# THE BULLETIN



#### **MAY 2023**

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

VILMA WHITEHEAD
RUDY DATUIN
DAGMAR MILLER
PATRICK BARELA
ALEXIS BARELA
CHRISTINA AQUILAR
FERNANDO AGUILAR
ROSE PADILA

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.

#### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

POT LUCK 5-20-23

Greetings to all Members! I hope all is well and you have had a chance to enjoy the nice April weather after so much chilly winter gloom.

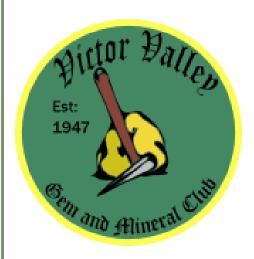
May is here, and as I announced last month, the Lapidary workshop will be open every Thursday this month from 2 to 8PM. This is an experiment to see how many people are interested. So if these Thursday hours work for you, please come by and let us know that this is something you would like us to keep going.

In addition, we are hoping to have Silver workshop for those of you who are certified to use the silver room, or have completed the beginning silver class. I will send out an email later this week.

In addition to next Saturday's field trip back to the Kramer Hills, we will be scheduling a trip back to the 2 Sister's rock yard in Yermo where you can find lot's of great rocks for the great price of \$1 a pound. Again, stay tuned for an email.

As in March, we've had 10 new or returning members in April. As always, please make sure to welcome them and help them in any way you can. Ignoring people you don't know is not an option!

Thanks to you, the club is going great. Your willingness to volunteer and your friendly attitude is what is making this club grow. *Dave Duncan, President* 





# FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

TICKLE ME YERMO. Saturday ,April 22nd was the VVGMC's Club Field trip to Yermo for agate, jasper, petrified palm and agatized reed. Our group with quite a few members and some guests too, had a chance to view a small sampling of material obtained from the location, including a multicolored jasper multicolor jasper enhanced by a wire wrap from Sasha Gray. Once everyone was signed in and seat belted we were all soon on our way east to Minneola Road in a caravan 17 vehi-After arriving, the first thing I noticed was that the recent rains had rearranges the landscape a little, even though the site was just visited the weekend of the tailgate. While the road was admittedly a little rougher, it was worth it as the erosion had unearthed fresh material. Members & guests soon fanned out in a generally westerly direction and soon began filling buckets and bags with the various materials there. Speaking of buckets it was noted that the "Bucket Brigade" VVGMC t-shirts for our 75th anniversary were out there blending into the terrain quite nicely. While the petrified materials were the hardest to locate, diligent searching turned up examples to the dedicated. Dave Duncan found nice piece of pink agatized reed; Brian and Loretta Wellinger also found some beautiful samples of the palm



root. (see photos below.) Sasha & I actually found a very nice agate in the road, spotted out the window of the car! It did not







Scott, Sasha

take long for the heat to set in which reminded us where we were; right in the middle of the Mojave Desert!. Although the heat cut the trip a little short most attendees seemed to find something they were happy with. The majority of the stones here will not reveal their potential till cut; there may be a few surprised rockhounds after running a piece or two thru a saw. I guess they don't call it rock hounding for nothing! In my opinion this location deservers another visit. With roughly a square mile of area to search, most of the group found potential keepers within 500 feet of where we parked. Definitely a trip that requires a sequel!





From Brian & Loretta







The immediate 4 photos above were some of Jake & Susan's finds, shot after we got home. Found some nice colors, Jake saw an 8" lizard, quite fat too. We both saw lots of potential for a longer day in the fall at this site and its surrounds.



3 Dave's + Photo under shade, by Pam Trozera

### FIELD TRIP SUPPLEMENT REPORT BY JAKE BROUWER

**Yermo**, California. I must say the April 22, 2023 field trip was quite interesting, and not just the for the field trip we all enjoyed. Most said, "I'll be back." And why not, acres of sites for rock hounding, great food in the area and much more. When Interstate 15 opened in 1968, Yermo was immediately bypassed by traffic traveling to and from Las Vegas, As a result, 90 percent of its local businesses had to close. During its heyday, Yermo had 27 gas stations with mechanics, seven bars, two grocery stores, a hardware store, a pizza shop, four real estate offices, three motels, a thrift store, several restaurants, roadside camping sites and two parks. In 2009, it had one grocery/general store, one bar, one thrift store, three restaurants, four gas stations, one park, and one motel 3 miles (4.8 km) to the south. The fast-food restaurant chain Del Taco was founded in Yermo in 1964. The original structure remains active as

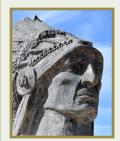
a local fast food restaurant. Photograph on the right by Craig Baker, October 22,2021. In the mid-20th century, the Yermo Chamber of Commerce styled the community as the "Gateway to the Calicos", referring to its location about 3 miles (4.8 km) south of the Calico Mountains and the historic Calico Ghost Town. At the time, Yermo and Barstow were campaigning to establish a state park at Calico, which was an active silver mining town from the early 1880s until the turn of the 20th century. In 1952, entrepreneur Walter Knott, whose uncle John King was once Calico's sheriff, and who worked at the town as a carpenter in 1915, purchased Calico and restored it. He later deeded it to the San Bernardino County, which operates the site as a historical county park and a popular tourist attraction of the U.S. Southwest. On the right is a vintage black and white photo from the 1950's of Calico Ghost town. Getting hungry? Two of the main spots along the 15 freeway between Barstow and Las Vegas, that gather an amazing amount of passerby's, tourists and rockhounds are Peggy Sue's 50's Diner and Eddies World. Peggy Sue's is themed with 50's music,



film themes, art, gift shop and good food. The next stop heading east is Eddies World, California's largest gas Station. With 3 fast-casual restaurants inside, with all the selections you can imagine, also hundreds of bottled sodas, ice creams, pizza and more. The giant milk shake at the corner is actually a cleverly disguised water tank. So.. Before we met up with the other 15 cars at Eddies World Susan and I went just across the street to Liberty Sculpture Park, which is a non-governmental nonprofit sculpture park. The park is themed after fighting for democracy and freedom for the people of

China and of the world, opposing the communist tyranny, and mourning the victims of communism. In 2017 a group of friends, including Weiming Chen, a Chinese-born dissident and sculptor, bought 36 acres of desert next to the I-15 freeway. Chen christened it Liberty Sculpture Park, and told reporters that its purpose was to champion the human desire for

freedom and condemn the oppression of Chinese communism. Below are some images from the park, plan to spend 30-45 minutes. On the left is Crazy Horse. Then, CCP VIRUS which was burned to the ground, and with funding it was rebuilt and shown next CCP VIRUS II. A sobering place and statement. FREE.









Tiananmen Square

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

#### May 5-6, 2023 - Yucaipa

Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Yucaipa Blvd at Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399 Hours: Friday 6 PM – 10 PM, Saturday Noon to 10 PM

Our annual show will have 15 dealers, kids activities, geode cracker, club store, and great raffle. Held in conjunction with city's Yucaipa Music and Arts Festival which will include artisan and other vendors, kids rides, music, food and beer/wine garden. Attendance and parking are free. Festival and show is held along Yucaipa Blvd. This is a great event for everyone in the family.

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com Website: https://www.yvgms.org/

#### May 6-7, 2023 - Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536

Hours: Saturday & Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM

We will have lots of vendors, displays and activities for individuals and families. We look forward to seeing you there.

Admission and Parking are free. Contact: marylandoriole@gmail.com

Contact: marylandoriole@gmail.com Website: http://avgem.weebly.com

#### June 10-11, 2023 - Escondido, CA

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: <a href="http://palomargem.org">http://palomargem.org</a>

#### 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/









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#### **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** / 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

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

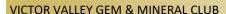
Dave Duncan Lia Hamilton Gayland Graves Blaine Witte

Steve Rucker

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







# MAY'S FIELD TRIP TO KRAMER HILLS, BY SCOTT GRAY & JAKE BROUWER

The word is out, from fellow rockhounds, rock clubs, guide books, shows, miners and old timers is that the Kramer Hills is a great place to rock hound. The Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club usually tries to come out to this location once a year. It is one of the closest high collection areas to the club. We will be head out to this location on May 6th, 2023. The meet up time is at 9:00 am at the Burger King parking lot on the right side of the road, just before you get to the Four Corner's traffic lights. Please try to be on time. If you told us you were coming and will be late please call Dave Duncan or Scott Gray, so we can try to accommodate you by waiting another 15 minutes. The Four Corners area here has gas, food, bathrooms, so if you come early be sure you have everything you will need for the trip into the Kramer Hills locations.

So, Scott Gray and I went out Saturday April 29th, 2023, to do a site inspection, road conditions, and a general walk about for safety. Vegetation is high in some spot due to the rains. Keep in mind that in this area there are older digging pits, that are not marked, you must take a look around your surrounds, as you are also watching the ground for rough or specimens. So, the good news is the road, though always a few rough spots are mostly acceptable for higher clearance vehicles, and most cars especially if you've been out there before, you know what to expect. Four wheel drive not necessary unless you stray away from the caravan. We looked at few areas, one is a perfect spot for those that love to tumble stones as most of the material is 1-3 inches. There were some larger pieces but this material is perfect for tumbling. Agate, jasper, petrified palm. As we left that site we spotted that it actually carried out further than known before. The next area was the treasure chest, a wide expanse of nice fist size pieces and boulders with the above and common opal, salmon color, green color and pink. Other colors known to be found in the past. Also some bog material and some reeds. I think everyone will find something they can use in a project. Please take out what you bring in, as far as per-

sonal items and food goes. Do not litter or deface rocks. Hope to see you all there!

I would also like to share the Desert Tortoise we found while out at Kramer along one of the dirt roads. It was 15' in front of the truck and looked like a boulder sitting there. We cautiously approached and to our surprise, it walked towards us. As we backed up, it came closer headed to a few sprigs of a bush for shade. Never touch, pick-up, or take these elusive creature from

their homes. This one appeared to be a juvenile. *jb* 









# Happy Mothers day to all Mothers

It is our duty to take care of our mothers and to respect and love them. Mother's day is celebrated to make our mothers feel special and shower all our love on her. Though it is celebrated on the second Sunday of May, every year, yet, we should celebrate every day as Mother's Day to make our mothers feel special.



WHO'S WHO & WHY CHALLENGE So Scott and Jake liked this idea, let's see where it goes. Scott will be the first to go. It's easy. Just write a

short story of how you got into rocks, your guiding influences and how over the years your hobby grew or how you came back to it. Each month we will offer space to a club member. By doing so, we will all get to know each other better. As a reward for maybe making you famous?? We will be offering to buy you 12 tickets for the General Meeting raffle program. Let us know what you think, please. So now let me introduce you to Scott Gray, Wagonmaster.

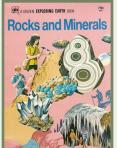
Superheroes have origin stories right? Well so do Rockhounds! This is my story of my journey from a pebble pup to a full blown rock nut! My first rock was a ge-



Scott Gray Wagonmaster

ode given to me by my parents when I was about seven. This wasn't any ordinary geode but a beautifully polished banded agate with a snowy white opening filled with druzy sparkling crystals. I remember it picture perfect and miss it a lot. After seeing my interest mom and dad began adding to my collection with a piece of cave onyx and a barite rose. Word spread quickly in my family and soon thereafter I received a package from grandma; small fossils picked up from her driveway in Ohio.

About this time mom gave me another surprise; <u>The Golden</u>
<u>Earth Explorers Book of Rocks and Minerals</u>. The water color illustrations



of tourmalines, apatite's and bullseye agate fascinated me. By a stroke of good luck we lived only a couple miles from Hobby city in Anaheim which had a great rock shop so it was easy to add to my growing collections, keeping my rocks in box from an old Lego set that had compartments for the various sized pieces. Soon BMX bikes, skateboards and arcades attracted my attention and my little collection got lost in the shuffle. It wasn't until my late teens that I again became interested in

my earlier pastime after receiving a Gem Trails of California from, yep, mom! I quickly realized our new home in Riverside Co. was only an



hours drive away from world famous Tourmaline and Aquamarine deposits and, in fact, with walking distance of my new home where quartz and epidote crystals could be found at the Southern Pacific Silica Quarry, with its many materials, was a short dirt bike ride away. From this point on rocks, minerals, and

crystals played an important roll in my life with camping trips, museum visits, and yearly trips to quartzite all being centered around the hobby. One thing about rocks is they multiply! I have acquired pieces I field collected, trade for and many that have been purchased. I love them all; they are like my kids in a weird way.

It's safe to say at this point the hobby has come full circle for me. The natural beauty of rocks and minerals and the joys of learning more about and how to shape and enhance them can now be shared with others; the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club giving me the opportunity to do what my parents did for me: instill a lover for the treasures that lay sometimes, right below our feet. *Scott Gray 2023* 

### FLORA & FAUNA Photograph, by Pam

<u>Trozera.</u> Yes, another flora and fauna segment; how could I resist when I saw the photo below. An exotic, desert wildflower, the Scorpion Weed (*Phacelia crenulate*, Cleftleaf Wildheliotrope), was seen & photographed by Board Member Pam Trozera. What a great find! One of the prizes found on the Yermo area field trip. **Growth Form:** Forb/ herb; stems erect, glandular hair short-hairs.

**Leaves:** Green; shape variable, margins scalloped or deeply lobed, leaves are reduced in size toward the top of the plant. **Note:** The glandular hairs will cause a skin rash similar to poison ivy. Calamine lotion helps relieve the itchiness. *jb* 



### FLORA & FAUNA; An interesting new bird arrived in our Hesperia neighborhood this past week April 18, 2023. Susan



Brouwer, who has an office window facing an Australian tea leaf plant, caught this black bird with her camera while shooting items to list on her auctions.

She was surprised as it definitely is a different species than we had ever seen in our location. It has a long 6–7-inch body, quite slender, and a crest that was poofed up towards the back of the head. Its bill is tiny and slender as well. Susan entered some traits into Google Search and she was able to say, "That's it!"

Turns out to be Phainopepla Nitens. This black bird is the male of the species. The female is more of a gray. One of its favorite foods is mistletoe, which it uses for nesting, roosting and feeding by eating the berries. Though we have a Texas Umbrella tree with some mistletoe in it, 15 feet away this bird spotted the bright red berries in our tea leaf

plant and hung out for an hour or so. Phainopeplas have a specialized mechanism in their gizzard that shucks berry skins off the fruit and packs the skins separately from the rest of the fruit into the intestines for more efficient digestion So far this is the only known bird able to do this.

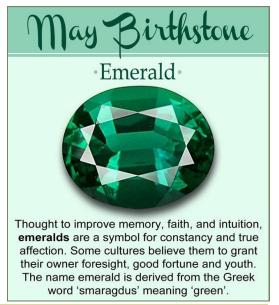
It nests in the spring. The eggs are gray or pink and speckled, and the incubation, done by both the male and female, takes fifteen days. The young will be reared by the parents for up to nineteen more days.

Mostly found in hot areas, desert oasis, and readily found in some Southern California areas. They can be found up to the central portion of California and far south as central Mexico.

Phainopeplas have been found to imitate the calls of twelve other species, such as the red-tailed hawk and the northern flicker. Note that we have both of those arriving at different times of the year at our home.



Kambaba Jasper Is a energizing stone that activates our root and heart chakras. It helps provide much needed healing to the heart and calms negative emotions such as guilt, trauma, grief, jealousy, anger, and sadness. This crystal helps one achieve emotional balance throughout the day, and helps keep one "cool" during times of distress. some of the toughest emotional experiences you've had to deal with. From Madagascar. If you have been around the club you may have seen Jake Brouwer, making his second cabochon, with this stone with the help of VVGMC's instructors.



**MEMORIAL DAY / PATRIOTIC LUNCHEON:** General meeting will be on May 20th, 2023. Expecting the usual pot - luck luncheon, with the club buying birthday cakes for all those with May 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. The club house was pretty busy last month with a few people buying lots of tickets and winning multiple times. Remember all proceeds go into the clubs coffers to support various projects, that we all share in. Then the silent auction starts after raffle. Lately there have been some very neat items to bid on. Many donated by club members, others from the club's rock storage. The silent auction, like the raffle, provide much welcomed money for the club services and equipment.

On May 5, 1866, the town of Waterloo, New York, formalized this ritual and hosted a city-wide "Decoration Day," encouraging its citizens to create memorials on soldiers' graves with flags and flowers. A few years later in 1868, Gen. John A. Logan declared that



the <u>first-ever national Decoration Day</u> should take place on May 30, as the date was <u>a neutral day for both sides of the Civil War to honor their fallen soldiers.</u>

On May 20, 1868, over 5,000 first-ever National Decoration Day participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery. By the late 1800s, cities and communities across the United States began to observe the day and several states declared it a legal holiday.

Over the next few decades, the day transitioned from being called Decoration Day to its current name of Memorial Day.

In 1968, Congress passed the <u>Uniform Monday Holiday</u> <u>Act</u>, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May instead of a set calendar day. By 1971, the <u>three-day weekend for federal employees</u> went into full effect.

Today, Memorial Day is often associated with the start of summer, discount sales and cookouts with friends. But **you have the power to educate those around you** and take a few moments to pay tribute to the fallen while still enjoying the sunshine and outdoors. Here are a few ideas:

- 1) Participate in the National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00pm
- 2) Visit a military cemetery or memorial
- 3) Display the U.S. flag at your home
- 4) Watch the National Memorial Day Concert

### <u>may</u> Birthdays

Sara Arnold
Jake Brouwer
Annie Helson
Steve Rucker
George Robles
Loretta Perkins
Roberta Kaufman
Allison Coleman
John Muir
Vilma Whitehead

### Best wishes to all!





# FROM THE BOOK CORNER

By Scott Gray: Books You Should Know About: The 3nd In A Series About Good Books On A Great Subject!

Interested in California's mining history? Or maybe when the states geologists roamed the deserts, mountains, and valleys and exciting new discoveries were commonplace? How about looking over old maps and plotting prospecting trips? If any of this sounds cool this may just be the book for you.

Minerals of California Centennial Edition by Joseph Murdoch and Robert Wallace Webb is an updated version of an earlier edition and is essentially a compilation of notations from the numerous reporting done by the California Division of Mines & Geology from 1866 to 1966.

The format is simple: A listing of minerals, in alphabetical order, and information on their occurrences and locations throughout the state, county by county. While some of the locations are marked out using longitude/latitude coordinates, the vast majority are plotted out using the Public Land Survey system (Township & Range) which breaks down our entire country into 1 square mile units. Best used with USGS topographic maps but also map books like Thomas Guides.

This book will truly five you a greater understanding of the mineral and potential gemstone, wealth of our state. Keep in mind many of these listings are over 100 years old and may now be inaccessible or private property and for good or bad the notes are as recorded. The fun starts here as I did some detective work, researching & exploring local areas and found that some sites may were not exactly where they should be. I widened the search & eventually found the location. This book best serves the explorer and the Detective

With additional information on historical and geologic mining sites, mini biographies and even an overview of CFMS, there is a lot more info here than you can shake a



petrified stick at. Minerals of California can be found at Amazon, eBay, Thrift books, etc., and there is even a Kindle version Available. Give it a look. *Sg.* 

# **Motel Calico**

A good place to stay when rock hunting in the Mojave Desert. Free field trip information to our guests. From MOTEL CALICO it is only

From MOIEL CALICO it is only
3.5 Mi. to Knott's Calico ghost town
(Minerals, Silver, Lead & Gold)
4.5 Mi. to Mule Canyon
(Petrified Palm Wood)

Kitchens available. Informative brochure and prices mailed on request.

Box 6105 Yermo, Calif.

Phone Barstow 3467
9 miles E. of Barstow, Calif.
on Hiway 91-466.

The above advertising clip for Motel Calico for rock hunting guests. Gem & Mineral Mag February, 1959

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

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

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

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 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 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

GENERAL MEETING -March 20, 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, May 6 2023 9:00 am

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

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Articles and pictures are due by the 23rd - 27th May

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