# THE BULLETIN

## SEPTEMBER 2023

POT LUCK 9-16-23

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LET'S HAVE A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS. 4 NEW MEMBERS, SEPTEMBER 2023

George, Alison Ellison Mario Oliva's Cliff Nelson

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. EDUCA-TION NIGHT, TUESDAY AUGUST 8, 6:00 PM. WITH CORY BECK SHOWING A WIRE WRAPPING TECHNIQUE. POT LUCK LUNCH ON THE 19TH, 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:** Greetings to all VVGMC Members! I hope you have had a great summer and are ready for cooler weather and some fieldtrips. We will let you know about the fieldtrips later.

As you will see in her article elsewhere in this issue, Beka (VP of Membership), has initiated a recruitment drive running from now until December 16<sup>th</sup>. *Here is how it works:* 

**Step one:** Pick up some club business cards and put your name on the back (where it says referred by).

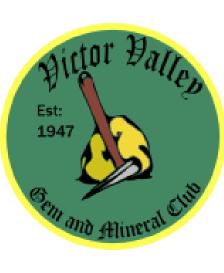
**Step 2:** Hand them out to your friends and associates that are interested in rocks and/or lapidary.

How do you know if someone is interested in our hobby? Just tell them what you do. Or better yet, show them what you have made!

We are lucky to have our own club house with lots of equipment and volunteers to keep it open 3 days a week.

There will be a monthly prize for the most referrals (that become members) each month, as well as a grand prize (free membership dues for 2023) for the most referrals between now and the general meeting on Dec 16.

Let's not keep this club a secret any more! **Dave Duncan, President** And, by the way, if you don't have any cards, just make sure to notify Beka at <u>vp@vvgmc.org</u> and let her know who you are sending our way. **thx** 





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## FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

## NIPOMO BEAN FIELD AGATE, by Scott Gray. <u>Straddling the 101 Freeway</u>, is the small farming com-

munity of Nipomo. A blink and you will miss it town just like it's neighbors Buellton and Las Alamos, all of which are nestled between Santa Barbara to the south and San Luis Obispo to the north.

The first settlers here were the Chumash; Nipomo actually means "Foot of the Hills" in their native tongue. In the 1830's the Mexican Governor of California granted the 38,000 acre Rancho Nipomo to William Dana, a sea captain who established the Dana Adobe which was an important stop on the El Camino Real between the missions in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. By the 1880s streets were laid out and homes were built and soon citizens began farming n the rich dark soil, first wheat, and later peas and beans.

Now this is were it gets interesting for us rockhounds. As the ground was continually turned farmers noticed beautiful stones appearing in season after season: a clear and sometimes colored chalcedony with inclusions which eventually became known as Nipomo Bean Field Agate. There are several varieties of chalcedony found here. Best know is the marcasite included in chalcedony which has a very distinctive appearance. Once you see a piece or two you will recognize it in a heartbeat, the best pieces looking like metal flowers in a clear as glass background. Sagenite and dendritic stones are also found here as well as chert arrowheads and an occasional piece of petrified whale bone.

This was a popular collecting location in the 50's and early 60's with area farmers readily granting permissions to collect in their fields. However after inconsiderate collectors continually tresspassed, trampled freshly planted fields and left gates open those friendly farmers changed their minds and this beautiful material was all but cut off from the collecting community. Truly a shame as this is really neat stuff anyone would be happy to add to their collection. There is still old stock material for sale on line; a google search will reveal lots of gorgeous and extremely expensive rough and cabs available and it's said someone can occasionally get permission to enter one of the fields and pick up more but this can't happen too often as there is never enough of this material to go around and meet the demand; the ever rising price of rough and finished stones seems to prove this. This can be a challenging material to work as the marcasite can undercut like crazy and

some of the less silicified material can even "rust" if not treated properly after cutting. Despite this Nipomo is an extremely popular and sought after California gemstone. I have yet to secure some for myself; however I always keep my eyes peeled when perusing old collections and at shows hoping to get my own piece of Nipomo Bean Field Agate without breaking my wallet and finally check it off of my long list of must have classic California material!



The October 2023 edition of the Bulletin newsletter will carry information about our returning Field Trip activities. If all goes well we will go the Southern Cady Mountains near Ludlow, ca. in October, and in November Florescent trip to Princes Pat Mine.

#### **GET YOURS NOW, LIMITED EDITION**

The board has approved the design which is titled the <u>Bucket Brigade</u> showing a woman rockhound with bucket, and pick in hand, with a desert background, club name and Est. 1947. Nice job Steve! Come by the shop to pickup a few.

The design is large on the back of a quality tee shirt, in an off white color that matches the theme of the design. The design is repeated on the front left breast area.

All shirts will be \$25.00. Payable in <u>CASH</u>

or <u>CHECK</u> made payable to VVGMC. No credit cards Sizes are: SMALL MEDIUM LARGE XTRA LARGE DOUBLE XL TRIPLE XL



Stickers are \$1.00 each

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#### SEPTEMBER 2023

#### VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

## VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

#### VVGMC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

Allow me to introduce to our members, old and new our interim 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in charge of Memberships, Beka McNeil. If you've been around the club, you've seen her buzzing from one spot to another, landing here and there to talk with you, work with you and in any way she can, she helps out the club by volunteering her service. This is the kind of energy the club needs to be successful in the coming years. I hope all of you will participate and aid Beka where you can in trying to pull out a successful MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. Listen up! This was all her idea. Go

Beka! *Jb* "HI! This is Beka McNeil your new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. I want to first thank Dave Duncan President for recommending me to the position, and then all the Board Members who voted me in for the position. I have gone over the duties of the club as issued, and hope to fulfill my service to all of you and the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club.

Some of us came to the VVGMC because of a love of gems and minerals often passed on to us by our parents, teachers, and friends. Others picked up a stone one day and were just amazed enough to want to learn more. It's funny, some time you just see a piece of special jewelry on a person and ask how it came to be. Well, I have parts of all of that, in me, but also after the loss of a loved one, I felt I was losing



Beka's Minerals Display at the Clubhouse

my passion for life. "Dear God Help Me." I would say.

December 2022 friends of my daughter & club members, Emiliano & Rosemary Garcia, noticed some rocks around my place and suggested coming to the rock club. I have just loved rocks all my life. But here was a chance of a lifetime to learn how to

chance of a lifetime to learn how to make spheres, jewelry and other wonders of lapidary. We went down to the clubhouse and our welcoming President; Dave Duncan signed me up. I must

say so far, the club has changed my life so much for the better. Being with the

<image>

Beka McNeil cold, windy morning selling a the VVGMC Tailgate Show

other members and going on field trips is all great fun but for me, I was so happy just to fit in.

Now, as I have learned some very special skills and met most of you, I feel that as your new Vice President in charge of Membership, it was my time to step up and start to give back to my new community, you, my rock club! Thank you for that opportunity. *Bm* 

So, with approval of the club, I have decided to do a Membership Drive. All club members were given extra business cards at the last General Meeting. If you need more, they are at the club house. On the back of the card is a place for you to write your name in. Give it to your prospect for membership so you will get credit for the referral when they sign up. The Membership Drive will last from now, until December 16, 2023, at the final General Meeting of the year. Whoever has the most referrals leading to a signup at that time will receive free paid one year membership for 2024. Also, we will be checking each month to see who has brought in the most memberships and that person will get a gift for their participation which will be in the form of a nice rock, crystal or slab that the club will make available.

Please send all referrals to me at **vp@vvgmc.Org or** call the club **760-243-2336** with the information & leave a message, so I can be on the lookout for them coming in to the club and also follow up for you to complete the applications, tours etc. Thank you in advance for helping me, help the club grow. *Beka McNeil.*"

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## **California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates**

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

September 16-17, 2023 – San Luis Obispo, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club San Luis Obispo Veteran's Memorial Building, 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 Gems by the Sea Show. Admission: \$5, Children 12 and under Free. Free parking. Contact: 2023show@slogem.org Website: http://slogem.org

#### 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, Ibmineralgemsociety@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<u>:</u> (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org

#### October 14-15, 2023 - Redwood City, CA

Peninsula Gem and Geology Society AND Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Rosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM Contact: (650) 575-3144, cci@pacbell.net Website: http://sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org

#### 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@rockchppers.0rg/ Website: www.rockchppers.org



#### SEPTEMBER 2023

#### **BOARD MEMBERS.....**

President. / Dave Duncan, PH: 831-406-0214 / EMAIL : president@vvgmc.org

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

2nd Vice President: Education. Position open for voting in next election for 2024.

Recording Secretary / Dwayna Barron / EMAIL: recording secretary@vvgmc org

Treasurer / Cory Beck treasurer@vvgmc.org

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

Board Member / 1 year term - Mark Lantz

Board Member / Lia Hamilton

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

Junior Rockhound Program: Director Mark Lantz

Tailgate Chairman: Mark Lantz / email marklantz53@gmail.com

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







VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB



## VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB Junior Rockhounds Program

Brought to you by the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club by Committee Chairman Mark Lantz. Mr. Lantz has been a club member for 3 years. He is also a board member and Chairman of the Annual Tailgate Rock and Gem show at Stoddard Wells each year. Mark joined the club, looking for something to do. "I enjoyed the field trips, lapidary work, and jewelry making as well as meeting people and sharing successful and unsuccessful projects. Lots of good coaching."

Mark Lantz taught 6th - 12th grade Earth Science, and Geophysical Science for 33 years. Prior to that he directed YMCA resident camps, day camps and afterschool "latchkey" programs. He is also an Eagle Scout as were his 2 sons. Scoutmaster for 5 years and also a counselor.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Future Rockhounds of America is a nationwide program within the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies that develops and delivers quality youth activities in the earth sciences and lapidary arts in a fun, family environment. Our underlying goals are to foster science literacy and arts education through structured activities that are engaging and challenging and by which kids - and the adults who mentor them - learn while having fun.

**JUNIOR MEMBER GUIDELINES:** Age's of members will be 8 years to 17 years. Upon the 18th year a junior member may join the adult members with all of it's privilege's with the regular membership process.

Junior members 8 - 10 years old can only us the following motorized equipment; Glass Grinder, "All You Needs," and tile saws. Ages 10 - 14 can use all the equipment in the saw room, grinding room and common areas of the club. In the silver room they can use the polisher, the drill press, and bench grinder. They cannot use any silver working equipment. All junior members must be constantly supervised by their parent or guardian (standing right next to the junior member. The parent or guardian must be certified on the equipment being used. They must also be a member of the club. Members from age 14-18 can use all the equipment stated in the proceeding paragraph only if they are certified on the equipment but not necessarily next to them. No Junior Member may use the silver processing equipment which includes, burn out ovens, mold making equipment or any torches.

All Junior Members must have Parent or Guardian with them during any and all other club activities like Pot Luck luncheons, Meetings and Field Trips, etc.

All Members must follow the direction of any Club Instructor (even if they are not on duty>)

All Members must follow all of the Club's Safety Rules.

Aside from learning about rockhounding, collecting, Junior Members will earn badges in up to 20 categories pertaining to all things rock and mineral relate subjects.

Lastly, at this time the group membership for Junior Rockhounds is limited to 12 new members. Depending on turnout, we may, in time expand the number.

## NEXT MEETINGS ARE SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 AND SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 Educational Classes start at 9:00am - 11:45am, Cleanup 11:45-12:00pm

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## Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 HOURS 9am-12pm



SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 HOURS 9am-12pm

Invites kids and their parent to join us as we present

## the Junior Rockhound Program

This program is created by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). The program is designed to reward youth with a series of badges, or patches upon completion of a topic. The program includes topics such as;

Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Field Trips, and much more.



<u>Meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup></u> Saturday of each month 9:00 – 11:45

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

<u>15056 – B 7<sup>th</sup> Street</u> <u>Victorville, CA 92395</u>

760-243-2330

If you are interested, contact: Mark Lantz marklantz53@gmail.com

## <u>Education night! September 12, 2023 Guesday. A Special</u> Evening with Mark Lantz, speaking on Zuni Fetishes.

Your newsletter editor will also bring in for your viewing. Pre-Columbian terracotta stelae (stamps) heads. Also just in from his consignor on eBay some 50`s-60`s Indian dolls. No items from the collections are for sale.

Ladies, Gentlemen, introducing Mark Lantz, club Board member, and Tailgate Show Chairman. Mark Lantz taught 6th - 12th grade Earth Science, and Geophysical Science for 33 years. Some of his hobbies are Rocks, Trains and Zuni Fetishes. This should be quite interesting for those who have an interest in native fetishes, what they are, how they are used, what they are made of an more.

Zuni fetishes are small carvings made from primarily stone but also shell, fossils, and other materials by the Zuni people. Within the Zuni community, these carvings serve ceremonial purposes for their creators and depict animals and icons integral to their culture. As a form of contemporary Native American art, they are sold with secular intentions to collectors worldwide. Prior to the establishment of a non-Native market for fetishes, Hopi, Navajo, and other Pueblo peoples, especially at Kewa Pueblo also carved and used fetishes. (wikipedia) Below you will see some samples, and Mark will bring his collection







to the clubhouse for all to see. We will be impressed.



Since Mark was doing something on native Indian Fetishes. Jake was suggested to bring in his Pre-Columbia, Terracotta figure heads (Stella.) He will also show a preview of one of his upcoming auctions on eBay, which is a small collection of native American Indian dolls made for tourists in the 1950's and 1960's. jb



## Education Night Recap August 8, 2023 @ 6:00pm

We owe Cory Beck our thankyou's for demonstrating the SILK style of wire wrapping at the clubhouse. Mr. Beck went over a list of recommended books, that could help you along the way. He also recommended certain tools for the project. Dave Duncan ran the overhead projector and camera for the evening, with both fellas coming up with some comedy relief here and there. Beck also passed around samples of his work.

This was the second class by Cory Beck, the first being an introduction to wire wrapping which was held earlier in the year. We can only hope to learn more from Cory Beck in the future.



Mr. Cory Beck, on right side of table, with a group of members wanting to add to their knowledge, another facet of lapidary arts, wire wrapping. Took place earlier in 2023.

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome all club members to September with the ends of summer, and beginnings of fall. Our potluck luncheon for September is on the 16th at 12:00pm. The club will be providing birthday cakes for the 7 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 news at the meeting regarding fall Field Trips in October and November, always a fun time.

### **SEFCEMBER'S BIRTHSTONE** <u>SAPPHIRE BIRTHSTONE HISTO-</u> <u>RY & SYMBOLISM</u>

The celestial blue color of this gemstone symbolized heaven and attracted divine favor and wise judgment. Greeks wore sapphire for guidance when seeking answers from the oracle. Buddhists believed that it brought spiritual enlightenment, and Hindus use

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that it brought spiritual enlightenment, and Hindus used it during worship.

Sapphires are believed to symbolize wisdom, virtu, good fortune, and holiness for royals. Royalty often wore sapphires for dual purposes. Not only did the stone reputedly attract wealth, it also purportedly protected the wearer from envy and infidelity. Traditionally, people attributed to this gem the power to bring harmony between lovers as well as peace between adversaries.

Other happenings in September 2023. September 19th is a full Harvest Moon. September's birthday flowers are the Aster and Morning Glory. September is the month of apples, apple pie, cobblers and other dishes. September 4th is Labor Day, with some time to rest up. September 11, is Patriot Day in honor of those who died September 11,, 2001. September 23 is the first day of fall.

With a Mohs Hardness rating of 9.0 sapphires are suitable for many jewelry styles and everyday wear. Along with the ruby, it is the second hardest gem after the diamond. Sapphires can include what is called an asterism—or the star effect. The phenomenon appears as a six-ray star pattern within the gem. It is popular for engagement rings, as well as necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and pendants. For best cleaning results, use warm, soapy water.



### <u>September</u> Birthdays

Dusayna Barron Stine Smith Dusayne Lousery Gina Grim Rodney Wilson Dina Perez Dagmar Miller

<u>Best wishes to all!</u>





#### SEPTEMBER 2023

## FROM THE BOOK CORNER

Books you should know about! With recommendations from Cory Beck for wire wrapping. *Thank you Cory*!

*Wire Wrapping The Basics and beyond.* By Jim Macintosh. The book has over 390 images that illustrate all of the steps in producing fine wire jewelry. The book is broken down into 3 sections that span 289 pgs.



*WireSmithing, The New Look of wire art.* By Jim McIntosh. Wiresmithing offers jewelry artists a new way to make beautiful jewelry that has a modern contemporary look. This book is dedicated to creating new designs by com-

WIRESMITHING The New Look of Wire Art Jin Minteet

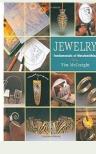
bining new wire wrap tech Techniques with basic metalsmithing skills

#### The Beauty of Hopi Jewel-

**ry.** By Theda Bassman. A full-color tribute to distinctive Hopi jewelry and the artists who create it--past and present. View the intricate and splendid nature of this art form and craft. Detailed descriptions accompany photos.

Jewelry: Fundamentals of Metalsmithing. By Tim McCreight . Fundamentals of Metalsmithing examines the basic techniques of this ancient and accessible craft: fabricating, surface treatments, joining, finishing,

stone setting, chain making, mechanisms, and casting with demonstration photos



## JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

Your Editor ventured into the clubhouse, August 12, 2023 to witness the first Junior Rockhounds meeting in sometime. Upon arrival I saw Mark Lantz our instructor for the event.

Around 9:00am folks started to arrive with their children. Mark had areas set

up for the children to sit with their parents, and he also had his study materials and pile of colorful rocks that he



and the new rockhounds would be working with. Mark explained

what they would be learning. He laid out some simple rules to follow, and all were very attentive. Ages appeared to be 6-12 years old. 5 children were present.



All of the children had a fun time and sounded anxious to come back. Each left with a kit to test hardness of stones along with a magnifying glass, and some rock treasures. Next meeting are September 9, and 23, 2023





Recently in print in the Los Angeles Times was an article titled "<u>Rockhounds fight for</u> access to their jewel in the Desert:"

#### The Mojave Trails National Park.

Published July 16, 2023. Written by Louis Sahagun With Photography by Iran Khan, both on teams winning a Pulitzer Prizes with the L.A. Times.

The writers speak of Gregor Lossen, A dyed-in-the wool rockhound as he takes you to his favorite mineral hunting grounds in the Mojave Desert. It's in the Cady Mountains. But, that might not be the case much longer.

The article brings to light the problems with the BLM stating it could declare rock collecting a form of mining and ceasing collection of rocks.

How will thousands of rockhounds be able to continue their pastimes, and not be considered criminals?

Will legal challenges, win out or are we going to be like most other National Monuments, barred from rockhounding? Check out the link below. <u>https://www.latimes.com/</u> <u>environment/story/2023-07-</u> <u>16/rockhounds-fight-for-access</u> <u>-to-jewels-of-california-desert</u>

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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. 10am-2pm SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 2:00pm- 8:00 SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—NOON—5 pm SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - 2:00pm - 5 pm

#### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS**

CLUB CLEAN UP DAY: SAT SEPT 2, 10:00am INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TUES, SEPT 5, 3pm BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: TUES SEPT 5, 2023. 4:30pm EDUCATION NIGHT: SEPT 12, 2023 GENERAL MEETING: - SEPT 16, 12:00 - 2:00 pm, with Pot Luck, Silent auction & Door prizes. Shop work resumes 2:00 - 5:00 pm. JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: SEPT 9, SEPT 23. 9am-12pm

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

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MAILING LABLE

76th ANNIVERARY YEAR 1947-1948 2023-2024