

# THE BULLETIN



POT LUCK 11-18-23

## **NOVEMBER 2023**

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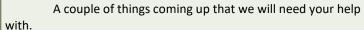
LET'S HAVE A BIG
WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB
MEMBERS.
OCTOBER 2023

**Dwayne & Rufina Lowery** 

## David and Rose Wilson with their Kids, Haylee, Derrick and Mariah Jaimez Angela Auberry

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND UPCOMING EVENTS. COME IN TO THE SHOP TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN LAPPDARY 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**: Here we go, heading quickly into the holiday season (already)!





Firstly, our holiday sale coming up next Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help with setup, run "spin the wheel", sell drinks and snacks, help with parking, and if we have enough people, we could have a silent auction

Please let me know if you will be available to help make this sale a success for our club.

Secondly, we will be having board elections at this months general meeting. We need as many of you as possible to be at the meeting so we have a quorum. So please be there. We have candidates for each position, but if you have been with the club at least a year, I encourage you to run for any of the positions. No one will be offended if you run against them. We are all volunteers and will welcome new blood.

Most importantly, we need someone with some bookkeeping experience to work with Dwayna to learn our system. This person would hopefully take over as treasurer for 2025.

Also, we need someone to take over Hospitality. This involves decorating for the general meeting, and overseeing the kitchen and serving area during the meetings.

In summary, please help us make our club the best it can be.

Dave Duncan, President

### SCOUTING TRIP TO THE PRINCESS PAT MINE: Saturday

October 21st, 2023, after the General Meeting, Scott & Sasha Grey & Jake Brouwer, headed out on D Street, past Oro Grande, past Elmers Bottle Tree Ranch, and across Hwy 395, into the dusk to trek back to the Princess Pat Mine. The roads are a bit rough in spots, high clearance / 4WD strongly recommended. After finding a close spot to park we took the trails up to the mine area with large dump piles,

and trenches. Right away our UV lamps were picking up tan-orange colors everywhere. Scott found some the blue and green some with red specimens and soon all were collecting. Watch your emails for a date to visit this

out of the way area to see fluorescent rocks.







# FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

At Last club members and guests were able to get out in the field again, after another hot sammer. It felt great to get out, spectacular day, temps in the mid 60-70's, great company, and blue skies. Now for Scott Gray's write ups on this and other trips. Thank you Scott!

<u>September 30th, 2023</u> Temperatures in the 70's, little to no wind, and a literal hill made entirely of jasper in a wide variety of colors made for an excellent first of the fall season field trip to Jasper Hill in the South Cady Mountains.

After a Hector Road meet up and seeing some old friends again, our group of 26 members and guests strong, made the trek east along old Route 66 for several miles to a sandy but overall not to bad road access the power line road along the southern edge of the Ca-

dy's: the access point for many collectible lapidary materials. Dave Duncan led us eastward on this road roughly a mile and a half till a low brightly colored hill was seen on the our left: Jasper Hill. Aptly named, the hill is entirely mad of jasper

ranging in shades of mostly red, orange, green and yellow. It wasn't difficult to find pieces with multiple colors swirled together and some pieces had an interesting metallic sheen due to the large amounts of hematite mixed in. One could fill a bag here in minuets and some did, while others ranged the hill to the north and the washes to the east. This is a vase area, one day here is not enough of what this area has to offer. My best finds were on the hillsides and in the washes due east of Jasper hill, where I found my best agate yet., a delicately banded green beauty.





High grading your finds here is a must; I found myself dumping out stuff only to replace it with prettier more solid finds. I had to do this twice or I'd still be there, lugging a bag of rocks up and down the hillsides to get back to the car. My back was sore by the end of the day but it was worth it! Talking with all those who attended this was a hit and was Grade A fun for all involved! A big Thanks goes out to President Dave Duncan: this was his trip and I'm glad he led us to an awesome place that I, for one, look forward to visiting again in the future. The South Cady's are a treasure trove of agate, and Jasper and us rocknuts need more bounty

# FIELD TRIP FOR NOVEMBER SUNDAY, NOV. 5th, 2023 WITH SCOTT GRAY

For November VVGMC with be graciously hosted by the Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society and field trip leader Ron Shiller on a field trip to the Rainbow Ledge: a claim owned by the club and well known for its quality jasper! This site is opened to the general public once a year and is your opportunity to load up on the multi hued jasper this location is well know for! Meet up will be on Nov. 5th at 9am at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds located at 520 South Richmond Rd, Ridgecrest, Ca.

There is a \$5.00 donation requested by the club for each attendee over the age of 16; this is to help with their annual claim maintenance. High clearance / 4WD vehicle only. Departure will be between 9:30 & 10:00am from the fairgrounds and the trip is usually wrapped up by 1 and 2pm. Plenty of material can be found in float or you can dig for hidden pieces in the ashy hillside. Bring your buckets, shovels, rock hammers, sturdy shoes, and water / snacks.

Look for me, Wagon Master Scott Gray at the fairgrounds Sunday morning and I will lead you to the meet up area for the field trip. Feel free to text me (951-492-9806) so I know who is coming and who to keep an eye out for.

I will be there Saturday for their show and staying overnight for the trip Sunday. I will have room for two if you'd like to go and your vehicle won't make the trip. See ya there!

# FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

Ladies and Gentlemen, after that Sept, 20, 2023 field trip, and the rumors flying about the Mojave National Monument will be closing areas to rockhounds and collectors, we thought it best to take one more trip to the South Cady Mountains. This time lead by our Wagon Master Scott Gray. Thank you Scott!

Lucky Day at Lavic! The second club field trip of the fall season, on Saturday October 14th 2023, was to the popular rockhound favorite the Lavic area for its famous jasper and agate. The colorful and much loved material needs no introduction to those familiar with the Mojave materials and is well regarded by collectors and lapidary enthusiasts from coast to coast.

After a 9am meet up at the Hector Rd exit, twenty members and guests including the Kistler's who came all the way from Glendora, and Tina Breedlove from Ridgecrest, made their way eastward on good old Rt. 66 to the northern most part of the Lavic collecting site, popularly known as "Crayon Canon, or the Crayon Box." Taking one look at the material found here and you immediately understand why rockhounds named it this; many pieces

look like classroom Crayola's, melted together in a swirling vor-

tex of rainbow colors. Soon after arriving everyone fanned out in their own direction as the recent rains had exposed ample material. I found two nice pieces of agate, one 20 feet from the car. The well known brecciated pieces were also acquired, I saw several that were found by the various attendees. If anything the collecting was far better this time than last time! After a couple

of hours of roaming the immediate area, everyone had a nice assortment of what the area is

famous for.

After a short lunch break about half the group decided to head to a second location for the day: Jasper Hill in the South Cady's! Remember when I said this site needed to be visited again? Well that's what we did! This site was so popular on the September trip everyone wanted to hit it again and see what we could turn up! I spent the balance of my day with Dave Duncan and Algot Stephenson looking in those washes and on the desert pavement east of The Hill trying to find more of that green agate. There is so much ground to cover here and such a variety of material one could camp here for a week and not be able to do the area justice. I got skunked on the green agate this time, except for a tiny piece but managed to come away with some nice red Jasper with veins of agate running thru it and also found what I believe to be a barite deposit exposed in a old prospect hole. Although not lapidary material the barite was a nice surprise, just one of the many more this area probably holds!



Huge boulder, one of many on Jasper Hill measure 4.3" x 2.7 feet. The pick is 13" long. Some were even bigger!

FLORA & FAUNA: Jake and Sue Brouwer, who live on the mesa by

the Hesperia Golf Course, welcomed back a "committee" of turkey vultures (Catharses Aura), late October 2023. They come every year on their way to the south for warmer weather. There were around 40-50 in a "kettle" circling above our home, and sitting on dead trees. Sue caught this shot of a big one sitting on the pole by the home, with wings spread in a show of power over a teen raven on a wire. The raven showed no signs of being in danger and in fact was quite defiant, squawking at the 30" tall carrion eater.



## California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

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

November 4th, 2023 Victorville, Ca. Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club's lapidary artists put on a first ever 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. Membership sign-ups and more. Call for information 760-243-2330 or email info@vvgmc.org

#### November 4-5, 2023, Ridgecrest. CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society

Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral 67th Gem & Mineral Show. Located in Ridgecrest, CA. Vendors selling gems, minerals, rocks, jewelry and other rock related items for sale. Field trip on Sunday, November 5th at 9:30 AM (depending on road conditions). Free Admission and Free Parking.

Vendor spaces available: Contact John De Rosa (760) 375-7905

Contact: (760) 375-7905, iwgmjfrocks@gmail.com

#### November 4, 2023 - Lake Elsinore, CA

Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society 32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM Rock and Craft Show

Contact: (909) 208-6956, berylman50@aol.com

### November 19 - 20, 2023 - Lakeside, CA

El Cajon Valley Rock and Gem Round Up! Family Friendly! Free Admission!

12584 Mapleview St., Lakeside CA 92040

Hours: Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM Contact: (619) 277-4981, ecvgms@gmail.com

Website: http://ecvgms.org

### 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: http://www.mdgms.net









## **BOARD MEMBERS, CHAIRS, INSTRUCTORS.....**

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

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

2nd Vice President: Education. Interim Chair Lia Hamilton

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

Recording Secretary / Dwayna Barron / EMAIL: recordingsecretary@vvgmc org

**Treasurer /** Cory Beck // <a href="mailto:treasurer@vvgmc.org">treasurer@vvgmc.org</a>

Corresponding Secretary / Jake Brouwer

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

Board Member / Open until Elections 1 year term

Board Member / Open until Elections 1 year term

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:**

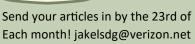
Janet Fletcher Mary Lou Fletcher Dwayna Barron Chris Koch Mark Lantz Dave Duncan Lia Hamilton Gayland Graves Beka McNeil

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Ross Quinn. Lorie Cunningham. Stine Smith. Algot Stephenson











# 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 1st 2023

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 November 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 Nov. get 13 months of time with the club. Nov 2023 to Dec 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!

Members in house Club Swap Meet, held Saturday October 7th, turned out to be a fun event for those that stopped by. Although not a big turnout with vendors or buyers those that did come by were greeted by friendly club members and they offered some very nice deals on rocks and other goodies.

Algot Stephenson our club librarian and associate instructor in the photo on the right had specimens, slabs and other rocks that were prices fairly priced, I scored a huge piece of Galaxy Jasper! In the next photo is Instructor Janet Fletcher selling items priced for all, low, medium and high grade material at fair prices some as low as \$1.00 that were great pieces to cut for cabochons. At the table is Janet, Vilma, Robert and Bonnie checking things out.

Although there is not a photo showing, Dave Duncan put out some of the shops items in a plastic tub with water. Mostly slabs of interesting material. They were \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10. The tub was emptied by the end of the event. In the next photo you can see Rudy, Sue, Larry, Blaine, Algot Judy and Mark, with Vilma in the front. I could not identify the woman next to Vilma. (sorry).

The other vendors were Blaine and Judy Witte. Neither have been around for a while and it was certainly a pleasure to see them again, and with a nice big tub of slabbed material. I picked out 28 pieces of all sizes, there were the kinds of material I was interested in, moss agates, Mexican crazy laces, Noreena jasper, green tree jasper, some chicken tracks jasper and some cave onyx.

I hope the next time we do this more vendors come, and buyers as well. These events will help members learn to understand the art of the sale for future events. *thxjb* 





# Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Presents our Very First

# FALL HOLIDAY SALE

Saturday November 4th, 2023. 9am-5pm
Location 15056, Seventh St. Victorville, CA. In front of the Club
House and in the Kamen Building, Next to Del Taco.

SPIN THE WHEEL GAME FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS

CUSTOM MADE JEWELRY, GEMS, ROCKS, MINERALS, SLABS, ROUGH, POLISHED STONES, INTARSIA, FOSSILS, ROCKS TO TUMBLE AND MUCH MORE

ALL MADE BY OUR LOCAL LAPIDARY ARTISTS, CLUB MEMBERS,
ALONG WITH STONES FROM MANY DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE
MOJAVE DESERT AND THE WORLD

FREE ENTRY, FREE TOURS OF OUR CLUB HOUSE, SEE OUR GAL-LERY OF COLLECTIBLE ROCKS, EQUIPMENT, SPECIMENS, BLACK LIGHT DISPLAY AND MORE

OUR VENDORS ARE MOSTLY CLUB ARTISANS AND ROCKHOUNDS ALONG WITH OUTSIDE VENDORS DISPLAYING THEIR TREASURES

# UPCOMING EDUCATION NIGHT WITH BRADFORD SMITH

Our speaker this evening is **Brad Smith**, a long time member of the Culver City Club who now resides in Virginia. He's a studio jeweler, lapidary, author, and workshop instructor. Brad likes rockhounding, cutting his own gemstones, and making art knives and jewelry items for friends and family. After a career in manufacturing, he taught adult-ed jewelry classes for about 18 years and is here with us tonight, **November 14, 2023 at 6:00pm to** show an easy way to do casting in a home workshop with a minimum amount of equipment.

## Presentation: Sand Casting Techniques for Jewelry: Cost \$5 members, \$10 Guests

Most of us know that lost wax casting is used by the jewelry industry to produce almost all



**Bradford Smith** 

items sold commercially, but the technique is rarely used in home shops because of the high cost of equipment and the complexity of its procedures. Sand casting, on the other hand, is a quick and inexpensive method for producing copies of models in silver, gold, bronze & pewter. The method lets you make a copy of a model in about 20 minutes. Brad Smith will be joining us to show how the method works and to highlight its capabilities and limitations. He'll show some of the items he's made with the pro-

cess and will do a live demonstration via a zoom session, for use of the casting technique. Session is 45 minutes with

Q&A, and live demo. We hope many people show for this class by an expert, all funds paid help to cover costs for his honorarium fee.



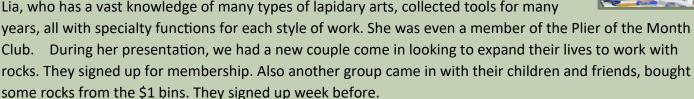






# Recap of Education night! October 10, 2023

Hi folks, here is a recap of our education night at the clubhouse October 10,2023. Although there was a slim turnout for the night, those that were there enjoyed seeing just a fraction of Lia Hamilton's tool chest's on display. Lia, our education Vice President brought in her collection of jewelry tools. Pliers, cutters, mandrels, stamps and other tools and explained what each is used for and pasted the tools around the room for all to see. Lia, who has a vast knowledge of many types of lapidary arts, collected tools for many









Welcome all club members to November. A time of reflection as the leaves begin to turn colors and fall to the ground. Also a time of Thanks. VVGMC would like to give thanks to all of our club members, who with your help keeps us growing. Our potluck luncheon for November is on the 18st at 12:00pm. The club will be providing birthday cakes for those celebrating this month, and a turkey. We ask all, that you bring with you a side dish, salad or fruit to accompany the cakes that the club provides. The meeting will start with the pledge of allegiance, fol-





lowed by a moment of silence to remember members 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. Also there will be a vote for Officers & Board Positions whose name will be on the white board a the front of the room. Afterwards there are door prizes of rocks, and minerals, and other items. Tickets passed out at the door. Followed by our well known silent auction, that always manages to have some fun and exciting rocks, gems, fossils and other related items. Once the meeting is over those that wish to work in the shop will start. Hope to see you there!

## November's Birthstone is Topaz

## The birthstone for November is topaz, an aluminum

silicate mineral containing the chemical element fluorine. Depending on trace elements within the stone, the color can vary from clear to yellow-orange, golden-brown, pink, and more, though yellow and blue are most common for birthstones.



Although topaz technically scores an "8" on the Mohs scale of hardness, it is more fragile due to how it is created, much like emerald. When it is being formed, it will often form striations along the long axis of the crystal. This makes the gem susceptible to chips and fractures.

Fluorine is what makes this gem rare. There are only a few locations in the world with a high enough fluorine gas concentration to form topaz. The natural state of this gem is colorless. Impurities within topaz composition is what gives it color.

In many ancient legends, yellow topaz was thought to have the ability to harness the energy of the Sun. This carries through to Ancient Egypt where this stone symbolized their God of the Sun, Ra. It was also believed to provide protection.

Greeks and Romans saw yellow topaz as a stone of protection and strength, especially in time of strife. They thought it would prevent injuries and linked it to the God of the Sun, Apollo.

Interestingly, it was also believed to be linked to the Moon. Topaz was thought to have powers and colors that waxed and waned with the Moon cycles.







## <u>November</u> Birthdays

Hector Morales Brett Ward Joan Mulcare James Rightmire

## Best wishes to all!





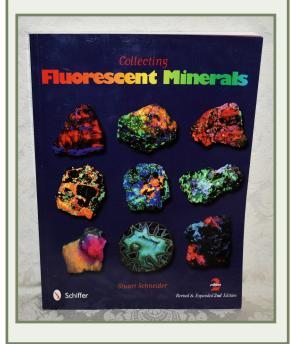
# FROM THE BOOK CORNER

COLLECTING FLUORESCENT MINERALS BY STUART SCHNEIDER, SCHIFFER PUBL.

Seeing fluorescent minerals for the first time is an exciting experience. The colors are so pure and the glow is so seemingly unnatural, that it is hard to believe they are natural rocks. Hundreds of glowing materials are show, including Aragonite, amazonite, feldspar, hardystonite, leucophanite, microcline smithsonite, plus many more. But don't let the hard to pronounce names keep you away, over 870 beautiful colors photographs illustrate how the fluorescent minerals look under the UV light, and in daylight, making this a valuable field guide.

Here are minerals from the United States, including mines in New Jersey, New York, Arizona and California as well as beautiful and unusual minerals from Canada, Mexico, Greenland, Italy, Sweden and other places. Included are values, resources section, plus helpful advice on caring for, collecting and displaying minerals.

This is one of the most complete references available. 2010. Retail \$29.95.



# DUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS with Mark Lantz

The Junior Rockhounds continue on every other Saturday from 9am to 11:45am with instructor Mark Lantz. 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 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.

# IT'S ELECTION TIME!

If you were at the last meeting you were advised that we will be voting in new officers for 2024 at the November 18, 2023 General Meeting. The new officers will be presented at the Dec 16th General Meeting. Add your name to the white board at the club to be in the voting. So far candidates are:

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 you would like to serve, please let us know, It's your club too, have a say in what happens in 2024. Also if you would like to be a part of the new website development team, let Jake Brouwer / editor@vvgmc.org

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: NOV. 10:00am (ON HOLD)

INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TUES, NOV 7, 3pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: TUES NOV 7,

2023. 4:30pm TIL FINISHED.

EDUCATION NIGHT: NOV 14 2023 6:00pm

GENERAL MEETING: - NOV 18, 12:00 - 2:00 pm,

with Pot Luck, Silent auction & Door prizes.
Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: NOV 11, NOV 25, 9am 
12pm

#### THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...

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Articles and pictures are due by the 21st Sept for Octobers The Bulletin

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