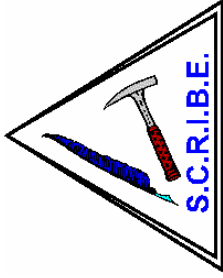


Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
15056-B Seventh Street  
Victorville, CA 92395-3811.



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Another  
BULLETIN

Expressly for



# THE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF VICTOR VALLEY  
GEM AND MINERAL CLUB  
JULY 2007



## LEARNING HOW IT'S DONE



I was at the shop on Wednesday, June 13th. A few regulars were there—Lloyd Guillian, Bob Menelly, Jim Fosse and Kate Waterman. I was taking photos of members working around the shop for the July issue of the Bulletin. Kathleen Holbrook came in the shop and was showing me some of her work. Bob Menelly set up the "All You Need" and helped Kathleen work on one of her cabs. He worked with her patiently through each step and answered all of her questions. We all learned a lot. Thank you Bob!

## YOUR OFFICERS FOR 2007

### 2007 Executive Committee

President.....Tom Laszlo.....247-5369  
 1st V.P (Membership)..Jim Fosse.....245-8644  
 2nd V.P (Education).....Mary Lou Flecher.....949-9347  
 Recording Secretary...Patti Deer.....553-6550  
 Treasurer.....Janet Flecher.....949-9347

### Board Members

Cyndy Mandell.....244-7169  
 Chuck Forsyth.....1-503-851-9050  
 Joe Kosik.....241-0894  
 Virgil Melton.....948-2849

Past President.....Nick Beall.....246-7117  
 CFMS Representative..Bob Harper.....947-6383

### Standing Committee Chairmen

Wagon Master.....Janet Flecher.....949-9347  
 Historian.....Elizabeth Clark.....241-9786  
 Maintenance.....Chuck Forsyth.....1-503-851-9050  
 Librarian.....Ralph Powers.....951-2937  
 Newsletter.....Alan Molineux.....951-7064  
 Sunshine Lady.....Carol Laszlo.....247-5369  
 Displays.....Kate Waterman.....946-5881  
 Raffles.....Charles Toles.....242-9240  
 Scholarships.....Andrew Turner.....962-0095  
 Legislative Rep.....(Vacant)  
 Photography.....Bob Harper.....947-6383  
 Hospitality.....(Vacant)  
 Parliamentarian.....Dennis Harbison.....247-5559  
 Gem Show & Tailgate  
 Co-ordinator.....JoAnn Beall.....246-7117

### Instructors

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

Club Website—[fosse.schema-root.org/vvgmc/](http://fosse.schema-root.org/vvgmc/)



Desert River

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 the rear.



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Assistant  
 Loan Officer  
 (760) 900-1846



**Bob Coats**

Loan Officer  
 (760) 912-9989

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## 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.

### **Wanted—Rocks, Lapidary Materials and Equipment.**

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### **Select Rocks & Slabs for Sale!**

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### **Rocks, Rocks, Rocks,**

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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 & Jasper for tumbling at \$1.00  
per pound. Call Joe Kosik (760) 241-0894.



## THE VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

was organized in 1947 and has been the focal point of High Desert rock hounds for the past 60 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 further information, call (760) 243-2330.

### MEETING DATES

The June general meeting was held on Tuesday, 26th at 7:00p.m. and the July meeting will be held on Tuesday the 24th.

### TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR CHECK OUT

The Foredom Flex Shaft is similar to a Dremel high speed grinding and polishing tool. You must be certified to use this and it is available to be checked out from the instructor on duty. It must be returned when you are finished with it,

The Gripper is used for gripping odd shaped rocks and also for the ease in gripping Geodes. This clamp can be checked out from the instructor on duty. You must be certified to use it and it must be returned clean and in good shape.



Our club is indeed fortunate to have had a number of dedicated volunteers working on our shop equipment. Their expertise and labor has saved the club thousands of dollars over the years. Chuck Forsyth and Charles Toles currently maintain our equipment with the

help of other members. On behalf of the membership, thank you....Ed

## LET'S WORK SOME SOAPSTONE

By Pat Warner  
Rockhound Rambling March 2003

California soapstone is 90 million years old and was formed from layers of sediment which were surrounded and fused by magma. The layers are still present like the layers in wood.

### Characteristics

Watch for the bedding or grain of your stone - too much hammering or chiseling will break the stone along this grain. Avoid these stress lines when designing your sculptures. Thin fish, hands, fingers, even noses on some sculptures require delicacy in hammering and chiseling.

Soapstone is temperamental about the directions you rasp it. On one of my pieces, I could file it in only one direction. I also found this true when I sanded it. Often the stone will almost explode, suddenly breaking off in small flakes, leaving small craters. Changing directions often solves this problem.

### First Steps

Since most of the carvings done in our workshop have been small enough to carry back and forth with ease, very little chiseling has been done. The heavy cutting has been confined to blocking out small carvings. Very little sawing has been done; however, several of our carvers have found it feasible to use a carbide blade in their power saw to block out the basic design.

Most of the carving can be accomplished with rasps. The larger the rasp and the coarser the teeth, the faster it cuts, but it also leaves deep scratches. These can be removed with finer cuts of either a rasp or file. I find a very fine file very helpful in taking off the larger scratches. Some of the scratches can be scraped away with a curved knife blade.

Soapstone, because of its sculpture, may develop openings like cracks along the layers. These openings should be filled for a professional finish.

### Patching

A good patch mixture is drywall spackle (hardware store), acrylic paints to color, and soapstone dust to thicken. Artists' paint colors of burnt sienna, burnt umber, yellow ochre, mars black, thalo blue, hookers green and titanium white will enable you to mix almost any color you will need to match your rock.

The patch material is a resin product called Akemi. It is manufactured for the repair of stone products and is available with its own compatible pigments. Both should be applied in the consistency of moist putty.

## AROUND THE SHOP (CONT.)



Kate has a variety of rocks and slabs ready to be turned into new projects. Kathleen Holbrook has a fine selection of polished cabs.



Everyone has a tote to carry their tools and projects. I had a peek inside Kathleen's. Bob is instructing Kathleen on the "All You Need."



Tom Laszlo recently cast this silver signet ring. Tom likes to keep his hand in with the various aspects of lapidary. You did a good job Tom. Tom is the club president and so has a lot of administrative duties to tend to. When he can find the time, he likes to get in the shop and work on some of the many projects that he has on the go at any one time.

## AROUND THE SHOP



Jim Fosse is grinding a piece of Montana Agate.



Kate Waterman is working on a cab of dinosaur bone.



Lloyd Guilliam works on a wire wrapped pendant with copper and silver wire.



Bob Menelly helps Lloyd out, hand polishing the pendant.



Here's a close up of Lloyd's pendant.



I just had to photo these fluorescent rocks.

(Let's work with Soapstone—cont.)

Leave a little for refilling in case of shrinkage. Let it dry for 24 hours before sanding, going through 220, 320, and 600 grit. After you have done this and filled all the cracks, you are ready for finishing.

There is nothing that says you have to have a highly polished surface, except in competition under the Federation rules, which stress the polished surface. If you want to highlight things in white, you can polish the entire surface, then etch the area with a fine riffler.

### Polishing Soapstone

Soapstone is absolutely gorgeous when polished, and the best way to polish it is under a stream or trickle of water. For abrasives, use wet or dry sandpaper, 220 grit and 500 grit, finishing with 600 grit. Use a pan of water and a sponge to remove the dust from your abrasive. Your carving needs to be checked, so let your piece dry and inspect your work. When all possible deep scratches have been removed, go on to the next grit.

### Final Touches

Priming your piece with a deep penetrating wood sealer gives you the richest colors. A good sealer is a clear wood sealer and varathane. The trick here is to use a soft brush and coat the piece with a liberal amount of sealer, wait five minutes, and wipe off the excess. Next, spray with a thin varathane, let dry for 24 hours and sand with 600 grit again. Do this process 3 times.

The final step is giving the carving a clear coat of wax. Almost any wax will do. Apply with a soft cloth or finger, give a complete coat over the entire surface, and let set for 5 minutes. Finish by polishing with a soft cloth. Your carving will be protected because of these final steps.

Congratulations! You have completed a beautiful and long lasting piece of art. Claim it with your signature, plus the year.

REFERENCE: Carver's Success Book, published by M&M Soapstone, Angels Camp. Original source unknown. via The Gemrock, 10/98 via ROCKONTEUR 02/03. This article was set to me by Doug Arnold.

### SUNSHINE REPORT

This month has been a very healthy one for most of our members. Just before I was going to get this information off, we were informed that Faith Harper was in Desert Valley Hospital with a Blood Clot and Pneumonia. A cheerful card is on its way to her. If anyone knows of a member who is not well or is pending surgery or has had surgery and is recovering, please let me know by calling Carol at 760-247-5369. Stay healthy and smile, as it is a Great Day in your life.



# July 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Battle of Gettysburg 1863 Workshop begins at 	<b>2</b> Instructor's Meeting—7p.m. 	<b>3</b> Board Meeting 7p.m. 	<b>4</b> Declaration of Independence 1776. 	<b>5</b> Workshop 1—9p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Workshop 12—9p.m.
<b>8</b> Workshop begins at 12 noon.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Workshop 6—9p.m.	<b>11</b> Workshop 1—9p.m.	<b>12</b>  Wagon Master's Mtg 7p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Workshop 12—9p.m.
<b>15</b> Workshop begins at 12 noon.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Education Meeting 7p.m.	<b>18</b> Workshop 1—9p.m.	<b>19</b> Workshop 1—9p.m.	<b>20</b> Man walks on the moon in  1969.	<b>21</b> Workshop 12—9p.m.
<b>22</b> Workshop begins at 12 noon.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Pot Luck—6:30p.m. General Meeting 	<b>25</b> Workshop 1—9p.m.	<b>26</b> Workshop 1—9p.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Workshop 12—9p.m.
<b>29</b> Workshop begins at 12 noon.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Workshop 6—9p.m.				