



THE BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2023

POT LUCK 10-21-23

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



NO NEW MEMBERS

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND UPCOMING EVENTS. COME IN TO THE SHOP TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN LAPIDARY ARTS. EDUCATION NIGHT, TUESDAY OCT. 10 6:00 PM. WITH LIA HAMILTON TALKING ABOUT AND DEMO OF JEWELRY TOOLS. POT LUCK LUNCH ON THE 21ST, 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 IN AS WELL.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: For October 2023

Greetings, and welcome to the cooler weather. By the time you get this, we may have already been on our first club field trip of the season. More trips in the planning stage. We hope to see you out there!

We have a lot of developments to tell you about.

First off, we have scheduled 2 club sales in the next month or so. First, we will have a member only swap meet in the clubhouse, Saturday Oct 7th at 11AM. As a member, you can have up to 36 inches of table space you can use to entice your fellow members to purchase your wares. These can be rocks, gems, jewelry or other crafts or items.

Next up, we will give, you the members, a chance to sell to the public. We will use the empty front building Saturday Nov 4th. Details to be worked out. Members will pay \$25 for a 10 by 10 foot space. You, as a seller, will also be responsible for setup on Friday evening, and helping to get the word out to the public on your social media, and/or distributing flyers. Let's all contribute and make this work.

Finally, I want to tell you about some recent board appointments approved my membership at the September general meeting. These appointments are good through the end of the year, when these members can run for these offices up on our general election.

Jake Brouwer has been appointed as Correspondence Secretary. As such, he will still be our newsletter editor and also be aiding in promoting the club.

Mark Lantz is now the 3rd VP with responsibilities for the March Tailgate and other events. As you know, Mark is also running the Jr Rockhounds program.

Lia Hamilton is now the 2nd VP and is in charge of education night activities. Have some suggestions for a program? Please contact Lea.

Thanks to all 3 for all they do for your club. Please let them know that you appreciate their efforts with words and deeds.

And please remember that Beka has a membership drive going on until Dec 16th. You can win prizes for recruiting new members! *Dave Duncan, President.*

LOST DESERT ROCK TRAILS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

Lost Desert Rock Trails: From Wagon Master, Scott Gray;

Anybody ever see any MYRICKITE in person? I never have. This seldom seen cutting material is not one you run into often, and is shrouded in confusion and mystery.

Myrickite is quartz mineral that is infused with minor amounts of Cinnabar; a commonly mined or for mercury. Best know as a chalcedony with bright orange and red streaks and clouds the actual composition can be anywhere between opal and agate and the harness can vary accordingly. This makes for striking cabochons and jewelry when cut to take advantage of the brilliant colors.

Myrickite was discovered by Francis Marion "Shady" Myrick in 1911, reportedly in Death Valley. This however is up for debate. Some say the discovery was near Myrick Spring, other claim the location was Lead Pipe Spring. Eagle Crags is also a contender. Sadly all these locations are inside either Fort Irwin or the China Lake Navel Reserve, so the mystery remains. One thing we know for sure is Shady traversed all these areas, prospecting between Randsburg, Ca. and the Nevada boarder. Shady may have been the first true rockhound of the Mojave. While never striking it rich with gold or the diamonds he was sure were there, he never the less found his niche in Mojave mining history. He had opal, jasper and bloodstone claims and of course, his beloved myrickite which was reportedly a hotly coveted material in the Asian gemstone markets second only to jade and pink tourmaline.



THINGS TO BRING ON YOUR FIELD TRIP, BY SCOTT GRAY

The days are growing shorter. The heat is tapering off. So you know what that means: grab your rock hammer! Rinse out your bucket and fill your spray bottles! It's field trip season!

Dave Duncan is current checking road conditions around Ludlow and elsewhere so watch your email, the Facebook page and our awesome newsletter for upcoming field trips for cutting material and mineral specimens! The October trip should be towards the end of That month; come to the general meeting on the 21st for the most up to date info and win some free rocks in our raffle while your at it. I don't know 'bout y'all but I'm itchin' to do some digging! **THINGS TO BRING ON YOUR TRIP!**



BE SURE TO BE ON TIME AT THE DESIGNATED MEETING SPOT. SIGN THE SIGN-IN SHEET/WAIVER FORM. LISTEN TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE WAGON MASTER / TRIP LEADERS. WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE SITE LISTEN TO HEAR WHAT AND WHERE YOU CAN FIND SPECIMENS AND FLOAT. IF MORE THAT ONE SITE IS BEING VISITED BE SURE TO CHECK IN AND OUT IF YOU LEAVE THE GROUP OR MAKE A SIDE TRIP. BE SURE WE HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER.

ROCK HAMMER, PICK, SHOVEL, CHISEL TOOLS, PRY BARS, EYE PROTECTION, SUNGLASSES, SUN SCREEN. GLOVES, STURDY ENCLOSED SHOES, EXTRA PAIR OF SOCKS, HAT FOR SUN RELIEF, LONG PANTS (THINK SNAKES). SOMETHING TO CARRY YOUR FINDS IN. PLASTIC BAGS, TOTE BAGS, BUCKETS. WATER, FOOD. CAMERA. BE SURE TO FILL UP YOUR TANK BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME AREA. PAD AND PEN FOR NOTE TAKING REGARDING YOUR FINDS.

ALWAYS TAKE OUT WHAT YOU BRING IN, ASK IF A DOG IS PERMITTED. WHEN TRAVELING ON DIRT ROADS, TURN ON YOUR VEHICLE LIGHTS AND LEAVE PLENTY OF SPACE BETWEEN VEHICLES SO YOU CAN WITH THE ROAD DUST. WHEN YOU COME TO AN INTERSECTION, STOP TO MAKE SURE THE VEHICLE FOLLOWING YOU KNOWS TO TURN, THE VEHICALE BEHIND YOU SHOULD THEN STOP THERE TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT VEHICLE.

MOST OF ALL HAVE A GOOD TIME, SIT AND HAVE A CHAT WITH A FRIEND, ENJOY THE SCENERY. GOOD LUCK!

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Free to club members to sell & browse

VVGMC Swap Meet

When: Clubhouse October 7, 2023, time 11:00am

Where: 155056-b 7th St. Victorville, Ca.

Why: Members only, can set up, and sell their rocks, jewelry, books and other rock themed art items to club members. All members are free to browse and buy what they like!

Bring cash, price tags, marker pen and a bag for your buys.

Who: You the member, you will be there to sell and buy!

You will have 3 feet of space to work with. One space per member / family, unless there are extra free spaces. Reserve your spot by calling at 760-243-2330, or email

vvrocksandgems@gmail.com to get your space.

Come on out and join the club members at a club sponsored event for you!

California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

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

October 7-8, 2023 – Signal Hill, CA

Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society
 Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA 90755
 “Gems on the Hill” Annual Show
 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM = 4 PM
 Contact: (562) 253-1390, lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com
 Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

October 8, 2023 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
 123 W. Alvarado St. (show on street a& in parking lot), Fallbrook CA 92028
 Hours: 9 AM – 4 PM
 Rock Fallbrook! Over 40 mineral gemstone, jewelry and fossil vendors at the annual Fallbrook Festival of Gems & Minerals. Gem ID, Bargain Booth, Wheel of Fortune, kids activities, food booth, and a GIANT raffle of some gorgeous items. Free admission and free parking. Vendor applications due August 1, 2023. Email info@fgms.org if you’re interested Contact: [\(760\) 728-1130, info@fgms.org](tel:7607281130).

1st Biannual Pearblossom Gem and Mineral Show

Start Date 10-20-2023 to End Date 10-22-23
 Hours are 9am to 5pm Daily
 Venue is the Outpost. Address 34141 116th Street East, Pearblossom, CA.93553
 Website is <http://facebook.com/138outpost>

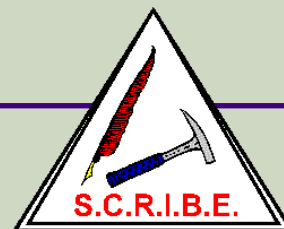
Date
 Hours
 Venue

October 21, 2023 – West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
 First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307
 Twenty Fourth Annual Gem Show
 Hours: 10 AM – 5 Pm. Contact: whrc@rockchippers.Org/ Website: www.rockchippers.org\

October 28-29, 2023 – San Diego, CA

Sponsor: San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
 Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA 92106
 Hours: Saturday 9:30 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
 Admission and Parking – Free
 Contact: luannz@att.net
 Website: <https://SDMG.org> / Show Web page: <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2023>





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 // treasurer@vvgmc.org

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



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

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 Fee Schedule for 2024

For 2024, membership has approved the following annual dues. We will start 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 going to \$7 starting Oct 1st 2023

We know the membership fee is a big 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.

Also, the Board members, have been going through the books to see what we can cut on expenses that will not reduce our services to the members.

Hello to all club members!

This is Beka McNeil, your VP in charge of membership, for the club. Wanted to let you know that the winner of the month of September with one new member, is Pam Trozera. She signed up her granddaughter for the Junior Rockhounds. She got will be getting the first prize. Thanks!

Also please remember that October 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 sign up members for the year to win the grand prize of a Free Annual Membership for yourself! New members in Oct. get 15 months of time with the club. Oct. to Dec 2023.

Please note that starting October 1, 2023 our annual membership fee's will be going up. The VVGMC Board of Directors has decided that we need to raise our fees. This is due to the loss of a lease holder of 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!

UPCOMING EDUCATION NIGHT WITH LIA HAMILTON



Lia Hamilton, our new interim 2nd Vice President, has again become an integral part of VVGMC's life style. Recently presenting at the September's Education night. At the last board meeting Lia volunteered to become Education VP. Poof, the job was filled, and leave it to Lia, she has already set up a great free night for us on October 10th, 2023 with a class on jewelry bench tools.

For November we may be able to secure Brad Smith of Brads Bench Tips! Lia had the privilege of going to Adult Education, in Santa Monica where Bradford Smith was an Instructor. Many of her skills were taught her by Brad. Brad has moved to the eastern part of the country now and offers classes, demos and education by ZOOM calls covering numerous subjects in the lapidary field. We look forward to having this opportunity to learn all we can from this master.



Bradford Smith

"Hi, I'm Lia Hamilton 2nd Vice-President in charge of education. I will try to feature topics that you want to explore. If you have a topic you would like to have covered, there is a clipboard near the sign-in sheet to list your ideas. I will bring and explain the usage of some hand tools. If you have a favorite tool you would like to share bring it. If you have a topic you would like to have covered, there is a clipboard near the sign-up sheet for your ideas. THX LH"

Six Reasons to use the Lapidary Shop, By Dave Duncan

1. Members get to use a lot of expensive equipment for only \$7.00
2. Instruction is included on each machine.
3. If you have never polished a stone before we will teach you how to do it.
4. If you have polished before, we can help you become a better lapidary artist!
5. We can help you slice your rock open.
6. Learn new skills such as intarsia and wire arts.



Holiday Extravaganza

Brought to you by your
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club.

Vendor's will be lapidary artists with many styles, polished rocks, cut specimens, lots of jewelry, wire wrapping, beads and more, most created by the artist themselves. Once we confirm the vendors, we will ask them & our members to use Facebook and other social media to get a ourselves a good crowd.

This event is tentative. Spaces will be 10 x 10 for \$25.00. Time would be set up Friday night of November 3rd, for Saturday Nov 4th, 2023. More details will be coming via your email account. For space reservations or more info please call 760-242-2330 or email vvrocsandgems@gmail.com

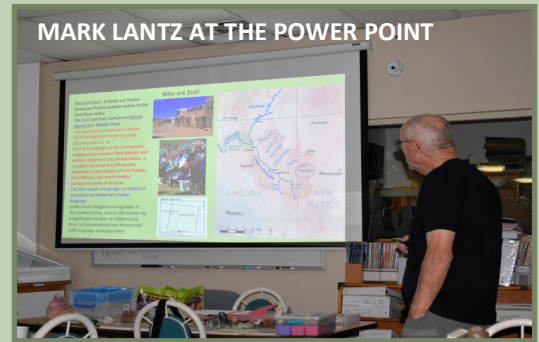
JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

Well, we have a retired teacher of Earth Sciences who taught for 33 years 6th - 12th grades. We have a great clubhouse in which students can learn in a rock related environment. We have enough rocks and specimens to teach scores of students.

All that is great news, however the thing we need the most are Junior Rockhounds! Surely there are some more children in your lives that would love to learn. We need about 8 more to try to keep this great opportunity available. Why not stop in on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays 9am-12pm in the month and watch for yourself, how excited these children get into the learning of rocks, how they are formed, uses, and how to make things with our finds. Each child also gets a rock identifier kit, and add to their collections with rocks provided by and identified for you at the clubhouse with our teacher 3rd VP Mark Lantz!

Recap of Education night! September 12, 2023

Hi folks, here is a recap of our education night at the clubhouse. Wow! What fun this was. Mark Lantz, 3rd Vice President showed up with a collection that made us all curious and equally impressed, at the time spent collecting his Zuni Fetishes, cataloguing, and learning the ways of the Zuni and the importance of the fetish stone carved creatures.



MARK LANTZ AT THE POWER POINT

Then, below you will see Dave Duncan, President, and Lia Hamilton, VP of Education, who brought in a very fine collection of Zuni Fetish necklaces to show. Lia has some beautiful pieces, including a wonderful necklace that she wore that night.



MARK LANTZ'S ZUNI FETISH DISPLAY



LIA HAMILTON'S DISPLAY OF ZUNI NECKLACES



DAVE & LIA HAMILTON

Jake Brouwer, brought in a table full of Indian, Pre-Columbian, and other artifacts from his collection. Some skookum dolls from the 1960's in original boxes, photos and books on the subjects of Pre-Columbian arts, Anasazi, Cave art and more.

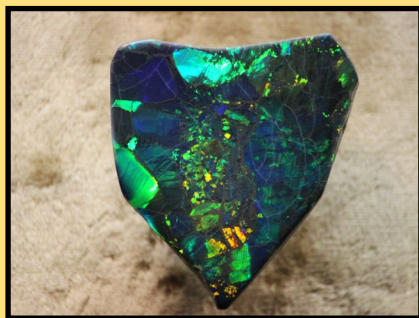


Welcome all club members to October and the beginnings of fall. Our potluck luncheon for October is on the 21st at 12:00pm. The club will be providing birthday cakes for the 8 club members celebrating this month. We ask all, that you bring with you a side dish, salad or fruit to accompany the cakes. The meeting will start with the pledge of allegiance, followed 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. 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! There should be news for a November UV blacklight expedition to the Princess Pat Mine off of highway 395. This will be an evening adventure, bring your UV lights, flashlights, and appropriate clothing for cooler weather.

Octobers Birthstone

Opal enkindles optimism, enthusiasm and creativity, and allows for the release of inhibitions inspiring love and passion. Opal enhances cosmic consciousness and stimulates flashes of intuition and insight, yet is a protective stone for deep inner work, meditations, and lower world shamanic journeys.

Opal is one of the best stones for protection against **negative energy** as it is a highly reflective stone. With properties that make it extremely absorbent and reflective, Opals are powerful protection crystals that will pick up on thoughts and emotions, magnify them, and send them back to you.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Larry Canuti
- Lois Herington
- Chris Koch
- Annie Musik
- Anne Baercoey
- Jane Russel
- Steve Jones,
- Brian McLeod



Best wishes to all!



FROM THE BOOK CORNER

Author you should know about!
Mary Frances Strong.

Mary, along with other writers in the 1950's and 1960's flooded the market with trail books for gems and minerals. She did California, Southern California, Arizona and Utah. Available on line for as low as \$5. and as high as \$100. for a 1st Ed Hardcover. She was one of the best in getting rockhounds to their destinations with detailed descriptions.

This advertising 1/4 page was lifted from the Rock and Gem Magazine, July 1968. In the older magazines you can find her articles as well for field trip reports.

I happen to own a Desert Magazine Subject Index. After looking up Mary Francis Strong, I had to do a double take, as there were over 225 articles done over the years.

Mary also covered Ghost Towns, Flora, caverns, and gold hunting. Thanks to Mary Francis Strong for he large body of works to discover.

DESSERT GEM TRAILS

By
**MARY
 FRANCES
 STRONG**

**Only
 \$2.00**
(plus 10c in Calif.)

GEMS & MINERALS
 P.O. Box 687, MENTONE, CALIFORNIA 92359

THE LIBRARY FILES by Algot Stephenson

We are proud to announce a column by Algot, pronounced (I'll get) Stephenson. Thanks very much. *jb*



Ever since I can remember, I've always had an affinity towards rocks. Heck. I even met my childhood best friend through a nasty rock fight. What my problem has always been is where to find cool rocks and what to do with them (outside of cluttering up my house and my life). once I do find them.

Upon joining the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club (like that plug?), I've been exposed to, and now am responsible for, the club's extensive Rock and Mineral library.

t's true that some of the information might be outdated, but it is also true that we, also, have much of the updated publications. So, one can research the way things used to be, where they currently are, and are able to follow the path from there to here. And let's not forget about new discoveries, new Governmental procedures, and new artistic ways to create eye and heart pleasing articles of jewelry. We have information on digging, mining, cleaning, tumbling, cutting, carving, grinding, and polishing. We have literature on intarsia, cabbing, silver-smithing, gem cutting, wire-wrapping, and any other lapidary craft creation which any rock hound could ever dream about.

Ever wonder where to find Rubies? Diamonds, Gold? Our Library has books on rocks and minerals, what makes them, how to identify them, where to find them, and what to do with them once you do find them. We have books, magazines, periodicals, and Government issued guide books from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Department of the Interior, and many other Departments, Councils, and Groups. Check out one of our books before you plan your nest rock-hounding excursion. Don't wander aimlessly and have to just accept the best your destination has to offer. Plan a trip to a specific location which is known to produce the stone, gem, or mineral you're looking for. Not every location produces everything gem and mineral. you're looking for.

So, if you're a novice, versed, professional, artisan, or just someone who desires to learn more things, new things and different ways, feel free to browse our selection and check out a book.

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 & earth sciences. To encourage study in those subjects through 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: OCT. 10:00am
INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TUES, OCT 3, 3pm
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: TUES OCT 3, 2023. 4:30pm TIL FINISHED.
EDUCATION NIGHT: OCT 10, 2023 6:00pm
GENERAL MEETING: - OCT 21, 12:00 - 2:00 pm,
with Pot Luck, Silent auction & Door prizes.
Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm.
JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: OCT 14, OCT 28, 9am - 12pm

THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...

Published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral club and is distributed free of charge electronically to the members by email. Views expressed by authors in the articles appearing in THE BULLETIN do not necessarily reflect those of the VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB The editor publishes content as presented with minor changes for continuity.

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

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