

THE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF VICTOR VALLEY
GEM & MINERAL CLUB
NOVEMBER 2006.



IT ALL STARTED WITH A TOOLBOX
AND A PAIR OF PIERS.



In the beginning was the need...and the need was small. The need came from a process, admired and tried. Tools were borrowed and the need grew. Not long after came a trip to the store. There we saw all kinds of tools. "I need that" followed by "That will come in handy when I start..." and "It will be cheaper if I buy the set!" Then came, "I wonder where I can get a carry tote like so and so's." All this was followed by the inevitable, "Well, they're O.K but the good quality ones will last a life time. It's a journey that many of us have traveled and many others will follow in our footsteps. So remember when next you "charge it", you are not alone.

YOUR OFFICERS FOR 2006

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2nd V.P (Education).... Mary Lou Flecher949-9347
Recording Secretary... Patti Deer.....553-6550
Treasurer..... Loren Beebe.....242-8584

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JoAnn Beall..... 217-2628
Virgil Melton 948-2849
Janet Flecher 949-9347
Past President.....Gil Gilbert 868-6900
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Librarian Ralph Powers..... 951-2937
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Sunshine Lady..... Marie Gramata 245-3775
Displays Nancy Flanders 868-2148
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Legislative Rep..... Mary Lou Flecher 949-9347
Photography Bob Harper 947-6383
Hospitality JoAnn Beall 246-7117
Parliamentarian..... Dennis Harbison 247-5559

Instructors

Nick Beall, Janet Flecher, Jim Fosse, Gil Gilbert, Dennis Harbison, Tom Laszlo, Virgil Melton, Oscar Delgado, Joe Kosik, and Chuck Forsyth.

THE VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

was organized in 1947 and has been the focal point of High Desert rock hounds for the past 59 years. The club takes active roles in various civic activities. Membership is open to all persons interested in the gem and mineral hobby and lapidary arts. Meetings are held at the clubhouse located at 15056-B 7th Street (behind Kaman Bearing) in the center of Victorville.

Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (760) 243-2330.

RETIREMENT CHOICES

In the last issue of the Bulletin, we looked at the options of living in Phoenix, Arizona and California.

You can Live in **New York City** where...

1. You say "the city" and expect everyone to know you mean Manhattan.
2. You can get into a four-hour argument about how to get from Columbus Circle to Battery Park, but can't find Wisconsin on a map.
3. You think Central Park is "nature,"
4. You believe that being able to swear at people in their own language makes you multilingual.
5. You've worn out a car horn.
6. You think eye contact is an act of aggression.

(Retirement choices cont.)

You can Live in **Maine** where...

1. You only have four spices: salt, pepper, ketchup, and Tabasco.
2. Halloween costumes fit over parkas.
3. You have more than one recipe for moose.
4. Sexy lingerie is anything flannel with less than eight buttons.
5. The four seasons are: winter, still winter, almost winter, and construction.

You can Live in **Texas** where...

1. You can rent a movie and buy bait in the same store.
2. "y'all" is singular and "all y'all" is plural.
3. "He needed killin' " is a valid defense.
5. Everyone has 2 first names: Billy Bob, Jimmy Bob, Mary Sue, Betty Jean, Mary Beth, etc.

You can live in **Colorado** where...

1. You carry your \$3,000 mountain bike atop your \$500 car.
2. You tell your husband to pick up Granola on his way home and he stops at the day care center.
3. A pass does not involve a football or dating.
4. The top of your head is bald, but you still have a pony tail.

In the next issue of the Bulletin we will finish the series titled "Retirement Choices". We will conclude the series by looking at The **Mid West** and **Florida**.

E-Mail from my good friend, Bob Michalski.

VICTORVILLE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

Saturday, November 18th 2006; 9am—5pm.

Sunday, November 19th, 2006; 9am—5pm.

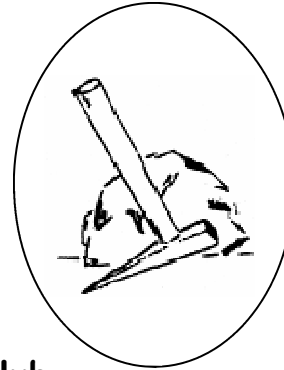
Free admission and parking

San Bernardino County Fairgrounds
14800 Seventh Street, Victorville

Dealers * Displays * Demonstrations
Fossils * Refreshments

Special things for children

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club



Mrs. Jo Ann Beall is working hard behind the scenes to make this Gem Show a success. This is an open letter from her.

There are no more *Bulletins* before the show—Nov. 18th & 19th. So I hope this will be enough to get you all excited and in gear to help. We cannot have a show without you.

First there are the sign up sheets. Of course, we need members to work in each booth. (To be fair, there should be more than one.) We've set these up in shifts of two hours. So you could work in several booths as well as the "show".

The booths are:-

1. Grab Bags: You take the public's money and let them pick a bag.
2. Do-Dads: You take the public's money and let them spin the wheel to see which prize they get.
3. Raffle Table: You sell raffle tickets at the front door.
4. Membership: You help people sign up to be club members.
5. Silent Auction: You help set up the auction table and take money when they are finished. You also sell magazines.
6. Overnight Security: People are needed to stay overnight Friday and or Saturday.
7. Pot Luck Night: On Friday, Nov. 17th, I could use extra help for the potluck that evening. The potluck is at 7:00p.m. so we need to get started setting up by 6:30p.m. and of course, clean up after it is over.
8. Dessert Bar: You cut wrap and sell all goodies that members bring to

(open letter from Mrs. Jo Ann Beall cont.)

Pot luck night is for all members as well as all vendors and their helpers. Bring your food (double what you usually bring) by 6:30p.m. so that we can get it all set up.

The club will furnish the ham, turkey, rolls, table service and drinks.

This is a "thank you for coming" meal for the vendors and so the more members there, the better.

Bring items for the Dessert Bar, Friday evening or Saturday morning — pies, cakes, cookies etc.

Jo Ann Beall
Hospitality.

P.S All members who are selling still get to bring their share of the pot luck—Ha! As I mentioned before, the club furnishes the ham and turkey and so please bring something to compliment them. There is a sign up sheet on the board to help you decide what to bring.

P.P.S The fairgrounds will have the tables set up on Thursday, Nov. 16th. These tables have to be skirted so we would appreciate any members who come to help do that job. There will be people there to show you what to do. We will also need help to unskirt tables and take stuff back to the club.....Thanks, Jo Ann.



Shown on the left are the prizes for the Gem Show Raffle. First prize is a large multi-drawer Craftsman tool box.

The second prize is a heavy duty Craftsman air compressor. The Third prize is a Craftsman spiral saw. Francis Gramata is in charge of the raffle and is doing a splendid job—however, many more tickets need to be sold. If you can sell some, especially at the show on the 18th and 19th of November, or if you would like to buy a couple of books to increase your chances of winning these lovely prizes, then contact Francis Gramata at (760) 245-3775.

PRECIOUS MINERAL CLAY CLASS



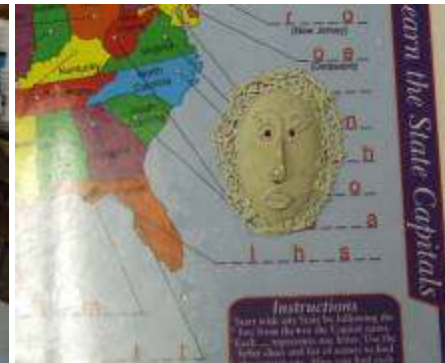
Mary Lou shows her class the properties of PMC clay.



Here she is helping members who are working on their projects.



Marcie Mendoza has fun making her class project.



Marcie's project just needs to be fired to be a pretty silver brooch.

Mary Lou Flecher introduced PMC clay, (Precious Metal Clay) to the members recently at an education night. There was considerable interest among the membership and so Mary Lou said she would co-teach a class with instructor, Chuck Forsyth. Using examples of her own work, Mary Lou showed the class that once moist, the clay could be fashioned into virtually any shape. The silver which would be the finished product was inside the clay.

Once fashioned, the project would be left to dry on a plastic place mat from which it could be easily removed. From there, the item would be placed in a portable, low heat kiln and the firing would allow the clay to dissipate leaving a silver figure behind. There was about a 12% shrinkage in size. The finished products were wonderful.

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR CLUB DUES

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club membership dues are now due. Dues for a single person are \$ 20.00 and dues for a couple are \$ 30.00 a year. Dues received after December 31 2006, will be subject to a \$5.00 late fee. Members who are delinquent will be placed on the inactive list until current dues and late fee are paid.

You may pay your dues at the club house or mail your checks made out to the Victor Valley Gem & mineral Club 15056B 7th Street Victorville, CA 92392-3811 or to Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club C/O Thomas F. Laszlo 13912 Osage Road, Apple Valley, CA 92307-7311.

This deadline also applies to those who advertise in the *Bulletin*. We charge a nominal fee of \$25.00 per year to place an ad in this newsletter. To see your advertisement continued, please pay the fees to the club treasurer, Loren Beebe.

AROUND THE SHOP

The club recently cleaned out the work room and removed all of the saws. They were drained, cleaned and new oil was installed. The saw room was also rewired and an exhaust fan was installed. All in all, this was a large undertaking and required the assistance of many volunteers. Tom Laszlo is in charge of maintenance of the club's machinery and he asked me to thank all of those who helped with the work—which I believe took the whole weekend.

The club membership would like to thank, Bob Menelly, Virgil Melton, Tom Laszlo, Charles Tules, Evi Tules, Chuck Forsyth, Ralph Powers, Barrbara Pedrow, Oscar Delgado, Lloyd Guillian, Bob Harper, Chuck Scott, and Don Buhr,.

Tom gave me a list of all those who helped but I would also like to add a big thank you to any member who helped, whose name does not appear on this list.....Ed

NEW MEMBERS

The membership would like to welcome Barbara Minard to our club. We hope that you will have opportunity and assistance to pursue your hobby. The club is very friendly and the instructors are both knowledgeable and eager to help you.



November 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Thursday 16th.</u> <u>Gem Show.</u> <u>Friday, 17th.</u>	<u>9a.m., skirt the</u> <u>fill club cases</u> <u>pie booth by</u>	<u>tables at the</u> <u>and bring food</u> <u>6p.m.</u>	1 Workshop 1-9p.m.	2 Workshop 1-9p.m.	3	 4 King Tut's tomb is discovered 1922.
5 Workshop begins at 12noon noon	 6 Instructor's Meeting 7p.m.	 7 Board Meeting 7p.m.	8 Workshop 1-9p.m.	 9 Wagonmaster's meeting 7p.m. Workshop 1-9pm	10	 11 Veteran's Day Castle Butte Field Trip. 
12 Workshop begins at	13	14 Workshop 6-9p.m.	15 Workshop 1-9p.m.	16 Workshop 1-9p.m.	17	 18 VVGMC Gem Show.
 19 VVGMC Gem Show.	20	 21 Education Night 7p.m.	Work- 22  shop J.F.K 1-9p.m. killed in 1963.	 23 Thanksgiving day	24	 25 Wiley Wells Field Trip.
26 Workshop begins at 12 noon	27	 28  Pot Luck 6:30pm General Meet-	29 Workshop 1-9p.m.	30 Workshop 1-9p.m.		

SUNSHINE CLUB

I spoke to Marie Gramata the other day. She told me that Val Costello's step-son passed away recently and so Val, know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. If you know of any member that is injured, ailing or is down and needs a card, contact Marie on (760) 245-3775.



TEACHING THE YOUNG

In mid September, Doug Arnold and his wife Sara presented a program on rocks and minerals to the Webelo Scouts at Pinion Hills Elementary School. They took a six inch saw and sliced some Wiley Well nodules and geodes for the boys. Doug said, "We got them started on rock certification for the scouts."

AROUND THE SHOP



"Bolo" Joe Kosik can regularly be seen working away in the shop.



A fine collection of mounted cabs waiting to be started on.



I sat and chatted with our club librarian, Ralph Powers (his tool kit is featured on the front page). He was wire wrapping a finished cab and making a rather handsome silver wire ring. He told me how, by trial and error, his process had become pretty much routine. Good job Ralph, you do good work....Ed

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Field Trip

Castle Butte



Date: November, 11, 2006

Time: 8:30 AM

[Meeting Location: Burger King Parking Lot in Kramer Jct. off of Rt 395.](#)

Wagon Master: [Janet Flecher](#)

For additional information contact Janet at 760-949-0796

This trip is open both to members of the VVGMC and non-members alike.

This trip is for Agate, Jasper, Palm Root, Chalcedony, Wonder Stone and Wood. This is a known site with high quantities of material available in surface, float and shallow pits. For the surface and float material, only a rock pick is required. If you desire to work the agate bearing seams, you will need shovel, pick, bars, sledges, etc.

The access for this trip is on respectable dirt/sand roads. A high clearance vehicle is recommended although most passenger cars should be OK. There is some soft sand from 2-4 inches deep in one section. We will be about 6 miles from the pavement. This site is approximately 20 miles from the meeting place.

Site conditions are for short walks with easy to moderate walking.

There are no known open shafts, pits or mines in this region. This trip is considered safe for all ages. Parents and guardians are responsible for the safety and behavior of all individuals under the age of 16. Please use your discretion in deciding who you feel comfortable in bringing. There is no cell phone service in this region of the desert.

The trip leader recommends that you bring gloves, spray bottle (water), rock pick, lunch, safety glasses, and adequate drinking water.

FOR SALE



1995 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera SL
Metallic Gray. Four door.
Just \$3,000 o.b.o
Call Nick Beall (760) 220-1215
8-8p.m.



1985 Metallic Blue Mazda 2-door
coupe with sun roof. In good
working order. Will sell for just
\$1,000 o.b.o Contact Nick Beall on
(760) 220-1215. 8-8p.m.

FOR SALE:

Highland Park Grinder-Sander
Model B1. 8" wheels, new bear-
ings, 1/2 h.p motor. Electrical &
paint. Like new condition! The
whole unit is portable.

Just \$280.00 Call Chuck Eiding
at 247-8018.

If you have anything to buy, sell
or swap then please call Alan Mol-
ineux on (760) 951-7064 or e-mail
me on amolineux@gmail.com

C.F.M.S ANNUAL
THANKSGIVING FIELD
TRIP TO WILEY WELLS.

Location: Wiley Wells District—
10 miles S.W of Blythe, CA.

When: Thanksgiving weekend, Nov.
22nd-26th, 2006.

Sponsor: C.F.M.S South. Open to
all interested rockhounds.

Material to collect: Crystal filled
geodes, agate, jasper and much
more.

Leader: Bob Fitzpatrick. Please
notify me by 11/15/'06 if you plan
on attending. (951) 845-3051. or
e-mail me on RUROCKY2@aol.com.

Campgrounds & facilities: This is a
dry camping area with no water, no
services and no hookups. The road
is ok for 4wd vehicles but not for
2wd vehicles. I suspect that many
folks will bring self contained mo-
tor homes or R.V's. The campsite
is about 25miles from Blythe.

There are some reasonably priced
motels in town if needed.

Tools: Collecting bags and boxes,
digging tools, rock hammer, eye
gear and a spray water bottle.

Safety concerns: Do not lick the
rocks. Beware of snakes. Take bug
spray. Be aware of flash floods and
buddy up.

Climate & Weather: We're planning
on nice weather. Sunny days and
cool clear star filled nights. Re-
member, however, it can rain this
time of year and so plan ahead.

**See your club notice board for
further details.**

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES—TUMBLING FUN

**By Jim Brace-Thompson—Junior Activities Chair for
the C.F.M.S**


Rock tumbling has often served as a gateway to the lapidary arts. I admit that I, myself, got hooked in just this way. My wife (who didn't know what she was getting herself into when she married a fossil nut, given that my collection was stored in my parents' basement several states away at the time) happened to have an old Sears tumbler her parents had given her as a Christmas gift when she was a child. She had played with it a couple of times, boxed it up, and promptly forgot it in her parents' basement. As soon as the nuptials were concluded, my fossil collection was united with her rock tumbler (to both our parents' great relief), and we haven't been the same since. Tumbling is a lapidary art that kids from 5 to 105 can enjoy and undertake with equally satisfying and beautiful results as they let the grit and electricity do the work. The primary skill comes in selecting just the right pieces of rough and then patiently monitoring the barrel and conscientiously checking and thoroughly cleaning between grits. It's a perfect group activity for introducing pebble pups to rock polishing and producing a nice pile that all the kids can enjoy and pick through for gems at the end of the process. A fellow Ventura club member, Mel Hixson, recently directed my attention to a neat web site devoted completely to the rock tumbling hobby. It's called, appropriately enough, "Rock Tumbling Hobby," and its web address is www.rocktumblinghobby.com. It includes a message board where members can exchange tips and ideas and seek trouble-shooting advice. (For instance, what's the best polish to use with Apache tears obsidian?) It also has a link for members and visitors to trade and a growing collection of photos showing people's favorite rocks.

But best of all, it has a section with step-by-step suggestions from how to begin (telling about equipment, accessories, and materials), how to choose your stones (with photos of finished stones to help you decide which type you'd like to polish), a complete description of how to complete a 4-phase project, pitfalls to watch out for, and "Top Tips" with little known tricks of the trade.

If you haven't yet undertaken a rock tumbling activity with your club's kids, why wait? This noncommercial web site provides you with all the help you could ever ask for to get your kids started while—as always—having fun!

SUPPORT YOUR SPONSORS.

Some of our sponsors are club members and others are vendors that you might find useful. In any case, support these vendors if you can, the club benefits from the advertising.





Desert River 21810 Hwy 18, #6
Apple Valley, CA
92307.
(760) 961-2743

BEADS

Cindy Hinojosa

Semi-precious gemstones,
glass, metal, wood and
bone beads. Freshwater
pearls, seed beads,
findings, stringings, tools
supplies, classes and more.

You can find us on the northern Hwy 18.
West of Navajo Road, and a little west
of Rite-Aid.
Come find us—we're worth the look.
There's plenty of parking in the rear.



Micky Coats
Assistant Loan Officer
(760)900-1846

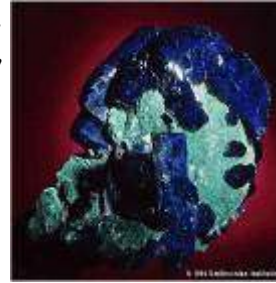
Bob Coats
Loan Officer
(760) 912-9989

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This could be your ad. Buy, sell or trade any lapidary products, tools or novelties. Call me for attractive yearly rates in this monthly newsletter.

Alan Molineux
amolineux@gmail.com
or phone me at (760)951-7064.



Select Rocks & Slabs for Sale!

A huge selection of both local and "imported" rocks and slabs.

Call for details—
Janet Flecher
(760) 949-0796.



Rocks, Rocks, Rocks,

Buy slabs, cabs and rough from Joe! Brazilian, Moss Agate, Wood, Jasper, and Obsidian.

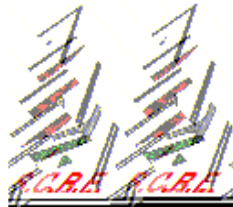
There is a sale on bolo cords.

Club members, (any club) 20% off at my house or 10% off at gem shows. I sell crushed Agate, Wood, and Jasper for tumbling at \$1.00 per pound. Call Joe Kosik (760) 241-0894.



**Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
15056-B Seventh Street,
Victorville, CA 92395-3811.**

Address Correction Requested



**Snail
Mail
Stamp**

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**Another
BULLETIN
Expressly for**

