


THE BULLETIN

Annual tailgate is nearly here

VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

 **44th Annual**
Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Victorville, California
Friday—Sunday, March 13th-15th, 2020

New This Year: FOOD TRUCK on site all weekend!

Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner!


EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

FREE Event! FREE Vendor Spaces
Dry Camping Restrooms
Silent Auction Grab Bags
Spin the Wheel and more...

Come visit us for Handcrafted and Faceted Jewelry, Slabs and Cabs, Findings and Equipment, Minerals and Fossils, TONS of Rough Material and LOT'S of surprises.

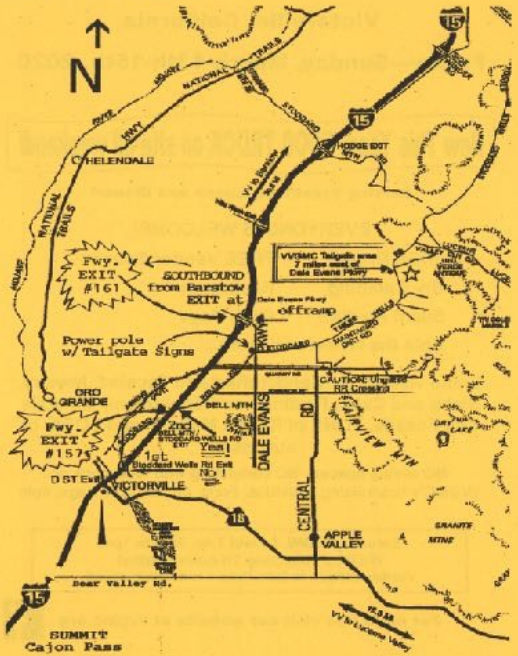
NO saving spaces. NO competing with food truck or VVGMC's fundraising activities: Food, drinks, grab bags, spin

Saturday FAMILY Field Trip: 9am to 1pm
We'll be collecting Tri-color marble!
Verde Antique is less than 1 mile from area!!

For more info visit our website at vvgmc.org 

Directions: From I-15 Northbound towards Barstow: Hwy 15 North THRU Victorville! EXIT Rt. At 2nd Stoddard Wells Rd at BELL Mtn. EXIT # 157. Turn Left/East at Ramp STOP Sign. STAY On Stoddard Wells Road 4 mi. until next STOP sign at Dale Evans Pkwy. "Tailgate" signs high on NW corner power pole. Check Odometer here! Continue Straight On Stoddard Wells Rd. 7 miles to "Tailgate". Road becomes a graded dirt road about 4/10 mi. from the Dale Evans Pkwy intersection. Proceed East/NE past "Grange" fork to "Tailgate" site. Cars & RVs can make it w/ease & care. "Tailgate" signs along route.

RAIN OR SHINE, SEE YOU THERE!



By Brett Ward

Our 44th annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate will have a fresh new approach to hosting this event with our Board and members efficiently re-delegating Tailgate duties and bringing onboard professionally catered food vendor services ! Getting away from kitchen duties and freeing up Tailgate club volunteers will allow us to focus on our club's primary mission objectives as host.

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Officers, Committees

Board of Directors

Dwayna Barron - President/
Treasurer 909-234-5533
Ruben Martinez - 1st Vice-
President-Membership
760-490-8263
Lynne Bradshaw - Recording
Secretary 909-534-0364
Sara Arnold - Corresponding
Secretary 760-221-3734
Don Pomeranke - Board Member
760-596-7424
Gayland Graves - Board Member
760-902-3249
Sandra Skidmore - Past President
760-617-6001

Committees

Auctions - VACANT
Bulletin Editor - Doug Arnold
CFMS Director - Ruben Martinez
Displays - Don Pomeranke
Education - VACANT
Historian - Denise Millar
Hospitality - VACANT
Librarian - Denise Millar
Maintenance - John Bradshaw
Petrified Pups - Joyce DeGarmo
Photography - Rose Padilla
Social Media - Sasha Holtkamp
Sunshine - Don Pomeranke
Tailgate - Committee
Wagon Master - Gayland Graves
Webmaster - Jim Fosse

Instructors

Dwayna Barron
Gayland Graves
Lia Hamilton
Chris Koch
Ruben Martinez
Don Pomeranke

This is a busy time

By Dwayna Barron

Hello Members, Happy February and all that comes with it from Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day and more. Hope you are planning for some special celebrations in addition to coming into the club to see what we're up to and creating your next masterpiece.

January came and went very quickly starting with Quartzsite. I hope that all of you who were able to attend had a spectacular time, we sure did. Ruben and I also had the opportunity to be present for the American Land Act Association meeting on the 18th with Congressman Paul Gosar of the Arizona 4th District. We met several new people from other clubs, a few we already knew and the contingency representing the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The meeting was fast paced, but very informative. Congressman Gosar talked about the committees and subcommittees he sits on and the process to get legislation through the House of Representatives. Most of us in attendance were surprised by some of his comments and suddenly we understood why we have problems. Next month I will write an article about the experience and after I have had the opportunity to speak further with Congressman Gosar's office regarding the state of affairs in California.

In addition to Quartzsite this past month we had our first board meeting of the year and voted Sara Arnold onto the board as Corresponding Secretary, please congratulate her and welcome her, She is a great resource and asset to our board and the club, we are looking forward to working with her.

Please read Brett's article regarding the Tailgate, He puts a great deal of effort forth each year keeping everyone informed. Speaking of the Tailgate, we have a quarter page ad in this month and next month's Rock and Gem magazine. They will also be doing shout outs in their newsletter and blog in addition to a short article on the website under the show listings. We don't have a problem getting vendors, we're looking for buyers and have great expectations for this year. Ruben and I have talked to several regular vendors and quite a few new ones, plus many of our members will be setting up booths for the first time. I'm very excited for each of them, it's an opportunity we should all experience at least once if we have product of any kind that we're wanting to let go of for a price.

Reminder: Please sign-up to volunteer, we need you! Even if you're a vendor this year, you can take an hour or two out of your day to give back to the club by serving in some capacity. We need help with the silent auction, with the kids spin the wheel, assisting with the membership booth while Ruben, Don and Gayland go out on the field trip, selling grab bags, set-up, clean-up and getting things to and from the club on Thursday morning and Sunday afternoon. It takes a village to accomplish everything there is to do, your assistance is greatly appreciated!! Reminder that we still need fruit like bananas, oranges and apples in addition to store bought desserts like apple pies or turnovers, cherry pies and cookies. Don't forget about the diabetics visiting us and those that are gluten intolerant, let's try to keep all the different needs in mind when making a purchase and donating.

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Calendar

- The shop is open Thursday and Saturday noon-5 pm
- Instructors Meeting first Tuesday at 6 p.m.
- Board Meeting first Tuesday 7 P.M.
- Education night third Tuesday at 7.
- General potluck and General Meeting fourth Tuesday. Potluck 6 p.m. meeting at 7 p.m..

Shop Hint courtesy of Don Pomerence's files:

Stones sometimes develop fine, thread-like scratching while being polished. These may be due to grit that has penetrated the polishing buff (one grain will do it). To clean, hold a strip of soft plywood or balsa wood firmly against the buff. The grit will embed itself in the wood, leaving the cloth buff clean again.

Gems of the Foothills 1/89

Strategic Planning Committee

Dwayna Barron
Sasha Holtkamp
Sharon Mabon
Ruben Martinez
Don Pomerence
Sandra Skidmore

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

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As host, many of our members participate as Vendors, ambassador voices of our clubs many attributes. The Tailgate offers us all the opportunity to share our own rockhound story and journey into lapidary arts. Many of our members like myself can trace their first experience with the VVG&MC to our Tailgate event and the heartfelt invitations (and a club brochure) to stop by and tour our clubhouse and consider becoming members.

We have a fresh new Tailgate flier (Page 1) thanks to Dwayna and these are available at the clubhouse now for distribution. As you get around your home town and talk to friends and acquaintances, Keep a few of our fliers handy to use as invitations !

Our club asks for homemade or store bought baked goods: pies, cookies, brownies, donuts, etc. Other snack ideas, including those for diabetics, should be dropped off at the clubhouse PRIOR to the Tailgate if possible either on Tuesday, March 10th during the evening of the Instructor and Board meetings from 6 p.m. to 8:30 PM OR on Wednesday, March 11th between noon and 5 p.m .shop day hours. YES, you read correctly, For the first time in many years the clubhouse will be open as a shop day the Wednesday before the Tailgate. But also open to allow members to stop by with baked goods and snack donations for our fund raising tables and as a prep day of equipment before Tailgate set up day on Thursday, March 12th.

As in past years, we need to haul out and return canopies, tables, chairs, etc. Those members with trucks and enclosed SUV's are needed and all members are invited to participate in Tailgate site set up. Meet at clubhouse, Thursday, March 12th at 8 AM – departing at 9 AM to convoy out to Tailgate. The porta potties conveniently should be arriving on this Thursday morning by 11 and we usually finish completing our host site set up by 1 PM.

Every member that attends or vends at the Tailgate represents our club equally, but we especially this year with focus off food need volunteers who would love to help with our silent auctions, sit with and guide the Petrified Pups activities and Membership/PR/info tables. Sign up sheets for volunteering a few hours of your time will be available beginning at our pot luck membership meeting on Jan.28th. Gayland G. and others will lead our Sat., March 14th field trip for tri-colored marble departing from Tailgate site at 9 AM. This field trip draws new and old-timer rockhounds alike and is a highlight feature of our Tailgate. Field trippers return about 1:00PM. All the standard club rules and safety guidelines for field trips are in force, as well as pre-departure inspection of ALL vehicles for capability of driving to field trip collection site.

Sunday, March 15th around 1:00-2:00PM we need all hands on deck to pack up and transport all club Tailgate equipment back to the clubhouse. Members with any vehicle might be needed to insure we leave nothing behind. Our 2020 Tailgate promises to be well attended by Vendors, now it is up to ALL of us to simply get the word out and invite others with a Tailgate flier or an online message to come on out to the Tailgate, the last of its kind in the West !

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Potluck Themes

February - Italian Night - St. Valentine's Day
March - Irish Food - St. Patrick's Day
April - Mexican Food - Cinco de Mayo
May - Favorite Casserole Night
June - Tropical Foods - Hawaiian Night
July - BBQ Night - 4th of July Celebration
August - Salad and Sandwich Night - It's Summer and Hot
September - Chinese Food Night
October - Harvest Food Night
November - Thanksgiving - We provide the Turkey/Stuffing
December - Christmas Party - We provide the evening, you enjoy.

The Petrified Pups meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, this month will be the 1st and 15th. Our next Instructors Meeting and Board Meeting is on Tuesday the 4th starting at 6:00 p.m. Education Night is Tuesday the 17th at 6:00 p.m., we will be working on forming a few simple metal clasps using wire in preparation for another class. If you're not familiar with working with metal and want to learn, this class is for you! The 22nd is clean-up day starting at 9:00 a.m. followed by lunch and then workshop at noon. The 24th is our General Meeting, Potluck theme will be Italian in honor of "tutte le cose amano" (all things love). If you have any concerns, issues, praises, etc. remember that the suggestion box is available for you to drop a note in, just don't forget to date it and sign it or we will not consider it at the board meeting. You can always give me a call as well if you feel the need. We want everyone to be happy and enjoy themselves here. Have a great month, see you at the club. Ciao
Dwayna Barron,
President

Petrified Pups

By Joyce DeGarmo

February Birthdays

Ed Deren Pam Golightly
Keith Johnson Steve Kaufman



The Petrified Pups are starting the year off studying about Earth Process. Beginning with Igneous Rocks, On January 4 the pups painted their paper mache volcano while talking about & examining specimens of igneous rocks. The plan was to entice it to erupt on January 18.

It didn't happen, the volcano remains dormant, which was lucky because due to illness the meeting was not held. On February 1, in Victorville, right here at our club house, the volcano is due to erupt. If God is willing & the creek don't rise.

Clean Up Crew This Month

A great big thank you to the January clean-up crew, you all rock. Gary, Don, Denise, Ruben, Dwayna, John, Lynne and Louise. We had a great time and after the work was done we all enjoyed a bite to eat and great conversation. Everyone stayed for workshop...let the good times roll!



Desert users need to get fire permits

Did you know that we are now required to have a California Campfire Permit yearly when on federal public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the USDA Forest Service? National and State Parks also require special campfire permits.

“Campfire” for their purposes means a fire which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes, including fires contained within outdoor fireplaces and enclosed stoves with flues or chimneys, stoves using jellied, liquid, solid, or gaseous fuels, portable BBQ pits and space heating devices, which are used outside any structure.

It's a very simple process and will only take about 10-15 minutes of time. Go to www.PreventWildfireCA.org for more information. You will need to register your name, address and email, watch a 2½ minute video, answer 8 simple questions and you can print the permit or save it to a device and have it available wherever you are. We've never had a problem and this year will not be the exception. The laws are changing rapidly, let's be legal and do our part in being safe out in the desert.

This month's jewelry bench tips by Brad Smith

Using your thumb

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of twist drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.



Cutting molds

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.



Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's Series of "How To" Books

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

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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



Shop Days

Wednesdays by appointment (760-868-5264)

Thursday: Noon - 5 p.m.

Saturday: Noon - 5 p.m.

Instructor Days: Monday & Fridays

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

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