

# Borrego Rock and Gem Club (BRAG)

New Member Package

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## **1. Introduction**

The Borrego Rock and Gem Club (BRAG) is a non profit club which was established in February 2003. The club is sponsored by the Anza Borrego Desert Nature History Association (ABDNHA), which provides the club with meeting and workshop space, office supplies and use of space on their web server for our club web page.

We are an official member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS). Being a CFMS member allows us to take part in the CFMS liability insurance program, their lecture programs and their field trips. For more information on the CFMS please visit their website at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

The purposes of the club are as follows.

1. To enjoy the study of Earth Sciences through the use of field trips, lectures, collection of mineral, rock and fossil specimens.
2. To learn and promote the geology of the USA southwest.
3. To encourage others to become acquainted with the Earth Sciences through, but not limited to educational projects, exhibitions of specimens, cooperation of other Earth Science Societies and Federations and educational institutions such as schools, museums and libraries.
4. To maintain educational programs within the organization compatible with these purposes.
5. To promote fellowship and understanding among members and others interested in the various phases of Earth Sciences.

## **2. Club Facilities**

Courtesy of ABDNHA, the club has use of their library room for our monthly meetings. The club also has access to the back courtyard for placement of lapidary facilities. Currently a complete lapidary shop is available for member use.

## **3. Club Meetings & Activities**

Unless otherwise specified, trips are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (meeting time TBD); meet at the ABDHNA Nature Center located on 652 Palm Canyon Drive. Meetings are held at 2:00 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at the ABDNHA Activity Room at same address.

Our meetings are cancelled during the summer months of June, July, August and September. Meetings resume again in October.

#### **4. BRAG Executive Board**

The BRAG club Executive Board currently has the following officers:

1. President
2. Vice President
2. Treasurer
3. Secretary

#### **5. Contact Information**

General questions can be emailed to [bragmail@yahoo.com](mailto:bragmail@yahoo.com) or written correspondence may be sent to:

BRAG Club, c/o ABDNHA  
Post Office Box 310  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004-0310

The ABDNHA staff can answer general questions such as club meeting dates. They can be reached at number: (760) 767-3098. They can refer you to a BRAG member.

Information on meetings and field trips is also located on the club website at: [www.abdnha.org/BRAGclub.html](http://www.abdnha.org/BRAGclub.html)

#### **6. Membership**

BRAG club membership is obtained through joining 2 organizations - ABDNHA (Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association) and BRAG (Borrego Rock and Gem Club) which includes membership in CFMS.

ABDNHA membership allows the club to use ABDNHA's facilities, office equipment, display and web space. Additional information regarding ABDNHA can be found at their website: [www.abdnha.org](http://www.abdnha.org)

CFMS membership allows the club to have liability insurance, take part in CFMS sponsored field trips, and have access to CFMS videos, books and other teaching tools. Further information regarding CFMS can be found at their website: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

Cost breakdown of BRAG Membership fees (per person):

1. ABDNHA Membership - \$35.00 per year (starting in 2014) for basic membership. Higher levels are available if you wish to contribute more to ABDNHA's educational programs.

2. CFMS Membership - \$8.00 per year

3. BRAG club dues - \$8.00 per year

TOTAL: \$51.00 per year

## **7. How do I join BRAG?**

Fill out a BRAG Membership Application Form, and write a check (made out to ABDNHA for the amount of \$16.00) for your dues. Additional family members are \$10 each.

Mail your application and check to ABDNHA/BRAG or give your application form and check to a BRAG officer. You may also leave your application form with the desk at the ABDNHA Nature Center.

## **8. Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question:** Do I need fancy gear to go on field trips?

**Answer:** No. However we do insist that you dress sensibly for field trips. Sturdy running shoes or hiking boots are advised along with a hat and suitable shorts/shirt.

**Question:** What do I need to bring on club field trips?

**Answer:** The hike leader will list any extra equipment needed such as shovels or picks. Generally it is a good idea to pack a lunch, extra bags for rock samples and extra water if the trip is taking place in the desert.

**Question:** Do I need a four wheel drive vehicle to participate on club field trips?

**Answer:** No. If the hike is going to require four wheel drive, the members will meet at a prearranged destination and car pool with those members who have four wheel drive.

**Question:** Do the club field trips cost extra?

**Answer:** Unless the field trip is in a park or museum which requires extra fees the cost is nothing to the member.

**Question:** Do I have to attend the meetings?

**Answer:** We ask that our members attend at least 1 regular meeting and the annual election/planning meeting in order to meet other members and provide their input regarding club field trips and business.

**Question:** How does the club communicate with its members?

**Answer:** We prefer to use electronic communication (email) to communicate with our members. Instead of a bi-monthly bulletin we post new news and field trip information on our website ([www.abdnha.org/BRAGclub.html](http://www.abdnha.org/BRAGclub.html))

**Question:** When do I know when the meetings and field trips are going to occur?

**Answer:** Club meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month. Field trips are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of the month. (The club is not active during the hotter months of the year – typically June through September.) Location for the field trip is discussed and determined at the meeting prior to the trip. Before each field trip, an email is sent out to club members reminding them of the activity.

# Membership Application Borrego Rock and Gem Club

Joint Membership to ABDNHA and BRAG

Just BRAG – I am already a member of ABDNHA

1. Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other family members if applicable

2. Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

3. Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in:

Geology

Rocks

Minerals

Fossils (Paleontology)

Field Trips

Lectures / Classes

Lapidary

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the BRAG club?

Newspaper (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Friend

ABDNHA

Internet (please specify site) \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**ABDNHA Membership Fees** *Skip this section if you are already an ABDNHA member.*

**Please select your level of ABDNHA membership**

- \$35 Basic for individual or family
- \$50 Contributing Membership \*
- \$100 Supporting Membership \*
- \$250 Program Sponsor \*
- \$500 Education Patron \*
- \$1000 Life Membership \*

\* Your membership fees support desert education. Please enclose a check with this application for your ABDNHA fees made out to ABDNHA.

**BRAG Membership Fee – Includes CFMS**

\$\_\_\_ Membership for one person is \$16 a year, additional members are \$10 each. Please enclose a separate check with this application for your BRAG fees made out to ABDNHA. Please notate in bottom left hand corner of the check that it is for BRAG dues.

I have read and understood the BRAG bylaws (found in the BRAG club binder) and understand that BRAG is sponsored by ABDNHA. As such I understand that membership in ABDNHA is mandatory in order to join BRAG.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**BYLAWS**  
*of the*  
**Borrego Rock And Gem Club**

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be “Borrego Rock and Gem Club”. Abbreviated name version will be known as “BRAG”

Article II: Purpose

1. To enjoy the study of Earth Sciences through the use of field trips, lectures, collection of mineral, rock and fossil specimens.
2. To learn and promote the geology of the USA Southwest.
3. To encourage others to become acquainted with the Earth Sciences through, but not limited to educational projects, exhibitions of specimens, cooperation with other Earth Science Societies and Federations and educational institutions such as schools, museums and libraries.
4. To maintain educational programs within the organization compatible with these purposes.
5. To promote fellowship and understanding among members and others interested in the various phases of Earth Science.

Article III: Membership

1. General Requirements for Membership:
  - a. All members are required to become ABDNHA (Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association) members.  
\*Note: ABDNHA financially supports the club with materials, physical club room space. ABDNHA’s liability insurance does not cover “meetings/gatherings” of individuals on ABDNHA premises unless they are taking part in an ABDNHA related activity or are ABDNHA members. Therefore; ABDNHA membership is mandatory, in order to be covered by liability insurance when using physical facilities.
  - b. All members are required to become CFMS (California Federation of Mineralogical Societies) members under BRAG.
  - c. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of Earth Sciences. Members will not use club field trips or membership information (i.e. email addresses, phone numbers) to supplement their financial gain.
  - d. Membership may be refused or terminated for due cause.
2. Classes of Membership:

- a. Active-voting members shall consist of dues paying members.

Article IV: Election and Terms of Officers

1. The Officers of this Organization shall be elected from the active membership by a vote of those members present at the annual meeting (last Saturday of the month of December.)
2. The Officers shall be a President, Vice President (Optional), Secretary and Treasurer.
3. Each Officer shall hold office for one year beginning on the first day of the month following election. Each shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself, or be elected to a different office in the organization.
4. The Executive Board may select a member of the Organization to fill a vacancy in any office, except that of the President.
5. The Vice President or Treasurer shall preside in the absence of the President.
6. All officers shall hold their office until their successors are elected.

Article V: Appointment and Tenure of Committees

1. The President shall appoint such Committee Chairmen as necessary to carry out the purposes of the Organization.
2. Chairmen may appoint additional members to their own committees.
3. Unless otherwise decided by a vote of the membership, the tenure of the committees shall coincide with the term of the President.

Article VI: Quorum

1. In the annual meeting, a simple (51%) majority vote of the membership present is needed for election of new officers and/or changes to the BRAG bylaws.
  - a. A ballot, noting which items (in addition to the election of officers and bylaw changes) will require a vote, will be mailed out to all members at least 2 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
  - b. If a member fills out the ballot, mails the ballot in, and then discovers at a later date that he/she will be attending the annual meeting, the ballot will be voided upon attendance of the member at the meeting.
2. General business topics discussed at monthly meetings require a simple majority vote of the Executive Board for approval.

Article VII: Dues

1. Dues shall be on an annual basis, and must be approved by a simple majority vote of those present at the annual meeting.

2. Once set, the annual rate continues in force until changed by vote of the membership at an annual meeting.

Article VIII: Club Year

1. The club year shall begin on January 1

Article IX: Meetings

1. The annual meeting shall be the last weekend of December.
2. The Executive Board may conduct their business by phone, email or surface mail.
3. The Committee Chairmen may conduct their business by phone and/or email or surface mail.
4. The Executive Board shall approve the previous meeting's minutes.
5. An agenda will be created for all meetings. The Agenda will be distributed to members before all meetings.

Article X: Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the Officers, and the immediate Past President.
2. Minutes of any meeting shall be kept by the Secretary.
3. The Executive Board shall be solely responsible for the affairs of the Organization between meetings.

Article XI: Amendments

1. These Bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of the members present at the annual meeting, providing a notice is sent (by email and/or first class mail) at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, setting forth the amendment and reason therefore.
2. Amendments become effective on passage, unless a different time is specified.

Article XII: Affiliations

1. The Organization may affiliate with any Society or group promoting the study of Earth Sciences, upon an affirmative vote at the annual meeting.
2. Such an affirmative vote shall be interpreted as an appropriation of funds to cover dues in such an affiliated organization, until such an action is reversed.

Article XIII: Operating Procedures

1. The Executive Board may adopt Operating Procedures consistent with these bylaws.
2. The Secretary shall keep a copy of the Operating Procedures.
3. The Executive Board may change, revoke or amend any Operating Procedure at any meeting.
4. The Operating Procedures become effective upon adoption and are binding until changed, revoked or amended.

Article XIV: Motto, Seal, Pins or Patches

1. A seal, membership pins or patches may be adopted by vote of the membership.