

# THE BULLETIN

## Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Happy May Everyone,

Here we are, seems the heat is on already. This is going to be in lieu of May's Newsletter so that the information can get to you our members ASAP. Many of you know that the club finally opened its doors for workshop days on April 17<sup>th</sup>. It was nice to see many of you again after an awfully long respite. The board met and we have some exciting things in store for you this month. I know this is late notice but let us all do what we can to help restart our club... we thought we would try something new for the summer and see how it goes.

**1.Meetings:** We are going to start with Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Petrified Pups meet at 9:00 am and then we will move on into our general meeting at noon, then open for workshop at 1:30 pm until 6pm. This is being done for several reasons, the biggest two are that there are many people who do not like to be in town after dark and others who do not (or don't like to) drive at night.

For the meeting, please bring your own lunch or snack if you want something to eat, potlucks are still a no-no per the county. We will make coffee and have water and soda pop you can purchase for the usual 50 cents. We are also going to change up the format a bit and try to make it more fun and a happier time for everyone. The business meeting will be short and brief so as not to bore people to tears. I will keep it to business at hand. If you want to know more, the minutes of the board meeting and financial statements are available for your review. Another option is to just ask me, I will be happy to share.

At most meetings, we will have a short program portion so that we can forego Education Night every month. Ed Night will be limited to quarterly with a special project for those evenings. The topics discussed at the meeting will generally have a practicum during workshop for those that are interested in learning something new or honing their skills. An example would be: During the meeting we will have a short discussion of soldering techniques along with safe use of the equipment, and what tools and supplies needed for a project (we will try to tell you in advance or have items for you to purchase inexpensively). Then during workshop hours, you will have an opportunity to put the lesson into practice if you wish.

We also want to have "Show and Tell" nights, "Rock Swap" Night and other things that will be fun for us all. And of course, we will have our usual door prizes and auctions. We would love to have donations toward this venture. **This Saturday, we will have several buckets**

**of rocks available to purchase at \$15 each.** No high grading, all of the buckets have nice pieces, but they are what they are. Many of you know Yohontas, she is moving from her home in Apple Valley at the end of the week, then off to Alabama by month's end. She had sold a great deal of rock but still had more rocks than we could possibly take to donate. Thanks Yo, we appreciate your donation, I'm sure our members will put all of this to good use. I will share more at the meeting and would like to hear your ideas and suggestions as well. The boards hope is to see you there!

**2. Field Trip:** Sunday morning May 16<sup>th</sup>, Gayland will be leading a field trip up to Big Bear to the crystal beds. We hope many of you can make it. We encourage you to bring the kids and grandkids, this will be a fun trip for everyone. We will meet at the club at 8:00am and leave around 8:30am. We want to get there early so everyone can go home early or go into town and enjoy the afternoon. The weather will be a little on the cool side, so layer clothing just in case. Things you will need: Chisel, Pry Bar, Hand Shovel or whatever else you use for digging. The crystal's use to be on top of the ground, now we have to dig a little to get to them, but that's ok, it will warm us up. Bring a bucket or bag to carry all those crystals home with you. As always wear sturdy shoes and a hat, have plenty of water on hand in addition to snacks. Digging makes most of us hungry. While many of you went out on your own field trips during lockdown, we didn't, so this will be fun for us, it's been a long time.

### 3. Club Hours

Instructor Meeting:	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday – 2:30 pm
Board of Directors Meeting:	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday – 4:00 pm
Petrified Pups:	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 9am – 11:30am
General Meeting:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Noon – 1:30pm
Club Clean Up:	4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am to 11:30am
Workshop Days:	Saturday's – Noon to 5pm
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday – 1:30pm to 6:00pm
	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – Noon to 6pm

**Tailgate:** The Tailgate is on for September 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Enrique (Nino) and Yolanda Flores will be doing food again this year. They won't have the lunch truck this year, but the food will be just as good. We decided to keep the menu simple and will serve both breakfast and lunch.

Thanks to Blaine Witte for sending Ruben the coordinates to the field trip site for this year, it was a real challenge last year. Knowing what we know now, it will be better organized for sure! We are asking our members to start preparing your donations for spin the wheel and the silent auction. Quality sells, new sells, but sheer quantity and old items that have been out for the last 5 or 6 years will not, regulars have seen it all many times now and kids remember. We want to make it fresh this year. If you are a vendor, donations are expected of you, especially as club members, you set the tone for the rest of the people, so donate and volunteer, it does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. It takes the entire VVGMC village

to pull it off successfully. We just don't have the volume of volunteers we once had, we are basically starting over and need your help, plain and simple. So adult up everyone, this is our money maker for the year, you help make it successful or not! This is good for the community, so let's show everyone that we are still strong after 75 years in spite of COVID-19 and government shut-downs. Off my soapbox now...

That's all for today, at the meeting I will tell you where we are with membership and hopefully introduce you to some new members. We will have discussion of things on the horizon and oh, I have some really nice door prizes that I picked up in Quartzsite at the beginning of 2020 before we stopped having meetings. We've been saving them for you plus some auction items... here's a hint: Do you need tools for Sunday's field trip?

See you all soon,

Dwayna Barron  
President/Treasurer