbursed for up to \$100.00 for the refreshments you bring.

Field Trip Notes: A good time was had by all who attended the club trip to Creede, CO. Next month's trip will be to the Kinney Brick Quarry in Tijeras. Check the News Nuggets for details.

**Megan Holden**, chair of the SCRAGGS club mineral show and sale in TRC announced that the show's dates have been permanently changed to the first full weekend in March.

Bob Regner noted that he attended the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies convention last month in Ventura, CA. There were 100 mineral displays; 45 of which were judged displays. AGMC is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation; which is, in turn, a member of the American Federation. He suggested that members go to both organizations' websites for all sorts of ideas and information. The websites are <a href="https://www.amfed.org/">https://www.amfed.org/</a> and <a href="https://www.rmfms.org/">https://www.rmfms.org/</a>.

Bob introduced the meeting's speaker, Les Presmyk, who presented on "The New Cornelia Mine, Ajo AZ."

#### Have you Heard of the Poozeum?

The following is from an AP article that appeared in the Albuquerque Journal 7/06/24.

A new museum in Winslow, Arizona is marked by a bright green T. Rex cartoon character sitting on a toilet. The President and Curator of the Museum, George Frandsen, reports that he bought his first piece of fossilized feces when he was 18. That combined with his love of dinosaurs was the start of his fascination with "poop" or coprolites.

The museum opened in May and features more than 7000 pieces of coprolites ranging from tiny termite droppings to a huge piece weighing 20 pounds. The highlight of the collection is a specimen that holds a Guinness World Record for being "the largest coprolite left by a carnivorous animal". The specimen that was found on a private ranch in South Dakota, is 2 ft long and over 6 inches wide, and is believed to be from a T-rex.

The article notes that looking at fossilized excrement can give clues to how and what the animals ate. Bone fragments indicate that T. Rex wasn't much of a chewer but swallowed chunks of prey.

So what do you think? Should we add the "Poozeum" to the list of earth science attractions in Arizona?

# Silver Pick Collecting

#### Upcoming Shows to Visit in the Southwest--

July 25-28 - Fairplay, CO, Annual show; River Park Event Site, 200 Platt Dr. Hours 9-5. 30 dealers, minerals, cabochons, beads. Contact Jay Penn: email jaypenn246@gmail.com, website:abqfallshow.wixsite.com/fairplay.

July 27-28 - Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Show, Rapid City, SD westdakota.rocks@gmail.com

August 2-4 - Prescott, AZ, www.PrescottGemMineral.org

August 9-10 - Turquoise United, Albuquerque, <a href="https://turquoiseunited.com/2024-2/">https://turquoiseunited.com/2024-2/</a>

August 8-11 - Buena Vista Contin-tail, Rodeo Grounds, CO

August 15-18 - Woodland Park Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show, Woodland Park, CO

Sept. 12-15 - Denver Gem & Mineral Show, Westminster, CO www.denvermineralshow.com

October 23-27 - OK Gem & Min. Society hosts Rocky Mountain Federation, Oklahoma City, OK <a href="https://www.omgs-minerals.org">www.omgs-minerals.org</a>

If you will be traveling this summer, check online sources like Rock & Gem Magazine to find out what shows are happening near your destination.









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#### Annual AGMC Picnic





It was a perfect day for a picnic. Mostly sunny with just enough clouds to keep it from getting too hot and a gentle breeze that kept the bugs at bay. Well, except for a couple of pterodactyl-size wasps that were curious about what was for lunch.

About forty members and their guests showed up at the Carolino Canyon lower picnic area. Once again, our members brought to the potluck an amazing array of delicious food. Nobody went home hungry and most went home with a sampling of leftovers for dinner. Thank you to the many members who showed up early and helped get everything set up.

Of course, what's a rockhound picnic without rocks? Several members brought their latest interesting finds and collection extras for show-n-tell, buy and swap. Mike Sanders and Ray Demark generously donated material for a silent auction for the benefit of our club. Bidding was intense, and they raised a generous amount for the club (exact figure not available at press time.) WOW! Thank you Mike and Ray!

I would also like to give a big shout of thanks to Nonnie Lacona who helped me haul all of the equipment and supplies, to and fro, that helped make our annual AGMC picnic a fun success and made my day much easier. Thank you, Nonnie!

I hope everyone had a good time.

With gratitude,



Thanks to Susan Hodges for the pictures!





# Margie Mock, Refreshments refreshments@agmc.info 505-366-7675

### Refreshments Coordinator

#### 2024 AGMC Meetings - Refreshment Volunteers

Month	Name	Telephone	
January	Jan Burrows	505-828-9878	
February	Judy Williams	505-363-4777	
March	Diny Capland	917-582-7675	
April	Megan Lindstrom		
May	Judy Williams	505-363-4777	
June	Donna Regner		
July	Margie Mock		
August	Caroline Trespel	505-977-6089	
September	OPEN		
October	Margie Mock		
November	David Wells & Joan Karrie		

A big shout out to Donna Regner for bringing in the awesome refreshments last month. Everyone really enjoyed them along with the presentation. So far we have one more month open (September) if anyone would like to have the fun of bringing snacks. The club will reimburse up to \$100 in expenses.



Susan Hodges, Membership membership@agmc.info

# Membership Chair

Greetings, Albuquerque Rockhounds! Your "rock club" now has more than 500 members! This is not unusual, actually, because the roster changes each month as existing members renew and new members find us. To that end, I'll send out membership renewal reminders starting in late November in hopes we can all come together as club members earlier next year...

Now I'd like to welcome our newest members. We're excited you've joined us, and we look forward to your participation!

- \* Janet, Jocelyn, Andrew and Edward Campbell
- \* Adam and Joseph Ivie, Alice Gutierrez and Tristin McKenzie
- \* Gilbert Montoya
- \* Frank Riccobuano and Gladys Waltman
- \* Garret and Gina Ross

If you're new and eager to feel part of the group, here are a few tips to help:

- 1) Come early to meetings to help set up.
- 2) Introduce yourself to as many members as possible.
- 3) Stay after meetings to socialize and put away tables and chairs.
- 4) Volunteer to help wherever you can. Announcements at each meeting often include requests for volunteers.
- 5) Go on a field trip. Each one is interesting and unique and an opportunity to get to know members.
- 6) Read the Nuggets newsletters thoroughly to learn about upcoming speakers, field trips, volunteer opportunities and club issues.

7) And finally: Don't worry if you're a novice rockhound--many of us are, and those with expertise are delighted to share their knowledge.

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# MICROMINERAL CLUB REPORT - MAY 2024

Greg Parkhurst, MicroMineral Club Reporter

"Colored red". In Spanish, this is Colorado, our northern neighbor, whose state mineral just happens to be...the wonderful red rhodochrosite (New Mexico's is the awesome turquoise)! A recent AGMC field trip headed there recently, so we had a Colorado-themed micro mineral meeting.

Jay was spot-on topic with his rhodochrosite specimen from the American Tunnel in San Juan Co. This lovely opaque red rhombohedron was joined by a chalcopyrite-speckled dolomite from the Eagle Mine in Eagle Co, and a sphalerite from the Commodore Mine in the aptly named Mineral Co.

Dave shared a small collection from the Sweet Home Mine in Park Co. A sooty looking chalcopyrite on a bed of tiny, crystal clear quartz was accompanied by an apatite, a hubnerite, and a curly silver specimen. This mine, as well as the others mentioned here, is worth a quick read on mindat, where mine histories and geologies are often well described.

Another interesting mineral, a covellite from Summitville in Rio Grande Co, was on display. Photos don't quite capture the iridescent indigo blue of this specimen. Ray shared this, as well as a large epidote crystal from Turrett Co. and another sooty chalcopyrite from Clear Creek Co. This specimen sports an occasional metallic iridescent gold point poking through, really catching the eye. Finally, we must include a few photos of gold to ogle. Ray shared many gold specimens, and these from Clear Creek and Summit Counties were enjoyed by all!

Regarding the recent AGMC field trip to CO, one attendee, Pat, returned from the trip in good spirits with handfuls of rough rock to examine. Mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, a large AGMC contingent made its way to Creed for an educating and fun day of field collecting. We hope you were able to attend and find a memento.













Chalcopyrite on Quartz

The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club was organized on January 22, 1944. The club is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and enjoyment of the Earth Sciences and associated subjects.

Its primary purpose is the exchange of information and the furtherance of knowledge of Mineralogy, Fossils, Geology, Rock Cutting and Gem Faceting and to stimulate interest in the development of these studies. The general meeting is held at Monte Vista Christian Church. 3501 Campus Blvd. NE, ABQ, NM 87123 on the 4th

Thursday of the month (unless otherwise noted) at 7:30 p.m. The Junior Club meets at 6:30 p.m. prior to the general meeting.

The public is welcome at both meetings.

Board of Directors meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month via Zoom. All club members are welcome.

#### Annual dues are \$30.00 per household.

New members joining after July 1 pay dues of \$15.00 for the rest of the year. All household members must reside at the same address. Only 2 adult members per family.

Additional adults must have their own membership.

All junior members MUST be under 18.

Send checks to:

AGMC, P.O. Box 13718, Albuquerque, NM 87192 or pay the Membership Chair at the monthly meeting.

All memberships expire on December 31st.



P.O. Box 13718
Albuquerque, NM 87192

www.agmc.info



# AGMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CONTACTS

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Dean Klassy	president@agmc.info	262-749-9008
VP/Programs	<b>Bob Regner</b>	vp-programs@agmc.info	505-288-8835
VP/Field Trips	<b>Grant Kuck</b>	vp-field-trips@agmc.info	505-323-1520
Secretary	Joan Karrie	secretary@agmc.info	571-438-2833
Treasurer	<b>Denise Barrett</b>	treasurer@agmc.info	602-909-2049
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Inventory Manager	Bob Regner	inventory-manager@agmc.info	505-288-8835
Refreshments Coordinator	Margie Mock	refreshments@agmc.info	505-366-7675
Special Events:	Caroline Trespel	special-events@agmc.info	505-977-6089
Social Media Coordinator	Megan Lindstrom	social-media@agmc.info	612-810-1096

All official club communications are sent from communications@agmc.info, including newsletters. If you are not receiving your newsletter, check your spam/junk folder and make certain <a href="mailto:communications@agmc.info">communications@agmc.info</a> is in your contacts / safe senders list.

Messages to a board member not being delivered? Make sure you are sending to @agmc.info and not to @agmc.com

and that everything is spelled correctly.