# THE BULLETIN

# JULY 2023

POT LUCK 7-15-23

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LET'S HAVE A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS. 2 NEW MEMBERS, MAY/2023

AYDEN & DUSTIN CONRAD RANNIE MACARAEG DEBRA MITCHEL DARWIN GRIFFIN KEVIN, AMANDA SHIVELY & DAUGHTER AMARISSA SHIRLEY MURPHY

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS. COME IN TO THE SHOP TO LEARN SOME-THING NEW IN LAPIDARY ARTS. EDUCATION NIGHT, TUESDAY JULY 10, 6:00 PM. POT LUCK LUNCH ON THE 17TH , 12:00 PM WITH RAFFLE & SILENT AUC-TION. **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** Welcome to summer. After a cooler than usual spring, here comes the heat!

This month, I would like to recognize those that form the backbone of our club, our shop instructors!

We have now expanded our shop schedule to 3 days a week, and we couldn't have done that without our volunteer instructors. These members have stepped up to help make our club great with little benefit for themselves, and often times, too little thanks.

They provide instruction for the new members and help keep the shop safe for all. They are always there to help, but must also enforce the club rules.

Please let them know how much their efforts are appreciated with kind words and helpful deeds. Give them a rock, or if you can, buy them a taco, or bring them a treat from home. Help them cleanup and take out the trash at shifts end. But most of all please recognize these tireless volunteers for their efforts so that the shop is available when you want to work.

So, a big thank you to all our instructors as well as other volunteers. You make our club!

Sincerely, Dave Duncan President





VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

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#### JULY 2023

# FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

# THE LOST DEPOSITE: CRAFTON HILLS RHODONITE, By Scott Gray Wagonmaster

North of the city of Yucaipa are the Crafton Hills. These Hills, of a sedimentary origin, host a network of roads and trails that are accessible from a trailhead west of Yucaipa Regional Park and lead to many old gold

mines of dubious production. There is quite a bit of written history on these old gold mines and the men who worked them; all documented in a publication from the Yucaipa Historical Society: Gold Mining In the Crafton Hills .

Not known by many is the fact that there was a manganese deposit on the northern slope near the town on Mentone that supplied the gem trade with a high quality rhodonite back in the Fifties and Sixties. At the time the hills were owned by the city of Redlands, who leased the deposit to a Michael D. Jedinak who mined the majority of the material that came from the deposit. There are still examples of this material floating around in old collections and a fine example is on display at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands. Sadly, sometime in the early Seventies, the whole deposit was covered up collectors who snuck onto the property and used explosives illegally trying to expose more of the manganese vein that carried the rhodonite.

And there you have it: another site lost to the rockhound community; this time by greedy high graders. Southern California had many first rate rhodonite deposits including Portal Ridge near Lancaster, the Wrightwood area, Tejon Ranch, and deposits south of

Randsburg. Some of these still produce too; just ask Vice President Steve Rucker to show you some of the rhodonite he found in the Randsburg area. You will be impressed!

Crafton Hills Rhodonite, also known as Mentone Opal, is a mineral that is a pink to red color (often with brown hues) often combined with black manganese oxide in interesting streaks and veins. Crafton Hills in Southern California are surrounded by Redlands, Mentone and Yucaipa. The Rhodonite found in the Crafton Hills in Yucaipa also has bright yellow in its coloring. For many years, high on the Mentone side of The Crafton Hills, Rhodonite was mined. In the '50s and '60s the ore was called Mentone Opal and was used to make jewelry. Rhodonite is a favorite gem mineral with rock hounds. It is very hard, rating from 5.5 to 6 on the Mohs scale.





# GET YOURS NOW, LIMITED EDITION OF 200 ONLY!!

The board has approved the design which is titled the Bucket Brigade 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 CASH or CHECK made payable to VVGMC. No credit cards Sizes are: SMALL MEDIUM LARGE **XTRA LARGE** DOUBLE XL TRIPLE XL We also have stickers of the design for \$1.00 each





### JULY 2023

# CFMS TRIP TO LODI SHOW & DIRECTORS MEETING

# Lodí or Bust: Calífornía Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show and Meeting By Dwayna Barron, CFMS Director

Talk about a fast trip, this was it! I picked Sara up Friday morning in Pinon Hills and headed up the highway toward Lodi, California. For those of you who may not know where that is, it's in central California, about 30 miles South of Sacramento and in the heart of the lesser-known part of wine country. It is also home to the Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds where the show and meetings were held. Another interesting factoid: Lodi is also the 1919 birthplace of A&W Root Beer! Who knew?

We arrived at our destination to quickly check in, change and make a mad dash to the "Cracker Barrel" for an evening of introductions, networking, and a game. All I can say about the game is that there is nothing like watching older seniors trying to hit a pinata. It was fun and entertaining to say the least.

The next morning, we arrived back at the fairgrounds bright and early for the new director's orientation at 8:00am and the directors meeting that lasted from 9:00 am to noon. While I attended the

orientation Sara passed out flyers to our Tailgate that excited quite a few people. Several people spoke of the last time they attended and wanted to do it again because they had such a good time. This was very positive.

Sara and I went to see the show after the meeting, grabbing sausages on the way in. We were greeted at the door with a show program of vendors, and the opportunity to buy ourselves tickets to the various raffles. We divided and conquered the room, met up to go see the showcases before we split up again talking to more

vendors. There was some interest in a few of the vendors coming south for our Tailgate.

At 3:30 we left the show to get ready for the banquet and take a much-needed power nap. We arrived back at the showgrounds at 6:00 for a Mexican Dinner Buffet and award ceremony. There were a number of awards given out however a bit sad that there were no entries from clubs for the website contest or the All-American Club Award. Pasadena Lapidary Society and Ventura Gem and Mineral Society took away most of the awards, while Contra Costa helped with the sweep. It's a bit disappointing that there is such little participation from other clubs. My hope is that this year maybe we can facilitate

some change in that program and walk away with an award or two of our own.

We had some great conversations sparking a lot of thoughts and ideas that can be implemented over the coming months with board and member approval. I truly hope that our club is open to some new ideas and participation within the Federation would be a great benefit to us, but only if we allow them to be. There will be future updates as the months go on. Don't forget to check out the other club shows, attend a few, take some pictures and write a paragraph for the newsletter letting us know what is happening in and around your neck of the world. For CFMS member shows, check out their newsletter at the front counter.

On Sunday, we got up, loaded the car, went to breakfast, and headed back home with so much to talk about. Wow did that make the trip go fast. Personally, I'm looking forward to talking with the board and am hopeful that we can get some people together and implement new ideas that will spark interest in our club not only from within, but have it spill over to the outside! More on that later...





Dwayna Barron



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

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

# July 8-9, 2023 – Culver City, CA

Culver City Gem and Mineral Society Culver City Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90203 60th Annual Fiesta of Gems – 2023 Theme: Druzy Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM Free Admission – Free Parking – Free Hourly Drawings 35 Vendors Featuring Minerals, Gems, Jewelry, Fossils, Lapidary & Jewelry making supplies, Books, Etc. Free Exhibits of Minerals, Gems, Fossils, Crystals, Handcrafted Jewelry, Meteorites, Etc. Free Demonstrations of Jewelry Making and Earth Sciences Free Mineral Specimen for the Kids plus Rock Games & Earth Science Education Displays Contact: lexyhunter@aol.com Website: <u>http://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/</u>

## August 19-20, 2023 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society Annual Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Show 500 East "F" Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561 Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM Gems and minerals, jewelry, activities for kids and much more. Free admission. Contact: (661) 972-1117, travis462@outlook.com Website: <u>https://www.tvgms.rocks</u>

## August 26-27, 2023 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM <u>Contact: (626) 260-7239</u> Website: <u>https://pasadenalapidary.org</u>

## 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



THE BULLETIN

#### JULY 2023

### **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: 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 / This position of great responsibility has been claimed by long time member Dwayne Barron. We can expect good things ahead!

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Algot Stephenson / Welcome aboard!

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

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 Mark Lantz

Dwayna Barron Chris Koch Steve Rucker Dave Duncan Lia Hamilton Gayland Graves Blaine Witte

# FLOATING INSTRUCTOR Blain Witte.

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Beca McNeil, Ross Quinn. Lorie Cunningham. Also introducing Stine Smith who has completed training to become an Associate Instructor. Congratulations and thank you Stine and all the rest for your help!

VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

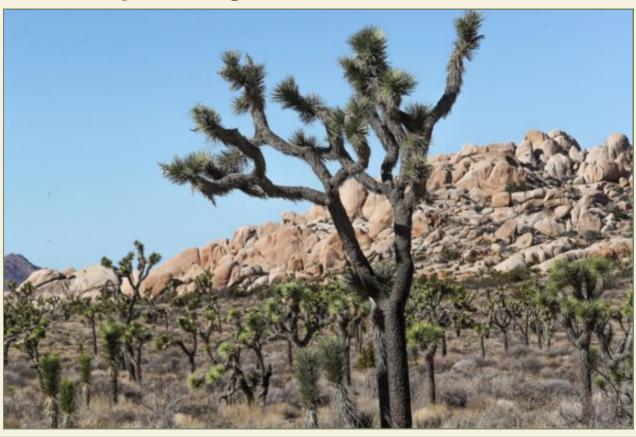




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# San Bernardino County supports balanced approach

# to protecting the Western Joshua Tree



San Bernardino County greatly values the Western Joshua tree as an iconic symbol of the Mojave Desert and actively supports efforts to protect and preserve the species. However, the county opposed AB 122/SB 122, the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act Budget Trailer Bill, which was passed by the Legislature and is expected to be signed by the Governor today. The legislation fails to properly balance protection of the species with the needs of our residents and business community, thereby threatening the quality of life in our deserts.

The county had hoped to support the bill and offered amendments that would strike the vital balance between protecting the Western Joshua Tree and preserving a reasonable quality of life for San Bernardino County residents today and into the future. Some amendments were accepted, but most amendments were not included. Mitigation fees were slightly lowered, but the bill still imposes very high costs on residents, businesses, and local agencies. This will discourage the building of much-needed homes, stifle economic investment, increase development costs in the region, and significantly harm the county's Mojave Desert communities and residents.

The county will continue to advocate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that Western Joshua Tree take permits are processed and reviewed expeditiously by Sacramento. The county will also continue its longstanding protection of Joshua trees through the County Development Code.

# Flord & faind by Jake Browner

# **HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?** First printed in the Daily Press, Our Desert Home section CA 2005.

Many of us tend to just pass by and miss the beauty of the Joshua Tree as we trek back and forth to work on our busy freeways and local avenues. Some folks here in the High Desert are lucky enough to have one or more of them in their back yards, and in some places, there are groves to wonder at.

The Joshua Tree was so named by the Mormon pioneers because it resembled the Profit Joshua from the Old Testament as he raised his hands, waving toward the Promise Land. The species is officially known as Yucca Brevifoli. This native of the Mojave Desert and the extreme Southwest can grow to heights of 40 feet, but won't be found elsewhere on the planet. Its trunk can range from one to three feet in diameter.

The Joshua leaves evergreen and spikey, and if you ever accidentally brush up against one you most certainly got the point, and were more careful from then on. Recently, perhaps the earliest known colorized photograph image of the Joshua Tree made its way to a private collection in Hesperia. The image which appears with this column, was taken in 1901 by a Detroit publishing company photographer.

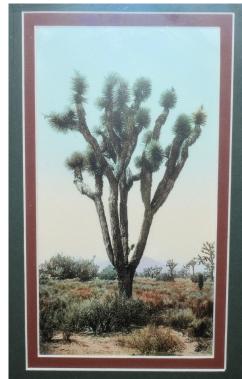
In 1897 famed photographer William Henry Jackson (1843-1942) sold his massive collection of negatives to the Detroit Publishing Company, which became the only American firm to license the process known as Photochrom. Jackson's deal gave leave of his extraordinary archive of negatives to Detroit Publishing to further popularize his photographic work of the United States. In the 1860's he took his first trip west shooting images in the wilds of the west. Jackson's work most known to the public are 1000's of his different postcards.

This image was photographed by the master himself, and is seen here for perhaps the first time in more than 122 years. Photochrom was developed in the late 1880's, and won a gold medal at the 1889 World Exposition in Paris. In a world of black and white images, the full-color prints produced were amazing to those fortunate enough to see them. The process is quite involved and requires that a bitumen layer be applied to lithographic stones and then exposed to light through a continuous tone negative. Four to twelve lithographic stones (each weighing about 65 pounds were used to make each print.) This image with guilt lettering at the bottom was given the number 51221 by Detroit Publishing Co., and the name "Yucca-cactus at Hesperia, California." It measures 3 ½" by 7", and was purchased this fall (2005) for an undisclosed amount by the author, who was glad to bring it home to Hesperia where it belongs.

Imagine if you will, a lone photographer on the way to Los Angeles around the turn of the century, stopping for but a moment in time, to photograph this thing of beauty in Hesperia for the world to see, and sharing the beauty of the High Desert for more than a century.

Imagine, you today driving by them every day. Have you seen them? Have you really seen this thing of beauty, this thing that captivated a photographer a century ago.

Jake Brouwer is a High Desert resident whose work in the past has been featured in prospecting and treasure hunting publications like Lost Treasure Magazine. Gold Prospector, Western & Eastern Treasures and more.







The top photo is from Jake's collection, Sorry, it is framed, and did not shoot well. The original will be at the next General Meeting along with a book of William Henry Jackson's Photographs.

THE BULLETIN

#### JUNE 2023

#### **JULY 2023**

#### VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

# Education night!

Introducing Education night, which is back for the Summer and perhaps longer, if met with continued enthusiasm. Our last meet up was June 13, 2023. President Dave Duncan, held the first round table to discus photography of our gems and minerals, and jewelry. Dave brought in a light box, Stine Smith brought in a devise that went round and round which assisted bringing movement to your short films of



your product. Many folks got involved discussing their experiences with getting their photos just right to show off.

After a break of drinks and snacks, Dave passed the baton on to Jake Brouwer, VVGMC Editor of The Bulletin.

Well, it appeared to me right away that the most of the crowd had an interest in learning what they could about the online

website known as eBay. Some people had been on the site by shopping for their own interests. However, Christine Aguilar and Fernando Aguilar, were the only one's in the room whom had tried it successfully, aside from Susan Brouwer and myself. Working



Dottie and Ron Kaufman, regulars

Meetings. Note, Dottie's Hi- Desert

Gold Diggers hat, they are both members. Dottie was very interest-

we see often at the General

ed in learning about eBay.

from a list of subjects I put together the day before, I discussed opening an account, bank accounts, knowing your values, managing and listings, invoices, shipping, storage and returns. There were lots of great questions to





Example of Dichroic Glass art work by Dwayna Barron Shot by Susan Brouwer with Nikon D3400 Camera.

which myself or Susan answered for the group. I felt good being able to share our experiences with you all. eBay has been kind to us over the years, and we continue to sell coins and collectibles for consignors, friends and ourselves. One member took us up on a subject we had not dealt with before, but in a few days, we were able to adjust, photograph, and list 79 items for sale. Perhaps we will do a short story on the outcome, after they close.

# Education night! July 11, 2023 Tuesday.

We are very happy to present Mr. Gayland Graves of Hesperia, California. Gayland has been around the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club for quite a long time and is an

instructor in lapidary work. Gayland was gracious enough to volunteer to give a class on Tuesday night at 6:00 pm at the VVGMC club house July, 11, 2023. In one of the glass cases down near the end of the room where the kitchen is, there are some examples of what Gayland does and he will pass on his knowledge to those present. I was amazed by his work and ideas. The work is known as INTARSIA.

What is stone or lapidary intarsia? Stone, or lapidary intarsia is the technique of combining different pieces of stone into patterns, often combining them with metals.

For thousands of years artisans have been layering stone striving to create the most beautiful scene possible. This process is commonly referred to as Intarsia. Intarsia traces its history back to Italy and the Renaissance where it is called Pietra dura or pietre dure. This is a term for the inlay technique of using thinly cut and polished stones to create images. The stonework is glued stone-by-stone to a substrate after having previously been sliced and cut in different shape sections; and then assem-

bled together so precisely that the contact between each section is practically invisible. . Intarsia items are generally crafted on green, white or black base stones.







# Welcome to the Month of July. A month of Patriotism, celebration, and a full month of Summer temperatures. We gather this month on July 15th, 2023 for our potluck luncheon at 12:00pm. The club will be providing birthday cakes for the club members celebrating this month. We ask 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 is the raffle for rocks, and minerals. Tickets are only \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00, 12 for \$10. Followed by our well known silent auction, that always manages to have some fun and exciting rocks, gems, fossils and other related items. If you have extra material you do not need, donate what you can to the club for use at the General Meetings. Sure makes for a lively group, excited for their wins. Bring a healthy appetite, a few bucks for rocks and the spirit of togetherness for that Saturday!

# July Birthstone......King of Gens

• The ruby has become a symbol of love and commitment. It was once thought to protect against misfortune and illness. The ruby is also given as a traditional gift for 15th and 40th wedding anniversaries. Early cultures treasured the gem, believ-



ing that it held the power of life due to its color association with blood. It has also been thought to remedy bleeding and inflammation, and increase body warmth. For centuries, rubies have signified passion, protection, and wealth.



July 4th, 2023 Independence Day Is just around the corner, on Tuesday. It's one of our most beloved holiday's. Let's try to remember what it stands for besides the fireworks and hotdogs. Independence & Freedom! We are the fortunate ones were as, others at this time, are less fortunate. Our older generations are having tough times with gas, food, and utilities. If there is a chance you can help someone older give it a try! Best thing to come out of it is you'll feel good about it. Also please protect your animals, as the bombs bursting, will also scare the heck out of them. They will want to run, and jump to get away from the noise. Please be sure they have an ID on them, ambient sounds and a smooth soft stroke on their backs will help. Be sure to have water around, and your comforting voice. I for one



respect our older folks, and love my dogs, and love to talk with both. *jb* 



# <u>JULy</u> BIRCHDAys

Lynne Bradshaw Dave Duncan Scott Gray Carol McMichael Deane Ramsey Rufina Lowery

Best wishes to all!





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THE BULLETIN

**JULY 2023** 

#### JULY, 2023

# FROM THE BOOK CORNER

Books you should know about! By <u>Scott Gray</u>, Wagon master & Newsletter Contributor.

# **Gem Stones of North**

**America** by John Sinkakas is a 3 volume set written over a span of 40 years that covers virtually every gemstone deposit from the North Pole to the Panama Canal and everywhere in between.

Volume 1 published in 1958, was a first of it's king treatise dedicated to the discovery, mining, recovering, and marketing of the treasures our continent had to offer. All the big hitters are here: jade in Wyoming, tourmaline in Maine & California. Variscite in Utah, and Amethyst in Vera Cruz. Pick any important North American deposit and you will find the details there.

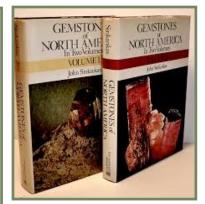
Volume II hit the shelves in 1976 and continues the format. This is my favorite of the series as it details the discoveries, some made by regular ol' pick slingers, made during the golden age of rockhounding: 1960-1972, when rock shops were everywhere & lapidary equipment was being made by everybody. Important coverage included is the major discoveries of Jade in British Columbia, and the record setting finds of top quality tourmaline from the pegmatites in Maine and California, and the rise of Nevada to the king of turquoise production. Also this volume includes the first color pictures of some of the stunning finds makes this volume a winner!

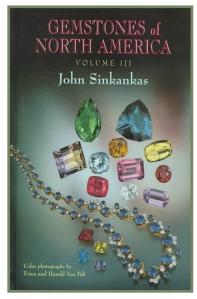
Volume III is more of the same, detailing recent production of Sapphires from Yogo Gulch, Montana and the discovery of the kimberlites pipes that were source of the alluvial diamonds found for years throughout Canada. I enjoyed the detailed section on the Canadian diamond production with geologists realizing that the curiously round lakes near Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories were actually diamond pipes and that mining included dredging the depths for treasure. Also extensively covered is the mining for amethyst atop Four Peaks Mountain in Arizona were the only way to get to the mine is by helicopter.

The best thing about this series is Sinkakas obvious love for the subject. He visited the sites, he knew the miners and he cut the stones. Also refreshing is the inclusion for agate, jasper, rhyolite and other semi-precious stones that tend to get short shrift in similar books on the same subject. Sinkakas even gives extensive coverage to stones traditionally not considered gems that are cut as collector pieces exclusively for museums and the collector market. Who knew there were gem quality scheelite crystals, danburites, or axinites and that they could be cut? Sinkaka's other super power is the ability to highlight the possibilities of what might be found over that next mountain, inside that outcrop, and just a little bid deeper in that hole you just dug. Nobody makes me want to grab my pick and shovel and head out into the hills like Sinkakas!

Long out of print, all three volumes can readily be found on line from the usual sources. I actually purchased my First Edition Volume III directly from Sinkakas himself when he operated his mail order book company Peri Lython Books back in the 1990's/ Check 'em out! You'll be glad your did!

A few words from the Editor. "Thanks Scott for continuing with your great reviews of interesting books for our club. You are a true explorer, researcher, discoverer of fine objects including rocks and other treasurers. Let me know when you grab the pick and shovel again, I will be happy to accompany you! *jb* 





GEMSTONES NORTH AMERICA

by John Sinkankas



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 & fostering of clasSHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 2:00pm- 8:00 SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—NOON—5 PM SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - NOON - 5PM

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

INSTRUCTORS MEETING - MONDAY JULY 10, 3pm BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - MONDAY JULY 10, 4:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING - JULY 15, 12:00 - 2:00 pm, with Pot Luck, Silent auction & Raffle. Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm. CLUB CLEAN UP DAY, Saturday, July 8, 10am, 2023

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

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