

# THE BULLETIN



JUNE 2023

POT LUCK 6-17-23

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

June is here and with it will come the hot weather. This means the end of our monthly field trips until fall. Thanks to Scott Gray for being our wagon master and all the great trips this past season.

I am glad to announce the return of education night. We planning on having this on the second Tuesday every month. This month we plan on having a round table discussion on the best ways to photograph your work and an intro on getting started on eBay. Please join us at 6PM (Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup>) with your ideas and/or experiences. Please let Annie or myself know what you would be interested in learning about in future months.

Meanwhile, we need everyone's help to keep the Mojave open to Rockhounding. The Bureau of Land Management's is in their final phase of deciding if rockhounding will be allowed in the Mojave Trails National Monument. This monument encompasses many of our favorite rockhounding sites, including the North and South Cady mountains and Lavic siding and others. By the time you read this, the meetings will be over, but you can still make your voice heard by writing a detailed email to the BLM no later than June 20<sup>th</sup>. Here is the email address: [BLM\\_CA\\_NFO\\_MTNM\\_PLAN@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_NFO_MTNM_PLAN@blm.gov). We should include details such as favorite places and reasons why rockhounding is important to you and our community. I recently sent out an email to all membership which includes details of what else you may want to include in your email to make your message to the BLM pertinent. Please don't let this important opportunity to make our voices heard slip by. Reach out to me with any questions, Thanks for all you do.

*Sincerely, Dave Duncan President*

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

**STEVE & LISA SMITH  
CATHERINE & ROBERT SMITH  
KARLA WOODS,  
RANDY McOSKER**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS. COME IN TO THE SHOP TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN LAPIDARY ARTS. EDUCATION NIGHT, TUES, JUNE 13 6:00 PM. POT LUCK LUNCH ON THE 17TH, 12:00 PM WITH RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION.**



*FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY*

**Critters and Collectibles at Kramer Hills.**

Saturday May 6th, 2023 was the clubs field trip to the Kramer Hills for some of the many collectible rocks the area is known for: agate, jasper, opalite, petrified palm bog, and petrified reed material. After the 9am meet up at the Kramer Junction Burger King parking lot 12 club members and 6 guests made the approximately 4 mile drive to the first site. A former mining claim known as the Key Kay. The Key Kay is centered on a small hill literally covered with chips to chunks of jasper, agate and common opal. This whole hill has the appearance of being turned over many times in the past, but will still give up larger pieces simply by digging in the churned up ground by excavating in any of the many pits dug by previous rockhounds. While doing all of the above we received our first visitor of the day: a small rattlesnake who was coiled up when found but soon to slither away, probably down one of the many ground squirrel holes in the area. Right after that a larger gopher snake popped up, who I did watch glide right down a squirrel hole, hopefully the same one as the rattler where he found a quick meal! These two interlopers didn't keep us from finding some nice pieces here; for an example, check out the small boulder dug up by our President Dave Duncan! Thank Heavens for Blaine and Judy Witte were on the trip with us because Blaine graciously led us 1/4 mile to the southeast to a silicified reed location that had chunks of rock from egg sized to the size of a living room sofa! Despite some of it being fractured everyone was able to get a decent and large samples of this black coffee colored veining and silicified bits of organic replacement peppered throughout. The best pieces containing some chutes on



edge and eyes on the end. It was on the way to the days third location that we ran into our third visitor for the day: a cute little desert tortoise who did not seem to mind all the attention and cell photo pictures. At the days last location, everyone found pieces of the bog material this westernmost location is known for. This is my personally favorite spot here. Choice pieces, if your lucky enough to find them, are loaded with petrified plant material in various shapes and sometimes colors too! Despite a pesky persistent wind and a couple of snake encounters this trip was a success. Newer members and visitors alike got to experience a new location and the rest of us got to visit an old favorite. Kramer never fails to please and this trip was no exception! A big thank you to Jake Brouwer for the help with doing the pre-site check and to Blaine and Judy Witte for sharing a near new location with members and visitors alike! Sg.



*Jake* ----- **Fixin' to jump in a hole!** So, after arriving at a spot known to have some common opal that Scott and I discovered the weeks before, instead of doing my long walkabouts, I saw Dave Duncan working in a hole that was partially left uncovered by a previous rock hound. Dave, and then Algot Stephenson, and then myself helped Dave by offering help and some additional tools and then finally his choice boulder came out. He then offered the hole to Algot who also got some great pieces and then it was my turn. About 40 years ago, I remembered the joy I had in a similar hole where under some caliche was gold paying dirt. This was not gold, but a vein of common opal with bog like material running through it. I saw the color and jumped in, sat cross-legged, and started pounding on the edges of the seam. Algot got in for few minutes and knocked off a couple feet of white caliche that prevented the swing of the hammer getting its full force. I went back at it. Dave let me use an L shaped pry tool that worked out well and I was able to retrieve a beautiful slab that was 14" long, 7 1/2" wide and 3 1/2" tall. I was a happy rockhound. *(Jake)*



## FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

**Trippin' With the Two Sister's:** Saturday May 27th was the club field trip, for members only: A little known site with abundant cutting rough, from Jade to opal, to petrified wood, to onyx and much more.

Where is this mountain of gems? Simple: The Two Sisters is not a mountain or a valley, nor a mine. It's a rock yard! And a glorious yard it is! Full of tons of rock collected from the Mojave and points beyond for many years. All for the bargain rate of one dollar per pound, you can peruse the piles, buckets and wire baskets and pallets of rocks and you are guaranteed to find something you like. One pile, owned by Sisters Leslie and Dianne has jade, buckets of agate, and some large chunks of a lovely blue copper mineral. This is where I found some sweet palm wood, jasper, tumbling rough, and a few Montana style moss agates. Another area has literally tons of cutting material in piles and line up in wire baskets. It helps to dig deep here to get to the bottom of the wire baskets, as demonstrated by Janet Fletcher who showed me a bunch of blue shaded chalcedony mixed in with the fine dirt at the bottom of one particular basket. This section is part of the collection of a Mr. Danny Watts, aka "Boulder Boy," the former member of the Barstow Rock Club "Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Club," who collected many years all over the Mojave. When you see the sizes of some of these rocks you will see why ear earned his nickname "Boulder Boy. I found some beautiful petrified wood in one of the baskets and our master cabochon maker, Chris Koch, gave me a spectacular red Lavic moss agate he pulled from another.

The third section is the smallest and made up of stuff collected and owned by the Barstow Club, but I can't personally vouch for what was in there because I never made it that far. My buckets were all ready filled with 40 lbs of sweet stuff! This was a fun trip and all of the 19 members who attended seemed to agree: I saw many full buckets being dragged to the scale to be weighed and get paid for including Jake Brouwer's 160 lbs haul in three buckets. The Two Sisters were very friendly and accommodating, offering help in identifying materials, locations, free ice waters and some received a few free rocks if you purchased over a certain limit. This should be an annual trip and is a good one for newer members to add to their collections with some great rocks at a even better price. Special thanks to Dave Duncan and Janet Fletcher for setting up the trip with the Two Sisters. It's one I definitely plan on adding to the agenda next year! *sg*



All photos on this page taken by Jake Brouwer, showing part of his 160 lb haul of rocks, once at home after a long, fun day! *jb*

## California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates June 10 to August 26, 2023

### June 10 - 11, 2023 Palomar Gem and Mineral Club

The Convention Center at the California Center for the Arts – 340 North Escondido Blvd, Escondido CA 92025

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

9000 square feet of Artisans selling handmade silver, gold, beaded and fabricated jewelry, antique and vintage jewelry, commercial quality gold and silver faceted stone jewelry, handmade specialty cabochons, mineral specimens, gem trees, other lapidary decorative items and rough rock from Africa, Australia as well as the USA. Don't have the time to go to Quartzite or Tucson – come to Escondido and shop local.

Contact: tonifloyd41615@gmail.com

Website: <http://palomargem.org>

### June 17, 2023 – Bellflower, CA, Hours 10 am to 4pm

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society

DELVERS PARKING LOT SALE, 14515 Blaine Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706

Website: <https://delversgemclub.wordpress.com/>

Website: <https://delversgemclub.wordpress.com/>

### 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

Grand Prize Raffle drawing on Sunday

Contact: lexyhunter@aol.com

Website: <http://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/>

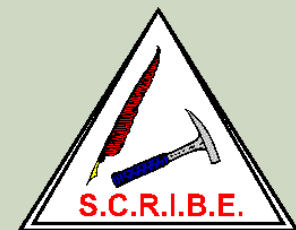
### August 26-27, 2023 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007

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

Contact: (626) 260-7239



**BOARD MEMBERS.....**

**President.** / Dave Duncan, PH: 831-406-0214 / EMAIL : [president@vvgmc.org](mailto:president@vvgmc.org)

**Vice President / Membership.** Steve Rucker / EMAIL: [vp@vvgmc.org](mailto:vp@vvgmc.org)

**Vice President II / Education.** Annie Nelson

**Recording Secretary / Janet Fletcher** / EMAIL: [recordingsecretary@vvgmc.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@vvgmc.org)

**Treasurer** / Cory Beck [treasurer@vvgmc.org](mailto: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** / Algot Stephenson / [Welcome aboard!](#)

**Newsletter** / Jake Brouwer / EMAIL: [jakelsdg@verizon.net](mailto:jakelsdg@verizon.net)

**Photography** / Ross Quinn

**Sunshine** / Lorie Cunningham

**Tailgate Chairman: Mark Lantz** / email [marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)



**Webmaster / Tech** / Jim Fosse, PH: 760-245-8644 / EMAIL: [info@vvgmc.org](mailto:info@vvgmc.org)

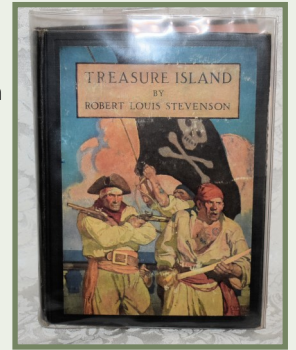
**INSTRUCTORS.....**

Janet Fletcher	Mary Lou Fletcher	Dwayna Barron	Chris Koch
Mark Lantz			
Dave Duncan	Lia Hamilton	Gayland Graves	Blaine Witte
Steve Rucker			

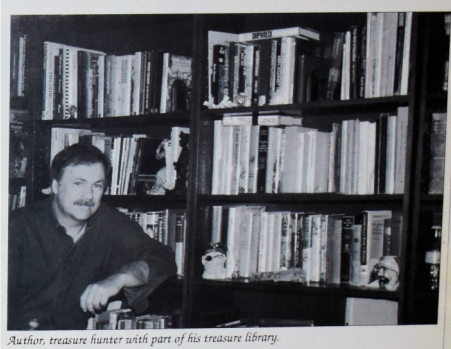
**FLOATING INSTRUCTOR** Blaine Witte. **ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS** Beca McNeil, Ross Quinn and Lorie Cunningham.

**WHO'S WHO & WHY CHALLENGE.** A monthly challenge to VVGMC members to let us all know who is who and why. Why? Because we have one of the best clubs around Southern California right now. Member sign-ups are up, and as we grow, we do not want to lose momentum, nor do we want to forget that we are all special in our own ways in how we approach rock hounding, and all it entails. Who? This month we introduce Jake Brouwer, editor of **THE BULLETIN**, newsletter for the club. We hope you enjoy this column, and will offer you your own story for others to enjoy and better know you! *We will be offering to buy you 12 tickets for the General Meeting raffle program. Write your own, or Jake Brouwer can interview you!*

Hi, I am Jake Brouwer. I like to think of myself of a treasure hunter of sorts. Since I was a little kid of about 8 years old, I have had an interest in collecting, exploring, reading and loving nature. One of my first loves was at that age, I lived on Long Island, NY and unfortunately had asthma bad enough that I was for 6 months to be in and out of a tent surrounding my bed, intaking various medicines to help me breathe. I lost a lot of time from school, but remember very well sitting in my bed playing with toy soldiers in the folds of the blankets. Some times I would just watch the other kids outside playing. Not fun at all. I watched movies and my favorite was Treasure Island, with Jackie Cooper as the lead. TV was fun as I opened up to a new world of entertainment. Fort Apache, Captain Gallant of the French Foreign Legion with Buster Crabbe, and Sea Hunt with Lloyd Bridges. My parents provided me with a MARX brand Fort Apache playset and the French Foreign Legion playset.



In 1959 our family of four then moved to upstate NY due to my asthma. Very rural area, Catskill Mountains nearby, and a Revolutionary war town, and county known as the Breadbasket of the Revolutionary War. Once there a whole new life was afforded to me. Mom and Dad bought an old house early 1800's with additions made through the years. It was 28 acres of land with forest land butting up against NY State Land. Whaaat? OMG! I was in heaven. I could breathe again, I could walk, run, stop at a creek and drink the water. And there it was...a fossil along the creek bed. My very first rock was a trilobite. The area had lots of shale. I continued to pick up rocks that just looked different, and explored the entire 28 areas in just a few months. Oh the fun I had. Up the road from the house was sort of an Island that the creeks made during flooding, about an acre or so. Treed. My few friends from the area would go up there to play cowboys and Indians and pirates on occasion. In that area I discovered an old grist mill built by the Dutch around 1690's. Just the walls that were on both sides of the creek showed, and at the bottom of one was a rusty chassis and part of a cab for a Model T Ford. Dad and I reported it to the county, and they came out and looked, sure enough it was an unknown site of which they collected info for all mills in their records. A historical Marker was offered. Years later, I also found a found a saw mill on a neighbors' property complete with all the tools and machinery needed for the local farmers to get logs to build with.



Author, treasure hunter with parts of his treasure library.

Well, time moved on, girls, cars, sports 880 half miler and cross-country. Then in 1968 - 1972, Uncle Sam took possession of my heart and mind. I was lucky enough to be sent to Germany, where in my off time I explored the many castles of the lands, and then when I got out I stayed in Barcelona & Ibiza Spain for 6 months, traveling.

Back home, I realized there was not so much to do in the rural community and headed for California. Took months to get their while on the road, working odd jobs and for a month worked at a traveling carnival in Michigan where I had my first encounter with a locust attack. How weird life was, and then driving through it, the wheels crunching the whole way, the windshield plastered with yellow, green & red left overs being smeared on the glass. 1973 met Susan and married in 1974, Las Vegas. For a laugh we had an Elvis Impersonator there. Life and work began, children, travel in the southwest, CA, AZ, NV, dogs, guns, homes. And... lots more work. In the 80's I was in the collector mode, Sue put a deposit down on a store front, and while I worked the 7am to 7pm shift at a real job, Sue worked our store selling used records, baseball cards, and comic books. We eventually were robbed, insurance paid, but soon closed. It lasted 6 yrs. However during that last year, I got the gold bug. Azusa Canyon was just a few miles from where we lived. I explored the canyon, went into mines, and then I met Jerry Hobbs, then owner of Azusa Gold. He needed some extra stuff to sell in his gold store and I wanted to learn how to pan. A trade was made and I spent time after that sluicing & panning in the San Gabriel River & Jerry added cards to his shop. END OF PART ONE.

**WHO'S WHO & WHY CHALLENGE. PART II.** Jerry Hobbs went on to be the founder of the PLP, Public Lands for the People, which with other co-founders like Pat Keene, are continuing to maintain mineral rights for miners around the country. Jerry sold lots of baseball cards but on our best day Jerry, few others and myself went above the hydraulic mining areas in Azusa Canyon and a few ounces of gold was found in a very small stream of water. Another fellow found a few nuggets in the high back of muddy overflow from higher up. I kept doing some mining here and there, joined GPAA, local San Bernadino Chapter. Built up my book collection of Gold Mining, Shipwrecks, and other treasures including OAK ISLAND, and the shipwreck S.S. Central America. (photo shown on previous page) featured in Treasure Facts Magazine 1995. That's me on the cover with article on *How To Make Your Research Pay off*. Susan took the staged photo up in Azusa Canyon at an Indian coyote hole. I went on to write 40 articles for Lost Treasure, Western & Eastern Treasures, Gold Prospector, Treasure Facts and 3 other publications. Many of these magazines have gone out of business by now but are still collectable. Eventually I made more money writing than I found in Gold.



Dateline 1999 Note, that during all this I was still working, but it was harder than ever, I had been promoted and the promoted to #2 position Vice President. The company was now doing 6.5 million a year and I was in charge of all operations for 10 locations. That year I suffered from what Later found out was PTSD. After months of therapy, and legal satisfaction, Susan and our family moved up to the high desert.

In 2013 I joined VVGMC with my Grandson who I was raising. He loved rocks as much as I did. He learned to cab, and made some fine pieces. We left about the time he graduated from Sultana High School and worked to become an EMT. I also left due to a lot of drama and politics. Which I must add, that it is now the light of a night and day contrast between now and then. The club now is one of the best.

In 2005, I was invited in to work as a researcher, website developer, and advisor for a company building a device that while using a proton laser, up to 1000' deep would detect silver, underwater. The project took 7 years, during which time, I was sent to the Treasure Coast of Florida for seminar on Salvaging Spanish Sunken Treasure, meeting the stars of the business, that worked on the Atocha, and most of the 1715 fleet shipwrecks. What an adventure! Years later the company went bust after 2 million was spent, and no takers for their devise.

With some of my pay, from that venture, I decided to buy something for my retirement. 40 acre mine claims in the Oro Grande District of California. 2x 100' shafts and some others smaller. Although not retired yet, I am hoping to find geologist that can work with me on it as it is hard rock mine, and not the placer mining that I know. Said to have 80oz in each hole estimated.

Date line 2022, after years of poking around the desert, I met my Neighbor Janet Fletcher, we talked rocks, clubs, wood-working, planes and field trips, I went on one and had a blast. After that I met Dave Duncan at a show in Apple Valley where he was VP and promoting the club. He was very welcoming, and soon after I joined officially in November 2022. My goal was to learn more about rocks and geology and to try my hand at cabochon making and learning to set the stones I could make. I also have been picking up specimens so, I could better learn the materials. Some how I managed to get myself involved in THE BULLETIN, the club's newsletter. So this issue is my 6th one. I appreciate all the instructors that have helped me here and there, and as a heads up, I want to continue to learn more, about other facets of lapidary. As I learn, I will ad to my small workshop. Last week my brother in Washington state found a Lortone QT12 / QT 66 with 3 short barrels & one large which had the cover destroyed for \$40, but I had to pay the shipping which was \$60. All in all Scott Gray had a look at it and said it was the deal of the century. So soon I will start learning that as well.

So, that's my story, except for one more thing. In 2000 I entered the world of eBay, been at it now 23 years, mostly selling for another treasure hunter who also collected like me, antiques, bottles and coins, he had enough product to keep Susan and I going all this time. Dave Duncan asked me to join in a roundtable discussion about eBay for those who want to either buy or sell on line. I accepted and the event will be June 13, 2023. So, who's next for the Who's Who & Why Column? Jake Brouwer

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**FRENCH AGATE CABINET MADE FOR A POPE.**

By Dave Duncan. On a recent trip to the Los Angeles area, Lorie and I decided to head to the Getty Museum of Art. Imagine my surprise when one of the first things I saw was this beautiful cabinet made around 1620 for Pope Paul the fifth. As seen in the pictures, this piece is adorned with slices of agate, Jaspers, Lapis and other semi-precious stones.

The detail is amazing, and I am pretty sure that the slicing and polishing was a lot more difficult in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century! Upon zooming in to the electronic version of these photos, I can see that some of the agates are held in place with metal (as in stained glass) while others look like intarsia. Please contact me if you would like the jpg version of these. Maybe we could build a smaller and simpler version of this as a group project. Another game? dd



**The Borghese-Windsor Cabinet**  
 Cabinet: Italian (Rome), about 1620  
 Top, walnut, and chestnut veneered with various tropical hardwoods, set with lapis lazuli, jaspers, agate, amethyst, and other hard stones; gilt bronze, three, and other gilt.  
 Stand, French, before 1811  
 Each, mahogany, set with diamond and veneered with ebony, ebony columns, lacquered brass mirrored glass.  
 This cabinet was made in Rome for Pope Paul V Borghese (ruled 1609-21), whose coat of arms is featured above the central niche. Designed to resemble the facade of a baroque church, it is exceptional in its large size and sumptuous decoration. Expensive and difficult to cut and polish, the numerous hard stones (agate dates to Italian) covering the front in elaborate geometric patterns demonstrate the rarity of this piece. The intarsias, in gilt bronze cabinets—arranging with their multiple drawers—were the most prominent display feature in Europe in the 1600s. They could store medals, gems, and small boxes or vases as well as private documents.  
 The cabinet, in an English private collection by 1811, was offered for sale with its stand to King George IV (ruled 1800-30). It remained in the British Royal Collection until 1919, when it was sold with the collection of Queen Mary.



**Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Raffle & Silent Auction.**

For any new members that have not yet visited the club house, two of our most anticipated club activities, are the monthly Raffle, and the Silent Auction. They are held at the General Meeting held monthly on the 3rd Saturday. Rocks from members, sellers, the clubs collection are put into the piles to be auctioned or raffled. There is also a bin that has rocks for \$1.00 each. **Raffle winners below**, returning member Rudy Datuin, Board member Lia Hamilton picking out her win, while Rudy, with his, heads back to his seat. And below see newly made friends, Dagmar Miller & Christine Aguilar.



**Come & make some new friends with like minds!**



**Some Raffle & Silent Auction Wins**



**Education night!** Introducing Education night back for the Summer and perhaps longer, if met with enthusiasm. Meeting will be on June 13, 2023 at 6:00pm. Members only please. Free event.

Roundtable Discussions on **PHOTOGRAPHY**  
 Tips, hints, advice, all by our club members. How to show, promote and sell your work using various types of cameras to get the best results.

**An Introduction to eBay buying & selling**  
 By Jake Brouwer, 23 year veteran of eBay, over 76K items sold, 3.75 million in sales, will answer questions that most likely will lead another night of more detailed instructions.



**FATHERS DAY / PATRIOTIC LUNCHEON:** General meeting will be on June 17th, 2023. Expecting the usual pot - luck luncheon, with the club buying birthday cakes for all those with June Birthdays. Please bring an entrée or side dish. Eating will commence shortly after the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The General Meeting will start shortly 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. The last meeting started out a bit slow with only 10 or so folks signing in, but after a while we were fortunate to have a good sized group. Lots of tickets were bought as there was some very nice material to choose from. Raffle had some nice rocks as well and they all went to members. I am hoping that the raffles and silent auction, continue to have some great material in the coming months. 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. *jb*

### June Birthstones, 3x!



The birthstone representing **June** is the pearl. Individuals born in June are truly lucky to be born in the only month with an organic birthstone, meaning that the gem is not formed over long periods of time in the Earth, but, by a living organism



Alexandrite is a rare form of chrysoberyl. First discovered in 1830 in the Ural Mountains in Western Russia, alexandrite is one of the rarest gemstones in the world. The finest examples of alexandrite have the unique characteristic of appearing green in natural or fluorescent light and glowing brownish or purplish red in incandescent light. While other gems can change color depending on a light-source change, Alexandrite's is so dramatic that the phenomenon is often called "the alexandrite effect." Alexandrite's color changing properties are due to trace amounts of chromium.



Moonstone

This June birthstone has been associated with both the Roman and Greek lunar deities. Hindu mythology claims that it is made of solidified moonbeams. Moonstone is often associated with **love, passion and fertility**; it is believed to bring great luck.

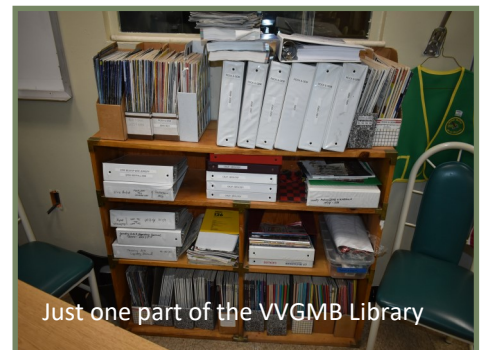
### June BIRTHDAYS

- John Bradshaw**
- Danel Destiney**
- Pat Estes**
- Phyllis Overall**
- Robert Arias**
- Russ Trozera**
- Jessie Saldara**
- Doc Hannon**
- Beau Warren**
- Christina Aguilar**

**Best wishes to all!**



**Librarian:** I am happy to announce for the VVGMC, the addition of the new Librarian for the club, taking the place of Dave Duncan & Lorie Cunningham. His name is Algot (pronounced "I'll get") Stevenson from Apple Valley. Watch this fellow, he has quickly made friends around the club, on field trips, he helps others, he jumps in a hole without hesitation, and if you're, a little frail, or need help he'll be there to give you a hand. And last but not least, he's a bundle of energy, working hard at cutting and learning shop skills. *jb*



Just one part of the VVGMB Library

## FROM THE BOOK CORNER

### Books you should know about!

By Scott Gray, Wagon master & Newsletter Contributor. **MODERN ROCK TUMBLING**, by Steve Hart.

Modern Rock Tumbling is a quick and easy read of 96 pages for a guide on all things tumbling. Tumbling is probably most people's entrance into the Lapidary hobby and I'm no exception. Anyone can tumble stones, but to get exceptional results there is definitely a science to tumbling and this book puts some of that science in one short concise place. Hart knows his subject and covers all the bases in his guide.

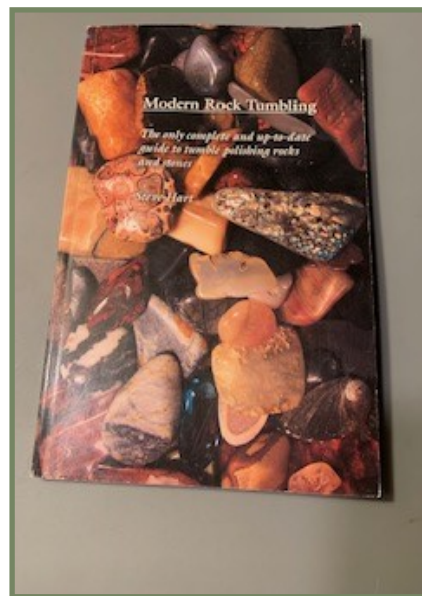
With chapter on rotary and vibe tumbling the purposes and differences between the various grits and polishes, specific recipes for harder to tumble stones like obsidian and jade, and even discussion on the various tumbling media's available, for example ceramic and plastic pellets and much more, there is all the information here one needs to successfully tumble a batch of quality stones. Some of the information I found extremely helpful was the instructions on obsidian and how to break up your rocks into smaller pieces without ending up with a bunch of fractured junk not worth processing.

While much of this information can be found on YouTube, and various online blogs, if you are a book nut like me you will appreciate having all the time pertinent info in one volume, including the appendix at the back with charts on particle size, rock hardness, etc. Heck just saving the time leafing through old magazines and various YouTube tutorials made the purchase a wise one for me.

This book is readily available on Amazon, and also Hart's website / Conti-

-- Littleredstore.com and retails for 24.95. A steep price but a purchase I am glad I made. Hart's website also carries tumblers and tumbler parts, so it may be a One Stop Shopping if you're interested in Thumler's Brand Tumblers. SG. /

*Dear readers, also let me remind you of Pam Trozera's article in March's The Bulletin titled SHINY ROCKS, where she tells of loving shiny rocks since she was a child. She mentions Scott helping her and passing on some tips. She also laid out a chart of the different stages the tumbler goes through. Thank you both for supporting the club with educational tips that can help us all do better and be the best rockhounds we can be. jb*



### 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.

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 Shown here on the right. \$1.00 Each. Tee-shirts and stickers and more available at the club house.



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 clas-

**SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 2:00pm- 8:00**  
**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  
June 6th, 2023

GENERAL MEETING - June 17, 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, June 10 10am, 2023

THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...

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**Articles and pictures are due by the 25-28 for July.**

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