

THE BULLETIN

February 2022

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club SAVE THE DATE

- * Feb. 1, Instructors Mtg. 2:30 pm Board Mtg. 4 pm
- * Feb. 5 & 19 Petrified Pups 9 - 11 am
- * Feb. 19 General Meeting Noon to 1:30 Theme - Italian
- * Feb. 20th, Kramer Field Trip
- * March 1, Instructors Mtg. 2:30 Board Mtg 4 pm
- * March 11-13 Tailgate
- * April 5, Instructors Mtg. 2:30 pm Board Mtg. 4pm
- * April 16, 2022 General Mtg. 12 noon to 1:30 pm
- * April, 2022 Diamond Pacific to be announced
- * General Meeting Noon to 1:30
- * March 11, 12, & 13 Tailgate

We have moved into another month, I hope you all had a Great Valentine's Day! As well as a President's day weekend. But it looks like the shop is getting very busy, which is so nice to see. We were closed for so long, it's great to see so many that are interested in the lapidary arts. I hope that some of you go on to be instructors at some time in the future.

It's good to be back to a busy club. This Saturday is our general meeting it starts at noon. So let's do a pizza day. I'll also take theme suggestions for our meals for our general meeting days.

I would like to have a meeting with the people who signed up to help out for the tailgate. This was the only time I could figure out that we could all meet that wouldn't interfere with who still works.

Dwayna was going to order the porta potties, and check on the food permits. Sorry that is all in one sentence. I have checked with several food trucks in my local area, apparently they aren't very interested because they haven't called me back. Dwayna did tell me that we can sell drinks, coffee, soda, water. She'll check if we can sell prepackaged food. On the 27th we have planned a cleanup date at the tailgate site. There are areas that have to be "smoothed out", fire rings that need to be moved and some trash to be picked up. We will also mark out the area that the club canopy's will be.

Sara
VVGMC President



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If you have any Questions, comments or just Want to help, don’t Hesitate to contact your Board members or Committee chairs for Assistance. We Encourage you to use The “suggestion Box”. It’s opened at every Board meeting.

Please consider being on a committee or chairperson. There are several positions

Board Members

- President. Sara Arnold 760-221-3734 president@vvgmc.org
- VP/Membership Dave Duncan 831-406-0214. vp@vvgmc.org
- Recording Secretary/ Treasurer recording-secretary@vvgmc.org
- Dwayna Barron 760-955-7190. treasurer@vvgmc.org

Committee Chairs

- CFMS Doug Arnold 760-221-3734 cfms-rep@vvgmc.org
- Wagon Master Janet Flecher 760-985-5432
- Historian Denise Miller
- Librarian Lori and Denise
- Newsletter Sara Arnold 760-221-3734 editor@vvgmc.org

Photography

Sunshine

Displays

Security

Webmaster/Tech. Jim Fosse 760-245-8644 info@vvgmc.org

Tailgate Board of Directors 760-243-2330 (club)

Instructors

- Janet Flecher
- Mary Lou Flecher
- Lia Hamilton
- Chris Koch

Maintenance

- Jim Banker
- Dave Duncan



CFMS Society/ Club Shows

March 5-6; Ventura CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W Harber Rd.
Contact: Richard Slyker, 805-312-8467
Email: info@vgms.org Website: www.vgms.org

March 12- 13, Arcadia CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
“Inspiration Unearthed”, 62 Annual
Tournament of Gems.
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd,
Arcadia.
Hours: 10 - 5 Daily
Contact: Ellen Ferrell 1-727-512-0381
Email: ellenbf2007@aol.com Website: pasadenalapidary.org

May 6-8; Lancaster, CA

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION SHOW
Hosted by Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 W. Avenue H
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: Susan Chaisson-Walbmom Email: slchaisson@yahoo.com

April 30- May 1 Anaheim, CA

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
Address to be announced
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Kim Strange
Email: kimstrange01@gmail.com
Website: www.searchersrocks.org

National/ Regional Shows:

California Federation
2022 May 6-8, 2022
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
Lancaster, CA
Contact Susa Chaisson-Walblom
slchaisson@yahoo.com

Eastern Federation
2022. TBD

Midwest Federation
2022 Springfield MO
Date TBD

Northwest Federation
Date and Place TBD

Rocky Mountain Federation
June 17-19
Las Vegas, NV

South Central Federation
AFMS 2022
October 7-9
New Orleans, LA

Southeast Federation
Date TBD

CFMS Newsletters

Can be downloaded at
www.cfmsinc.org

February Birthstone - Amethyst

Amethyst is one of America's most popular gemstones. Loved by all, Amethyst has long been considered a favorite. Amethyst is the birthstone for people born in the month of February. Amethyst is also the gift for the 6th year wedding anniversary. Plus, the Gad tribe, one of the 12 tribes of Israel, also uses Amethyst as their stone.

Fine Amethyst has been featured in the British Crown Jewels, and were also a favorite of Catherine the Great, and Egyptian royalty. Great thinkers like Leonardo da Vinci believed that Amethyst could dissipate evil thoughts and quicken the intelligence.

Amethyst Properties: Amethyst is made of quartz, a very common crystal that is abundantly found across the world. It's the cousin of other quartz gemstones like citrine (yellow quartz), rose quartz, and smokey quartz.



Wednesday's at the club

Dave Duncan

First Silver Smithing class a Success

VVGMC's first Wednesday Silver Smithing with Janet, was well attended and very infomative. All seemed to agree that it was very interesting and we learned a lot.

We had 11 students in attendance, and of those, only one member had been in the club more than 1 year. The rest had joined within the last 12 months. Where else but at the Victor Valley club can you get the use of so much lapidary and silversmithing equipment, complete with instruction for a mere \$25 a year!

In the first part of the class, Janet went over some basic metallurgy and the tools you will need to do your own work. This included a long list of jewelers pliers, hammers, cutters and much more.

The second part was a demo by Janet in which she worked on a piece made by melting scrap Silver with a torch and then working it with hammers. Finnally, she drilled holes and added Silver wires that will act as a hold down for the chossen stone she is adding.

This Wednesday Silver Smithing workshops will continue every Wednesday through the end of March (with the exception of March 9th, when we will all be needing to set up our tailgate event). We start at noon and there is a \$10 lab fee for each season.

Field Trip



Wagon Master

Janet Flecher

Kramer Junction. Agate, opal, and jasper. High clearance vehicles required as high centering obstacles and deep wash crossing are required to access the site. Sunday February 20, 2022. Meeting site is the Burger King on Rt 395 at the Kramer Junction area. Meeting time is 9 am. We will be leaving the parking lot promptly at 9 am. No exceptions. Plan on arriving early if you are unfamiliar with the location. This trip will involve 8-10 miles of off road driving in possible standing water, loose sand, rocks, and crossing small ridges. Street cars are not advised even if they are all wheel drive.

A quiz for the Kids

1. What gemstone is found on Mars?
Diamond, Emerald, Opal, Ruby
2. To create Stonehenge, humans moved giant bluestones as far as 140 miles, how many years ago? 1,500, 4,500, 10,000, 1 million
3. A professional rock expert is called what?
Mineralogist, Igneologist, Petrologist, stone doctor
4. What mineral was so valuable that ancient Roman Soldiers were partially paid with it?
Quartz, Magnesium, Salt, Sulfur
5. How many known minerals exist?
5, 1,000, 4,000, 5,000
6. Ancient humans used which kind of rock to make arrowheads and other sharp weapons?
Granite, Flint, Marble, Soapstone
7. How old are the oldest rocks on earth?
1 million Year Old, 50 million year old, 4 billion year old, 60 trillion year old
8. How many carats is the Hope Diamond?
91.6, 12.4, 45.5, Three bunches
9. Which is NOT one of the three top varieties of rocks?
Igneous, Metamorphic, Sedimentary, Paleomorphie
10. Which type of rock is so full of gas bubbles that it can float?
Pumice, Obsidian, Ruby, Slate

Please fill out a card with your name and number each question with your answer put it in the suggestion box. The board will pick the winner.



Sunshine

If you get a chance to call some of our older members that haven't been in for awhile, please do so; show them that we care about them!

If you or a member you know of isn't feeling well or is celebrating a special occasion, Please contact me Sara 760-221-3734.

Bench Tips

MAGNETIC TOOL BAR



An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip. They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about \$5 each. See <http://www.harborfreight.com> and search on-"magnetic-holder"

My only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.

SILVER DISCOLORATION

Working with jewelry involves an ever increasing number of skills. Chemistry is one of them that comes into play when dealing with a discoloration on the metal caused by a chemical reaction between it and the environment.

In the case of Sterling silver, there are three discolorations we typically encounter: a tarnish, a firescale, and a firestain. Each is different in its cause, in its cure, and in its prevention. All three have to do with components of the Sterling alloy (92.5% silver and 7.5% copper) and how they react with oxygen and the heat of soldering or with pollutants in the air over the long term. Firescale and firestain also occur in 14k or 18k gold because of the copper content.

Tarnish is a grayish coating that builds up slowly on the surface as a result of a reaction of the silver with sulfur-based compounds in the air. Typically these are pollutants from the burning of petroleum fuels, but they can come from other sources as well. I once tarnished all the silver in my display case by putting a pretty specimen of iron pyrite in with the jewelry. Turns out pyrite has sulfur in it!

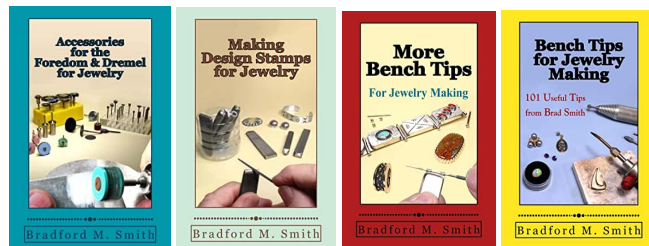
Sulfur from air pollution or any other source combines with the silver to form a grayish silver sulfide film on the surface. Preventing tarnish involves keeping sulfur away from the metal. Plastic bags will help, and anti-tarnish strips are available from jewelry supply companies to pack near your items. Tarnish is easily removed by hand polishing with a jeweler's cloth or with one of the products sold for cleaning the good silverware for holiday dinner.

Another way is to remove it chemically. Put a piece of aluminum in the bottom of a dish large enough to contain your piece. Heat enough water to cover the silver. Mix in 2 tablespoons of sodium carbonate per cup of water and pour into the dish. Be sure the silver touches the aluminum. Sodium carbonate is the main ingredient in washing soda. Read the labels in grocery and hardware stores.

The second type of tarnish is called firescale. It is the dark gray to charcoal colored film that forms on Sterling or other copper alloys like brass or bronze when we heat it with a torch. The copper in the alloy reacts with oxygen in the air to form a dark cupric oxide coating on the surface. Luckily, the oxide is easily removed by dissolving it in a mild acid - generally called a pickle. It's important that we not let firescale form on a solder joint because it will block the flow solder over the joint.

Work Smarter & Be More Productive with Brad's
"How To" Jewelry Books on

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



Tips continued from page 6

There are two ways to prevent firescale. Most common is to use a flux, a borax-based solution applied to the metal before soldering. When melted, borax forms a thin glassy layer that keeps oxygen away from the metal. A second way is to do your soldering on a charcoal block. Together with the flame, charcoal greatly reduces the amount of oxygen in the area being soldered. In either case, oxygen is prevented from reaching the metal, so no cupric oxide firescale is formed.

A second oxide can also be formed when soldering copper or a high copper content alloy like bronze or brass. It's called cuprous oxide and is reddish in color. That's why a black looking piece you put in the pickle sometimes comes out red. Problem is that while the black cupric oxide is dissolved by a pickle, the red cuprous oxide is not. The discoloration can be

sanded or polished off, but an easier way is to use a "super pickle". This is a mixture of fresh pickle with a healthy shot of hydrogen peroxide from the local store.

I've saved the worst form of discoloration, firestain, for last. Think of firescale (above) as like getting dirt on your shirt that you have to wash off. Firestain is like getting ink on it. The discoloration is not just on the surface, it seeps down and stains the material. Firestain happens when we heat a piece of silver too hot, too long, and/or too many times.

Firestain occurs when the oxides start to build up below the surface of the metal. You generally don't notice it until after polishing. It appears as a darker area of the surface and is easy to spot when viewed under light bounced off a piece of white paper. Because firestain is below the surface, there's no easy bench top solution. Depletion gilding may work for some pieces. Otherwise, removing it calls for sandpaper and aggressive polishing.

A much better approach for a piece that will require a large number of solderings is to protect the metal from developing firestain by applying liberal amounts of a firecoat. Regular soldering flux will provide some protection but is not as effective as preparations made specifically for the task. Jewelry supply companies offer several commercial solutions, but my favorite is the Prips mixture. I use it every time I intend to do more than two solderings on a piece.





VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
INVITES YOU TO THEIR

46th Annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Victorville, California

Friday thru Sunday, March 11 to 13, 2022
9:00 am to 5:00 pm Daily

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

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

All donations are gladly accepted!

Come visit us for Handcrafted and Faceted Jewelry, Slabs and Cabs, Findings and Equipment, Minerals, TONS of Rough Material and more.

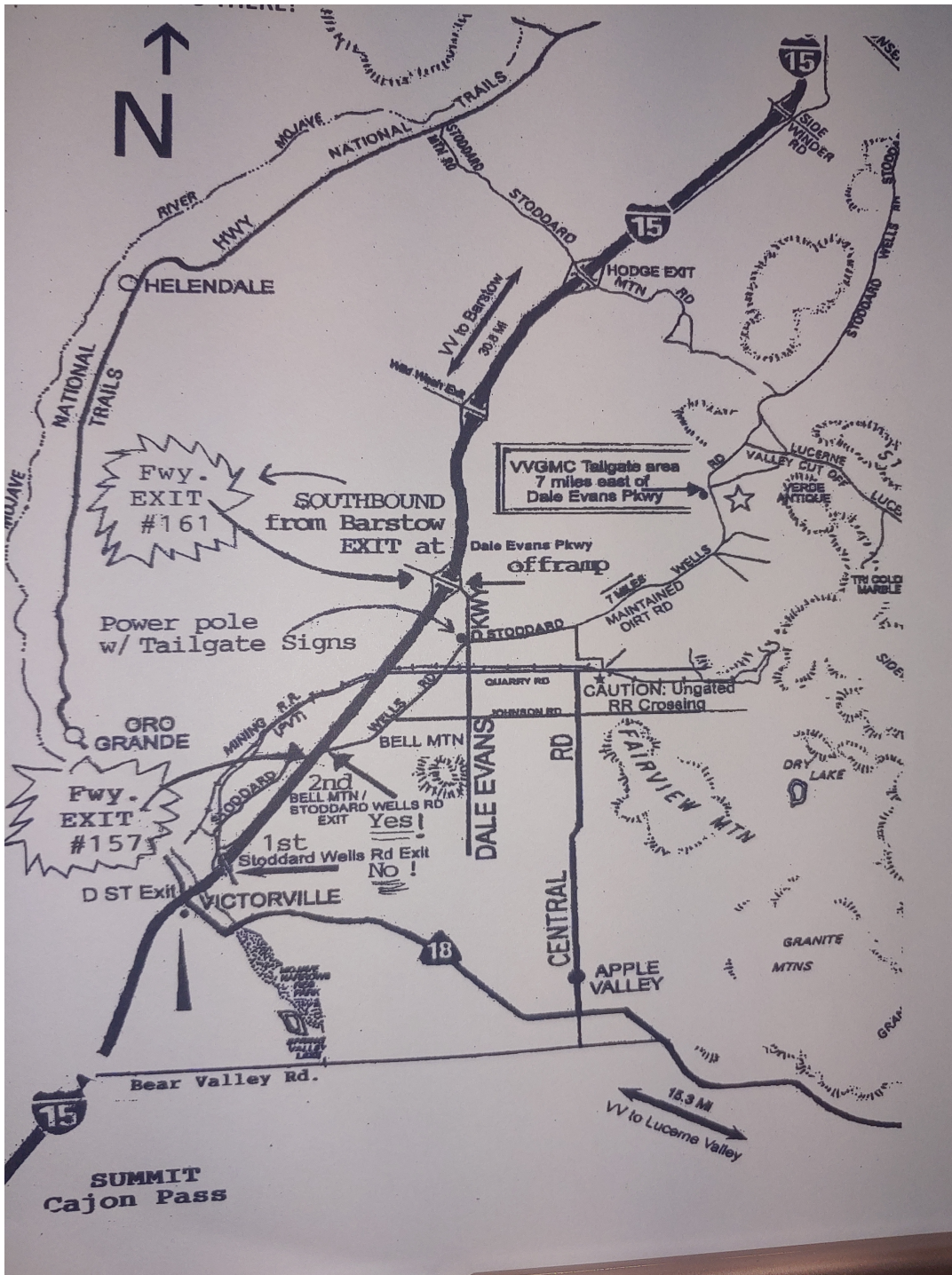
No saving spaces, No competing with VVGMC's fundraising activities:
Food, drinks, grab bags, spin the wheel or auctions.

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

For more info visit our website at VVGMC.org
or call 760-243-2330 leave a message and how to contact you

Directions: From I-15 Northbound towards Barstow: FWY 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. 7miles 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 and RVs can make it w/ease and care. "Tailgate" signs along route

RAIN OR SHINE, SEE YOU THERE!



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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SHOP DAYS. Saturdays —Noon to 5 pm

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Instructors Meeting — 1st Tuesday 2:30 pm
Board of Directors Mtg.—1st Tuesday 4 pm
General Meeting 3rd Saturday 12-1:30 pm
Pot Luck and Education
Club Clean up day—4th Saturday 9 am

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club was founded in 1947 as a 501/c4 non profit education club. Visitors are always welcome.

Our objective and purpose is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and 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

