

THE BULLETIN



POT LUCK 12-16-23

DECEMBER 2023

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LET'S HAVE A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS.

NOVEMBER 2023

LORIE ROBERTS KELLY & DANIEL FAVELA NANCY & DAVID DISBROW CYNTHIA RUIZ JOHNATHAN TROZERA BAYLEE SMITH

WELCOME ABOARD!

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND UPCOMING EVENTS. COME IN TO THE SHOP TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN LAPI-DARY ARTS. EDUCATION NIGHT IS 2ND TUESDAY, POT LUCK LUNCH ON THE 18TH, 12:00 PM WITH DOOR PRIZES & OTHER GOINGS ON. ALWAYS A GREAT TIME TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, MEET OLD FRIENDS, MENTORS AND GET A FEW LAUGHS. PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: Greetings to all members.

As we come to the end of the year, and my first year as president, I would like to recognize 3 members who have been essential to the success of VVGMC.

First off, Scott Gray took over as Wagonmaster at the beginning of the year. Scott travels all the way from Hemet to contribute to our club. Scott is very enthusiastic about rockhounding and our club. In addition to being our Wagonmaster, Scott also is a regular contributor to the newsletter (as we all should be) and is a big help to me at meetings.

Next, I would like to recognize the efforts of Mark Lantz. Mark recently accepted the title of 3rd VP of shows (Tailgate and more). Besides tirelessly planning for our annual tailgate, Mark has single handedly revived our juniors program, adds valuable leadership as a board member, and is helping out on the Financial advisory committee.

Last, but not by any means last, Jake Brouwer has been an essential contributor to VVGMC. Besides being our fantastic Newsletter editor, Jake has recently accepted the position as Correspondence Secretary and his helping us get the word out through Social Media about the events and benefits our club offers. Jake is also a valuable board member and develops our printed materials (a new brochure is at the printer now).

These 3 form the backbone of this club and we would be considerably less without their selfless efforts. Please join with me in recognizing their contributions.

This not to say, that everybody else's efforts are not appreciated. A huge thank you to all board members, instructors and those that help in other

ways. Happy Holidays to all! Dave Duncan

2024 ANNUAL DUES FEES ARE DUE NOW!!

PLEASE STEP UP BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER, 2023.

SINGLE ADULT: \$40.00 EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON IN SAME HOUSEHOLD \$30.00

TAKING CASH OR PERSONAL CHECK

VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

DECEMBER 2023

FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Show and Rainbow Ridge Field Trip brought to you by Wagon Master Scott Gray. Hemet, Ca.



Sunday November 4th and 5th was the date for the Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Societies annual show and field trip held at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds, in Ridgecrest, Ca. Sasha and I made the trip north on Saturday the 4th to check out the show and field trip to the well known Rainbow Ledge, the club's long held jasper claim.

The show was small but well organized, with about a dozen dealers offering slabs, cabs, and lots of other great items. There were also some familiar faces in attendance; Blaine and Judy Witte had a space with



all kinds of goodies available. We also recognized a couple of dealers who attend out Stoddard Wells annual Tailgate Show, also selling items. The ones I spoke with said they were happy with the show so far and that sales and the attendance were steady

throughout the first half of the Saturday. Our purchases con-

sisted of a couple slabs, some cabs and tumbled stones for wrapping, and some pink halite crystals and a t-shire from the Searles Lake Club's table. It was a nice show and we got good deals on our purchases.

The following morning we checked in with Ron Shiller, Indian Wells club Vice President and field trip leader, and looked at some examples of Rainbow Ledge material the club had on display. Although Sasha and I were the only VVGMC members attending we were not amongst strangers: also attending were the Kistler's from Glendora, and also David and Joan from Lancaster, Ca., who are both frequent guests on our field trips. Approximately 15 vehicle soon headed out almost due west, then south on a power line road. Although not very far from HWY 395 by

airline miles the actual journey was a 8 mile trek over a ever worsening road. High clearance was a necessity here; one vehicle had a steering component disabled by a rock and had to be towed out so it could be repaired the following morning. Another attendee got a flat before hitting the pavement on the way out. Luckily we made it thru unscathed. Despite the tough road it was a worthwhile trip.

Rainbow Ledge is exactly as it's named: a low ridge that rises to a small peak several hundred feet high that is littered with dark boulders, those boulders being the jasper. Tumbling pieces were plentiful, even on the road leading in.



Larger chunks could be acquired with a little more effort; we dug up several. One piece turned out to be a 600 pound monster that attendees unearthed then realized it was too big to get in a vehicle. My favorite finds were pieces with yellow background and splotchy dendrite-like inclusions. Other colors were there; orange, red, blue; but they were tougher to find. We never made it very far up that hill and m any of the regulars made a beeline to the near top so who knows what else can be found there? Kudos to

Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society for putting on a fine show and to Ron Schiller for leading an awesome field trip that was fun and fruitful!





DECEMBER 2023

FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

Night hunt at the Princess Pat Mine by Wagon Master Scott Gray, Hemet, Ca.

Saturday November 18th, after the General Meeting, the club finally mad the long discussed field trip to the Princess Pat Mine north of Adelanto for the fluorescent minerals: scheelite, calcite, uranium included quartz and wollastonite. This was definitely a different type of field trip with flashlights and UV lights replacing the usual rock hammers and shovels we are used to using on our excursions. A total of six vehicles with 12 members mad the five mile trek west



I see Dave in the back, Nancy & Dale (new members), Kurt & Mia Kowalski, and some other adventurers.



from Hwy 395 to the collecting area.

The Princess Pat has an interesting history. Most of the mining here was done between the mid 1930's to the mid 1950's. The hillsides are laced with trenches and benches, each with their own dump piles and all are areas of potential for fluorescent collectors. There is a large cement foundation at the eastern side of the mine; all that is left of the mill that was used to crush and process the ore for the small amounts of scheelite it contained. The miners worked at night here under massive short wavy lamps to identify and separate the scheelite, which glows under short wave; a distinct whitish blue unlike any other known fluorescent mineral.

After an encounter with a cold and lonely king snake on the trail up the hill we waited wile dusk became nightfall with our UV light in hand. One darkness hit, this place truly came alive; it was remarkable seeing nearly every rock around you light up like crazy. Orange from the calcite caliche glowed everywhere, with

lots of bright electric green from the quartz scattered throughout and, of course the bright white of the scheelite

looking like stardust. The dull to semi-bright red wollastonite could be found but was definitely the least common of the glowing goodies. Short wave lamps are key here; long wave lights would show the calcite. And to a lesser degree the quartz, but the 254 short wave lights ruled the night. Pieces could easily be found with two colors; three colored rocks could also be found with little difficulty, and a couple members managed to locate a piece with all four colors. It did not take long for all members to gather some great specimens of fluorescent minerals. Most attendees stated they were willing to make the investment in a higher power short wave lamp after seeing what could be found with them. This was fun trip and welcomed change of pace, material and collecting experience from our usual trips.

An extra special thank you goes out to Jake Brouwer, who brought this site to my attention and went above and beyond with pre-siting and route selection that make this a safe and successful trip. Thank you Jake! THANK YOU SCOTT!



site, I hoped our lights would give us what we were looking for. After our first scouting trip, we realized we needed better lights. Scott went back again with Sasha and found the true site a few more miles up the road; and with better lights they were impressed. We went out one more time to try again with Scotts lights, Sasha's light and my lights we were indeed impressed. Some times it takes a bit of poking around and better equipment to justify the trips and I was happy to assist Scott .

California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

For the months of July, August & September closest to our location

December 2-3, 2023 – Barstow, CA Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society Cora Harper Community/Fitness Center 841 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311 Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 5 pm Contact: John Printz (760) 979-6138, MDGMSsecretary@gmail.com Website: <u>http://www.mdgms.net</u>

Dec 9, 2023 Victorville, Ca. Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club's lapidary artists put on our second Holiday Sale in the Kamen Building 15056 Seventh Street, Victorville, Ca. 9:00am to 5:00pm. Rough, slabs, jewelry, fossils and more plus a spin the wheel for prizes for children & adults. Free entry, free club house tour. Be sure to see our new exhibit of minerals in the glass case inside the club house, donated by Mr. Steve Beavers. Membership sign-ups and more. Call for information 760-243-2330 or email info@vvgmc.org

January 20-21, 2024 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem and Mineral Society Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 324 North Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA 93221 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM 2024 Gemboree Contact: Gayle Bingaman, Show Chairperson, (559) 802-6029, bandgbing@aol.com Website: http://www.tulegem.com

February 17-18, 2024 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA Hours: Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM-5PM Jewelry, Gems, Findings, Supplies, Auctions, Grab Bags, Exhibits and hands on projects for kids. Admission \$6.00, Children 12 & under, scouts in uniform and Active Military Free. \$1.00 off admission with show flyer. Contact: (510) 693-9075, kellyplumb900@yahoo.com Website: http://antiochlapidaryclub.com



BOARD MEMBERS, CHAIRS, INSTRUCTORS.....

President. / Dave Duncan, EMAIL : president@vvgmc.org

Vice President / Membership. Beka McNeil / EMAIL: vp@vvgmc. Org

2nd Vice President: Education. Lia Hamilton

3rd Vice President: Tailgate Chairman, Junior Rockhounds Chairman, Mark Lantz EMAIL marklantz53@gmail.com

Recording Secretary / Janalee Arnold / EMAIL: <u>recordingsecretary@vvgmc org</u>

Treasurer / Cory Beck // Dwayna Barron

Corresponding Secretary / Jake Brouwer

Board Member / 2 Year term - Lorie Cunningham, Pam Trozera

Board Member / Sara Arnold

Board Member / Cory Beck

Maintenance / George Robles, Thanks for all you do George!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

CFMS / Dwayne Barron.

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Algot Stephenson

Newsletter / Jake Brouwer / EMAIL: jakelsdg@verizon.net

Photography / Ross Quinn

Webmaster / Tech / Jim Fosse, PH: 760-245-8644 / EMAIL: info@vvgmc.org

INSTRUCTORS:

Janet FletcherMary Lou FletcherDwayna BarronChris KochMark LantzDave DuncanLia HamiltonGaylandGravesBeka McNeil

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Ross Quinn. Lorie Cunningham. Stine Smith. Algot Stephenson. Welcome to Ann Musiak.



Send your articles in by the 23rd of Each month! jakelsdg@verizon.net







DECEMBER 2023

VVGMC MEMBERSHIP NEWS, with Beka McNeil

New Dues and Fees Schedule for 2024 Due by December 31st, 2024

For 2024, membership has approved the following annual dues. We started collecting 2024 dues, October 1, 2023

Individual membership \$40. Each additional family member, living at the same address, is an additional \$30.

The daily shop fee is raised to \$7, started Oct 1st2023

We understand that the membership fee is an increase for couples and especially families, but until we find a renter for the front building we have no choice but to do our best to bring the budget under control to try to at least break even monthly. However, know that all you get with membership, is really well worth the increase.

We hope to see you all return & promise to do all we can to make it a great year of adventure and learning.

Hello to all club members!

This is Beka McNiel, your VP in charge of membership, for the club wanted to let you know that the winner of the month of October was drawn from membership at the General Meeting. Winner was Angela Auberry.

Also please remember that December 1, 2023 is a new month and another chance for a prize, for signing up members during the month. December 16, 2023 will be the last date to signup members for the year to win the grand price of a Free Annual Membership for yourself! New members in Dec. get 13 months of time with the club. December 2023 to Dec 31, 2024.

Please note that starting October 1, 2023 our annual membership fee's were voted on and raised. The VVGMC Board of Directors has decided that we need to raise our fees. This is due to the loss of a lease holder for the Kamen building. The commercial property market is horrible, and it was a great source of income over the last 40 some years.

if you average it out over a year. For example \$40 over 12 months is only \$3.33 a month. A couple at \$70 is \$5.83 a month all with free instruction. DEAL!

EDUCATION NIGHT RECAP WITH LIA HAMILTON

Although there was a sparce crowd for Education Night November 14, 2023 with Lia Hamilton and Zoom instructor Brad Smith, those that attended enjoyed the evening learning about sand casting.

Brad started the evening identifying several types of casting, sand, water, broom, cuttlebone, salt and

tufa. He explained the affordable kits that were available which have special sand, mold frames, clamps, instructions and a video. He suggested a tray to hold all the pieces. Photo shows a sample of kits that are available. Below is a sample of one of the pieces Brad made as we watched over his shoulder in the zoom call. It was pretty interesting and copied notes as fast as I could and then I stated to see the possibilities of using his methods.



There will be no Education Night in December. Something will be set up for January and we will be sure to bring Brad Smith back for some more enlightenment on tips and techniques of our hobby. He has at least 4 books on Amazon, and his website to pick up at reasonable prices. Check him out at bradsmithjewelry.com





DECEMBER 2023



The Perils of Cross-Country Travel to Find a Geode. By <u>Algot Stephenson</u>. VVGMC's Librarian, Associate Instructor and part time in house comedian.

This Halloween, I had the pleasure of making a cross country trek to Kentucky with my wife for her Birthday, Halloween (and for my Daughter, her Husband, and our Grand-children).

My daughter's husband's job needed him to represent his employer at a College Recruiting event there. Naturally, he wanted his wife (my daughter) and their four children to enjoy the pleasure of a mini vacation. However, having four children in tow meant that my daughter had to deal with all the rebellion, mischief, and attention of four below

age 6 children all by herself. That was until, Grammie was invited. Grammie was asked to enjoy this time away from Grampsie all by her lonesome to help daughter and her four orbiting satellites. That was, until Grammie suggested Grampsie be allowed to tag along, because Grampsie is a home-body, has no friends, no life, and knows how to play with his toys, happily, all by himself.

After a month of grumbling, complaining, and belly-aching, I relented.

On October 31st, we boarded the plane in Burbank, had a stop-over in Chicago, before finally landing in Ohio (not Kentucky). This was the first time in my life that had ever heard Kentucky was spelled Ohio. Had not everything been paid for by my Son-in-Law and his wife, I might have grumbled about that, too. But I digress.

The first thing I noticed was the unforgiving pain my hand I felt during take-off. Oh,

I forgot, to tell you that my wife doesn't like flying. After the plane leveled off (and the blood returned to my hand), we were privileged to witness some of the most beautiful pieces of God's property for the next 7 hours (4 if you don't count the 3 time zones we crossed over and into). We saw canyons, drainage patterns and canyons with drainage patterns. The landscape was awe-inspiring, never-ending, and constantly changing until we landed.

The next few days were crazy-busy. I never got to do my independent Geode-Agate rock-hounding which I made as part of my agreement to go. But, then again, I was there for the grand-kids, had everything paid for by my daughter's family, so it would have been disrespectful for this beggar to be a chooser. However, my daughter did surprise me on the last day with a mini-rock-hounding trip to geode-agate Country in Central Kentucky. The condition was that the four grand-kids had to come along. Again, this was not a time for me, as long as I could hook the kids into the addiction which we know has looking for that special looking piece of rock, mineral, or gem. So we went. I was

> able to sneak away and climb a close escarpment (picture 4) known to produce geodes. After easily removing some of the damp rock in my Geode pursuit, I took a glance sky-ward and noticed a 25 to 50 foot over hang not too far directly above me. It was at this time that I realized that my current endeavor was not well thought through and my quest for geodes could just as easily become my quest to become a geode. This specific picture I decided to make into a puzzle titled Where's Algot?

All in all I walked away with some really nice common rocks from the area, but my prize take-away was a cool piece of shale created by the Albany Formation from the late Devonian-Early Mississippian period with some fossilized plant residue on the surface

I didn't get to do everything I wanted, but I did walk away with some amazing memories, some cool rocks that the TSA allowed me to keep after searching me because my rocks set off the metal detector, and the satisfaction that my grand-kids, at some point, may want to go with me on some future rock-hounding expedition.





SZA

DECEMBER 2023

Welcome all club members to December 2023. Our potluck luncheon for December is on the 16th at 12:00pm. The club will be providing birthday cakes for those celebrating this month. VVGMC will provide a turkey, plus Jake and Sue Brouwer will provide a spiral cut ham. We ask all, that you bring with you a side dish, salad or fruit to accompany the entrees provided. The meeting will start with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to remember members and friends that are no longer with us. The General Meeting will start after tables are cleaned up. Try to make it, as in these meetings we discuss state of affairs for the club, planning, and other news. 2024 elected officers will be sworn in, as well as a presentation of The Rock Hound of the Year Award. Afterwards there are door prizes of rocks, and minerals, and other items. Tickets passed out at the door. Extra tickets are available. We will also have rocks on display to enjoy and to have some fun with exciting rocks, gems, fossils and other related items available to members. Once the meeting is over those that wish to work in the shop will start. Hope to see you there! Come early to get a seat, November's luncheon was packed, and the food was great.



December Has Three Birthstones!

That's right! Turquoise, Tanzanite & Blue Topaz which all share rich blue colors. No matter the weather they all remind us of crisp snowy days. Below you will fine left to right. Turquoise, Tanzanite, and Blue Topaz.



Turquoise is one of the oldest gemstones, making it a popular choice for jewelry for centuries. Queens and the ancient Egyptians enjoyed them. The word "turquoise" dates back to the 13th century, drawing from the French expression "pierre tourques," which referenced the "Turkish stone," brought to Europe from Turkey. Today, the largest supply of turquoise comes from Arizona.



Tanzanite is a blue-violet colored gemstone that is a form of the mineral zoisite. A cool fact about Tanzanite is that it is only found in a small radius of land at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania. This beautiful blue gem was named "tanzanite" by Tiffany & Co., after the location of its origin.

<u>Topaz</u> symbolized the Egyptian Sun god, Ra. Ancient Egyptians felt it was an incredibly powerful stone. Hindus believed in the gemstone's protective abilities. They felt it could protect homes from burning

down, while also protecting their health and beauty. African shamans also treated the gemstone as sacred, using it in their healing rituals. They felt that whoever held the gemstone would become wealthy.



<u>DECEMBER</u> Birthdays

Emiliano Garcia Catherine Smith Brian Wellinger Frank Harris Tom Sparling Steve Kaufman Pam Trozera

Best wishes to all!



DECEMBER 2023

DONATION TO VYGMC

The Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club would like to take this

opportunity to thank our benefactor Mr. Steve Beavers. To the right is a 1964 image of Steve in Oahu on his motorcy-



cle. Steve, like most of us enjoyed picking up rocks when ever he could. He is now 80, widowed and needs to move from his 3 bedroom Hesperia home to a small room in Van Nuys to be cared for. He served 24 years in the US Navy, and traveled the world in service to our country.

During the month of November he contacted the club regarding him wanting to donate his rock and mineral collection to those that would share them and enjoy what he gathered.

Dave Duncan and Jake Brouwer met with him at his home where he graciously let us pack up the collection which is now in the large glass display case at the club house. He shook hands with us and thanked us for giving them a good home.

Dave and Jake carefully places the group of minerals in the left side of our glass displace case on the top 3 shelves. Please stop by and take a look!

If you have rock and mineral collections and would like to donate them to the club to use for educational purposes please call club president Dave Duncan at the club house, (760) 243-2330 or <u>vvrock-</u> <u>sandgems@gmail.com</u> for details. THX

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS with Mark Lantz

The Junior Rockhounds will be open Saturday from 9am to 11:45am Saturday Dec 9, 2023 with instructor Mark Lantz. No second meeting this month. Give your children 8-17 years old a chance to get a start to understanding rocks, minerals and fossils. Who better than



Mark Lantz with 33 years of teaching 6-12th grade students in earth sciences. Each week brings some new lessons and



projects that will not only help them learn but to understand the mediums they work with, and how they are used.

We still

I VOTFD.

have openings for 5-6 children, who will in time learn all about cutting, polishing,, presentations, collecting and much more.

Come on in for a trial visit and you will be amazed at the kids , and what they've learned in the last month.

ELECTION 2024

At the General Meeting November 18, 2023, no additional members volunteered for positions on the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club Board. Therefore the entire list below are the candidates that won elections as voted on by general membership. Thank you for serving!

President: Dave Duncan VP Membership: Beka McNiel 2nd VP: Education: Lia Hamilton 3rd VP Tailgate & Junior Rock Hounds: Mark Lantz Treasurer: Dwayna Barron Recording Secretary: Janalee Arnold Corresponding Secretary: Jake Brouwer

- 2 Yr Board Members: Lorie Cunningham, Pam Trozera
- 1 Yr Board Member: Sara Arnold
- 1 Yr Board Member: Cory Beck

If at anytime during the year 2024 you get the desire to help the club & volunteer for a committee or office, please let us know, and we can train you for the position, so you will feel comfortable at the job entailed. Thank you!! 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 minerology & earth sciences. To encourage study in those subjects though various programs. To arrange field trips for exploration, study, and collection of specimens. The preparations, 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. QUIET SHOP DAY, THURS. 12pm-2pm SILVER SHOP, THURSDAY 12:00 - 5:00 SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 2:00pm- 8:00 SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—12:00pm-5 pm SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - 12:00pm - 5 pm

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS

CLUB CLEAN UP DAY: TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TUES, DEC. 5, 2023, 3pm BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: TUES DEC. 5,2023. 4:30pm TIL FINISHED. EDUCATION NIGHT: Canceled for December GENERAL MEETING: - DEC. 16, 12:00 - 2:00 pm, with Pot Luck, Door prizes. Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm. JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: DEC 9, 2023 9am - 11:45am Due to Holidays, only one meeting in December

THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...

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MAILING LABLE

76th ANNIVERARY YEAR 1947-1948 2023-2024