

THE BULLETIN



WE HEART YOU!

FEBRUARY 2023

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TO OUR MEMBERS:

- If you have any questions, comments, or just want to help, do not hesitate to contact your Board Members or Committee Chairs for assistance.
- We encourage you to use the "suggestion Box." It is opened at every board meeting.
- Let's make this, our 75th year in business, a big success. We need more great field trips, big showing at the 47th annual Tailgate Show at Stoddard Wells, and teaching our members all we can, to get them proficient in lapidary arts.

We are always open to welcome New Members to the club. Contact VP Steve Rucker

SINGLE MEMBER \$35.00
COUPLES \$45.00

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well, Hi everybody. I hope you are having a great high desert winter. Thankfully, the days are already getting noticeably longer!

Did you go to Quartzsite? Are you going to Tucson? Let us know.

Our annual tailgate is the 2nd weekend of March and is rapidly approaching. Thanks to all of you that have already volunteered. Much appreciated! We will need everybody's help with this endeavor, especially for set up on Thursday, and breakdown on Sunday. So even if you are planning to be a vendor, make some time to help your club. Before then, we need everybody's help getting the word out. Please take some flyers and leave them at any rock related even or business. Also, please mention it as often as you can on social media.

Meanwhile, we still have all of February to enjoy the shop and do some rockhounding. Speaking of which, Scott is planning a fieldtrip the weekend of February 11th. This time we will be going back to the Boron area for some agate and Jasper. See Scott's article elsewhere in this newsletter for additional details. Finally, if you have any ideas on ways to improve our club, make sure to let me know. We are open to new ideas. Dave Duncan President.



PRESIDENT DAVE DUNCAN



On your left, I'd like to introduce **Steve Rucker**. Steve is the Vice President in charge of Membership for the club and a valuable instructor. He is also friendly, personable, very knowledgeable, and quite the artist. He has been with the club just over 1 year, and has worked his way up to his present position. If you want to join the club, call in and make an appointment. We will give you a tour of the workshop, displays, and you'll meet some great folks.

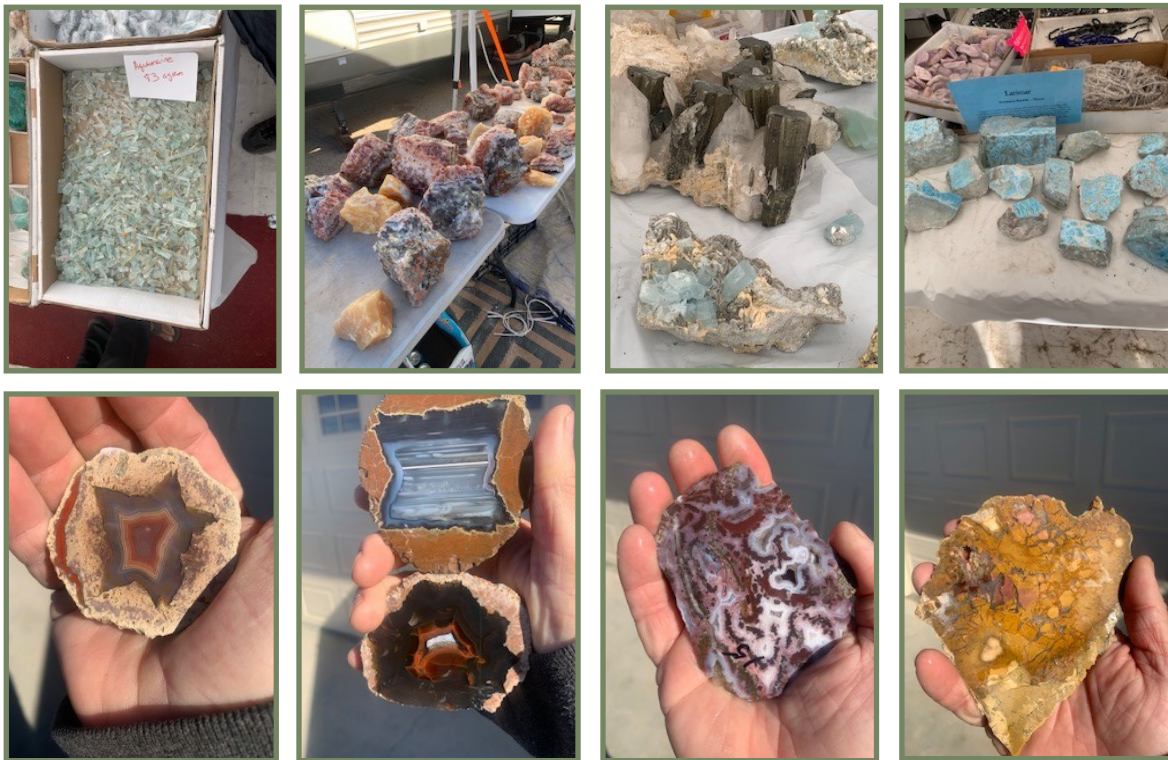
FEES ARE POSTED TO THE LEFT

FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

From Amazonite to Zoisite, Quartzsite Had it all. The January field trip to Quartzsite AZ was a lot of fun and a eye boggling experience all rolled into one. After the meetup the group (participants were myself, my wife Sasha, and Brian and Loretta Willinger), made the short jaunt over to the 57th Annual QIA Pow Wow. It took Approximately four and a half hours to make our way thru the aisles marveling at the stacks of slabs, mountains of rough, beautiful gemstones and amazing mineral specimens. It was enlightening and educational discussing the products and all other aspects of the hobby with vendors and fellow buyers alike. Friends were made, stones were bought, and wish lists were compiled! This was a great trip and could only have been made better with a higher turnout. Check out the pics below to see what you missed! sg



SCOTT GRAY



WELCOME

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral club would like to welcome you all, to what can be a life changing, lifestyle, of hunting specimens, rough material and learning all the aspects of lapidary work.

JANUARY'S NEW MEMBERS

Clayton Ehman
Loretta Perkins and Todd Stinson
JanaLee Arnold
Martina Monet
Joan Mulcare and son
Kory Carpanter
Algot Stephenson

Check out the rest of this page for just some of the sites we visit to rock hound. The Mojave Desert is the clubs biggest Playground. Enjoy!

New Field Trip for FEBRUARY 11, 2023. This trip will be to a new site for the club, in the Boron Area. All attending will meet at the Burger King parking lot at 9:00 am in Kramer Junction. Please email or leave a text message for Scott if you are planning on attending. If you make plans with Scott and it ends up you can't make it, or are going to be late, you need to let him know the day before or early that day so the group is not waiting. This is a location not listed in any guide book and offers moss agate, agate, chalcedony, and jasper in various colors. Petrified wood, palm root and reed are also reportedly found here. This is a low yield site but does have excellent material available. Material is scattered over a large and relatively unpicked area on hillsides and flat ground. Not being in any guide book is a big plus, who knows what we may turn up! High clearance vehicles preferred. Also not a good area for children with broken glass, and rusted cans in some areas. See ya there! Sg. *Addition from Jake; I read somewhere that off to the west of the road we're taking is a playa and the hill above the playa has homestead ruins near the top, old home of the Boron Rock Shop owner's family. On this hilltop are several varieties of chalcedony and Jasper. Occasionally a geode fragment and druzy quartz.*

IN MEMORY
OF
DOUG ARNOLD



I am so sorry to report that we've lost a great member of our rock club, Doug Arnold. Doug was a master of everything lapidary. Learning from the best, his father. Married 46 years to the love of his life, Sara Montoya Arnold. Doug passed away 1/12/2023 after a short time in the hospital. Years ago Doug suffered from a stroke. Sara has been his partner through thick and thin. Her loving nature allowed him to live life to its fullest. Please take a moment of silence in his honor. He will truly be missed. DD.

In speaking with Sara, she will be planning a Celebration of Life get together, later in the Spring.



SUNSHINE

It's a bit cloudy today, after receiving news that Tailgate Chairman, & VVGMC Board Member Mark Lantz could use some extra good thoughts and prayers right now and through the coming week. Mark is in the San Antonio Regional Hospital in Upland. He had a stress test on Tuesday and after reporting to his doctor that he was experiencing periodic chest pain. He failed the test and was admitted to the hospital. After an angiogram with the plan to place stents, but they found the coronary arteries were nearly completely blocked and were unable to place any stents. New plan is to perform open heart surgery and do a triple bypass. Surgery is scheduled for Monday January 30th. Please keep Julia & Mark in your prayers for success & quick healing. DD.



Please, if you or a member isn't feeling well or is celebrating a special occasion, please contact, Lorie Cunningham at lorielogic@comcast.net.

Why not remember our older members that have not been around and welcome them back for a visit, or send them a card. Sure would be good to see or hear from you & welcome you to our next General Meeting.

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS....

Christopher Garland
Donna Sparling
Sue Sutton
Brian Willinger
Bret Ward, who happens to be a Life Member in the Club, joining in 1997.

Best wishes for your Birthdays this year, and many more!



FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE



Amethyst, the birthstone representing February, has a long and interesting history. Thought to symbolize royalty with its purple hue, this quartz stone does have many other colors and can be sourced in many areas of the world. From modern Russia to the ancient Greeks & Romans, this gemstone has tons of symbolism for every culture.

California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates February 25 - 26th to March 18 2023

February 25-26, 2023 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589

Hours: 10 AM-5 PM

Gems, geodes, fossils, beads and minerals from around the globe. Discover lapidary and stone crafts from vendors and live demonstrations. Something for everyone! Silent auction, geode cuttings, and games of chance and discovery for kids!

Contact: (415) 254-1506, ddahonvgms@gmail.com

Website: <http://vjgems.co/>

March 4-5, 2023 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001

Hours: Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

50 exhibits of gems, minerals, fossils and lapidary arts; ongoing demos of lapidary and jewelry making; raffle prizes & silent auctions; a Second-Hand Treasures Store & plant sale; 15 dealers; children's activities and free resources for teachers. A SoCal tradition for 6 decades and counting!

Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org

Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 10-12, 2023 – Stoddard Wells

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

47th Annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Time: Friday, Saturday & Sunday – 9 AM – 5 PM

Come visit us and our vendors for Handcrafted and Faceted Jewelry, Slabs and Cabs, Findings, and Equipment, Minerals and Fossils. TONS of Rough Material and More

Contact: (909) 657-7200, marklantz53@gmail.com

Club Address: 15056B Seventh St., Victorville, CA 92395

Phone: (760) 243-2330 and leave a message. Email: president@vvgmc.org

Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

[Tailgate-2023-Info.jpg](#)

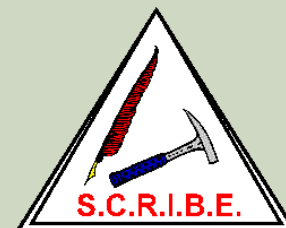
March 18, 2023 – Lake Elsinore, CA

Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society

32097 Corydon Road, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

3rd Annual Spring Show

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



Some highlights of the JANUARY 28, 2023 POTLUCK LUNCH, General Meeting and more!

January's Potluck Lunch was pretty darn good. It was smaller group than usual, but the mood was cheerful, and friendly. There were some sickness, that kept people from coming. I think everyone had a good time. There was a nice selection of silent auction rocks and minerals, and the raffle was fine also. FYI, raffle tickets are only \$1 or 6 for \$5. I myself put \$20 into the pot and managed to win 8 of the lots. I was a bit embarrassed to be running up to the ticket collectors to hand in my tickets, but it was also fun. You should buy more!! The General Meeting was not overly long, a few important notes regarding the tailgate which were expressed by Dave Duncan and mentioned in this newsletter as well. A moment of silence for Doug Arnold, and the club presented Sara Arnold a beautiful orchid.

So welcome to FEBRUARY 2023! This month we celebrate **Valentine's Day**, Show your love this month, for your loved ones, family, friends and or your rocks. I'll be spending the day with my wife, Susan and Great-granddaughter Avalon quietly at home with our dogs and our rocks.

The General meeting this month will be on February 18, 2023 at 12:00 until finished between 2:00 - 3:00 pm. We will again have a Potluck Lunch. It is much easier on our Kitchen helpers, and workers, who always seem to pull out a great display of food, and we thank you all so very much.

Also as usual there will a raffle for some select stones from the clubs reserves, and out silent auction table will also have some fine stones, rough, cabs, and other neat pieces.



This month's Display is by Beka McNeil, that's her smiley face holding up the case. This is her collection of rough, cabs, spheres, and more. Beka laid it out very nicely. I want to mention that Mark & Blaine helped with some identifications. Way to help out fellas!



BOARD MEMBERS.....

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

Vice President / Membership. Steve Rucker / EMAIL: vp@vvgmc.org

Vice President II / Education. Annie Nelson

Recording Secretary / Janet Fletcher / EMAIL: recordingsecretary@vvgmc.org

Treasurer / Cory Beck treasurer@vvgmc.org

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

Board Member / 1 year term - Mark Lantz

Board Member / Lia Hamilton



COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

CFMS / This position is now open to a charged up person, willing to dig into the California Federation of Mineral Societies & coordinate between the CFMS and the club for events, shows, and be a representative of the club.

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Lorie Cunningham, Dave Duncan

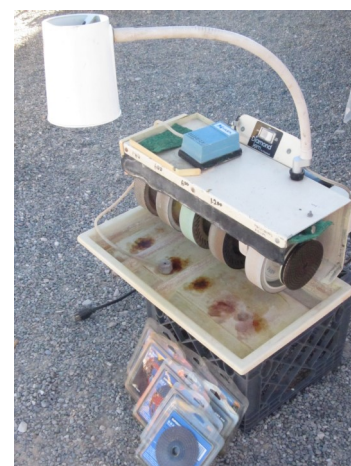
Newsletter / Jake Brouwer, / EMAIL: jakelsdg@verizon.net, editor@vvgmc.org

Photography / Ross Quinn

Sunshine / Lorie Cunningham

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

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 | Garland Graves | Blaine Witte |
| Steve Rucker | | | |

FLOATING INSTRUCTORS..... Blaine Witte. **ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS....** Beka McNeil & Ross Quinn, and Lorie Cunningham.

WELCOME! A few weeks ago I made my second trip to visit the VVGMC Library. The first time I just went through a couple rows of shelves and found an interesting book on working with glass. I checked with Dave Duncan, and the way it works is quite easy. Get a book checked out by Dave or Lorie Cunningham. They will photograph you. While the book is in your hands the photo is in their files. Bring it back and the photo is deleted. It's that easy, as long as you are a member in good standing.

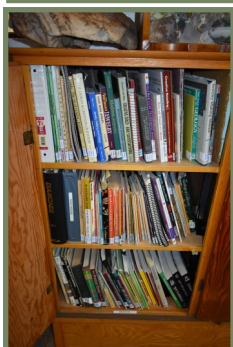
Always be sure to check the book, magazine or other media educational subject for damage and ask the check out person note it, so you will not be responsible for any pre-existing damage. Treat the material you borrow with great care. Keep away from children, pets, kitchen area where the items may fall into an area for potential damage or even become lost.

So, last week I decided to write up an article about the library and its holdings. Hopefully it will be of some interest and you'll check it out. Remember there are no fees.

There are five locked cabinets against the lower part of the back side wall. Each has a number of shelves lined with books and others having magazines, maps and other media items. Keep in mind that past librarians have all helped in some way to keep books separated into categories. On Saturday, Mary Lou Fletcher took some time to give me a more in depth look at what was there. Thank you, Mary Lou!

The very first door on the left is 80% educational on a variety of lapidary subjects. Jewelry design, faceting, gem cutting, wire wrapping, beaded jewelry, gem stones, rock tumbling, cutting rock, & overall subjects covering the scope of lapidary works. Behind door 2 are some interesting collections of other media, like CD's, VHS and complete book collections of geology going back millions of years show how things came to be. There are also some books on gold mining, and also some old GPAA (Gold Prospector's Association of America) guide books of their claims, and some Gem Trails booklets. Going through the last 3 doors, I found that things were a bit scattered with some different subjects that will need to be re-sorted into the first 2 doors. Then on a moveable cart at the far-left back wall are a collection of different magazines. Rock & Gem, Lapidary Journal, The Mineralogical Record, magazines mostly in binders and in date order for most. Want to see what the trends were in the 80's, 90's and turn of the century? Or get lucky and go back to the 1970's, and you might just find something from the 1960's that is ready to become a fad again.

In my humble opinion holding a book in my hand or magazine in my reclining chair with a decent light at night can just while away the time and if you find something interesting to follow or just learn is so much better than scrolling for hours on the internet, although the internet also has millions of pages to see, hear, and sometimes just drool as well.



Jake Brouwer your VVGMC editor has written some forty plus articles during the 1990's for Gold & Treasure Magazine, Western and Eastern Treasures, Treasure Magazine, True Treasure, Lost Treasure and more. He also has a collection of over 2000 soft and hard, cover Treasure Hunting books, Shipwreck, Archeology books and the well known DESERT Magazine and more on the Mojave Desert.

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club to have 47th Annual Rockhound Tailgate. Press release by Mark Lantz.

March 10th through March 12th, 2023. As in past years, the location is 7 miles up Stoddard Wells Road off Dale Evans Parkway and Interstate 15. The event will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9am-5pm. Everyone is welcome to this free event. There will be vendors selling all sorts of handcrafted and faceted jewelry, rock slabs and cabochons, findings, equipment, fossils, and "TONS" of rough material. Come for a day or there is space for dry camping and portable restrooms are on site. Many other activities will be available including silent auction, grab bags, spin the wheel, food, drinks, and a field trip on Saturday morning to a local collecting area. As always, vendor spaces are Free on a first come, first served basis. For more information visit our website at vvgmc.org or You may also email: president@vvgmc.org / Text 909-657-7200. marklantz53@gmail.com

Planning continues for our 47th Annual Tailgate. Upon inspection, the road is in good shape and the site seems fairly clean. I need to show you specific jobs to be filled so you can plan your time in advance for the event. We really need everyone to step up and put in some time for the Club. **Sign up sheets will be on a clipboard next to sign in sheet at the club beginning Saturday, January 7.** Most of these activities will need 2 Hour Shifts. Here are the activities:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Site Clean up | Saturday, March 4th | Meet at the Club Shop at 9:00 No Pre-Sign up |
| Set Up | Thursday 3/9 | 9:00 am to 2:00 pm |
| Sale Table | Friday 3/10 | 12:00 noon to |
| 4:00 pm 2 Hour Shifts | Saturday 3/11 | 10:00 am to |
| 4:00 pm 2 Hour Shifts | Sunday 3/12 | 10:00 am to |
| 2:00 pm 2 Hour Shifts | Friday and Saturday 3/10 & 3/11 | 10:00 am to |
| Games & Grab Bags | Sunday 3/12 | 10:00 am to 3:00 pm |
| 5:00 pm 2 Hour Shifts | Friday and Saturday 3/10 & 3/22 | 8:00 am to 4:00 pm |
| 2 Hour Shifts | Sunday 3/12 | 8:00 am to 2:00 pm |
| Food Booth | Friday 3/10 | 1:00pm to 6:00 pm |
| 2 Hour Shifts | Saturday 3/11 | 12:00 noon to 6:00pm |
| 2 Hour Shifts | Sunday 3/12 | 12:00 am to 3:00 pm |
| 2 Hour Shifts | Sunday March 12 | 3:00pm to 6:00pm |
| Tear Down | | |

Many members will have vending booths. If you can, please try to plan your time so you can do at least one shift for the Club. If you can do multiple shifts, please do so. Again, sign up sheets will be on a clip board next to the sign in sheet in the shop beginning Saturday, January 7. Hopefully, you have your schedule planned out, so the shifts will be filled up by the end of the January Board meeting. Thank you for your participation in this annual event.

Mark Lantz, Tailgate Chairman Email marklantz53@gmail.com

VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
 Invites you to their
47th Annual
Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate
 Victorville, California
Friday—Sunday, March 10th-12th, 2023
9:00am to 5:00pm Daily

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
 FREE Event! FREE Vendor Spaces
 Dry Camping Restrooms On Site
 Silent Auction Grab Bags
 Spin the Wheel and more...
 All donations are gladly accepted to help offset expenses!

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

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

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

For more info visit our website at vvgmc.org or call 760-243-2330 and leave a message

Directions: From I—15 Northbound towards Barstow: Hwy 15 North THRU Victorville EXIT Rt. At 2nd Stoddard Wells Rd at BELL Mtn. EXIT # 157. Turn Left/East at Ramp STOP Sign. STAY On Stoddard Wells Road 4 mi. until next STOP sign at Dale Evans Pkwy. "Tailgate" signs high on NW corner power pole. Check Odometer here! Continue Straight On Stoddard Wells Rd. 7 miles to "Tailgate". Road becomes a graded dirt road about 4/10 mi. from the Dale Evans Pkwy intersection. Proceed East/NE past "Grange" fork to "Tailgate" site. Cars & RVs can make it w/ease & care. "Tailgate" signs along route.

RAIN OR SHINE, SEE YOU THERE!

Dear VVGMC members, board member's and committees. At the last General Meeting January 28th, 2023. It came to our attention that Mark Lantz would be having heart surgery. Since Mark is the Tailgate Chairman, the club desperately in need of a point person to work with Mark, as he may not be able to attend due to his recovery timing. This person would be a liaison between Mark and will volunteers, to carry out the overall plan. This is no simple task, unless you have done it before or you have been involved with past set-ups. So a good organizer, delegator, and person of action will be needed. Please call President Dave Duncan, for further details as soon as possible. Volunteers are also still need to fill 2 hour slots mentioned on the previous page. Please help this outing be a success, not only for the club, but also the vendors and customers. TY. jb



All of the photos featured here are from the day of set up for the tailgate in 2022. These photos are from Ross Quinn, resident photographer for the club, and associate instructor. In the photos are Gayland Graves, Mark Lantz, Dave Duncan Jim Fosse, Ross Quinn. Thank you for your service!



To the left is the site of the 47th Annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate. This fine event, has lots of rough, slabs and cabs, findings and equipment, games, food, minerals, fossils, maybe some meteorites and lots more. The drive out there is quite nice, scenery, views, and then you round a corner and in the distance you will see the gathering. Remember VENDORS and CUSTOMERS all have free entry.

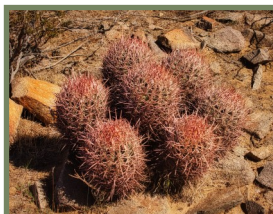


Watch your step please!



Annie Nelson at the rock sale booth.

PLEASE DO NOT SIT HERE !!



DAVE DUNCAN,
LORIE CUNNINGHAM
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CLASSES FOR FEBRUARY

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club is very happy to announce that all spots have been filled for the February 1. Advanced Silversmithing Class and the February 2, Beginners Silversmithing classes have filled.

Congratulations Janet Fletcher!!

Long time club member, Janet Fletcher, holder of many club positions, and now Secretary Board Member for the club, has successfully filled all the spots for her silversmithing class. Janet, is a true artisan, with many talents with many mediums, including carpentry, lapidary & a Master Silversmith. From her classes students, first learn the basics, and later there are advanced classes.

Keep your eyes open for her next classes later on this year and get ready to sign up. Time, place, price & length of classes will be posted after this session is finished.



Janet Fletcher, Master Silversmith Instructor, with the beautiful Chloe out in the desert hunting rough for lapidary work. Her class sessions have produced several associate instructors, to further assist in her to be able to work the beginners and advanced students. A photo of some of her work is at the bottom left corner. Thanks for what you do Janet Fletcher!

To the right are 22 samples of work by Lorie Cunningham. Her husband Dave Duncan, cuts, grinds and polishes the variety of stones and Lorie designs the surrounding silver work. Mighty fine work I must say. Why the photo? Lorie had some interest from a potential buyer who wanted to see more. Way to go Lorie!

**COMING NEXT MONTH
WILL BE A FLORA &
FAUNA PAGE. PLEASE
SUBMIT PHOTOS, STO-
RY FOR THE MOJAVE
DESERT ONLY.**



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 & fostering of classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts

SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—NOON—5 PM
SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - NOON - 5PM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS

INSTRUCTORS MEETING- 1st TUESDAY 2:30 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - 1st Tuesday 4:30

GENERAL MEETING -February 18 12:00 - 2:00 pm,
with Pot Luck, Education, Silent auction &
Raffle. Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm.

CLUB CLEAN UP DAY, Saturday, Feb 4, 2023 9:00 am

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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