

THE BULLETIN

HAPPY NEW YEAR JANUARY 2023

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TO OUR MEMBERS:

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

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

SINGLE MEMBER \$35.00
COUPLES \$45.00

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

President's Message First off, thanks for voting me in as your new president. I will do my best to help make this an even better club. We have a new year, and a new Board of Directors and great members! As many of you know, Lorie I have only been with the club (less than) 2 years. Before we moved to Apple Valley, we lived in Santa Cruz and were active members of the rock club up there. One of the great advantages we have over other rock clubs is that we own our own building. This enables us to house our large shop full of equipment, and to be able to schedule shop hours, classes and events any day of the week. Let's keep building on what we already have and build an even better club! Here's how you can help: - Spread the word. Don't keep us a secret! Tell your family, friends and co-workers about what we are doing. Time and time again I hear from new member's that they didn't know that there was a rock club in the area. That's on us. If you are making Jewelry, wear it. And when someone compliments you on it, by all means, share our story. We really are the best deal in town. For \$35 a year we get to use all the equipment, get all the lapidary training, and make new friends that share our interests! - Volunteer. We need your help. We own our own building and there is always things that need doing. Help on cleanup day, take out the trash after shop. We also have the tailgate coming up, the 2nd week of march. We need volunteers for set up, break down and manning the info and Kids activity booths. - Share your skills. If you have a skill or even just tips on how to do something, please share with us. - Write articles for this newsletter. We are very fortunate to have Jake as our new editor, but he can't make it great on his own. He needs input! So write a short article on your interests, activities or travels. - Most importantly: Be welcoming to visitors and new members. Don't be shy! Introduce yourself. Show them around and show them what you have been working on. I believe that the single most important secret to building a great club is to be welcoming. **Thank you, President Dave Duncan**



ONYX, TRAVERTINE & JASPER, OH MY! *By Scott Gray, Wagon Master.*

Sunday Dec. 4th was our field trip to the Sierra Pelona club's Travertine Onyx Claim at North Edwards. After meeting up on a cloudy morning at Kramer Junction we made our way west to the Claymine Rd exit. The mine is approximately 8 miles northeast of Highway 58's Claymine road off ramp. This is a pretty easy site to get to and while some material can be found on the surface the larger and potentially better pieces are obtained by digging down to a chalky layer about 2 feet below the surface. I found great stuff just digging through old overburden and never even made it to the chalky layer. The travertine here has a mostly honey colored background with alternating bands of black, yellow, red, and white in varying shades running thru it and can be stunning if you have several colors in one piece. It didn't take long for everyone to get a bucketful of choice material.

Our second location for the day was for agate and jasper. The location, to the west of Claymine Rd, was also easily reached. While not as brightly colored as the travertine onyx this material was gorgeous with earth toned colors swirled in random patterns and pieces with black, white, and grey banding. We also located small to medium sized nodules with a rusty outer appearance but containing pleasing pastel colors inside.

Over all I feel like we barely scratched the surface at both locations and that everyone left with some keepers. The North Edwards/ Boron Dry Lakes area definitely deserves a deeper look and another trip with more members attending.

A big thank you to the Newhall Sierra Pelona club for allowing us access to their awesome claim and a very special thank you to Dave Duncan and Janet Fletcher for doing the necessary pre-siting of both areas for accessibility and road conditions.



BRIAN WELLINGER



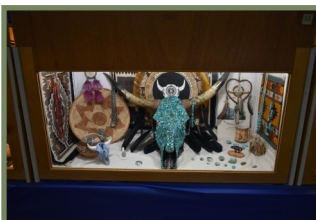
JAKE, DAVE, LORIE, BECCA, LORETTA, BRIAN & SCOTT
AT THE TRAVERTINE SITE ON THE SIERRA PELONA CLUB



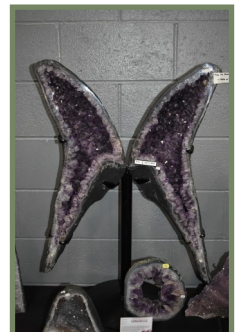
LORETTA WELLINGER



Dave Duncan, President helps guest, Brad Van Den Berg, in a 2' hole to retrieve some medium sized travertine boulders with some great banding throughout.



Dec 3th & 4th was the annual show in Barstow at the Cora Harper Fitness & Community Center 841 S. Barstow Rd., Barstow, California 92311. Jake and Susan Brouwer stopped in for a few hours to take a look. Inside some beautiful displays graced the center of the show area. Some wonderful items and ideas. Chris Koch VVGMC member had 2 display windows with examples of work he has done. Great job Chris! While there we also ran into Dave Duncan & Lori Cunningham. Though some prices seemed high a few vendors were very fair and we spent some money on a dozen slabs. Below are some samples of the displays.



In Memory, to My Friend

Robert Christopher Slone
3-12-1971 to 10-30-2022



Robert was homeless a couple of times, to which he pulled himself out of it. He was a surfer, a scuba diver, fisherman, a punker, and as a punker he was in S.H.A.R.P. (Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice.) He was a good enough cook to work high-end restaurants. In fact, a Thai restaurant in Utah told him "You use that wok pretty good for a white guy. I think I'll hire you." In addition, he was an accomplished welder that worked on many great projects across the United States and a member of the FFA (Future Farmers of America.)

He worked as an extra on the set of Starship Troopers and as an extra in the Guns 'n Roses video "Welcome to the Jungle." His historic knowledge encompassed US History, World War 1 and II history, World History and Native American History. He could have seriously been a history teacher.

If you were out rock collecting with him, he would usually give you something. He was that kind of guy. When he first joined the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club, he was generous with the members of the club by handing out pieces of pink Chalcedony he found.

This heartfelt memory was written by Chis Koch, long time member of VVGMC. Thank you for sharing your memory,

SUNSHINE

Sunshine is happy to announce that there were no reports by late December, 2022 of sickness or illnesses to report.



Please, if you or a member isn't feeling well or is celebrating a special occasion, please contact, Lorie Cunningham at 831-325-1912.

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

Our newsletter editor would love to do a story on any past or present member, what you've been doing, and how you are. jb

**ATTENTION MEMBERS!
PLEASE PAY YOUR
YEARLY DUES FEES
BY DECEMBER 31, 2022**

You can pay by cash or check, but no credit cards, or electronic payment. Pay in person at the club or send check to VVGMC, 15056 - B 7th Street, Victorville, ca. 92395. 760-243-2330

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS..... IN THE CLUBS FILES THESE MEMBERS HAVE BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY.

IF WE DID NOT INCLUDE YOU, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

SUE SPINKS
REBECCA McNEIL
ROSS QUINN
SUE SUTTON.

LATE DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

PAM TREZERO
BRIAN WELLINGER



JANUARY BIRTHSTONE



Those born in January are lucky to have the beautiful and diverse **garnet** as their birthstone. Garnets are commonly red but also come in an extraordinary range of beautiful colors, including orange, yellow, purple and vibrant green. There are even garnets that change color from blue to purple in different lighting.



California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates January 21, 2023 to March 10, 10, 2023

January 21-22, 2023 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem and Mineral Society
Exeter Memorial Building, 324 North Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA 93221
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Tule Gem and Mineral Society Gemboree
Contact: (559) 799-6034, margaretbu03@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

February 18-19, 2023 – Antioch, CA 94509

Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th St. Antioch, CA 94509
Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM Saturday and Sunday
Jewelry, Gems, Findings, Supplies, Auction, Grab Bags, Exhibits and hands on projects for kids
Contact: (925) 301-6957, edysnyder@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 25-26, 2023 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589
Hours: 10 AM-5 PM
Gems, geodes, fossils, beads and minerals from around the globe. Discover lapidary and stone crafts from vendors and live demonstrations. Something for everyone! Silent auction, geode cuttings, and games of chance and discovery for kids!
Contact: (415) 254-1506, ddahonvgms@gmail.com
Website: <http://vjgems.co/>

March 4-5, 2023 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001
Hours: Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
50 exhibits of gems, minerals, fossils and lapidary arts; ongoing demos of lapidary and jewelry making; raffle prizes & silent auctions; a Second-Hand Treasures Store & plant sale; 15 dealers; children's activities and free resources for teachers. A SoCal tradition for 6 decades and counting!
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 10-12, 2023 – Stoddard Wells

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
47th Annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate
Time: Friday, Saturday & Sunday – 9 AM – 5 PM
Come visit us and our vendors for Handcrafted and Faceted Jewelry, Slabs and Cabs, Findings, and Equipment, Minerals and Fossils. TONS of Rough Material and More
Contact: (909) 657-7200, marklantz53@gmail.com
Club Address: 15056B Seventh St., Victorville, CA 92395
Phone: (760) 243-2330 and leave a message. Email: president@vvgmc.org
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>
[Tailgate-2023-Info.jpg](#)

Some highlights of the December 17th, 2022 Christmas Dinner, General Meeting and more!

The Christmas dinner on December 17th 2023, was a huge success. Food, drink and merriment were abundant. There were roughly 35 people present, and a few stragglers came in later in the day. President, VP, and other Board members were sworn in by past President Sara Arnold. Lots of applause, smiles and genuine statements were made during the afternoon. The raffle was good, the silent auction was great. After the bidding closed a lot of folks got some really nice pieces to work on. Jb.



Elected President Dave Duncan is sworn into office by past President Sara Arnold.



To the right is a photo of the silent auction table & New VP of Membership Steve Rucker. Far right another silent auction table photo with club members placing bids.



Note from the editor, Jake Brouwer. Well this is my 3rd month as editor of THE BULLETIN. November, December of 2022 and this issue January of 2023. I met Dave Duncan at a rock show in Apple Valley earlier in the year. He was VP then and worked the membership, meet and greet booth. Then I sensed at my first meeting, that Dave had what it takes to be a leader and in December 2022, he was elected President. Best wishes to Dave and all the new board members, committee members and instructors. Without you, there would not be much forward movement and this is what our club needs. We can get members, but can we keep them? It is up to all of us to put for the effort to help others where needed, keep our machines running and up to date, provide exciting field trips, and informational meetings the lead us to the growth we need. *Thanks, Jake*

Pictured on right is lifetime member **Robert Arias**. Robert stopped in for a visit one recent Sunday. He is 92 years old and still drives and does lapidary work. He said he was around in the early days of the club and knew the man who had our clubhouse built. He has not been an active member since 2000. Robert said he will be back, so if you see him at the club house, be sure to introduce yourself. He has lots of fascinating stories. *By Dave Duncan*



BOARD MEMBERS.....

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

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

Vice President II / Education. Annie Nelson

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

Treasurer / Cory Beck treasurer@vvgmc.org

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

Board Member / 1 year term - Mark Lantz

Board Member / Lia Hamilton



COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

CFMS / Doug Arnold, PH: 760-221-3734 / EMAIL: cfms-rep@vvgmc

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
Mark Lantz

Mary Lou Fletcher

Dwayna Barron

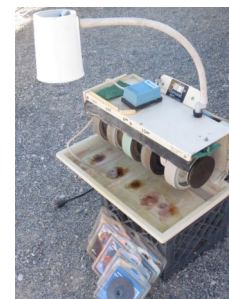
Chris Koch

Dave Duncan
Steve Rucker

Lia Hamilton
Lorie Cunningham

Gayland Graves

Blaine Witte



JANUARY'S FIELD TRIP TO QUARTZITE, ARIZONA

The first field trip for 2023 will be to the annual Quartzsite Pow Wow gem show in Quartzsite AZ. This will be a purchasing trip. Vendors from around the country, and the world, will be selling cutting material, minerals/ crystals, lapidary equipment, jewelry and jewelry supplies and much more.

This is the first, and some say best, gem show of the year.

The meet up will be at the Burger King parking lot located at 1395 West Main St. Quartzite, AZ. This exit 17 on Interstate 10 and is the first Quartzite Exit. It will be the next exit after exit 11 Dome Rock Road. Meeting time will be 10:00 AM Arizona time, 9:00 AM California time. Your cell phone should adjust accordingly when you enter Arizona. Quartzsite is a big place with sometimes heavy traffic, so I will need your contact information for all those planning to attend.

My contact info is Scott Gray (951-492-9806. The Pow Wow location is 235 East Ironwood, Quartzsite, AZ.

Going To Quartzsite? Here's What You Need To Know! Yep! It's that time of year again: Quartzsite! That one stop destination for all of us who love rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, jewelry, and lapidary. Whether a day trip, a weekend, or a week, your time here will be well spent. Here are several tips for those making the adventure:

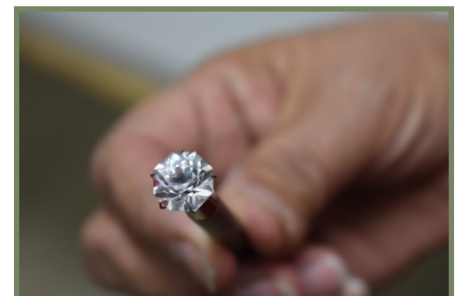
1. Book your accommodations early. Whether a RV site, campground, or a motel make reservations early. We typically stay in Blythe, which is 20 minutes away.
2. Wear comfortable shoes. You will be on your feet all day.
3. Bring a backpack or a comfortable shoulder bag (with a few waters in it). Trips back to your car may be pretty far away.
4. Negotiate. Most vendors would be more than happy to pack and wrap one less rock home so may be open to wheeling and dealing.
5. If you see something you really like get it on the spot. There is a good chance that when you come back for it later it will be gone.
6. Plan one day per show. There is a lot to see and anything less you will be shortchanging yourself.
7. Have fun and make new friends. One thing rockhounds like to do is talk about rocks and this is our Super Bowl so enjoy it!

See you there! Scott Gray

SILVERSMITHING CLASS WITH JANET FLETCHER

Silversmithing Classes will start up again on Feb 1st, 2023 Wednesday for beginners. Thursday Feb. 2nd, 2023 will start an advanced class in silversmithing.

If you have questions or need help please contact Janet Fletcher. Classes will be 8-10 weeks and the cost is \$100 for the full session. Sign up ASAP space is limited.



Sara Arnold on the left showing the beautiful piece of quartz she worked on (above) in faceting class at the Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society. Sara Arnold is a past President of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club. She stated that it was a fun class and finished her project. She will be going back to make sure her faceting machine is calibrated correctly. Nice job Sara!

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

March 10th through March 12th, 2023. As in past years, the location is 7 miles up Stoddard Wells Road off Dale Evans Parkway and Interstate 15. The event will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9am-5pm. Everyone is welcome to this free event. There will be vendors selling all sorts of handcrafted and faceted jewelry, rock slabs and cabochons, findings, equipment, fossils, and "TONS" of rough material. Come for a day or there is space for dry camping and portable restrooms are on site. Many other activities will be available including silent auction, grab bags, spin the wheel, food, drinks, and a field trip on Saturday morning to a local collecting area. As always, vendor spaces are Free on a first come, first served basis. For more information visit our website at vvgmc.org or call 760-243-2330. You may also email: president@vvgmc.org / marklantz53@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE PICK UP EXTRA FLYERS FROM THE CLUB HOUSE TO PASS OUT TO BUSINESSES AND FRIENDS FOR THIS 47th ANNUAL SHOW

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

RAIN OR SHINE, SEE YOU THERE!

CALIFORNIA FEDERAL MINERAL SOCIETY

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES 2023 Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival June 23–25, 2023 Lodi, California.



Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club was founded in 1947, as a 501/C4 non profit education club. Visitors are always welcome.

Our objective and purpose is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy & earth sciences. To encourage study in those subjects through various programs. To arrange field trips for exploration, study, and collection of specimens. The preparations, publication, and distribution of articles pertaining to these fields. The encouragement of interest of young people & fostering of classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS

INSTRUCTORS MEETING- 1st TUESDAY 2:30 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - 1st Tuesday 4:30

GENERAL MEETING -January 28 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, Jan 7, 2023 9:00 am

THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...

Published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral club and is distributed free of charge electronically to the members by email. Views expressed by authors in the articles appearing in THE BULLETIN do not necessarily reflect those of the VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB. The editor publishes content as presented with minor changes for continuity.

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