THE BULLETIN

MARCH 2023

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Robert Brown Beau Warren & Deanne Ramsey Jeff and Julie Moffat Gina Grimm Alison Coleman Dwayne & Rufina Lowery Steve Jones

Glad to have you with us!

Greetings Rockhounds,

Everything is going well for our club. Looks we have a new tenant for the front building as of April 1, 2023. Our reputation as a fun club is growing and we have lots of new members, (See the welcome New Members article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Our latest new member joins us all the way from Pahrump, Nevada!. And lastly we had a very successful field trip to Boron with lots of guests from other So. Cal Clubs.

The annual tailgate is coming up in 10 days and I am pleased to say that Lifetime Member Brett Ward has reappeared and volunteered to take charge. He is standing in for Mark Lantz who is recovering from surgery. We still need help getting everything out to the site, so if you can, please meet at the club at 9:AM, on Thursday March 9th with room in your vehicle. Same goes for Sunday bringing everything back to the club.

Important note: It doesn't look like we will have a food vendor this year, so make sure to bring your own meals and snacks.

Lastly, I will remind everyone of the importance of helping around the club house, and making sure that your reach out to new members and visitors to welcome them and include them in your conversations. I feel strongly that this welcoming attitude makes our club stand out.

Dave Duncan, President





POT LUCK 3-18-23

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

The FEBRUARY 11, 2023 FIELD TRIP to the Boron area was quite a gathering. I arrived early about 8:30 am, and there were signs of more traffic at the meeting area than I had seen before, as I wandered about, I met a fellow named Tom, who I believe was from the Yucaipa Club and further back in the parking lot were some folks from the Long Beach, California, club. Then some folks from the Sierra Paloma Club came in. There were 27 cars, trucks, and jeeps ready to caravan to the Gephardt Hills Site. I want to personally thank the folks from the Sierra Paloma Rock Club, as it was necessary for me to use some of the photos one of their members took from the trip for our newsletter as our camera malfunctioned. Their photos were on their Facebook page along with a thank you to VVGMC for hosting the event. jb



Above is a photo from the Sierra Paloma Rock club showing one of the member's finds. Quite a juicy looking piece for sure. Right are some of the vehicles parked below the hills, where we collected





Above you will see two of our display cases at the club house. All members should know that we offer needed items for lapidary work, and other goodies for members. In the first case you will find vests that the club has made, patches of our logo, same as on bottom left of the forth page, some old VVGMC pinbacks, dop sticks, sand paper sponges and more. The second display case has slabs for sale to club members for only \$1.00. This case is always being added to, so check it out!

Haven't paid your 2023 Dues?

If you have, our club thanks you for your support.

For those of you who haven't had a chance yet, please be aware that we will soon be creating our new email list that will only include current members.

So, in order to keep getting newsletters, announcements and reminders in your inbox, please stop by with your cash or check. We would love to see you.

Otherwise you can send your check to our club house at:

VVGMC 15056-B 7Th Street Victorville, CA 92395

Dues for 2023 are \$35 for individuals and \$45 for couples. Children under 18 are still \$10.



MEMBERS, BE SURE TO SEE THE NEW CLUB TEE SHIRT DESIGN ON PAGE 10

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Shiny Rocks By Pam Trozera



I have always liked

shiny rocks ever since I was a child. I bought my first rock tumbler on Amazon. Following the instructions they provided with the machine, the rocks did not come out shiny. I was very disappointed but determined that someday I will figure it out.

At one of our general club meetings, Scott Gray had brought some awesome looking shiny rocks. He was more than willing to teach me the steps to tumble rocks. He wrote down the five stages and talked about what I would need to buy in order to complete my mission. He suggested at the time <u>rockshed.com</u> and told me to watch YouTube videos from Michigan Rocks.

Awesome advice. I purchased more rock tumblers from Harbor Freight. After a long, long time I finally made them. Yippee! Long story short. Harbor Freight's tumblers goes through too many belts. Dave let me borrow the club's Covington rock tumbler. It's the best. I used my containers though because I didn't have lots of rocks to tumble.



SUNSHINE



Dave Duncan advised Sunshine that <u>Mark Lantz</u> stopped by the club to say Hi! He is still sore but otherwise recuperating nicely from his surgery. He should be back with us in a month or two.

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

I would recommend you watch "Rock Tumbling Tutorial for Rotary Tumblers and ceramic Media by Michigan Rocks". *pt*

- 1. Stage 1: 7 days (60-90 silicon carbide)
- 2. 2. Stage 2: 7 days (120-220 silicon carbide)
- 3. 3. Stage 3: 10 days (500 silicon carbide)
- 4. 4. Stage 4: 10 days (1000 aluminum oxide)
- 5. 5. Stage 5: Burnish- 6 hours 2 teaspoon of Borax
- 6. 6. Stage 6: 14 Days (polish

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS.... Best wishes to you all!

Mia Kowalski

Mark Lantz,

Gayland Graves,

Janet Flecher,

Mary Lou Flecher



MARCH BIRTHSTONE AQUAMARINE



Aquamarine. Named after the color of seawater, aquamarine is the blue to blue-green member of the beryl family. Readily available and moderately priced, the March birthstone makes an excellent jewelry stone. The name "aquamarine" comes from the Latin for "seawater", and the stones were thought to protect seafarers.

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California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates March 4-5 to March 18, 2023

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

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: <u>http://vvgmc.org</u> 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

March 18, 2023 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society 123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA 92028 Hours: 1 PM -4 PM Rough ^ Cut sale of mineral specimens, gem rough and cut, lapidary slabs and rough, obsidian, micros, grab buckets and more. Priced to GO! Visit our free admission Gem and Mineral Museum while you're in town. Parking in church lot on Pico (across from Rugh & Cut entrance) Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org



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BOARD MEMBERS.....

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

Vice President / Membership. Steve Rucker / EMAIL: <u>vp@vvgmc. Org</u>

Vice President II / Education. Annie Nelson

Recording Secretary / Janet Fletcher / EMAIL: recording secretary@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 INSTRUCTOR Blaine Witte. ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Beka McNeil, Ross Quinn and Lorie Cunningham.

VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB







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Janet Flecher has been awarded Life Time membership award

Here is an excerpt from Jim's nomination: In our February General meeting, Janet was awarded the club's highest honor for her selfless volunteerism. The nomination was submitted by Jim Fosse, recommended by the board and approved by members present at the meeting.

Reason for Nomination: (Biography of service to the club) (sadly I don't have club history prior to 2005 - jf) 2005 Wagon Master, Instructor 2006 Wagon Master, Instructor, Board Member 2007 Treasurer, Wagon Master, Board Member 2008 Treasurer, Board Member, Instructor 2009 Treasurer, Board Member, Instructor 2011 Education Night Speaker for January 2012 Federation Director 2013 CFMS Rep, Treasurer, Board Member, Nominating committee 2021 Classes, Instructor 2022 Wagon Master, Instructor, Classes



Janet Flecher with Chloe out in the field

2023 Instructor, Classes, Recording Secretary, Board Member Janet has been an active and indispensable member of the club for the last 2 decades. I have been honored to work with her, and now, to nominate her for the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club's Life-time membership award.

With her almost unlimited knowledge and willingness to share, I think we can all agree that Janet has been one of the main factors in making our club rewarding for all. Dave Duncan, President









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Where the green marble was mined.

Thanks to Jim Fosse, webmaster for the VVGMC, for providing this article located in Desert Magazine August 1958. Written By EUGENE L. CONROTTO. Portions gleaned by Editor. Jb. Tie in to tailgate show field trip.

THE 1890s when the management of the old Palace Hotel in San Francisco was seeking the most attractive marble that could be found to redecorate the interior of the palatial hostelry, among the stone selected was a handsome



sulphur yellow and lime green marble veined in chocolate and cream—from the Verde Antique quarry 17 miles northeast of Victorville, on California's Mojave Desert. The old quarry, located on the treeless highlands which slope down to the Mojave River, is no longer being worked commercially, but it remains a popular hunting ground for rockhounds in quest of attractive cutting stone. The quarry's name was derived from the ancients' term for dark green marble veined in black—Verde Antique. The Italian marble's hue is much deeper than the marble found on the California desert.

Marble, because of its close-grained hardness and ability to take a beautiful polish, is much esteemed by the amateur lapidaries who make book ends, spheres, desk sets and similar large pieces from it. And too, this rich stone is having a revival in interior home decorating.

The marble was laid down as limestone in the Late Paleozoic era, presumably during the

vast areas of the Southwest. This was about 200,000,000 years ago—the age of amphibians and floral life. The Victorville area was the scene of much volcanic action at the close of this era, and heat and pressure from this volcanism compacted the impure limestone into marble. The impurities in the bedding gave the stone its distinctive color patterns. Heat and pressure also explain why no fossil remains are found in the metamorphized stone.

The layer of verde antique atop the hill is from three to six feet in width. The guarries were driven into the side of the limestone bed and therefore one must go sideways-not into the face of the guarriesfor marble. Here the miners blasted off the overburden and threw it into the dump. The area where the cars were parked was strewn with huge limestone boulders only a few years ago. Nearly all of this easy toget-to material has been chipped down and carried off. Those who search for verde antique from now on are faced with a steep climb, which will greatly limit the amount of material one person can take home. A collector who enjoys hiking will find this area one well worth visiting.

On the same mountain flank, but further east, is the Three Colored Marble Quarry. This working, often confused in the old mining reports and even today with the Verde Antique, produced a stone of white irregular dolomite fragments in a green and black matrix of dolomitic limestone. As far as color is concerned, it is somewhat inferior to the Verde Antique marble. The Three Colored Quarry was worked between 1915 and

1918.



Editor: jb. As part of the growth of Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club. It is my plan to incorporate into the newsletter, as well as our hopefully soon renewed Website, with subjects that surround us on a daily basis as we hunt for our treasures in the desert. Last month we introduced our library to the members. As we go along, history, desert flowers, wildlife and of course rocks will be looked at in different light here on the pages of the Bulletin. Below you will find some wonderful photographs by Ross Quinn of the floral blooms that graced our presence while on the hunt. Thank You Ross! We welcome submissions of your photos / articles on these subjects providing they are from the Mohave Desert where we visit



MARCH 2023

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 <u>vvgmc.org or You may also email: president@vvgmc.org / Text 909-657-7200.</u> 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:

<u>Site Clean up</u> <u>Saturday, March 4th</u> . Meet at the Club Shop at 9:00 No Pre-Sign up		
Set Up	Thursday 3/9	<u>9:00 am to 2:00 pm</u>
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		
Games & Grab Bags	Friday and Saturday 3/10 & 3/11	10:00 am to
5:00 pm 2 Hour Shifts		
	Sunday 3/12	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
2 Hour Shifts		
Food Booth	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
2 Hour Shifts		
Membership	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		
Tear Down	Sunday March 12	<u>3:00pm to 6:00pm</u>

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 March 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 Restrooms On Site Dry Camping** Silent Auction Grab Bags Spin the Wheel and more ... All donations are gladly accepted to help offset expenses! ome 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 I XIT 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 Pikw. Tailgate" signs high on NW corner power pole. Check Odometer here! Continue Straight On Stoddard Wells Rd. 7 miles Road be becomes a graded dirt road about 4/10 mi. fro tion. Proceed East/NE past "Grange" fork to "T ite. Cars & RVs can make it w/ease & care "Tailgate signs along RAIN OR SHINE, SEE YOU THERE!

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Okay club members, board members and committees, March is upon us now, and time for all to put their best forward into making the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Clubs 47th Annual Tailgate at Stoddard Wells a reality and a huge success. President Dave Duncan brought to our attention that Brett Ward Life Time Member, would be would be going into action to help lead the set up and running of the Tailgate, in the absence of Mark Lantz Chairman who is recovering from heart surgery. Many of you will be coming together to help with set up, manning the various booths, food concessions, good will and more. We hope to see you all out there in the desert, welcoming the vendors, customers, rockhounds, jewelry artists, kids, hounds and all those interested in our great hobby. Lets all show our best collections, wares and items for sale and bring life to Stoddard Wells. Jb.



Photos courtesy of Sara Arnold. Above, Dave & Ryan Osborn getting ready to post signage to the tailgate. Below Dave pounding pegs for a tent setup/





Be sure to bring an extra bag for your finds, water bottle to spray on rocks, maybe a lawn chair to relax , head gear for heat, and good shoes while you walk about this great pop-up at Stoddard Wells Tailgate.



THE VAST EXPANSE OF THE STODDARD WELLS TAILGATE, SHOW AREA



ROSS QUINN WAS HERE -->



MARCH 2023

FROM THE BOOK CORNER

By Scott Gray: Books You Should Know About: The 1st In A Series About Good Books On A Great Subject!

Exploring And Mining Gems And Gold In The West is a informative and sometimes humorous account of Mr. Rynerson's experiences in the gem and mining industries at the turn of the 20th century. Told in a first person perspective it is essentially a diary like account of Fred's adventures: his encounters, discoveries, wins, and losses during the short lived gem boom of Southern California when the world famous finds of tourmaline, kunzite, topaz, and aquamarine put California on the map as a world class contender in the gem market.

Rynearson spent many years working in famous mines like the Himalaya and the Esmeralda and cut the stones that came from them. His reminisces on learning to facet and cutting tricky stones like kunzite are as interesting as the accounts of his time spent underground recovering world class pink tourmaline by candlelight. Rynerson was truly a jack of all trades. He ran oil rigs in Bakersfield, quarried marble in the Colorado Desert, double jacked in copper mines, and spent time prospecting for gold in Washington and Arizona. There are encounters with bandits, rattlesnakes, floods, claim jumpers, and more. While out of print, this book cans still be found online for around fifteen bucks and up.

I'd consider this a great read for anyone who is interested in gemstones, lapidary, prospecting, and the early history of Southern California during it's gem mining heyday..



Congratulations to our Vice President, Steve Rucker on his retirement from Military Service and we should thank him for his years of service!

Aside from being an instructor, Steve is a man of many talents. Steve loves to cut rocks, but when he's not cutting, you can bet he's grinding, polishing, rocks, designing a setting or doodling some art work.

Such was the case last month when at the club board meeting, Steve announced and showed a wonderful design for a new Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club T-shirt.



STEVE RUCKER

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!

The design is shown below. It will be available to club members first and what is left over will be presented the upcoming tailgate at Stoddard Wells March 10, 11, & 12, 2023..

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

Please note that smaller sizes are in limited supply and a total of 200 Shirts have been made.



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 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 -March 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, March 4, 2023 9:00

THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...

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