

# THE BULLETIN

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

## What's Up?

### Weekly calendar

Shop open Saturday noon-5 pm  
 Instructors Meeting first Tuesday at 6 p.m. Board Meeting first Tuesday 7 P.M.  
 Education night third Tuesday.  
 General meeting and potluck 6 P.M. fourth Tuesday. General meeting at 7.  
 Shop on Wednesday by appointment. Call Don P. - (760) 868-5264  
 Petrified Pups first and third Saturdays 9-noon.

CLASSES TO BE ANNOUNCED

## December Birthdays

Aurora Cook	Lily Michener
Yolanda Flores	Andrea Skidmore
Frank Harris	Jessica VanOverbeke
Cindy Mandell	Connie Weinberg

## Newsletter Contact

**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**

## President's message

# A happy Fall for all

By Sandy Skidmore  
 President

Happy fall, Happy Thanksgiving. Our fall in the desert is challenging, 35 There is so much happening, you will find something to get involved in whatever your interests. Let me start with the field trip. We had a great Field Trip on Oct. 19, Gayland Graves, our Wagon master, took us to an easy site and everyone got their buckets filled. Thank you Gayland and thanks to everyone who participated, supporting our club. Another field trip is in the planning. Our Pups are busy getting ready for Christmas gifts and the fair, doing what they do best, turning out beautiful stones.

They will have a display at the Mojave show in Barstow in December. We have flyers in the building for the tailgate, if you have a place to get them out, please take a packet, and one for the fridge. A lot of new things happening for the tailgate, and we are looking for a great time next March..  
 See **President's Message/ PAGE 3**



*It was time to find peach plume agate.*

## Gayland leads trip for agate

By Dwayna Barron

It was a brisk fall morning on Saturday, October 19th at almost 8 a.m. when several members arrived at the club anticipating what we might find on our field trip.

Most of us having no idea what peach plume agate even looked like, See **FIELD TRIP/ PAGE 3**

# Officers, Committees

President Sandy  
Skidmore  
(760)617-6001  
First Vice President  
Ruben Martinez  
Secretary  
Lynne Bradshaw  
Treasurer  
Dwayna Barron  
Board Member  
Don Pomeranke

## INSTRUCTORS

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

Committee  
Chairpersons:  
Sunshine, Displays,  
Don Pomeranke  
Photographer,  
Dwayna Barron  
Newsletter, Doug  
Arnold  
CFMS Director,  
Ruben Martinez  
Saw Maintenance,  
John Bradshaw.

By Dwayna Barron

The Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting since mid-August with great results.

A special thank you to the team members: Sharon Mabon, Sasha Holtkamp, Don Pomeranke, Sandra Skidmore and Ruben Martinez for your faithfulness and commitment to the process and to our members who completed the survey, it was very enlightening, so thank you as well. It is usually quite a challenge to look at your organization and be brutally honest about where it's at and where it's going. When we look at ourselves, we may not like all that we see, so frequently people tend to just look the other way and pretend everything is great, all the while the sands of time keep marching on and before we know it, we find ourselves so far behind the current trends it feels overwhelming to play catch up. Organizations just don't want to deal with it and they end up withering away, it happens everyday, especially in the world of nonprofit organizations. The reason behind the committee; they've been doing the hard work of identifying where we are and where we need to go and are accomplishing just that.

I'm so proud of our group! The next leg of the journey will be our branding. In the meantime, we've ordered some business cards that we will distribute to you our members so that when you are out and about talking about our club, membership and it's many opportunities, you can hand out a great looking card that you can be proud of and even personalize it on the back if you wish. There is still a lot of work to do, but I am so confident that this next year we will have a vibrant look and feel to our organization because again, we want you to be proud of who we are and what we are doing, and we want a look that supports it. The support, contribution and buy-in from the

membership is key, so if you have any questions or particular skills that would be helpful to the process, please give me a call at (909) 234-5533, let's talk.

Dwayna



*Sasha Holtkamp, Ruben Martinez, Sharon Mabon, Don Pomeranke, Sandra Skidmore and Dwayna Barron  
the Strategic Planning Committee*



*A beautiful day to collect rocks.*

## Field trip/from Page 1

Gayland Graves our Wagon Master showed us several samples of what we were going to be looking for. Excited for the trek ahead, we eagerly got into our vehicles and off we went heading North just past Barstow. An easy drive with time to talk and share our thoughts on a variety of topics while snacking on some version of breakfast that wasn't our norm, it wasn't long before we arrived at our destination.

After finding our parking spots, everyone got out of their vehicles and to our amazement, there it was at our feet. Thirteen year old Aurora Cook along with her dad Jonathan, was absolutely delighted with her immediate find. Donned with all types of different collecting bags, walking sticks and even a dog, we all ventured out in several directions. Pam faithful and true heads off to the left of the hill facing us, Lynne off to the right, Sandra and Louise somewhere behind her and the guys... well, most of them went up the hill and on over to the other side. I was standing by our truck watching the heads of Steve and Carol Pawluck and their dog drop out of site as they rounded the north side of the hill, and Irwin? he was just gone. Gayland hung around for a while making sure all were getting the right goods and me? well, a bad ankle kept me fairly close to the truck and chair with camera in hand.

Before it was over, Irwin left for Calico, some of us stopped to have lunch, while others continued to collect for a time. The majority of our group left for home while Gayland, the Bradshaw's, Ruben and I went on another off road journey for the rest of our day. All in all, I think everyone had fun, collected a lot of specimen's and are now looking forward to our next desert adventure.

We missed you if you weren't able to attend and hope you can join us the next time around. Dwayna

## President's Message/from Page 1

Need every member on the committee for planning and helping. So join in.

The Strategic Planning Committee is hard at work, we had the By-Laws passed and our new Mission Statement. Thank you to all the participants who work hard and put in a lot of hours to accomplish our goals. Especially Dwayna Barron, who is chairperson, and puts in so much time into this project.

With the next newsletter, we will be announcing the new board members. Hope your name is there.

Our Christmas party is on Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. Club will provide the food, and it is Connie Weinbergs' 108th Birthday we will celebrate. Petrified Pups will be receiving their awards as well. So mark your calendar. Help is always needed too. And lastly, **dues are due**. club will be closed Wed. and Thur. Thanksgiving week, and Christmas week and New Years Day. Any changes will be announced. Have a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. Stay safe.

Sandy

**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.

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**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

