

THE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF VICTOR VALLEY
GEM & MINERAL CLUB
DECEMBER 2006.



THE SPARKLE AND THE WONDER OF THE VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL SHOW



Usually we might hear lights, camera, action. In this case, things were a little different. First there was a lot of planning, volunteering and then action, so much action. Club members put in hundreds of hours to make this show a success. Everyone knew their job—most had more than one and it went flawlessly. In the rare case something wasn't done or was missing, some member swooped in quietly and took care of it all. The number of jobs are too many to count but, when the lights came on Saturday morning, everything came to life. Thank you to all who helped. The number is too great to name you all. All I had to do was walk around with my camera and record the event. Thank you to all the vendors. I hope the weekend was a profitable one for you. Shown above is Al and Betty Ordway of Ordway's Minerals—one of our many vendors who were offering their wares for sale.

YOUR OFFICERS FOR 2006

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2nd V.P (Education).....	Mary Lou Flecher	949-9347
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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.

MEETING DATES

The club's Christmas party will be held at the Home Town Buffet in Victorville on December 29, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. We will all be charged the Senior price for adults, children's price for the kids under 12 yrs. After dinner we will go back to the Club house for the induction of new club Officers for 2007. This will also be the general meeting for December. The January general meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:30p.m.



RETIREMENT CHOICES

In the last issue of the Bulletin, we looked at the options of living in New York City, Maine, Texas, and Colorado. In this issue we conclude the series by looking at retirement in the Mid West and Florida.

(Retirement choices cont.)

You can live in the Midwest where...



1. You've never met any celebrities, but the mayor knows your name.
2. Your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor.
3. You have had to switch from "heat" to "A/C" on the same day.
4. You end sentences with a preposition: "Where's my coat at?"
5. When asked how your trip was to any exotic place, you say, "It was different!"

AND You can live in Florida where..

1. You eat dinner at 3:15 in the afternoon.
2. All purchases include a coupon of some kind -- even houses and cars.
3. Everyone can recommend an excellent dermatologist.
4. Road construction never ends anywhere in the state.
5. Cars in front of you are often driven by headless people.

E-Mail from my good friend, Bob Michalski.

NEW MEMBERS

I would like to extend a hearty welcome to Charles and Eve Toles of Apple Valley. Our club is both established and dynamic, with many experienced members willing to help you when ever needed. We hope to see you around the club house often and we hope the club and its facilities provide you with the venue to enjoy your new hobby..... Ed

THE 2006 VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL SHOW



A lot of help was needed to serve the vendors dinner. Francis Gramata & Jo Ann Beall are seen here serving and Nancy Flanders & Ellen Gilbert take a moment from serving to pose for my camera.



With tables prepared and readied for vendors and workers, club volunteers served the food. The club provided the ham, turkey, rolls and drinks and the rest was a potluck. Everywhere I looked, people ate their fill and enjoyed each other's company and conversation. Friday night was a good start to the show.



Martino Aragon of Aragon Enterprises had a fine display of polished amber.



Faith Harper and Michael Brothers ran the pot luck and grab bags.



Manuel & Dalia's Lapidary from Bakersfield had rock, slabs and cabs.



Janet and Mary Lou Flecher showed jewelry, and finished & unfinished stones.



Sara and Doug Arnold's booth had a variety of lapidary for sale. I was particularly impressed with their clocks.



Jim Hopkins of San Diego was the tool man of the Gem Show. He's in the background holding up a small anvil with a magnet.

2006 VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL SHOW (CONT.)



Here's Sandy of S.Z. Smith out of Las Vegas chatting with a customer.



Virgil Melton and Ed Skidmore are making final arrangements.



Marshall Upson of Orion Jewelry and lapidary stands by his booth.



Richard Evens and his staff are getting ready for customers.



Diamond Pacific Tools have just about everything one might need as a lapidary hobbyist.



John and Helene Dahnke had a very beautiful display of jewelry and loose gems for sale.

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW RAFFLE



For weeks leading up to the show, club members sold books of tickets for these prizes shown here. The winner of the first prize, a Craftsman toolbox was Janet Wentz of Barstow. The second prize winner, of the Craftsman air compressor was Chico Printz also of Barstow. The third prize of a Craftsman spiral saw went to Tom Lazlo of Apple Valley. Two more prizes were donated by vendors at the show. Barbara Burbuck donated a necklace, bracelet and earrings. These were won

by Taylor Davis of Oak Hills. Vendor, Norma Rivera donated the 5th prize—also a necklace, bracelet and earrings. These were won by John Printz also of Barstow. I would like to thank those who donated prizes, those who sold tickets and not least of all I would like to thank Francis Gramata who procured the prizes and coordinated the raffle and the door prizes on the club's behalf.

Older Than Dirt Quiz: Count all the ones that you remember.

1. Blackjack chewing gum.
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water.
3. Candy cigarettes.
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles.
5. Coffee shops or diners with tableside juke boxes.
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers.
7. Party lines.
8. Newsreels before the movie.
9. P.F. Flyers.
10. Butch wax.
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (OLive-6933).
12. Peashooters.
13. Howdy Doody.
14. 45 RPM records.
15. S&H Green Stamps.
16. Hi-fi's.
17. Metal ice trays with lever.
18. Mimeograph paper.
19. Blue flashbulbs.
20. Packards.
21. Roller skate keys.
22. Cork popguns.
23. Drive-ins.
24. Studebakers.
25. Wash tub wringers.

If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young.

If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older.

If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age.

If you remembered 16-25 = You're older than dirt!

I might be older than dirt but those memories are the best part of my life. A recent E-Mail from my good friend, Micky Coats.



December 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
10 Workshop begins at 12 noon	11 	12 Workshop 6-9p.m. 	13 Workshop 1-9p.m.	14 Wagonmasters' Mtg. 7p.m. Workshop 1-9p.m.	15 Hannukah December 15th-23rd. 	16 Field Trip to Opal Mountain. Cleanup
17 Workshop begins at 12 noon	18	19 6p.m. Christmas dinner	20 Workshop 1-9p.m.	21 Workshop 1-9p.m. 	22	23
24 Workshop begins at 12 noon	25 Christmas Day 	26 	27 Workshop 1-9p.m.	28 Winter begins. Workshop 1-9p.m. 	29 	30
31 New Year's Eve. Workshop begins at 12 noon 						

Sierra Pelona Rock Club

Field Trip

Opal Mountain



Date: December 16, 2006

Time: 8:30a.m

Meeting Location: At the convenience store in Hinkley on Hinkley Road next to the Rail Road tracks.

Wagon Master: Janet Flecher

For additional information Janet Flecher at (760)-949-0796

This is a joint field trip with the [Sierra Pelona Rock Club](#)

This trip is for Agate, Opal and Rhyolite. The rhyolite comes in a variety of patterns and colors and can be found with both opal and agate inclusions which make fantastic cuttings. The opal is common opal in white, tan, and various other colors. This is always a chance that any piece of opal collected can show flash. There are also opal seams requiring hard rock mining in the area for those interested. This trip is to a known and scouted location. The distance from the VVGMC to the meeting site is approximately 45 miles. From the meeting site to the collecting site it is about 22 miles. The material is very plentiful and easily collected from the surface. The quantity of the material is extreme. Access for this trip is difficult. The total off road travel is approximately 36 miles in and out. This includes a 5 mile section of very rough washboard, a $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 mile section of soft (6-8" deep) sand, miles of rough desert road, and several steep hills with loose rock. 4X4's are strongly recommended. However, if you have a high clearance vehicle and experience in off road desert travel, the choice (and responsibility if you get stuck) are yours. Site conditions are for moderate hiking on the sides of hills. Distance from vehicles is 50 - 300 yards. Age limit for this trip is 8 years minimum. There are no known open mine shafts or mining pits in this region requiring caution. Other desert hazards including snakes, etc are present.

(Sierra Pelona Rock Club Field Trip to Opal Mountain cont.)

Please note: The VVGMC normally schedules this trip for April or May due to the length of the daylight during that time of the year. We will only be stopping at two locations due to the shorter day in December. As such we will require that all collecting stop no later than 3 PM to allow for ample time for all participants to safely return to paved roads well before dark. Also, on our last trip in May of 2006 we did encounter and photograph a Mojave Green Rattlesnake at the second location we will be visiting. We have previously, in a different location, encountered a Sidewinder in December or January, so be prepared and be extremely careful of where you are reaching and walking. The trip leaders recommend that you bring gloves, spray bottle (water), rock pick, lunch, safety glasses, and adequate drinking water. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted on this trip.

SUNSHINE CLUB

I spoke to Marie Gramata the other day. Marie is out Sunshine Lady If you know of any member that is injured, ailing or is down and needs a card, contact Marie on (760) 245-3775.



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.

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Highland Park Grinder-Sander Model B1. 8" wheels, new bearings, 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 Molineux on (760) 951-7064 or e-mail me on amolineux@gmail.com

WHAT IS LAPIDARY?

Lapidary is the cutting or carving of precious stones (other than diamonds). It is an art that dates back hundreds of years -- to the time when early man started modifying stones to create tools, for personal adornment, or to create amulets and statues to honor gods and goddesses. From the time that people noticed some stones possessed special beauty or rarity they began to devise ways to carry these stones with them. They became valued possessions, and media for trade between different areas and cultures. The lapidary art developed as an integral part of the development of culture as man became a "toolmaker". Today we see a strong interest developing in rediscovering some of the earliest developments in the art of lapidary. Flint knapping is enjoying a growing popularity, with incredibly fine knife blades, arrowheads or spear points being crafted using essentially the same techniques that were employed thousands of years ago. Far more people however, are discovering the aspect of lapidary that concerns the cutting of gemstones. The most basic cut is called a cabochon cut. A cabochon cut (or "cab") stone has a highly polished top and a flattened back. It may have an oval diameter shape, or round, or square, heart shaped or freeform -- but all have a domed top and flat back. The cut is most commonly used for opaque or semi-translucent stones. It is particularly well suited to very hard stones such as jade, agates, jaspers for instance which accept a high polish and may have interesting patterns which can be "displayed" in a cut stone.

What To Cut?

The first choice to come up once the decision has been made to learn to cut stones is "What should I cut first?". How do I choose a stone? What properties make one type of stone more desirable to cut than another? With experience everyone seems to find themselves drawn to certain types of stones over others, but where do you start? Hardness is one big factor to consider. A soft stone is easy to cut -- some can be carved with a pocket knife or hand file -- but will not take a high polish. It will also not hold up particularly well if worn in jewelry, as it will be easily scratched or broken. For the sake of durability the stone should be hard.

(What is Lapidary cont.)

A hard stone cannot be scratched with a pocket knife, but it doesn't have to be as hard as a diamond or sapphire! Hardness is ranked by a system known as the Mohs Scale. This system ranks a number of common minerals based on their relative resistance to scratching. It begins with Talc which is assigned a hardness of "1" and ends with diamond with a hardness of "10".

1. Talc 2. Gypsum and 3. Calcite are considered *Soft* and can be scratched with a fingernail (2 1/2). 4. Fluorite 5. Apatite 6. Orthoclase and 7. Quartz are all considered to be *Hard* and can be scratched with a steel point such as a pocket knife. (5 1/2) 8. Topaz 9. Corundum 10. Diamond are considered to be *Very Hard* and will scratch glass.

Materials with a hardness less than 5 or 6 are generally too soft for wear. An unknown material is tested by comparison to materials of known hardness. If, for example the material can be scratched by Orthoclase, but is hard enough to scratch Apatite it would be considered to have a hardness of about 5 1/2. Popular stones among lapidaries are agates and jaspers which contain a lot of quartz in their composition which makes them hard, but it is mixed with other minerals for an endless combination of colors. They may form bands of color, or polka dots. Some may look like trees or moss captured in the stone. A good hint as to how well a stone will cut and polish is to look at a freshly broken chip from the stone. If it is somewhat shiny and does not crumble the stone will probably be a good candidate for cutting. The best way to evaluate different stones is to see slices or "slabs" of the stone cut from the "rough". Rough refers to rocks more or less in their natural state. They may have been broken from a larger boulder, but they are still uneven lumps of rock. Some may have been worn smooth by water in a stream or on a beach, but there has been no appreciable amount of modification from it's natural state. The rough is cut into more manageable form with a diamond coated saw. The saw blade is abrasive but not sharp, so it will grind its way through the stone rather than cutting like a wood saw. The stone is sliced into "slabs" about 3/16" to 1/4" thick. The surface of the slab will be dull and scratched, but a little water will give a good indication of how the stone will look polished. Another consideration is more personal, but no less important. What colors do you like? Do you like bold striking patterns? Do you prefer softer pastel colors? Browns and greens, or vibrant reds and oranges? Amazingly everyone can seem to find a stone that seems to have been created just for them!

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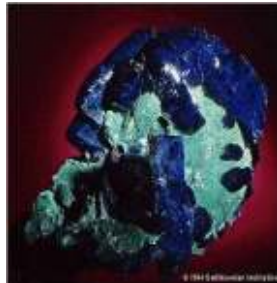
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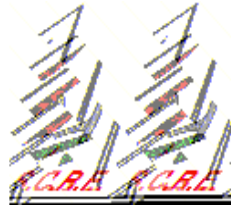


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Another
BULLETIN
Expressly for

