

# THE BULLETIN

## Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

### What's Up?

#### Weekly calendar

Also open Saturday noon-5 pm

Instructors Meeting first Tuesday at 6 p.m. Board Meeting 7 P.M.

Education night third Tuesday.

General meeting and potluck 6 P.M. 4th Tuesday. Meeting at 7.

Wednesday by appointment. Call Don P. - (760) 868-5264

Petrified Pups first and third Saturdays 9-noon.

CLASSES TO BE ANNOUNCED

### October Pot luck is Fall fixen's,

### October Birthdays

Larry Canuti	Louise Harrington
Myong Canoli	Chris Herried
Angela Douglas	Chris Koch
Joseph Gabrielson	

### Contact Newsletter

I need information to fill the newsletter. Please let me know what you are going to send and submit it five days before the general meeting. Please send information

or corrections to:

adoug0714@gmail.com

## There's gold in our parking lot?

By Joyce DeGarmo

The Petrified Pups began the chapter on Gold Panning & Prospecting. On September 21, it was a beautiful late summer day & enjoyed a day of gold prospecting out the front door in the parking lot.

Many club members set this day up for success. Gayland Graves brought in gold pans, a sluice box & rocker box. He also brought in enough specimen bottles for the pups. Don Pomerence brought in a wash tub, gold pans, 2 sluice boxes, the small one to put on your pack, when back packing. Also a standing dry washer, & a wash tub. The sand came from a ranch in Phelan. Pattie Deer brought in plenty of pyrite & amethyst to seed the panning tubs. Cool, clear water (bottled) was stocked in the refrigerator, & Joyce brought in her garden hose with nozzle. Chris Koch came in early to set-up, stayed after to clean-up. Chris helped the children perfect their panning techniques.

### President's message

### It's time to volunteer for next year

October, what a fun month, crisp air, great food, time for family and holiday planning.

We have had a lot of things going on, and more to follow.

It is time to think about next year, elections are in November so we need to have volunteers put

(Continued on next page)



Type to enter text

I also want to say that Patie's grand-son John, was a big help with the hose, also offering & assisting everyone as he saw a need.

Sandy as always, was on hand to facilitate the logistics of the morning & ensure everyone had a safe & enjoyable time. I also want to say that Patie's grand-son John, was a big help with the hose, also

## Officers, Committees

President Sandy Skidmore  
(760)617-6001

First Vice President	Ruben Martinez
Secretary	Lynne Bradshaw
Treasurer	Dwayna Barron
Board Member	Don Pomerence

### INSTRUCTORS

Don Pomerence, Lia Hamilton, Chris Koch, Dwayna Barron, Ruben Martinez, Cory Beck, Pups Joyce DeGarmo. ,

### Committee Chairpersons:

Sunshine, Displays, Don Pomerence  
Photographer, Dwayna Barron  
Newsletter, Doug Arnold  
CFMS Director, Ruben Martinez  
Saw Maintenance, John Bradshaw.

## President's message , *continued from page 1*

Decide which position is best for you. We have many committees as well, that need your expertise. To find out what the job duties are, there is a notebook in the office with all the descriptions, or you can ask a board member. The club needs you so we may continue to prosper. The planning committee has been working hard to work on the future of our organization and making great progress.

Gayland Graves is leading a field trip October 19, please set the date aside, details are to follow.

Thank you Gayland.

A big Thank you to Ruben Martinez for all he does in the shop, He and John Bradshaw work hard to keep the saws running, is your Vice President, and CFMS director. He assists members on the machines, and works the silver room and is on committees as well. So be sure to thank him when you see him, and let him know you appreciate all he does.

Our picnic potluck appeared to be successful, there was lots of camaraderie and everyone got to visit and share.

October's theme is Fall's Fixen's, and November is early Thanksgiving. Details to follow.

Thank you to all who pitch in and do what they can to keep our club functional and fun.

Sandy

## Help CFMS with stamp donations

Rockhounds also collect stamps

By Dick Pankey

Our stamp project has fallen by the wayside but it is time for society directors to get the stamp project going again. How does this whole stamp project work for CFMS?

It starts at the club member level. When you open your mail clip the stamps off the envelopes and place them in a zip locbag or open envelope for the federation director to take to the director's meeting early in November

The project was launched by CFMS Past President Ellen Schultz. Many years ago by Debbie Bunn who took the stamps to Sacramento.

The stamps go to the Sacramento Philatelic Society (stamp collectors). Money collected by the stamp society is donated to the Easter Seal Society in California.

Even though Dick was unable to attend the director's meetings, the Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society continued the project.

## Field Trip

The club has planned a field trip on Saturday October 19th. for Peach Plume Agate. We will meet at the club house at 7:45 a.m. and will leave promptly at 8 a.m. If interested please contact Gayland Graves (760) 902-3249 He can tell you what equipment is needed.

# Hints, tips from Brad Smith

## TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. They're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting sheet metal and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.



[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

## TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

- . Fine silver . . . . . Red/Orange
- . Sterling silver . . . . . Brick Red
- . 80% silver 20% copper . Dark red changing to gray
- . Brass . . . . . Yellow changing to blue
- . Nickel . . . . . Gray-green
- . Copper . . . . . Yellow changing to blue
- . Steel . . . . . Black
- . Stainless Steel . . . . . No color change

Fine silver	Red/Orange
Sterling silver	Brick Red
80% silver 20% copper	Dark red changing to gray
Brass	Yellow changing to blue
Nickel	Gray-green
Copper	Yellow changing to blue
Steel	Black
Stainless Steel	No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.

Work Smarter With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

**THE BULLETIN** is the official monthly newsletter published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club and is distributed free of charge electronically 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.

**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**
- Club Clean Up Day—4th Saturday 9:00am**

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club was founded in 1947 as a 501(c)4 Non-profit education club. Visitors are always welcome...

Our Objective and Purpose is 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.

**Catch us on the web!**  
[vvgmc.org](http://vvgmc.org)



**SHOP DAYS:**

**Wednesdays by appointment (760) 868-5264**  
**Thursday : Noon - 5 p.m.**  
**Saturday: Noon - 5 p.m.**  
**Instructor Days: Mondays & Fridays**

**Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club**

15056-B Seventh Street  
Victorville, CA 92395-3811  
760-243-2330