

THE BULLETIN July 2017

*Official Newsletter of the
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club*

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!! July 4, 1776, our forefathers signed a Declaration of Independence from England. Can you imagine that day??

We are officially full on into summer, the kids are out of school and we hope you will be bringing them to the Pups meetings. They have been really busy and learning so much. This month they will be working with fossils. We're very proud of them all and especially to the ones who entered the county fair and won ribbons for their work. See the pictures of the boys and check out the kids' display. Don't forget to congratulate them next time you see them.

Clean up was June 10th, we had a great time sprucing up the club and getting ready for "Snakes Alive" which by the way was a great success considering the Reptilian Nation Expo was at the Fairgrounds over the same weekend. Families and friends came to touch, feel, see and learn about the spiders, scorpions, tarantulas, lizards, snakes and other invertebrates native to our desert. The kids especially had a great time, fun to watch.

Our next potluck is July 25th at 6:00 pm followed by our general meeting at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there, but don't forget you're welcome at the Board Meetings as well, your input is valuable to our club.

The board of directors have been working at refining the new bylaws and hopefully will soon have them ready for your vote, be sure to review this important document when you get it. Also, we love seeing the club full and people working on their projects; check out the calendar. Education Night will feature Corey and Dwayna teaching Cabochon Making 101 for July and August and then in September you will be able to wire wrap your stone. We have lots of special programs coming soon. Sign-up for the casting and silver-smithing classes coming by the fall. In the meantime, instructors are here to teach you on workshop days as well. Have a safe and sane 4th and a fun, cool summer, see you at the club. Sandy Skidmore, President



15056-B 7th Street
Victorville, CA 92395

Founded in 1947 as a
501(c)4 Non-profit educational Club. Visitors
are always welcome...

Our Objective and Purpose:

To disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and the earth sciences. To encourage study in these subjects through various programs. To arrange field trips for exploration, study, and collection of specimens. The preparation, publication and distribution of articles pertaining to these fields. The encouragement of interest of young people and fostering of classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR(s)...

It's been a rough start for Dawn in taking over the newsletter, however we're both confident it will get better. This is a big learning curve folks.

Our apologies for May and June, so thanks for your patience, you're all awesome!

Dwayna Barron and Dawn Mearig

E-mail Dawn anytime with corrections or information to editor@vvgmc.org

PLEASE ASSIST DAWN WITH ARTICLES AND PICS, IT WILL MAKE HER JOB A LITTLE EASIER.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

President	Sandy Skidmore	760-617-6001
1st Vice President-Membership	Lia Hamilton	760-780-7937
Recording Secretary	Val Costello	760-998-6394
Treasurer	Dwayna Barron	909-234-5533
Corresponding Secretary	Vacant	
Board Members:	Corey Beck	760-221-5738
	Ruben Martinez	760-868-8689

SUNSHINE WISHES

Joyce DeGarmo
Our condolences on the loss of her sister.
Don Pomeranke
Glad you're doing better

If you or someone you know is sick or in the hospital, if a member/family member has passed on, even when celebrating a special occasion, please contact our Sunshine Lady Marilyn Pomeranke at 760-868-5264 or if you're in the club when Don is there, let him know.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Education		
Gem Show		
CFMS Representative	Ruben Martinez	760-868-8689
Wagon Master	Various Volunteers	
Petrified Pups	Gabby Martinez	
Historian	Lynne Bradshaw	
Librarian	Lia Hamilton	760-780-7937
Newsletter	Dawn Mearig	909-234-5533
Sunshine	Marilyn Pomeranke	760-868-5264
Displays	Don Pomeranke	760-868-5264
Auctions (Donations)		
Photography	Dwayna Barron	909-234-5533
Hospitality		
Security	Sandy Skidmore	760-617-6001
Webmaster	Jim Fosse	760-245-8644
Technology	Michael Fosse	760-245-8644
Tailgate	Brett Ward	760-948-1232

Our Instructors: Don Pomeranke, Chris Koch, Lia Hamilton, Ed Skidmore, Ruben Martinez, Dwayna Barron and Corey Beck

Education Night July—September

Cabochon Making 101
Corey Beck and Dwayna Barron

Cabochon cutting or cabbng is challenging and yet the most popular form of gem cutting. Although it may require a bit of skill, some patience and a fair amount of practice almost anyone can master the art and technique.

Night one will be trimming, marking, dopping and shaping your stone. Night two in August will be focused on completing your cabochon project with the final polish.

What to bring night one: A slab of your choice (1/4" to 3/8" thick) to make a 40x30mm cab (recommended for newbies) preferably an agate or jasper. If you need a slab, the club will supply you one. If you have safety glasses and an apron, please bring them.

September we will learn to wire-wrap your stone. Materials list to follow in next newsletter.

Club Website—www.vvgmc.org

If you find errors or are having technical difficulties with the website please contact our webmaster Jim Fosse at webmaster@vvgmc.org so he can fix it or assist you. For THE BULLETIN archives go to: www.vvgmc.org/newsletters.

What's Happening This Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Petrified Pups 9am Workshop noon to 5pm
2	3		5 Workshop noon to 5pm	6 Workshop noon to 5pm	7	8 Workshop noon to 5pm
9	10	11 Instructors 6pm BOD 7pm	12 Workshop noon to 5pm	13 Workshop noon to 5pm	14	15 Petrified Pups 9am Workshop noon to 5pm
16	17	18 Education Night 7pm Cabochons	19 Workshop noon to 5pm	20 Workshop noon to 5pm	21	22 Clean-up 9am-noon Workshop noon-5pm
23	24	25 Potluck 6pm General Mtg 7pm	26 Workshop noon to 5pm	27 Workshop noon to 5pm	28	29 Workshop noon to 5pm
30	31					

July Dates to Watch For:

Saturday 1st/15th Petrified Pups 9:00am

Tuesday 4th Happy Independence Day

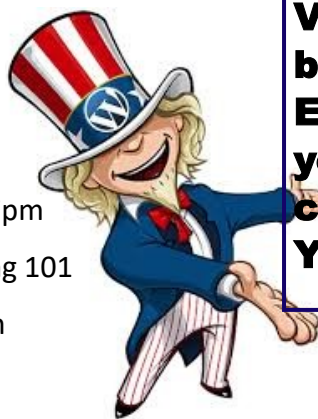
Tuesday 11th Instructors Meet 6pm/BOD Meet 7pm

Tuesday 18th Education Night—Cabochon Making 101

Tuesday 25th Potluck 6pm/General Meeting 7pm

Saturday 22nd Clean-up Day 9:00 am

Workshop Days: Wed, Thurs and Sat Noon to 5pm



Volunteers are the life blood of this club!
Even if you don't think you have anything to contribute, ASK!
You may be surprised!

Happy Birthday to everyone whose special day comes May thru July!

Robert Arias	Valeria Costello	Ralph Maese, Jr.
Loren Beebe	Joseph Deer	Morris O'Brien
John Bradshaw	Travis Deer	Robert Ortiz
Lynne Bradshaw	Pat Estes	Kevin Pellegrino
George Bloom	Bryan Hellickson	Marilyn Pomerence
Don Buchanan	Ron Kauffman	Tyler Sell
Jake Brouwer	Fran Lorz	Charles Toles



Please let the editor know if there were any errors or if anyone was left out of this list!

Hope every day is special, but we all should celebrate the day you were born and keep celebrating all year long!



SNAKES ALIVE

Of course we had a great time! It was 107 degrees out and the Reptilian National Expo was in town, yet well over 100 adults and children came to see the slithering snakes, lively lizards, hairy tarantulas, scary scorpions and other desert invertebrates brought to us by High Desert Wildlife. As always Rachel and her crew did a terrific job and their patience was amazing, there were so many questions being fired at them simultaneously. We learned the difference between a nocturnal snake by looking at its pupils. The cat eye looking pupil indicates a nocturnal snake versus a regular pupil that signals a diurnal (daytime) one.



who and pet him on his tiny head. They were all very social with one another. It was fun to watch the kids, their facial expressions were priceless.

Let's not forget all the rocks to oogle and ogle over not to mention the mounds from both kids and parents. They were impressed by the Pups program and what they could learn. Thanks Ruben for your wonderful "Marine Fossil" display, everyone enjoyed looking at things that were millions of years old. Don't forget to check out the display cases this month...very impressive.

Speaking of thanks, huge thank you's to everyone that worked so hard to get ready for the day, clean-up and general help: Sandy S., Daniel C., Chris K., Val C., Joyce D., Louise H., Brett W., Lia H., and Dwayna B. Looking forward to our 5th Annual "Snakes Alive" 2018!

They looked at the sun spider (vinegaroon) nestled snugly in a bottle with intrigue and interest and gleefully played with the rosy boas while others carefully touched the larger king snake and adored the little desert tortoise stuck his neck out for anyone willing to touch him



of questions

DID YOU KNOW? Fossils are interesting...

The **fossil record** is the **record** of life on Earth as it is preserved in rock as **fossils**. The **fossil record** provides **evidence** of when and how life began on the planet, what types of organisms existed and how long they persisted, how they lived, died, and what the climate was and how it changed.

Fossils can be divided into two categories, **fossilized body parts** (bones, claws, teeth, skin, embryos, etc.) and **fossilized traces**, called **ichnofossils** (which are footprints, nests, dung, toothmarks, etc.), that record the movements and behaviors of the dinosaurs.

The four types of fossils are:



"Marine Fossils" display by Ruben Martinez

- **mold fossils** (a fossilized impression made in the substrate - a negative image of the organism)
- **cast fossils** (formed when a mold is filled in)
- **trace fossils = ichnofossils** (fossilized nests, gastroliths, burrows, footprints, etc.)
- **true form fossils** (fossils of the actual animal or animal part).

There are six ways that organisms can turn into fossils, including:

- **unaltered preservation** (like insects or plant parts trapped in amber, a hardened form of tree sap)
- **permineralization=petrification** (in which rock-like minerals seep in slowly and replace the original organic tissues with silica, calcite or pyrite, forming a rock-like fossil - can preserve hard and soft parts - most bone and wood fossils are permineralized)
- **replacement** (An organism's hard parts dissolve and are replaced by other minerals, like calcite, silica, pyrite, or iron)
- **carbonization=coalification** (in which only the carbon remains in the specimen - other elements, like hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen are removed)
- **recrystallization** (hard parts either revert to more stable minerals or small crystals turn into larger crystals)
- **authigenic preservation** (molds and casts of organisms that have been destroyed or dissolved).

The Geologic Time Scale						
Era	Period	Epoch	Years Before the Present (approximate)		Life-forms	Physical Events
			Began	Ended		
Cenozoic	Quaternary	Recent	11,000		Humans dominant	West Coast uplift continues in U.S.; Great Lakes form
		Pleistocene	2,000,000	11,000	Primitive humans appear	Ice Age
	Tertiary	Pliocene	7,000,000	2,000,000	Modern horse, camel, elephant develop	North America joined to South America
		Miocene	23,000,000	7,000,000	Grasses, grazing animals thrive	North America joined to Asia; Columbia Plateau
		Oligocene	38,000,000	23,000,000	Mammals progress; elephants in Africa	Himalayas start forming; Alps continue rising
		Eocene	53,000,000	38,000,000	Ancestors of modern horse, other mammals	Coal forming in western U.S.
		Paleocene	65,000,000	53,000,000	Many new mammals appear	Uplift in western U.S. continues; Alps rising
Mesozoic	Cretaceous		145,000,000	65,000,000	Dinosaurs die out; flowering plants	Uplift of Rockies and Colorado Plateau begins
	Jurassic		208,000,000	145,000,000	First birds appear; giant dinosaurs	Rise of Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges
	Triassic		245,000,000	208,000,000	First dinosaurs and mammals appear	Palisades of Hudson River form
Paleozoic	Permian		280,000,000	245,000,000	Trilobites die out	Ice age in South America; deserts in western U.S.
	Pennsylvanian		310,000,000	280,000,000	First reptiles, giant insects; ferns, conifers	Coal-forming swamps in North America and Europe
	Mississippian		345,000,000	310,000,000		
	Devonian		395,000,000	345,000,000	First amphibians appear	Mountain building in New England
	Silurian		435,000,000	395,000,000	First land animals (spiders, scorpions)	Deserts in eastern U.S.
	Ordovician		500,000,000	435,000,000	First vertebrates (fish)	Half of North America submerged
	Cambrian		570,000,000	500,000,000	Trilobites, snails; seaweed	Extensive deposition of sediments in inland seas
Precambrian			4,600,000,000	570,000,000	First jellyfish, bacteria, algae	Great volcanic activity, lava flows, metamorphism of rocks. Evolution of crust, mantle, core

VENTURA ROCKS THE NATION

2017 AFMS/CFMS Show & Convention

By Ruben Martinez



Ruben Martinez
CFMS Representative

We arrived late Friday morning eager to get started not really knowing what to expect since information from previous Representatives didn't seem to be readily available, but hey, that was part of the great adventure Dwayna and I were in for.

Friday we spent the day roaming through each of the buildings, checking out our itinerary and deciding what we were going to be doing over the weekend. I talked to people and met up with a friend from the Ventura club whom I met at our Tailgate this past March. He was more than helpful prior to our arrival and throughout the weekend, thank you Russ! We later checked into our room (once we found it)...who knew a hotel would change ownership and their name after you book a reservation and then not tell anyone? Surprise! After that little expedition we headed back to the fairgrounds for the "Cracker Barrel" event. It offered us a great opportunity to continue networking and meeting new people over snacks and other activities such as line dancing. I sat there silently thanking God we both have a bad ankle as ladies were going table to table acquiring victims for the spectacle that was more fun to watch than actually participate in. I have to admit though if they had called upon me I wouldn't have admitted my injury and instead laughingly strolled down the aisle to dance hell.

Saturday was a full day beginning to end starting with the AFMS/CFMS Directors breakfast meeting which is when I found out that Representative and Director are interchangeable... another "who knew". I laugh. We were #98 on the roster. I introduced myself to the crowd and named the members of our club who had passed on giving a brief explanation of their contributions and longevity in VVGMC. To my surprise numerous people came to me afterwards congratulating us for rejoining AFMS/CFMS, we were missed. The scuttle butt was that we are a failing, dying club and far from being actively engaged in much of anything. The one thing that people wanted to hear about was when we will be having our next Gem Show. CFMS invited us to hold a combined show next year, that will be a discussion for the board, it would require everyone to pitch in and assist to pull it off successfully.

We went through the vendor's building, down the rows of display cases taking pictures of the most spectacular specimens of lapidary art, gemstones, minerals, fossils, jewelry and whatever else you could think of including kids clubs displays. We particularly liked the first-time display cases. The Benitoite display was amazing given it was Susan's first display, she did a great job and Ventura awarded her for her efforts at the banquet later in the evening. There was so much to look at the judges had a very hard time and had to be especially nit-picky to arrive at a winner. I talked to so many people and acquired enough information and offers of assistance that I honestly felt blessed and the love of those who truly want our club to succeed to the best of its ability. I realized that we have a great club, we just need to act like it and jump in and do what needs to be done so that our children and grandchildren have a legacy for learning what we know and giving them a platform for learning more.

Dwayna attended the Scribe breakfast and meeting on Sunday morning and garnered more support and information for the newsletter but more importantly all the contests our club can enter if we choose to. We were both amazed. We worked it and had so much fun doing it! The Pups will be getting information and direction too. We didn't leave anyone out; field trip info, land info, show info, etc. until my voice was hoarse from the many conversations, my hand hurt from shaking so many others, my brain was on overload and my eyes were burning from reading all that was provided. It was an awesome experience. Thanks for sending me. More to come in future newsletters and at the next meeting. Ruben





Upcoming CFMS Club Shows

For more shows visit cfmsinc.org

JULY

July 8 - 9: CULVER CITY, CA

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

AUGUST

August 4 - 6: NIPOMO, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School
525 Thompson Avenue
Hours: Fri-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: Wayne Mills, (805) 481-3495
Email: wvmills50@hotmail.com
Website: www.omsinc.org

**May we think of
freedom, not as the
right to do as we
please, but as the
opportunity to do
what is right.**

Peter Marshall

SEPTEMBER

September 23 - 24: LODI, CA

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
413 East Lockford Street
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Jerold Kyle, (209) 368-9411
Email: jeroldkyle@yahoo.com
Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

September 23 - 24: MONTEREY, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds
2004 Fairgrounds Road
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311
Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.cvgms.org

OCTOBER

October 7 - 8: BORON, CA

Mojave Mineralogical Society
Boron Community Center
26998 John Street
Hours: 9 - 4 daily
Contact: Bruce Davies, (760) 338-8829
Email: daviesb@yahoo.com
Web Site: [Facebook page](#)

October 7 - 8: VISTA, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 North Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Kelly Hickman, (760) 639-0447
Email: kellyhickman@hotmail.com
Website: www.vistarocks.org

October 8: FALLBROOK, CA

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Building
123 West Alvarado Street
Hours: 9 - 4
Contact: Janice Bricker, (760) 728-1130
Email: fgms@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.fgms.org

October 14 - 15: TRONA, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
Gem Show Building
13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat 7:30 - 5; Sun 7:30 - 4
Contact: Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356
Email: slgms@iwvisp.com
Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub [Show
Flyer/Details](#)

October 21: WEST HILLS, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church
22700 Sherman Way
Hours: 10 - 5
Contact: Virginia Rotramel, (951) 403-2634
Email: ginigem1@gmail.com
Website: www.rockchippers.org [Show Page](#)



VVGMC CLUB SCHEDULE

SHOP DAYS:

Wednesday & Thursday: Noon—5:00pm

Saturday: Noon—5:00pm Sunday by appointment

Instructor Days Mondays & Fridays.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Instructors Meeting—1st Tuesday 6:00pm

Board of Directors—1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Education Night—3rd Tuesday 7:00pm

Potluck Night—4th Tuesday 6:00pm

General Membership—4th Tuesday 7:00pm

THE BULLETIN is the official monthly newsletter published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club and is distributed free of charge electronically to members and non-members or by mail to the members without email. 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 the author and **THE BULLETIN**.

Articles and pictures are due by the 10th of each month for the following months publication.

760-243-2330**vvgmc.org****8****Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club****15046-B Seventh Street**