



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to May. Sunshine and flowers and pollen. Oh yes, snakes.

News first: In case you have not heard, John Printz has stepped down as President of this organization. The board graciously accepted my advancement as President.

Second, Meg Martinez is no longer 3rd Vice President-Gem Show so we are in need of someone to take that position to put on the Gem and Mineral Show. This is held in November and planning needs to start right away. Please give it serious consideration to take this position. Getting supportive people to be on your committee will help the job go much easier. We also need a 1st Vice President-Membership.

Third. We need someone with good computer skills to help with computers.

Four. We really need someone to lead our junior members, the Petrified Pups. We have 11 junior members that are anxious to get started.

If you feel that you are qualified to accept any of these positions, PLEASE, step up, the club really needs you so we may continue our goals according to our club objectives.

We have lots of new ideas, and need input from members to pursue them.

NEWS BULLETIN: The General Membership meeting will NOT be full potluck until further notice, we are going to have desserts and hors d'oeuvres, coffee and tea. So bring your favorite to share.

We are going to be having field trips again. Different people will be conducting the events so, if you have a favorite place that you are knowledgeable about, please let me know, you only need to lead those trips not every one. Need to know in advance where, what to take, when to meet, what you will find. On May 7th, Robert Slone will be taking a group to the Kramer Hills area. See article for information additional info.

A SPECIAL EDUCATION NIGHT COMING UP, JUNE 21st: Snakes Alive, hosted by High-Desert Wildlife, will be back at 6:30p.m. Tell your friends and relatives. This has been a wonderful program in the past and very much enjoyed. Mark your calendars!!! Also a great opportunity for prospective members.

We have a new projector so Education Night is back on going forward. We want to have fun, find rocks, make something, and share our interests. Please come to the General Meeting with a smile and share.

Sandy Skidmore, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016

President	Sandy Skidmore	760-617-6001
1st V.P. (Membership)	Vacant	
2nd V.P. (Education)	Lia Hamilton	760-780-7937
3rd V.P. (Gem Show)	Vacant	
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

NEW MEMBERS

Jessica & Lucky Odel
Corina Anderson and
Junior Member: Tyler Sells

Welcome to Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club. We hope your experiences are positive and that you get involved, make friends, learn as much as you want and help the club be all it can be by volunteering for various activities and committees. If you need assistance, just ask... We're here for you!

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	Linda Porter	760-981-4101
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 and Ed Skidmore

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORTS!



SUNSHINE

Ed Skidmore
Lia Hamilton
Chris Koch
Don Pomeranke
Jane Slone
Ned Martinez

Best wishes to all who are under the weather, our thoughts and prayers are with all our members, but most especially when life isn't treating you quite so perfectly!

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.

Check us out! Club Website—www.vvgmc.org

If you find any errors or have technical difficulties with the website please help the webmaster out and contact Jim Fosse at www.webmaster@vvgmc.org and let him know so he can fix it.

FIELD TRIP—May 7th

A field trip is planned for the young and old alike to



Kramer Hills on May 7, 2016. We will be meeting at the club at 7:00 am led by Robert Slone and Chris Koch. Some of the materials we will be looking for:

Plume Agate, Seam Agate, Palm Root, Bog, Jasper, Petrified Wood, Chalcedony and more.

You will be required to sign a release of responsibility form to participate in the activity.



Some other things to consider and bring:

A walking stick may be useful for some folks. Water, snacks, hat, good shoes/boots, sun screen, layered clothing, rock hammer, tools of choice, bucket or tote for all the rocks you're carrying out.

THIS IS THE SEASON TO WATCH FOR WILD LIFE (snakes, etc.) If you are taking children, keep them close and ask about safety specific to them.



Passenger cars are okay, if you live in the area you may want to meet the group at the restaurant in Kramer Junction at 7:45am (wait for group). We also ask that you please follow the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the (BLM) Bureau of Land Management posts. We may collect where white markers appear, but not in red marked areas.

Come join others for a great trip and a great time!!

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. Contact Dwayna Barron, Editor or Craig Britt, Treasurer for additional details, see page 2 for contact information.

What a deal!



miningsuppliesandrockshop.com

**MINING SUPPLIES
& ROCK
SHOP**



9565 "C" Ave. Ste. K, Hesperia, Calif. 92345

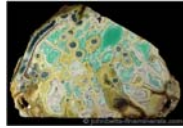
760-244-9642

YARD SALE COMING SOON...

FYI: Val Costello held a yard sale at her home in Hesperia for Dorothy Oberg in April. Items consisted of rocks; 30 years of collecting rocks, Covington 4' trim saw, 6" Hi Tech Polisher, grinding wheels and other miscellaneous items. There will be another yard sale in June with additional Lapidary items. A preview of photos will be available of a 3 gang grinder/polisher with drawers and compartments. That piece of equipment is too large for Val to transport, hence the photo.

Additional details for the June sale will be coming in May via email, the website, at the club and in the Newsletter. We'll be looking forward to seeing you there!

Gemstone of the Month



VARISCITE

Variscite is considered to be one of the rarer and lesser-known collector's gemstones available today. Its appearance is often confused with turquoise, but variscite's color tends to be greener rather than blue. It is most known for its different shades of green caused by traces of chromium, although its colors can range from light bluish green to medium and dark green and, occasionally red. Sometimes Variscite is traded as 'Uthlite' in reference to Utah the site of USA Variscite deposits. Uthlite is often cut and polished into smooth slabs and halved nodules.



Variscite is named after 'Variscia', the historical name of the Vogtland district in Saxony, Germany where it was first discovered and described in 1837. Variscite is an end-member of the isomorphous row of Variscite-strengite series of minerals. Like the garnet and feldspar groups, Variscite-strengite minerals have an identical crystalline structure but exhibit slightly varying composition. Variscite is often formed and associated with other phosphate minerals, resulting in interesting veining, splotches and other coloring habits. Although all Variscite is valued by collectors, emerald-green Variscite from Utah and the black spider-webbed Variscite from Nevada are among the most desirable gemmy materials.

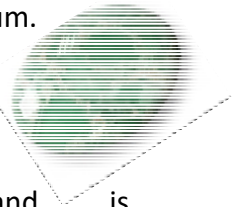
Variscite is a hydrated aluminum phosphate. It has a hardness rating of 4.5 on the Mohs scale, which makes it slightly softer than turquoise. It has a den-

sity of 2.42 to 2.58 and a refractive index of 1.563 to 1.594. Variscite is typically opaque with a vitreous to waxy luster. Some rare materials are slightly translucent around the edges. Variscite can often be distinguished by its splintery fracture, brittle tenacity and its striking colors and patterns.

Variscite is known to occur in various locations around the world as a secondary mineral in brecciated sandstone and hydrothermal deposits. It is normally found as rounded, coarse aggregate masses within cavity fillings, nodules and crusts; it is rarely found in crystal form. The most significant deposits come from Utah, but other sources include

Arkansas and Nevada, Queensland, Germany, France, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Brazil.

Variscite is often cut with its host matrix rock, resulting in interesting surface-reaching patterns. Most Variscite will exhibit black or white veining or 'spider-webbing' inclusions owing to various phosphates such as crandallite. Multicolored splotches are considered normal and patterns vary depending on the concentration of minerals such as iron, aluminum and chromium. When polished, Variscite has a vitreous to waxy luster, similar to many forms of quartz gems.



Variscite is primarily a collector's gem and is not often cut for jewelry. It is typically cut in cabochon as plain-cuts are most ideal for displaying the stones many interesting colors and patterns. Avoid harsh chemicals, use a soft plain cloth and plain soapy water, rinse well. Avoid ultrasonic cleaners and heat steamers, heat can cause permanent color damage.

Article excerpts and pictures from Gemstone.com/variscite and Wikipedia

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Workshop Noon-7pm	2	3 By-Laws Instructors 6pm BOD—7pm	4 Workshop Noon-7pm	5 Workshop Noon-7pm	6	7 Field Trip Kramer Hills 7am Workshop Noon-5pm
8 Workshop Noon-7pm	9	10	11 Workshop Noon-7pm	12 Workshop Noon-7pm	13	14 Field Trip* Ludlow 8am Workshop Noon-5pm
15 Workshop Noon-7pm	16	17 By-Laws Education Night—7pm	18 Workshop Noon-7pm	19 Workshop Noon-7pm	20	21 Workshop Noon-5pm
22 Workshop Noon-7pm	23 Don't forget new cab con- test at general meeting! →	24 Hor d'oeuvres -Dessert 6pm Membership Mtg. Following	25 Workshop Noon-7pm	26 Workshop Noon-7pm	27	28 Clean-Up Slab Swap 9am—Noon Workshop Noon-5pm
29 Workshop Noon-7pm	<p>*Terry Booth is leading a group to Ludlow on May 14th and will be leaving the club at 8:00 am. They will be looking for Thulite and Fire Agate. Needed: High Clearance vehicles or ride sharing, pic, axe and buckets. Don't forget to sign waiver, bring hat, sunscreen, good shoes, water & food and snacks; need to be protected and energized. Watch for critters and have fun!</p>					

Happy Birthday!

**George Bloom
Don Buchanan
Lina Porter
Mary Levinston
Fran Lorz
Ralph Maese, Jr.
Linda Porter
Charles Toles**



If I missed your birthday here, please contact Sandy Skidmore or me so that we can check to see why your name doesn't appear. We never want to leave anyone out, but things beyond our control sometimes happen, if it does, our apologies...Let's fix it for next time.
Dwayna Barron
Editor

2016 SHOW SCHEDULES

May 7—8: ANAHEIM, CA

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
 Brookhurst Community Center
 2271 W. Crescent Avenue
 Hours: Sat 10—5; Sun 10—4:30
 Contact: Margaret Hogarth, (909) 597-7033
 Email: Hogarth.m@gmail.com
 Website: www.searchersrocks.org

May 7—8: RENO, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society
 Reno Livestock Event Center
 1350 North Wells Avenue
 Hours: Sat 10—5; Sun 10—4
 Contact: Daniel Ellis, (775) 229-4420
 Email: sailondan55@aol.com
 Website: www.renorockhounds.com

May 13—15: YUCAIPA, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
 Yucaipa Music & Arts Festival
 Adams St. & Yucaipa Blvd.
 Hours: Fri 6—9; Sat 11—10; Sun 12—6

May 13—15: SANTA ANA, CA

West Coast Gem & Mineral Show—SPRING
 Holiday Inn—Orange County Airport



June 3—5: LA HABRA, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
 La Habra Community Center
 101 W. La Habra Blvd.
 Hours: Fri 5—8; Sat 10—6; Sun 10—5
 Contact: Don Warthen, (626) 330-8974
 Email: odwarthen@verizon.net
 Website: www.nocgms.com

June 4—5: GLENDORA, CA

Glendora Gem & Mineral Society
 Goddard Middle School
 859 E. Sierra Madre Avenue
 Hours: Sat 10—5; Sun 10—4
 Contact: Bonnie Bidwell, (626) 963-4638
 Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com

June 25—26: CULVER CITY, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
 Veterans Memorial Auditorium
 4117 Overland Blvd (@ Culver near 405 & 10)
 Hours: Sat 10—6; Sun 10—5
 Contact: Janice Metz, (310) 850-4398
 Email: janicemtz@yahoo.com
 Website: www.culvercityrocks.org

September 16—18: PLACERVILLE, CA

77th CFMS Show & Convention
 Hosts: El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
 El Dorado County Fairgrounds
 100 Placerville Drive
 Hours: Fri—Sunday 10—5 daily
 Contact: Barbara Terrill, (530) 676-2375
 Website: www.cfms2016show.com

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
General Membership Meeting
March 22, 2016

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of guests: No guests present

President—John Printz—present/presiding

1st VP – Sandy Skidmore – We currently have 110 members plus honorariums and 10 junior members

2nd VP – Lia Hamilton, absent

3rd VP – Meg Martinez, absent

Recording Secretary – Dwayna Barron - present

Treasurer – Craig Britt, absent

Corresponding Secretary – Val Costello: Job descriptions are finished; Frank has the list.

Board Members:

Corey Beck – present

Terry Booth - absent

Steve Hendrix - absent

Don Pomerence – present

CFMS Representative – Patti Deer – Reported on shows that are coming up, see the newsletter. Patti encouraged members to go and see what they do at other show's especially activities for children because they are the heart of clubs. ZZYXX may have campers, not sure, but will check.

Sandy reported that we purchased the overhead projector to help with Education night and that we will be able to see the screen with the lights on at the back of the room. The cost was \$855.00 and is an Epson 9200 with a 2-year warranty coming in under budget. And yes, she and Jim have tested it.

Dwayna asked for volunteers to step up to cover vacant positions and various needs in the club and for board and members to contribute to The Bulletin newsletter, particularly articles and pictures.

Brett needs helpers tomorrow to count money from Tailgate with Treasurer. Dwayna volunteered to assist. Issue with canopy aside all went well. He asked the vendor to get 3 quotes for their damaged vehicle then we'll decide how to proceed. The tent blew over into the wind onto another vehicle (hood damage). This is an act of God so who is responsible? Only the Board can make a decision. Brett asked for member's opinions.

Craig paid CFMS dues not liability insurance money so CFMS is holding the check. Craig was trying to save money and had spoken with our insurance agent who advised him that we were paying for unnecessary insurance and is a duplication of what we already have. CFMS states that the insurance is for CFMS sponsored field trips and is a requirement for membership. Craig will respond at BOD meeting in April.

Security cameras for Kaman – still pending with Meg.

A fun contest next month: Cabochon Contest that will be judged at General Meeting, see newsletter for details.

Clean up: In January there were 10 people, February there were 4 people. People were sick. Regarding Kaman's front yard; John talked to them but will table until later.

John said there are complaint forms up front and he is not taking verbal complaints.

George, Ceci, Chieko quit because of the gossip and that someone accused Ceci of theft. He can't do anything without a written complaint.

John reviewed tapes for security issues and security footage prior to 11/24 has been erased. He was trying to review for complaints that were read by board last year.

John Printz resigned as President effective immediately sighting the lack of support from members at club activities and the board not taking action against member's complaints that were submitted. There was some discussion and the gavel was then passed to Sandy Skidmore, 1st Vice President to assume the interim position as President.

Sandy called for a 10-minute recess.

Frank is going to review job descriptions. John would like to change the last wording of job descriptions: "The Board of Directors have the responsibility and obligation to vote on each issue, yes or no, abstention is for conflict of interest only". The job descriptions will be published for review and voted on at July meeting.

Connie Weinberg would like to work on a project using the silver room. She needs to be recertified since the sheets are missing and she hasn't been in for sometime. She was asked to contact Steve for appointment. John stated that the old certification sheets have been pulled, he suggested she be taken through a safety course.

Good of the order. Dwayna extended invitation for members to come to board meeting and participate in process and offer thoughts and suggestions.

Linda Porter will take on Hospitality Chair.

Motion made that a letter of appreciation be sent to Ceci and others for their service. Don/Frank/Approved. Val will handle.

A motion was made by Patti to adjourn/seconded/Meeting adjourned.

Dwayna Barron
Recording Secretary



**Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Board of Directors Meeting
April 5, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of guests: Frank Dunkin and Linda Britt

President - Vacant

1st VP – Sandy Skidmore: Position is vacant effective this evening someone is needed to fill position.

2nd VP - Lia Hamilton: Absent – No one has been lined up for April education night.

3rd VP – Meg Martinez - Absent – Dwayna raised questions about the gem show and our ability to have one if someone doesn't fill in soon. Sandy called Meg, discussion ensued regarding her absences and non-communication. A motion was made to terminate her as she has forfeited the position due to the 3 absences without communication or responding to calls. Corey/Val/Discussion/Approved/1 opposed

Recording Secretary – Dwayna Barron – Discussion regarding the newsletter issues converting to PDF for website and the program she was using was 13 years old. Terry made a motion to help Dwayna investigate and purchase a program for \$150 or less to advance newsletter. Her recommendation was Office 365 for 5 computers. Patty/Approved

Treasurer – Craig Britt read the treasurers report. Discussion regarding property taxes ensued. The projector is locked up until Jim can hook it up this week. It's a great machine, picture can be seen from back of the room with lights on!

Corresponding Secretary – Val Costello has a list that she would like to pass out to board that she would like put into the membership packet regarding volunteers. It is recommended by the by-law committee to move job descriptions from by-laws and put them into policies and procedures. Val/Terry/Approved. Dwayna stated that the policy will go to membership for vote after being published for 60 days prior.

Board Members:

Steve Hendrix – No report

Terry Booth – No report

Corey Beck - No report

Don Pomerence - Absent

CFMS – Patty Deer - Is asking for funds to go to Lodi on June 2nd. We are currently not members due to insurance issues. CFMS Insurance is a duplication of what we already have and does not cover our members but 3rd party attendees. There should be an exclusion because we have an endorsement. Terry suggested Craig give the pertinent

information to Patti to call and inquire and let us know and in addition have Patti ask if we have to follow their by-laws as it had come up last year.

Sandy read the letter of resignation from John Printz, President that was submitted 3/22/16. Terry made a motion to accept John Printz's resignation. Terry/Patti/Discussion/Approved.

New President: Terry submitted and motioned that the 1st Vice President automatically become President according to our by-laws. Patti/Discussion/Approved

1st VP position is now vacant. Val suggested Frank however he declined the position. Terry suggested it go to the newsletter and maybe a member will offer to take it on. Frank offered to assist with entering membership info into the database until the position is filled.

Ceci Kawasaki resigned as hospitality chair because of an accusation made. Sandy stated that it was a misunderstanding. Linda Porter agreed to take on the position at the general meeting. Terry suggested that a call be made to Ceci. Val will send her a letter thanking her for her service to VVGMC.

Craig stated that we made \$941 profit at Tailgate. The issue of the tent landing on John and Pat's truck is with the insurance companies. Terry said to wait until answers come back to proceed with next steps. Brett submitted his final cash report (see attached). Brett wanted to put another article in Newsletter. He inquired if there were complaints, Steve stated that someone went out the day after and picked up a lot of trash. Brett will make mention of it in his article. Next year we should be of more assistance by going out and check the next day.

Instructor photos: Dwayna will take photos of the instructors to post on board near door for instructor on duty.

A motion was made to approve Terry Booth as being reinstated as keyed instructor: Patti/Corey/Approved

Local cleaning company: Patti motioned that we look for cleaning company (investigate) Val/Discussion/tabled for membership to come and assist first. Brett suggested that past conflicts may be why people don't show for clean-up. Discuss at general membership. Leadership may be the issue. Sandy suggested that we change up some things to clean it up and change the environment a little. What is the motivation for members to come and clean up? Education at general meeting, Make the club more fun and move away from personality issues. Talk about it. Field trips, etc. Stating expectations in writing for volunteers. The vibe has been off track for a long time, people fighting and arguing. We need to show a unified front and stop bickering in front of membership.

Motion made to move clean up day to 4th Saturday of month and have a rock swap with it. Dwayna/Corey/Approved

Ideas: Terry brought up at instructors meeting: He'd like to come in on and stay Sunday until 7:00 pm. So that weekend members had the same time allotted to them for the same shop fee costs as the weekday members. Dwayna will publish in newsletter. It was agreed do try this but not be changed officially on the schedule until we see it's making a difference.

Suggestion Box. Genie #3 wheels replaced, thank you. Joyce.

Joyce through away the mop head. We need a new one. Have Don order several. Joyce came for clean-up day and waited 45 minutes for Frank. Need more green cleaner.

Rags were donated for shop rags.

Steve asked for light over silver room to be fixed. Sandy stated that would be done.

Kaman Bering: a car crashed over the light fixture in front of Kaman and pulled out trees. \$1,600 will take out current plants and replace with drought resistant ground cover. Craig will get 2 other bids with sketch.

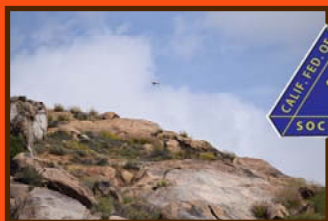
Terry made a motion to adjourn/Patty/Corey/Approved

Dwayna Barron,
Recording Secretary



Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
15046-B Seventh Street
Victorville, CA 92395-3811

VVGMC MEMBER



THE BULLETIN is the official monthly newsletter published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club and is distributed free of charge electronically, in the club and by mail each month for an annual fee of \$10 for members and non-members.

Views expressed by authors in the articles appearing in **THE BULLETIN** do not necessarily reflect those of the **VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB**. The editor publishes content as presented with minor changes for continuity.

Articles from this publication may be reproduced in whole or part in other lapidary newsletters if proper credit is given to author and **THE BULLETIN**.

Articles and pictures are due by the 15th of each month for the following months publication.

VVGMC CLUB SCHEDULE

SHOP DAYS:

Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday: Noon—7:00pm

Saturday: Noon—5:00pm

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Instructors Meeting—1st Tuesday 6:00pm

Board of Directors—1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Education Night—3rd Tuesday 7:00pm

Hor D'oeuvres/Dessert Night—4th Tuesday 6:30pm

General Membership—4th Tuesday Following

Club Clean Up Day—4th Saturday 9:00am