

Official Newsletter of the  
**VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

# The Bulletin

## *Happy St. Patrick's Day*

This is my wish for you;  
"Comfort on difficult days,  
smiles when sadness intrudes,  
rainbows to follow the clouds,  
laughter to kiss your lips,  
sunsets to warm your heart,  
hugs when spirits sag,  
beauty for your eyes to see,  
friendships to brighten your being,  
faith so that you can believe,  
confidence for when you doubt,  
courage to know yourself,  
patience to accept the truth,  
love to complete your life."

**Irish Blessing**



**Club House Phone  
(760) 243-2330**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016

President	John Printz	760-979-8252
1st V.P. (Membership)	Sandy Skidmore	760-617-6001
2nd V.P. (Education)	Lia Hamilton	760-780-7937
3rd V.P. (Gem Show)	Meg Martinez	760-617-8937
Recording Secretary	Dwayna Barron	909-234-5533
Treasurer	Craig Britt	760-987-1342
Corresponding Secretary	Val Costello	760-998-6394
Board Members:	Corey Beck	760-221-5738
	Terry Booth	909-223-1386
	Steve Hendrix	714-323-0323
	Don Pomeranke	760-868-5264
CFMS Representative	Patti Deer	760-553-5530
Past President	Vacant	

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

By-Laws	Frank Dunkin	909-522-0056
Wagon Master	Vacant	
Petrified Pups	Vacant	
Historian	Vacant	
Building Maintenance	Vacant	
Librarian	Lia Hamilton	760-780-7937
Newsletter	Dwayna Barron	909-234-5533
Sunshine	Marilyn Pomeranke	760-868-5264
Displays	Don Pomeranke	760-868-5264
Auctions (Donations)	Vacant	
Photography	Dwayna Barron	909-234-5533
Hospitality	Ceci Kawasaki	760-247-4121
Security	Sandy Skidmore	760-617-6001
Webmaster	Jim Fosse	760-245-8644
Technology	Michael Fosse	760-245-8644
Tailgate	Brett Ward	760-948-1232
Training Coordinator	Vacant	

**Our Instructors:** Ed Deren, Steve Hendrix, Morris O'Brien, Lia Hamilton, Don Pomeranke, Frank Dunkin, Chris Koch, Johnny Twedt, Charles Toles, Ed Skidmore and Barbara Pedrow



### FROM THE EDITOR...

Volunteerism was a way of life growing up, from scouting starting at the age of 7, Rainbow Girls, various clubs, business, helping family and friends to church and now VVGMC. But, most recently having retired from a non-profit organization that relied heavily on volunteers to carry out its mission I realize my volunteer knowledge and experience is vast. At my job, some of the volunteers were with us for years, some for a specific cause or event and many who were trained advocates or college interns who were later hired when an opening became available.

Our volunteers were greatly loved because they were there simply because they chose to be and put their whole hearts into their experience no matter how large or small the task. Of course college interns had something to gain, but many stayed on long after their internship was over because of the personal reward of helping others and they loved giving of themselves for the sake of others, plus we tried to make it fun.

An interesting article that I recently read asked the question, "What does it mean to volunteer?" The article states the three criteria of volunteerism is "**free will, non-pecuniary motivation, and benefit to others...**" or **someone who works for community wellbeing.**

The anonymous writers state that "Volunteerism is a basic expression of human relationships. It is about people's need to participate in their societies and to feel that they matter to others." The writers strongly believe "that the social relationships intrinsic to volunteer work are critical to individual and community wellbeing. The ethos of volunteerism is infused with values including solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust, belonging and empowerment, all of which contribute significantly to quality of life."

So why do you choose to volunteer—or not? What motivates you? And what do you carry with you after your volunteer experience?

Most of us could tell stories of cool adventures and experiences, but at the end of the day it's all about the relationships we form. Each and every story, experience, and in-

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If you find any errors on the website please help the webmaster out and contact Jim at [www.webmaster@vvgmc.org](mailto:www.webmaster@vvgmc.org) and let him know so he can fix it.



## President's Message

We held the January Club clean-up day on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January. We accomplished quite a lot. The Clubhouse was really cleaned and the ladies even steam cleaned the saw room! The outside north end of the property was cleaned and all debris was thrown away with all of the rocks moved to the south end of the Clubhouse. The Clubhouse (inside and out) is looking good. Thank you to the following members who came and helped:

Robert Delawz, Barbara Minard, Joyce DeGarmo, Gary Osburn, Jean Osburn, George Kawasaki, Ceci Kawasaki, Louise Herigdon, Chieko Printz and myself, John Printz. I apologize if I misspelled your name. Please let me know and I will correct the spelling. The above members all received their free workshop fee voucher for all of their hard work.

The February clean-up special interest will be the waffle breakfast. The menu items will include waffles, bacon, sausage links and biscuits with sausage gravy. We need to do a clean-up of the inside of the Clubhouse the day before the breakfast, Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet at the Clubhouse where you can indicate your willingness to help in:

- Clean-up on Friday (includes a delicious BBQ hamburger/hot dog, chips and drink)
- Cooking on Saturday
- Demonstrations on Saturday
- Club tours on Saturday
- Clean-up on Saturday

If you aren't able to sign-up at the Clubhouse, you can call me between **9am to 5pm** at 760-979-8252 and I will put your name on the list for you.

The Club's annual Tailgate is right around the corner, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Brett Ward is busy preparing for this year's Tailgate. Brett will need help to transport all of the supplies and tents from the Clubhouse to the tailgate site on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, please plan to meet at the Clubhouse at 9am. If you own a utility trailer and can bring it to transport the supplies, it would be really appreciated. Ceci has again volunteered to make the biscuits with sausage gravy and pies this year. Many, many members donated baked goods last year. I hope that you are again willing to donate your delicious goodies this year. You can bring them to the Clubhouse on **Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5pm** and I will make sure that they are taken to the tailgate. Sign-up sheets are located at the Clubhouse or you can call me between 9am to 5pm.

Please remember that when you volunteer and work for a minimum of 2 hours, you will receive a voucher which entitles you to a free workshop fee day.

John Printz,  
VVGMC President  
Phone #: 760-979-8252  
(Between 9am to 5pm please!)



## Check out Ceci's Biscuits & Gravy!

Waffle Breakfast... yum!





# March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>If you Chair a committee, please let the Editor know the dates and times of your meetings by the 15th of the month prior to your scheduled meeting for publication. 😊</b></p>		1 By-Laws 2:00p Instructors 6:00pm BOD Meeting 7:00pm	2 Workshop Day Noon—7pm	3 Workshop Day Noon—7pm	4	5 Workshop Day Noon—5pm
		6 Workshop Day Noon—5pm	7	8	9 Workshop Day Noon—7pm	10 Workshop Day Noon—7pm
13 <b>TAILGATE CLUB CLOSED!</b>	14	15 Education Night! 7:00pm	16 Workshop Day Noon—7pm	<b>St. Paddy's Day</b> Workshop Day Noon—7pm 	18	19 Workshop Day Noon—5pm
20 Workshop Day Noon—5pm	21	22 Potluck 6:30pm General Membership Meeting 7:30pm	23 Workshop Day Noon—7pm	24 Workshop Day Noon—7pm	25	26 Clean-Up 9am Workshop Day Noon—5pm
27 Workshop Day Noon—5pm	28	29	30 Workshop Day Noon—7pm	31 Workshop Day Noon—7pm		



**The 40th Annual  
Stoddard Wells Rock Hound "Tailgate"  
March 11th, 12th & 13th  
9-5 daily**

**FREE EVENT! PUBLIC INVITED! VENDOR SPACES FREE! 1ST COME BASIS!**

No holding of spaces or competing with Club's fundraising. Food and Drink Booth.

Saturday Family Field Trip 9am to 1pm for famous marble varieties.

For more information visit our website at [www.vvgmc.org](http://www.vvgmc.org) or come into the club house and pick up a flyer and directions.

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! CONTACT BRETT WARD***



## What's Happening...

### EDUCATION NIGHT

March 15th—7:00 pm

Terry Booth: Topic—Knapping

### CFMS SPONSORED EVENTS...

CAMP ZYZXX - March 27th - April 3rd

CFMS Show, Placerville - Sept 16th - 18th

For other club shows and additional information visit the CFMS website at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Be sure to read about the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and their upcoming plans for the Mojave Desert and your ability to collect rocks on government



Volunteerism, continued from page 5

teraction deserves to be shared.

At VVGMC it's not like we're feeding hungry children in Somalia, but we do come together and share a meal on General Meeting night. On clean-up day we take up brooms, mops and rags and together spruce up a months worth of accumulated dust, oil and grime. The Board meets once a month in an effort to move the club forward or just hold it steady and there are successes and failures alike. Members go on field trips, come in to cut rocks, form cabs, share knowledge and life experiences. Inspiration and leadership comes from each of us and what we know and have experienced.

My question is what impact did you make on those you were in contact with? What stories will they share about you? These are the people and relationships that promote interconnectedness for a good majority of our members.

What do you think? What is your volunteerism story? It is my desire to start a dialog, not whine or complain about the past or what is wrong, but what is right, what can be better going forward but mostly talk about the best in our members and the things that bring us together - ROCKS and RELATIONSHIPS. Submit your volunteer story and thoughts to Dwayna at [Recording-Secretary@vvgmc.org](mailto:Recording-Secretary@vvgmc.org) for publication over the next several months and let the healing or our club relationships begin. In the meantime, many positions still need to be filled, I took on Editor/Photographer in addition to being appointed to Recording Secretary...

**WON'T YOU PLEASE CONSIDER OFFERING YOUR SUPPORT FOR VVGMC & VOLUNTEER?**



LAUGHING  
OUT  
LOUD!



## Sunshine Wishes

**Ed Skidmore** came through surgery last month and has been in and out of hospital but expected to recover well.

**Barbara Pedrow** is still recovering after surgery and is improving slowly but surely.

**Patti Deer**, get well soon, you've been missed.



Long time beloved member **Nick Beall** passed on to the next life on Sunday morning 2/21/16. He will surely be missed. More details will be forthcoming in the days ahead on the website, by email and other means as we receive it.

If you or someone you know is sick, in the hospital or a member/family has passed on contact our Sunshine Lady Marilyn Pomeranke at 760-868-5264 or if you're in the club when Don is there, let him know. Please tell them if you don't want a mention in THE BULLETIN. Our thoughts and prayers are always with all our members, especially when life isn't treating you perfectly!

There's room for your business card advertisement here in THE BULLETIN! Who else offers advertisement for \$20 per year in 12 issues? It's an awesome way to get your message out to our members & on our website for others to see. Payment is due in advance of ad and to the editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication. See Craig Britt, Treasurer for details.



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## March Gemstone

Bloodstone is also referred to as heliotrope in Greek which simply means sun turning. Many believed that the sun turns red when this stone is immersed in water. Polished stones were escribed to reflect the sun. Bloodstone comes with dark green color with spots of red almost resembling droplets of blood. It based its name from the stone's appearance.

Bloodstone is sometimes referred to as Blood Jasper in the market. It is not really jasper, but more of a dark green Chalcedony which includes a mixture of red to brown. It appears to be glassy to waxy with an inconsistent color as the green color is derived from chlorite particles, while the red spots are caused by iron oxide.

Bloodstones are a variety chalcedony, which is crypto crystalline quartz. This simply means that these crystals are too small that it cannot be distinguished from the naked eye. One can determine the crystallinity through the use of an electron microscope. Note that there are two forms of bloodstone – the plasma and heliotrope. Heliotrope is transparent and has red in it. Plasma is deep green, opaque with little or no red in it.



A good quality bloodstone comes with solid dark green color with visible veins of red. This gemstone is a traditional March birthstone along with aquamarine. It comes in many shapes and cuts with the common forms of cabochon, cushion cut, emerald cut, octagonal, oval and round.

Bloodstones used in jewelries are coated with polish that magnifies the gemstone's beauty. This also means to never apply harsh chemicals like detergents when cleaning bloodstone jewelry as it ruins the surface.

Also, be careful when you buy bloodstones in the market these days. Many retailers now sell fake bloodstones. To distinguish a real bloodstone will need you to rub the stone on porcelain. If blood red scars appear, this is genuine. Otherwise, you are opting for fancy gemstones. Where to find these are in Australia, Brazil, Czech Republic, China, Germany, India, Russia, Scotland, and the United States.

Mohs Hardness of 7 with a triagonal crystal structure.



## Stoddard Wells Tailgate The Last "Free for All" Event

By Brett Ward, Tailgate Chair

My annual "soap-box" article for my favorite time of the year which brings various SoCal Rock & Mineral club members to our backyard and we say, "let the 'hounds' abound"! Last year's Tailgate was attended and supported by our loyal, generous and long time favorite Vendors and also by MANY new Vendors from all over the US & beyond!



This will be my 20th Tailgate experience, and how the years have flown. Over those 20 years, dear departed members of our Club and those who are still "digging around" have taught me a thing or nine. I sure could use the continuing education from our club members, new and old-timers, to make the 2016 Tailgate another success in free enterprise, generosity and volunteerism!

My main thought going into this year's Tailgate was centered on the title of this article. How our club continues to follow a method of a by-gone era. What I mean is, how can the LAST "Free-for-All" rock club show event for visitors, shoppers, barterers and Vendors still generate a monetary positive for the VVG&MC as the sponsoring club when Vendors are NOT charged a space or table fee? (Yeah, I know. We ARE out in the boonies, but we do still have a high overhead to cover).

Last year I wrote about the ideas floated around about changing how the Tailgate "viewed" Vendors and how the club might increase its positive net financial results by charging Vendors a fee. A necessary consideration as our club continues to grapple with the loss of an average of over TWO months operating funds since the "screw the savers" with "ZIRP" central banker policies enabling runaway world government debt (and currency WARs) began over seven years ago. These failing and capital destructive policies have permanently affected our club's "risk-adverse" nest-egg interest earnings to operate for you. Instead, our club struggles with implementing new and higher fees for use of the club. (rant off).

Without going into those "discussions" here of assessing a Tailgate Vendor fee, turned out leaving well enough alone last year resulted in our highest net donations I can ever recall.

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Tailgate, continued from page 6

Well, most self employed or "hobbyists" I know and speak with have had enough of feeling coerced, forced and generally paying out the you know what for anything and everything in one's everyday life. Replace these negative feelings with ones of a GRATEFUL Vendor being offered an opportunity to succeed at an event where costs (fuel/food/drink/misc.) carry a limited downside financial risk for all their efforts of planning and hard work to attend our Tailgate. And the results: Our "roving" club members mentioning our "donation only" method of financing the Tailgate generates an adequate % of income to cover our expenses with some left over :- ) for our club's operational expenses.

I think I can speak for our club in offering our appreciation and thanks to our visiting guest Vendors and our club members who sell at the Tailgate for continuing to step up and share with our club a portion of their success OR simply donating for enjoying a pleasant time attending our Tailgate made possible by our membership volunteers. Most Vendors appreciate gaining new ideas and making plans for the next Tailgate! This "forgotten" concept of the entrepreneur's gratitude to the sponsoring host and vice versa... Ying-Yang people... comes around, goes around...

For our VVG&MC Members and General FYI:

A "list in progress" of needed baked goods for our club's fundraising booth is on the big "dry-erase" board at Clubhouse. Choose from the suggestions/quantities, stake your claim, and please list your name so we know what to expect from whom. OR SURPRISE US AGAIN THIS YEAR ! We love new baked goods ideas to "sample" and "test" market! WE SOLD EVERY ITEM last year and had a FANTASTIC turnout of supply and variety of items from members and friends of our club! (We could have sold a little MORE :-)



A "sign up sheet" for 1-2 hour blocks of volunteer time/venues will be at the Tailgate BOOTH beginning on Thursday morning, 3/10. This is an opportunity for ALL our members to be an example of how others view our club and how well we learn to work together. Compliments continue to go up and complaints are down year-over-year, but ONLY when enough members participate! Drop by our club booth and fit yourself in! Members who are willing and able to help with our club's host booth set-up, here's the schedule: Meet at clubhouse Wed. 3/9 about 7:45am to load up EVERYTHING needed to truck-out to Tailgate site and set up the club booth and shade canopies for tables. We depart the club by 8:30 am on Wednesday!

If you cannot attend the Tailgate, but wish us to take your baked goods donations for our booth sales out to the Tailgate site on your behalf, please bring your items to clubhouse during the PRIOR Saturday or Sunday (3/5, 3/6) shop hours (place items in club refrigerator), bring items to clubhouse on Wednesday morning 3/9 before we leave at 8:30am OR make other arrangements with a club member.

Porta-potties are delivered/set up on Thursday, 3/10 by 11am. Club Booth (Fri.-Sun.) hours: coffee makers start at 5:00 am - close at 5:00 pm (Fri. & Sat.) The "Tear-down" on Sunday begins at 1:30pm is where we desperately need members with pick-ups and SUV's to check in at the booth to help haul everything back to clubhouse so everyone's home by dark.

For those members who are camping/selling at Tailgate and are early risers, PLEASE visit the club booth beginning Friday morning, 3/11 around 6:00am for a cup of coffee and see if you might assist with making BETTER coffee, collecting sale \$money and chatting with our vendors who rely on buying breakfast Fri-Sun beginning around 7:30am.

Remember members, when you arrive at the Tailgate, your first stop (after a porta-pottie :- ) is the CLUB BOOTH where YOU can check-up on what's going on, drop-off more baked goods and choose an area and time frame where WE need your help. HELP to make our 40th (woohoo!) annual Tailgate the best ever!

Thank you all, Brett Ward, chair.





### Welcome New Members

February:  
Art Ells and Chris Stumph

We're so glad that you have chosen to join our organization. We wish you a life-time of fun, learning, new relationships and great experiences with us... If you have any questions, just ask.

## Happy Birthday!

Missed you in February:  
Cyndy Mandell  
Debbie Jones  
Mason Lorz



March:	
Kathleen Boyd	Dale Lorz
Linda Britt	Ruben Martinez
Janet Fletcher	Dorothy Oberg
Mary Lou Fletcher	Lois Papner
Gayland Graves	Sandy Skidmore

# March Potluck Bring Something Irish or Green!



**Tuesday, March 22, 2013**

**6:30 pm**



*fish & chips*



*irish stew*

*brats & asparagus*



*corned beef & cabbage*



*makes your Irish eyes smile...*

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
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