



The Bulletin

STODDARD WELLS 40th ANNUAL TAILGATE

By Brett Ward, Tailgate Chair

Well dear members, we pulled off another year as host for the Vendors, SoCal club members and the public from near and far who braved our spat of foul weather and road concerns to attend our 40th Tailgate. Most of our new Vendors when polled learned of our Stoddard Wells "Tailgate" primarily by word-of-mouth and social media. Nothing new there, eh?

I have asked our newsletter editor and a few Board members to allow me to "split" the post Tailgate wrap-up into two articles. First to address those club members I'm sincerely grateful can rise above most anything and suit-up and show-up to carry on our clubs traditions.

My May article submission will focus on the suggestions, complaints and financial/accounting for this years Tailgate, which is usually the very first question. How \$uce\$\$ful was the Tailgate this year for the club? Short answer, "yes", net positive. By how much is yet to be determined.

To advise new and remind older members how the financial responsibilities and "checks and balances" system are set up (thanks in large part to Carole McMichael's input years ago) as of the day of writing this article (3/17/16), a meeting with the Treasurer, two or more Board members and myself has yet to be arranged for the 3-4 hours it takes to open, count and verify all drops, confirm sequential carbon copies of three witness signatures for each drop amount and finally all store expense receipts. Then we can determine, create and present a written report of the 2016 Tailgate net profit to the Board for review, acceptance and then present to the membership.

The net specifics should be available in the report to

those who attend the April 5th Board meeting at 7:00pm and later presented to the membership at the April Pot-Luck and General Membership meeting beginning at 6:30pm.

My first VERY special thanks and DEBT of gratitude goes to a NON-member who many members here know or have heard of his good works. THANK YOU Bradford Smith, Moderator (I suspect much more, lol) of LA ROCKS, and author of the books "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and also "Broom casting" both available at Amazon or pick up your copy here locally in Hesperia at the "new" Mining Supplies and Rock Shop.

Yes, a shameless plug for Brad... (BenchTips@yahoo.com)... YOU ALL have NO IDEA what this man did for our club and me, on his own initiative to contact me out of the blue to HELP with the errors and omissions in MY publicity efforts for the 2016 Tailgate. Brad got our event back onto the CFMS shows online website on 3/5/16 and then sent out a personal Email with our Flier/MAP to over 3,500 rock hounds using his SoCal and beyond mass Email list in addition to great placement on the LA ROCKS website. RARE indeed are persons of his character and caliber! I enjoyed meeting Brad on Saturday and our few minutes of conversation. I'm sincerely thankful a few like him are still among our "rocks-in-the-head" community! You rock Brad! Keep on Rock' in-on!



Next up is our club's Wednesday, 3/9/16 set up crew. Thanks to Dwayna and Ruben with a truck, Frank D. and John P. with his BIG truck, George and Ceci K with their covered truck for transporting the entire kitchen Tailgate items dust free to the Tailgate site.

Continued page 7

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	

NEW MEMBERS

Dawn Carson
 Mary Livingston
 George Mearns

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	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

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORTS!



SUNSHINE

Sandy reports that Ed Skidmore is still recovering from surgery but is doing much better. Get well soon Ed, we miss you... Don and Marilyn Pomeranke: our deepest sympathy to you and your family for the sudden loss of your granddaughter this past January. There are others we may not have heard from lately, please call Marilyn with an update even if you don't want mention in this forum. We're missing many of you.

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!

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.

ROCK OF THE MONTH

“Picasso” Marble

An attractively patterned marble that takes a handsome polish

BY LITA R. SMITH-GHARET

FEATURED IN LAPIDARY JOURNAL, July 1990



We all know the beauty of a finely polished agate or piece of jasper; the way the light bounces off its mirrored surface to reflect the fine lines and patterns of the uniformly grained harder stones. A marble from south-east Utah currently being mined is reminiscent in appearance of some of the loveliest of these silica materials. We call it “Picasso” marble.

This material has a Mohs’ hardness of about 3-4 and so needs to be handled carefully. It works up much more quickly than the patterned agates and jaspers with their hardness's near 7 and other traditionally worked lapidary materials. This makes it easier to work, but sometimes a little too easy if the cutter isn't careful.

Narrow Vein

The colorful marble lies in a small vein only about 18 inches wide and is faced on both sides with a not so appealing dirty grey marble. It appears that the rock has been broken open and new mineral solutions have intruded through the cracks and healing the fractures of the existing marble. A great deal of the filling color is a black webbing that points into the center of the vein and appears t have been caused by a carbonaceous matter; the oranges, yellows, and browns by iron oxide deposited by iron- or magnesium-bearing silicate mineral solutions.

At the beginning of the vein is a brecciated zone that fed the mineral solution into the cracked marble. Here is where the colors are the most vivid and the pieces have the finest grain structure, which makes for the best polished pieces.

However, it takes a lot of hard work to get to the good stuff. When working in the mine, we bulldoze, backhoe, and hand-pry out about 14 tons of host rock to free one ton of the patterned Picasso. Then when we have piled up all of this rock, good and bad, we next have to go through it piece by piece with a four-pound crack hammer. We take off the four corners of each piece, looking for those pieces with consistent color and pattern. This saves us from trucking worthless ma-

terial down the mountain.

The pieces of Picasso marble come out of the ground in rather handy sized blocks or cubes, about four to 20 pounds, sometimes larger. The blocks are not only fairly easy to handle but also fit very nicely in an 18” saw.

Grades and Shades

As one slabs into this stone, the oranges and browns appear nearer to the surface and surround the grey and black patterned inner portions. This is true on all of the “A” and “AA” grade material. The smaller pieces will have about the same thickness of oranges as the larger ones, but the larger pieces have much more grey in the middle. The very large pieces have less pattern toward the center.

When selecting material, for instance at a show, keep in mind that the smaller blocks tend to have the brighter colors, are probably more solid, and will fit nicely into the saw. The larger pieces can be odd shaped, have much less color and pattern, and are more likely to come apart in the saw. Good Picasso marble should have some corners missing so that material beneath the surface can be peeked at. If the grain pattern looks “sugary,” there isn't much color variety, and the piece is very ragged in shape, then it is probably not good material. It may be “B” grade or less, and the price should reflect this.

The vein of material we are now working is, as stated not very wide, and the “A” grade does not run very long. As we go deeper into the ground, the mar-

Continued on next page

It takes a lot of hard work to get to the good stuff.

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

Picasso marble continued.

ble is more bonded together, making the pieces tear out of the ground. The color is less intense and the irregular shapes and stress fractures make for a lot more waste on the production end when working up hundreds of pounds. So purchase this marble carefully. Take the time to look it over, by the piece or by the ton, and make sure you get what you are paying for. If the rough rock does not have good color in it, then the finished

piece won't either. Not all Picasso marble was created equal!

Readily Worked

We have mined many tons of this material and have also worked up quite a bit of it. By far, this is the most workable stone with the least amount of difficulties of anything we've cut.

In the saw we use diesel fuel without suffering any discoloration to the material. Cabochons work up with silicon carbide on a good padding; diamond works great too, but it is not necessary for this softer stone. When it's time for the polish, after a 600 sanding, a muslin buffing wheel with almost any of the stick compounds works well. A hard felt wheel with the same sticks will give as good a polish and much more quickly. There are no wet, sloppy mixtures to splatter about and the time involved is not great.

Owing to the small, uniform grains in this marble, it can even be cut into small beads and successfully drilled.

Look into the stone and the pattern there will soon begin to form pictures of dark forests, swamps, sunsets in the desert, and others too numerous to describe. Whatever the landscape or scene it brings to mind, Picasso marble can be readily worked into an admirable finished piece. ♦

Article compliments of Bob Menelly,
VVGMC Lifetime Member



*This Month's
"Around the World"
Potluck Theme*



ooh la la!

Tuesday 4/26/16
6:30 pm



Crepes



Onion Soup



Quiche



Duck



Pastries

Bon Appetit!



Specialties

- Baguettes*
- Ratatouille*
- Escargot*
- Napoleon's*



Happy Spring... April showers bring May flowers!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm
3 Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm	4	5 Instructors Meeting 6 pm Board 7 pm	6 Workshop 12:00-7:00 pm	7 Workshop 12:00-7:00 pm	8	9 Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm
10 Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm	11	12	13 Workshop 12:00-7:00 pm	14 Workshop 12:00-7:00 pm	15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE!!	16 Clean-Up 9:00am-Noon Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm
17 Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm	18	19 Education Night 7 pm Contact Lia Hamilton for more Info.	20 Workshop 12:00-7:00 pm	21 Workshop 12:00-7:00 pm	22	23 Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm
24 Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm	25	26 Potluck 6:30 General Mtg 7:30 pm	27 Workshop 12:00-7:00 pm	28 Workshop 12:00-7:00 pm	29	30 Workshop 12:00-5:00 pm

Happy Birthday!

*Corey Beck
 Alaina Boyd
 Lia Hamilton
 Bonnie Hemphill
 Fran Lorz
 Ronald Midlikoski
 Jean Osborn
 Gregory Santelices
 John Twedt
 Mitchell Whaley*



If I missed your birthday here, please contact Sandy Skidmore, 1st Vice President-Membership so that she 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. The Editor

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CT Yu cleaning a rock saw at end of day.



Linda Porter is making a turquoise ring for her son.



A typical day at VVGMC...



*Steve Hendrix, Instructor
He's waiting to be of assistance.*



*Sandy Skidmore and Val Costello
are working on the membership list,
by-laws and other club business.*



*Chris Koch, Frank Dunkin and Ruben
Martinez sharing rocks & stories.
Ruben is showing a nice turquoise slab.*



*▲George & Ceci Kawasaki,
John & Chieko Printz,
and Patti Deer share a
table for potluck dinner
just before the February
Membership Meeting gets
underway.*

*▼Board of Directors and
guests are arriving and get-
ting ready for the meeting.*



*▲John Printz, President
He's preparing for the March
Board of Directors meeting.*

TAILGATE, cont.



The M.V.P. goes to Don P., ever and always helpful and reliable with his 'ole "goldilocks" pick-up truck. His grandson Cody riding shotgun helped us all on those set-up tasks most of us

just can't repeatedly bend down and do any more when putting up the canopies, lol.

This crew above transported all necessary Tailgate items out to the site and set up so the kitchen equipment and sale supplies could be arranged all day Thursday, right after escorting the "A-1 Portables" driver with our five porta-potties. A BIG THANK YOU to the crew for all "the set-up" memories! Fantastic performance with no (major) injuries to report this year.

Next in line to thank is Nick Beall.... Yes, Nick, who passed away a few weeks before this years Tailgate. As I was reminded at the Tailgate and then mentally connected the dots to his "instructions" given to me so many years ago when I accepted (and proved myself in his eyes) the position as Chair, for his eight hand crafted custom steel canopy stakes, which Nick made of his own volition for the Tailgate Chair to guard and protect above all else (there is a long story of Nick and JoAnn Beall's driving force (wind) ordeal behind the creation of these stakes by Nick...see me sometime for the second hand story). Thank you Nick, R.I.P. Your foresight saved our Bake/Drink sale booth this year (again), but old man weather played havoc with our clubs "tan" guest seating area canopy, which folded like a cheap tent and six of the eight "legs" are a total loss.... Who was it on set-up Wednesday that asked me if we "should throw out the old box that tan canopy came in or should we save it in the POD"? My gut intuition said "save it"... well now we can hopefully order a duplicate model from that old box ID and the club will have many matching spare canopy parts.

SO, in their order of daily appearance (early mornings and on and on...) is Frank D. and John P. who arrived before 6:00 am to help get things rolling (boiling) and handle customer relations, coffee service and collecting sales during the Vendor breakfast rush. Great job guys! Just a few hours of your service this early made the Vendor breakfast routine flow smoothly.

Now here is where I'll get all sentimental over Pat Estes, who joined and immediately was of service to our club shortly after me in 1998. I'm guessing when she found out that young (in college now!) Michael roll a

Fosse (THANKS Michael for all your years of service and talks) wasn't there this year as he had been for over four years straight to help with the Vendor breakfast, Pat came out of Breakfast retirement items before we could get "rolling" :) as in rolling "Virgil style" Breakfast Burritos...Amazing how the hands remember how to roll a perfect B.B., huh Pat! I'm so very grateful you were there to help after having already served for three straight years as a personal commitment to the club's Tailgate along side Gayland G. and me several years back.

Pat E. has served in many "official" capacities over the years for our club, and I for one remember and appreciate all her time and devoted efforts, especially on her good ideas, often shot down by the you-know-whotypes. We hope to see her around more if only for a few pot lucks and meetings.



And before I forget, Gayland G., when he arrived on Saturday, called out to me to come over and presented me with my largest and best Tailgate sign board which he noticed was missing from its usual pole just after Stoddard Wells Rd becomes graded dirt. He stopped and searched until he found and retrieved this large hand painted/reflective sign board far from the pole from which it had blown off even with five screws!

THANK YOU Gayland! Another member who has served our club in many capacities and we would all enjoy having around our clubhouse!

And then there's the Super Duo who without their dedication and physical endurance I could not have made it through this year... George and Ceci K. arrived at 8:00 am EVERY morning to relieve Pat E. back to her Vendor site and these two WORKED as hard as ever the ENTIRE weekend AGAIN...what am I gonna do without you two? George is a great front man for our club, aloha style, and I'm still learning from his laid-back demeanor. Thank you George! And Ceci, well Miss Energizer Bunny, you know this operation inside and out, so if I "go" first, you'll have to train the next Tailgate Chair :) Ceci also spent a lot of time doing mass baking of popular selling items (biscuits and gravy, yum !) as she has done the last several years. Thank you Ceci!



Continued page 8

TAILGATE, cont.

And for the lunch rush, well, best if I stay on the grill and out of the kitchen when Ceci and Chieko P. are



working as an assembly line team! Chieko left her Vendor site to help with the lunch and afternoon rush all weekend long. A few of the busiest hours for the booth and Chieko saved the

day! Without Chieko's help, Ceci and I would have been tripping over each other and making quite the humorous spectacle of what customer service should NOT be...THANK YOU Chieko for all your help in our booth and sacrifice of time away as a Vendor.

Now, most have heard about and/or wished they'd never witnessed what an idiot I had become by Friday afternoon; a coffee induced, sleep deprived scatter-brained mess with attitude. Well, slap me silly to break me out of it then! SO, I likely have left out a few of our club members who were working inside the food booth and I was elsewhere putting out fires (or when I ran up the hill for opals :) If I've neglected to mention your Tailgate service, please let me know by phone or Email to correct this oversight in the May club newsletter.

And one more thank you to correct an omission from LAST years Tailgate. I had accepted an assignment over seas just after the funds were accounted/deposited by the Treasurer and the final reconciliation of income/expenses was completed and accepted by the Board. I didn't have time to write a post Tailgate article for April, 2015. I did not learn of Bob and Candee P.'s move out of state until this February's General Membership meeting, and I want to thank them both here for posterities sake, for their dedicated support of the club and especially Tailgate set-up and tear-down; their banter and Candee's way with the public and working with Ceci so well during the lunch rush at our booth. Bob and Candee worked every day of every Tailgate after they became members in 2012. SO, if you two are following the club's website and happen to read this article, know you are deeply missed around the clubhouse by me and many more!

Out of ALL of our MEMBERS baked goods and food item donations, I'm pleased to report only a few wrapped plates were UN-SOLD again this year (6-8 in club fridge). A BIG THANK YOU to all club members for your time and expense to prepare food donation items! These items are SO CRUCIAL to being able to pay the ex-



penses of hosting the Tailgate and adding funds to support our clubhouse! We virtually "SOLD-OUT" this year by Sunday close.

Just the right amount and mix of items donated to match the people turnout/purchase ratio, and items were sold at fair pricing to benefit our club. GREAT food/snack items this year, all were received well! I can't wait to see what you'll think of for next years Tailgate!

Sunday afternoon was a close call with the wind up again during the tear-down of the main club booth canopy...it is down. George and Ceci were able to fit all the plastic "tubs" of the Tailgate kitchen gear/equipment and supplies in their covered truck bed AND they left early to unload these key items BY THEMSELVES (alone) at the clubhouse. We few remaining



members were tasked with the tear-down of canopies, heavy tables and 32 folding steel chairs, etc.

Allow me to jump ahead here to thank Charles T. for his 6-7 hours of help as

needed back at the clubhouse on Tuesday, 3/15, wiping down all the gear that did make it back to the clubhouse to be organized and re-packed in the "island" for ease in preparation to host the 2017 Tailgate. Thank you, Charles T.

Okay, now to conclude with the SAD ending.... NOT ENOUGH member HELP or trucks to bring all of the club's Tailgate property back to the clubhouse and into the POD. It's all still out at the Tailgate site awaiting volunteers to go and get. There was barely enough members who support the club despite personal issues or differences for the greater good of the club... a lack of members willing to "move-on" and get back into experiencing the satisfaction of volunteer efforts well appreciated, to get our 40th annual event "off the ground". The few dedicated members served consistently to put on our event this year, BUT, we needed the critical help with lifting and packing bulky, heavy items and bringing back all our "stuff" in open pick-up trucks. Members around the Tailgate site on Sunday before they left didn't seem to ask or offer if they could help in some way, or made excuses why they couldn't help when asked, especially those who have access to a truck to accomplish this final important task. TOO MANY ASSUMERS (haters) out there still, eh?

So at our 3/22/16 General Membership meeting, plan on voting to set aside tight budget money if items
 Continued page 10

2016 SHOW SCHEDULES

April 2–3: CHICO, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
2357 Fair Street
Hours: 10—5 daily
Contact: Kevin Wright, (530) 534-8364
Website: <http://pgmclub.wix.com/paradise-gem-and-mineral-club>

April 2—3: TORRANCE, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Blvd (entrance on Madrona Ave)
Hours: Sat. 10—5; Sun. 10—4
Contact: Larry Hoskinson / Leslie Neff, (310) 318-2170
Email: lesneff@aol.com

April 8—10: VISTA, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 North Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: 9—5 daily
Contact: Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7570
Email: raysrocks@cox.net

April 9—10: MARIPOSA, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5005 Fairgrounds Road (south of Mariposa on Hwy 49)
Hours: Sat 10—6; Sun 10—4
Contact: Martin Fodin, (209) 742-4036
Email: martin@safarigold.com
Website: www.camineralmuseum.com

April 16—17: THOUSAND OAKS, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park Community Center
190 Reino Road at Borchard Road
Hours: 10—5 daily
Contact: Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsorca@roadrunner.com

April 23—24: LANCASTER, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Lancaster High School
44701—32nd Street West
Hours: 9—5 daily
Contact: CJ Quitariano (661) 209-9092
Email: Cjq_62@yahoo.com
Website: www.avgem.weebly.com

April 23—24: ESCONDIDO, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
California Center for the Arts
340 N. Escondido Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10—5; Sun 10—4
Contact: Gayle Hamilton, (760) 726-0131
Email: gemshow@palomargem.org
Website: www.palomargem.org

April 23—24: PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rock Hounds
Paso Robles Event Center
2198 Riverside Ave.
Hours: Sat 10—5; Sun 10—4
Contact: Mike Judy, (805) 238-4469
Email: mrhaludy@gmail.com
Website: www.slockhounds.org

April 23—24: SANTA CRUZ, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
307 Church Street
Hours: 10—5 daily
Contact: Dean Welder (408) 858-9470
Email: wdeanwelder@yahoo.com
Website: <http://bit.ly/SCMGS>

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



Show information is provided through the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website at cfmsinc.org

TAILGATE, cont.

for hosting the 2017 Tailgate need to be repurchased... We'll discuss/figure out a way at the General Membership meeting who can offer their TIME, can arrange for or has an open truck bed, and finally, the all important medium-to-strong backs to load the clubs equipment, and we'll arrange a trip out to the Tailgate site to retrieve the club's assets... That is if they're not already full of buckshot and bullet holes...

Well, it is ALMOST April 1st! I had to say, make the point about how close a call it was to get EVERYTHING back in its place at the clubhouse! ONLY Val C. with her truck, Don P. in his truck with the help of his VISITING (non-member) friend also named Don and my little cab-over camper stuffed to the ceiling made getting this final return trip possible. HOW can you get involved next year to ensure that our club is represented "on-site" AND back "home" from our OWN event?

What do you feel has to occur with the club or with yourself to move forward as an active and supporting member of our club?

My sincerest thanks and gratitude to those members who can rise above past "difficulties" and venture beyond to be of service to our club. I will write part two, the final Tailgate wrap-up (much shorter) for our May newsletter edition. ♦

Brett Ward, Tailgate Chair

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Call to order at 7:04

Pledge of allegiance

18 attendees - A quorum is present.

Introduction of Guests - none

Roll Call:

President, John Printz

1st VP, Sandy Skidmore

2nd VP, Lia Hamilton - Absent

3rd VP, Meg Martinez - Absent

Recording Secretary, Dwayna Barron – Nothing to report

Treasurer, Craig Britt – Craig reported on club finances, giving bank balances. All insurances bonds and bills to date have been paid.

Corresponding Secretary, Val Costello - Absent

CFMS Representative, Patti Deer – Almost every week there is a gem show being put on by other clubs; closest one is coming up in March in Arcadia. She encouraged people to visit other gem shows to get an idea of how they

conduct their shows and bring back ideas for ours. Board Members:

Corey Beck – Nothing to report

Terry Booth - Absent

Steve Hendrix - Absent

Don Pomerence – Nothing to report

Minutes: Deferred to next month

Newsletter: Dwayna asked for volunteer articles and other articles/pictures deadline is 15th of each month.

Brett Ward: Tailgate – Brett asked for a variety of baked goods to sell, they are a good money maker for the club. Even with a large volume they sell out with no loss of inventory. Last year was a full house, he feels sad that so many have left. Wednesday the 9th we will meet at 7:45 am to load and take everything out to the site. Thursday, porta-potties come out about 11am. Porta potties picked up Monday morning for those who want to stay an extra day. George and Ceci will start out with breakfast and a few baked goods. Hot dogs/Polish dogs are on the menu. Brett already printed out flyers for 2017. Flyer for November show and next years flyer and a contact slip in envelope for donation, to be given out on Saturday. Help is needed mostly for food and getting gear there and back. Sunshine: Marilyn – Nothing new to report.

Displays: Don – Needs someone for display case in April. Joyce is leaving her display for March.

Photography – Nothing to report.

Hospitality – Nothing to report.

IT - Absent

Webmaster – Absent

The club still needs the following positions filled: Wagon Master, Petrified Pups, Historian, Building Maintenance, Incoming Donations, and Auctions & Donations.

Board approved purchase of overhead projector up to \$1,400.00. A motion was made to purchase an overhead projector. Marilyn/Linda/Approved

Board approved up to \$2,000 for security cameras for Kaman Bering parking lot. Motion made to go forward with purchase. Patty/Tom/Discussion: Working on a wireless system. Corey has a computer person who has experience with systems like this to give an estimate. Brett suggested something with a remote view and cloud storage of imaging. It was asked that we look at system that can be seen remotely with password on computer/smart phone. Charles suggested that money be put into the budget to purchase signs occasionally to show that property is under surveillance. Want to see if the less expensive system works first. Should work within 100 meters and will go high up on pole in front of Kaman. Motion approved.

Sign up sheets are at the front table for this Saturday waffle breakfast. Clean up Friday at 9:00 am

Continued page 11

FEBRUARY GM MINUTES, cont.

Starting March: Clean up will be the 3rd Saturday of month prior to potluck from now on, Kaman asked to do something about the landscaping in front of their building. John stated that that will be worked on as well.

A cabochon contest was suggested by Corey: looking for ideas for contests: Can be contests or something to break up the meetings as all business tends to be kind of boring; need to see videos or do something that's fun and encourages some kind of competition. Ed Deren suggested a buy, sell, trade night and silent auctions were mentioned. A motion was made to start a contest, starting with cabochons and go to other items starting in April. Sandy/ Approved. Put in Newsletter. Contest: NEW item's not things already done. Three categories: Beginner, Intermediate, Expert/Advanced.

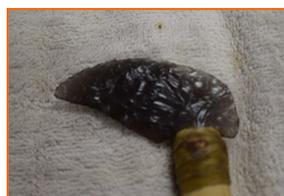
Good of the order: No one spoke up.

Motion made to adjourn 8:31 pm. Patti/Sandy/Approved

Dwayna Barron
 Recording Secretary

Education Night

Terry Booth is demonstrating various techniques in knapping. Shown to the right he is making an arrowhead similar to the ones shown below right. Below left is a tool used for skinning animals. His presentation was very informative and interesting to those present. Thank you Terry, job well done!



Cabochon Contest

Let's have some fun!

Let's see what you've got!



Categories:
 Beginner - under 1 year
 Intermediate - 1-3 years
 Advanced - 3 years+
 or you do this as a business.

- Starting April 1
- To be judged at April General Meeting by Membership present
- Nothing pre-made, must be created during April only!
- Deadline for submission: Sunday 4/24/16 4:30 pm to Instructor on duty
- Turn in with your name, material used and category you wish to enter in.

MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Board of Directors Meeting
March 1, 2016

Call to order 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of guests: Brett Ward, Charles Toles, Johnny Twedt, Frank Dunkin

Roll call – A quorum is present

President – John Printz

1st Vice President – Sandy Skidmore – Absent

2nd Vice President – Lia Hamilton - Absent

3rd Vice President – Meg Martinez - Absent

Recording Secretary – Dwayna Barron

Treasurer – Craig Britt – Treasurers Report

Craig passed out budget and P&L stove cost was \$324 plus insurance, over budget this month, next month will even out.

Corresponding Secretary – Val Costello - Absent

Board Members:

Corey Beck - Absent, Terry Booth, Steve Hendrix, Don Pomerence—No reports

CFMS Representative – Patti Deer – Workshops are available with Federation for judges, exhibitors, judges, scribes, etc.

Newsletter for CFMS is posted on bulletin board. Will let us know more information as it comes up. Patti will be checking web-site for additional information.

Past President - Vacant

A motion was made to dispense with February minutes to be posted in book: Terry/Patti/Approved

Abbreviated January minutes were read, because they were prepared by Meg, Dwayna asked for clarification on some issues. A motion was made to accept minutes as read with corrections. Patty/Craig/Approved

Brett Ward reported on Tailgate. Brett stated that he got good deals on food. He asked if phone tree can call around and ask for food keeping a running total of what's committed; Brett will supply a list. The tailgate did not get reported to CFMS, they would not assist Brett to get it done. Is Newsletter automatic to other vendors/clubs, etc.? Brett will follow up with Jim Fosse. Last year there was discussion about charging a fee, if idonations fall off this year, do we want to revisit the issue?

Newsletter: Dwayna asked for volunteers for articles re: club info and volunteerism.

John asked Patti Deer to put her investigative committee together ASAP.

Sunshine: Nothing

Photography: Nothing

Old Business:

Back log of complaints:

11/13/15 – Cookie Crites

Code of Ethics: offensive language against Marc Smith – No Merit – 6 He's a member keeping low profile, will address if issue arises.

11/13/15 – Sharon Crites

Shutting down of audit and interfering with club business against Marc Smith – No Merit - 6 This was last year, audit was performed and reported on in January.

11/24/15 – Sandy Skidmore

Cyndy Mandell/Lois Papner outbursts – No Merit – 6 If issues re-arise they will be addressed following proper procedures.

12/1/15 – Ed Skidmore Cyndy Mandell/Lois Papner outbursts – No Merit – 6

12/1/15 – Sandy Skidmore The complaint is vague – No Merit - 6

Shop Fees/Instructors not getting even distribution of time in shop. Discussion of distribution of volunteer benefits.

12/1/15 – Steve Hendrix

Cyndy Mandell/Lois Papner outbursts – No Merit – 6

12/1/15 – John, Ceci, George, Velma, Rudy – No Merit - 6

Board election procedures. Requested Recount. Issue was addressed in January, recount was reported in December.

MARCH BOD MINUTES Cont.

12/17/15 – Ed Deren – No Merit - 6

Steve threw things, used profanity, asked to calm down. Steve said Ed's radio was in way, the cord caught and pulled out of his hand which started an argument with Ed.

12/19/15 – Joyce DeGarmo - No Merit - 6

Every month women work in the kitchen, wants men to take it the next. Discussion Ceci is now in charge, anyone can volunteer and she can ask who she would like.

12/19/15 – Joyce DeGarmo – Merit – 5 No Merit 1

Need new wheel in Genie, has no grit left. All 100 grit wheels can be replaced. Make sure water being used. Will handle.

1/4/16 – Tina LaBau re Marc Smith – Merit 6 – Issue Resolved no further action required

Letter regarding the raffle income and laws. 90/10 rule. Tina claims there is a reporting issue to keep club in good standing. Board changed the terminology and are no longer having raffles except at Gem Show resulting in issue being resolved.

1/4/16 – Tina LaBau – Merit – 6 Sent to Investigative Committee:

Subject Missing Pup items from cabinet. What happened to all the rocks/slabs/lamp/money, etc. What happened to these items? Possibly went into auction at Gem Show. Things in container are specimens donated to the Pups. Who cut lock?

1/4/16 – Tina La Bau – 1 Merit – 3 No Merit - Will keep eyes on issue.

Name calling/insults by Marc Smith regarding gay people and Christians. Has a recording to prove claim. Code of Conduct violation. Discussion: Marc is aware of the issues, if problems reoccur they will be addressed following proper protocols.

1/2/2016 — Sandra Skidmore – Ballot issues at November meeting. John denounced board members in January Newsletter.

No proper installation of officers: Write a letter to be signed by each individual BOD member to be signed at April BOD meeting by everyone in lieu of.

Election issues: Voter intimidation No Merit 5 – Merit 1

No need for new club house when this one is not being utilized. No Merit – 6

Issue of newsletter in January denouncing the previous Board. No Merit – 6

Need Board to decide how to deal with junior members: Board is "we". Merit – 6 Answered.

Debbie doing The Bulletin in January and "we" is a broad generalization. No Merit – 6

Instructors need to cover entire room or have 2 instructors – Merit - 6 Sent to Investigative Committee.

Member concerns: backbiting, gossip. Clean oil. Where is the turquoise bracelet Connie Weinberg? It's in the locked file cabinet. Saws have been cleaned.

Survey: Too much negativity and complaining.

Club open several times a week.

Shop fees aren't paid and members using club for profit. Complained about Steve's effectiveness in silver room.

General complaints about cleaning of club. Have newsletter. Surveys should be put into minutes to read at will.

3/1/16 – Dwayna Barron

Violation of By-laws. Members use equipment for personal gain. By-laws: Article II, Section 3

Discussion: Charles doesn't want to reinstitute corrective action without Board approval. There is draw to the club to cut materials. Issue sent to Investigative Committee to thoroughly investigate. Merit – 6 - Brett will assist.

1/30/16 – Joyce DeGarmo—Pizza is provided for clean-up would like gluten free: Not doing pizza anymore. Did hamburgers and she didn't show up. Will try to work with her.

Screws missing in templates/soap. Don will take care of.

4 saws down, no one working on them.

New member packets – Sandy needs to get on this ASAP. Has been almost 3 years; what is status?

Updated Roster – Don is still requesting a membership roster.

John turned in \$69.30 from waffle breakfast as donation.

No expenses. Any left-over will go to the tailgate in addition to the sodas/water left from Gem Show

New stove cost \$324, John stated \$300 was authorized by board last month, Dwayna stated she believed the board approved \$499. Motion made to approve excess amount of money spent on stove (\$24) Terry/Craig/Approved

Monthly fun contest – Think about it until next month

Monthly clean up cancelled unless people start showing up.

1st Saturday of month will be new member orientation.

New Business:

Any work for investigative committee. Patti Deer has volunteered to chair committee, no members yet. Several items sent for committees review.

If no volunteers for committee chairs, John wants to assign committees to board members. Issue tabled due to lack of interest.

Good of the order: None

Motion made to adjourn meeting 8:56 pm. Terry/Patti/Approved

Dwayna Barron, Recording Secretary



Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
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VVGMC MEMBER



THE BULLETIN is the official monthly newsletter published by the **VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB** and is distributed free of charge electronically and by mail each month for an annual fee of \$10 for members and non-members.

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

VVGMC CLUB SCHEDULE

SHOP DAYS:

Wednesday—Thursday: Noon—7 pm
Saturday—Sunday: Noon—5 pm

MEETINGS:

Instructors Meeting—1st Tuesday of month 6:00 pm
Board of Directors—1st Tuesday of month 7:00 pm
Education Night—3rd Tuesday of month 7:30 pm
Potluck Night—4th Tuesday of month 6:30 pm
General Membership—4th Tuesday of month 7:30 pm
Other committee meetings as scheduled and posted.

TAILGATE: 41st Annual Tailgate—March 2017

GEM SHOW: November 2016—Dates to be an-