



# THE BULLETIN

JANUARY 2024

POT LUCK 1-20-24

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Season's Greetings to all!

As we enter into a new year, I would like to thank all of you for your efforts to make this a great club. For with out you, our members, where would we be!

Let's take a look at some of our accomplishment and Mile stones:



At year's end we stand at 190 members (including 10 Lifetime members. We ended 2022 with 143 members. So we grew by almost a third. Not bad!

With the efforts of Mark Lantz, we now have an awesome Jr's program. We have brought back Education Night. Usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month.

We are having Holiday sales in our vacant building, giving our members a chance to sell their creations to the public.

And... We are now open 4 days a week on most weeks! Lots of opportunities to use our well equipped workshop.

Let's continue to build on our success in the coming year. Please do what you can to help the club and recruit more rockhounds. See you at the club house.

Dave Duncan

**LET'S HAVE A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS.**

**JANUARY 2024**

**CHARLIE MICHNER**

**ARIES MICHNER**

**ALLA SHUMKO**

**CAT PETREY**

**BRADLEY VAN DEN BERG**

**ADRIANNA SENRA**

**JACK HORN**

**SHONA SCHWAG**

**LINDA HAYS**

**THE MASON FAMILY, EMILY,**

**QUINN, ALISON, COLIN**

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND UPCOMING EVENTS. COME IN TO THE SHOP TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN LAPIDARY ARTS. EDUCATION NIGHT IS 2ND TUESDAY, POT LUCK LUNCH ON THE 18TH , 12:00 PM WITH DOOR PRIZES & OTHER GOINGS ON. ALWAYS A GREAT TIME TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, MEET OLD FRIENDS, MENTORS AND GET A FEW LAUGHS.

**2024 ANNUAL DUES FEES ARE DUE NOW!!**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2024, YOU HAVE UNTIL JAN. 15, 2024 TO STAY CURRENT AFTER THAT A LATE FEE OF \$5. MAY BE APPLIED. Thx!**

**SINGLE ADULT: \$40.00**

**EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON IN SAME HOUSEHOLD \$30.00**

# FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

## December 2, 2023 Field Reports by Wagon Master

### Scott Gray.

Do you have more rocks than you know what to do with like I do? Are you always looking for another one or four to add to your

horde, also just like me? Then hopefully you participated in the December Field trip to Diamond Pacific in Barstow to dig thru the tons of rough they have in their "rock yard" behind the main building. The Diamond Pacific Rock Yard is a popular place with rock hounds and specifically, with VVGMC members. Amazingly this was the first time I

had actually made this specific trip, always missing out over past trips for one reason or another. Glad I made it this time! With a huge back lot containing 55 gallon drums cut in half that are overflowing with everything from obsidian and rhodonite to petrified wood and Brazilian agates this is the place to be if you're a rock nut. At \$3.00 a pound for anything you find, many a bargain can be had. A collector with a keen eye can easily find material worth considerably more than the asking price. I found some lovely moss agates, good quality palm root, and a huge Montana Moss. Blaine and Jude Witte showed me the technique for hunting here: browse the barrels surface picking until you run into on that has a few pieces of something you really like and empty that sucker out to see what's on the bottom! When I saw football sized piece of palm root they found at the bottom of theirs I stared emptying I was on! A winning strategy indeed!



SCOTT GRAY



DIAMOND PACIFIC ROCK YARD

After Diamond Pacific most members ran across town to the Mojave Desert Gem And Mineral Society's annual show: a cozy affair with a friendly atmosphere and about a dozen different dealers offering their wares.

In the center of the room were various members gem displays that attendees could vote on for Best Of Show including a gorgeous group of cabs cut by our own Chris Koch. A large silent auction table was also a busy place with about a couple dozen different gems and fossils to be bid on. They throw a good little show there and it was awesome of DP to open up the Rock Yard on the same weekend so we could literally kill 2 birds with one stone... pun intended! I look forward to this being an annual December field trip and I'm sure all who participated would agree. Thanks MDG&Ms and thanks Diamond Pacific!



STONE COLD DINNER



PETRIFIED WOOD



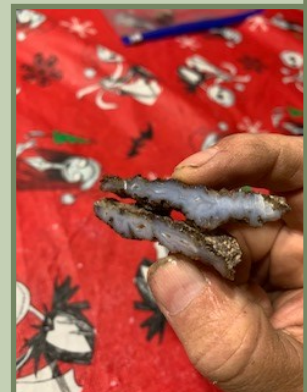
## FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

Well 2024 is here and it's January so that can mean only one thing: Quartzsite! If you've never been to any of the various rock and gem shows that run from the beginning of January to the end of February in Quartzsite Arizona then you are missing out on probably the top Rockhound gathering of the year. The Desert Gardens International Rock And Gem Show runs from January 1st thru February 28th, Tyson Wells Rock And Gem Show is January 5th thru the 14th, and The Quartzsite Pow Wow Gem And Mineral Show is January 17th thru the 21st. Most rockhounds center their visit around the Pow Wow but all the shows have great stuff to offer; we actually like Desert Gardens the best. The Pow Wow offers field trips to local gem locations so if you like to find rocks and not buy them then this might be the show for you! Tyson Wells has a more flea market vibe but we always find cools stuff: rocks, and more, when we go. Free parking, free admission and lots of fun! Hope to see you there! Scott Gray. WM.



**January 13, 2024 The first field trip of 2024** will be on Saturday January 13th to club favorite Kramer Hills for quartz family gemstones: agate, jasper, petrified palm bog, and small agate amygdule's. Meet up will be at 9am at the Burger King parking lot at Kramer junction south of the Hwy 395 / Hwy 58 intersection. High clearance vehicles preferred; bring your bucket, spray bottle, a shovel, a rock pick, and good walking shoes; the amygdule location entails a short hike down a low grade slope and another couple hundred yards over more or less level ground. See ya there!

**Amygdule**, secondary deposit of minerals found in a rounded, elongated, or almond-shaped cavity in igneous rock. The cavities (vesicles) were created by the expansion of gas bubbles or steam within lava. Some amygdule's consist partially of lava, which indicates their formation during solidification of the rock. Since gas bubbles tend to rise through the lava, amygdule's are most common near the tops of flows. The secondary minerals may form after the solidification of the lava; the gases may help to form the filling minerals. A great variety of minerals have been found as amygdules, including some spectacular mu-



## California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

For the months of January, February, & March closest to our location

**February 10th, 2024.** 3rd in a series of 1 day sales to support the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Being just prior to Valentines day, it is your opportunity to get some last minute treasures for your loved ones. Rocks and Gems, fossils, gems and jewelry, pick a prize raffle, spin the wheel for not just the kids and teens, some neat prizes for adults as well.

**Group:** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

**Location:** 15056 A & B, 7th St, Victorville, CA 92395

**Phone:** (760) 243-2330 and leave a message. Email: [president@vvgmc.org](mailto:president@vvgmc.org)

### March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA

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

Dealers and exhibits, demos, gold panning, kids activities, raffle & silent auctions, Country Store an plant sale, free re-sources for teachers. A SoCal tradition for 60+ years.

**ContactWebsite:** <http://www.vgms.org>

### March 8 - 10, 2024 Stoddard Wells Tailgate 48th Annual Show

**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

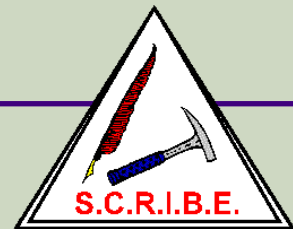
**Contact:** (909) 657-7200, [marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)

**Club Address:** 15056B Seventh St., Victorville, CA 92395

**Phone:** (760) 243-2330 and leave a message. Email: [president@vvgmc.org](mailto:president@vvgmc.org)

**Website:** <http://vvgmc.org>

**Directions.** Take I-15 toward Barstow EXIT #157 stay on Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles to Tailgate. GPS 34.671852347,-117-117133037





**BOARD MEMBERS, CHAIRS, INSTRUCTORS.....**

**President.** / Dave Duncan, EMAIL : [president@vvgmc.org](mailto:president@vvgmc.org)

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

**2nd Vice President: Education.** Lia Hamilton

**3rd Vice President: Tailgate Chairman, Junior Rockhounds Chairman, Mark Lantz** EMAIL [marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)

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

**Treasurer /** [Dwayna Barron](#)

**Corresponding Secretary /** Jake Brouwer

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

**Board Member /** Sara Arnold, Past President

**Board Member /** Cory Beck

**Maintenance /** George Robles



**COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....**

**CFMS /** Dwayne Barron.

**Wagon Master /** Scott Gray

**Librarian /** Algot Stephenson

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

**Photography /** Ross Quinn

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



Send your articles in by the 23rd of Each month! [jakelsdg@verizon.net](mailto:jakelsdg@verizon.net)



**INSTRUCTORS:**

Janet Fletcher                      Mary Lou Fletcher                      Dwayna Barron      Chris Koch  
 Mark Lantz      Dave Duncan      Lia Hamilton      Gayland Graves      Beka McNeil

**ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS** Ross Quinn. Lorie Cunningham. Stine Smith. Algot Stephenson. [Welcome to Ann Musiak.](#)

## VVQMC MEMBERSHIP NEWS, with Beka McNeil



### Membership Fees are late if you have not yet renewed.

Please do your best to get payment in by January 15th, 2024 or you will have to pay a \$5.00 late fee. Consider from Dec, 31, 2024 to January 15th, 2024 a grace period.

We know you've all been busy for the holidays, and we hope you will be returning to enjoy some of the new things happening at the club. More Education nights. More field trips, to old and new sites, more days open (4), for shop work.

Individual membership \$40. Each additional family member, living at the same address, is an additional \$30.

Remember also that we have great Juniors program that is growing. We now have 12 members, and can teach up to 18 on 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. With a teacher who has 33 years of teaching in the sciences, and geology. Members can earn badges, and get lots of fee rocks that they work with, and other projects.

### Hello to all club members!

This is Beka McNeil, your VP in charge of membership, for the club wanted to let you know that the winner of the Membership Drive from Sept 2023 to Dec 16th 2023 was **Pam Trozera** who won a free membership for 2024. Thanks Pam!

So we start up the Membership Drive again this January, 2024. Details to follow at the January 20th 2024 General Meeting. Sign up a new member and those who sign up the most will win prizes each month, and enter for the final month to win a free membership.

Our members are our best hope for the future. We've been around for 76 years this year and many of us can see new things coming for the club's benefit. Newsletters that are emailed to members, a new brochure to give new members an idea of what we do, and a new modern web site will be built in the early months of 2024 to show the world wide web that we have something to share with all.

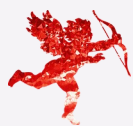
Think about it this way, if you average it out over a year. For example \$40 over 12 months is only \$3.33 a month. A couple at \$70 is \$5.83 a month all with free instruction and reasonable shop costs. DEAL!

## EDUCATION NIGHT WITH LIA HAMILTON

For this month's Education Night, Dave Duncan President has invited his friend Mike Humineck, who will be in town from the Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Club, Santa Cruz, Ca. to give us a presentation on flint knapping that he recently gave at the Santa Cruz Rock Club. This will not be an actual demo, (we don't need shards of sharp material flying through the air), but will be a power point type presentation, followed by a video and discussion. As usual the fee for members is only \$5.00 and \$10.00 for not-members. The program will be held Sunday, January 7th, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Knapping is the shaping of flint, chert, obsidian, or other conchoidal fracturing stone through the process of lithic reduction to manufacture stone tools, strikers for flintlock firearms, or to produce flat-faced stones for building or facing walls, and flushwork decoration.





# VALENTINES DAY HOLIDAY SALE

## ROCKS, JEWELRY & CRAFTS

### Saturday February 10, 2024. 9am-5pm

Location 15056, Seventh St. Victorville, CA. In front of the Club House and in the Kamen Building, left of Del Taco.

CUSTOM MADE JEWELRY, GEMS, ROCKS, MINERALS, SLABS, ROUGH, POLISHED STONES, INTARSIA, FOSSILS, ROCKS TO TUMBLE AND MUCH MORE

**SPIN THE WHEEL GAME FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS**

ALL MADE BY OUR LOCAL LAPIDARY ARTISTS, CLUB MEMBERS, ALONG WITH STONES FROM MANY DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AND THE WORLD

**FREE ENTRY, FREE TOURS** OF OUR CLUB HOUSE, SEE OUR GALLERY OF COLLECTIBLE ROCKS, EQUIPMENT, SPECIMINS, BLACK LIGHT DISPLAY AND MORE

OUR VENDORS ARE MOSTLY CLUB ARTISANS AND ROCKHOUNDS DISPLAYING THEIR TREASURES



**PICK A PRIZE RAFFLE!  
UP TO 20 VENDORS**





VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Invites you to the

48<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Victorville, California

Friday – Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

9:00 am to 5:00 Daily

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

- Free Event!
- Dry Camping
- Lots of Rocks
- Kids Games
- Club Gear
- Food Truck - Breakfast and Lunch Offerings
- Free Vendor Spaces
- Restrooms
- Grab Bags
- Spin the Wheel
- Water, Coffee, Soda

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*

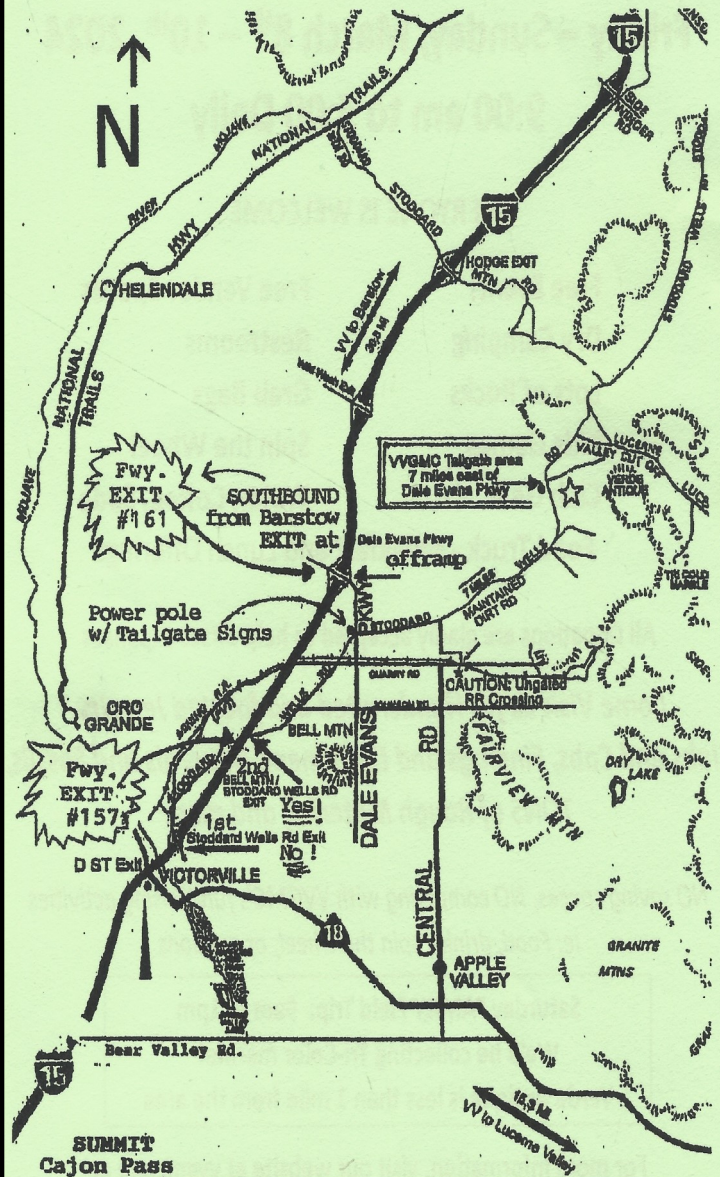
*NO saving spaces, NO competing with VVGMC's fundraising activities ie: Food, drinks, spin the wheel, or auctions*

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

For more Information, visit our website at [vvgmc.org](http://vvgmc.org) or call 760-243-2330 and leave a message

**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!



**GPS 34.671852347, -117.117133037**



**Welcome all club members to January 2024** Our **potluck luncheon** for January 20, 2023 starts at 12:00pm. Birthday cakes for those celebrating this month will be needed for deserts. We ask all, that you bring with you an entrée, side dish, salad or fruit to the luncheon. The meeting will start with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to remember members and friends that are no longer with us. The General Meeting will start after tables are cleaned up. Try to make it, as in these meetings we discuss state of affairs for the club, planning, and other news. Afterwards there are door prizes of rocks, and minerals, and other items. Tickets passed out at the door. Extra tickets are available. We will also have rocks on display to enjoy and to have some fun with exciting rocks, gems, fossils and other related items available to members. Once the meeting is over those that wish to work in the shop will start. Hope to see you there! Come early to get a seat, December’s luncheon was packed, and the food was great.

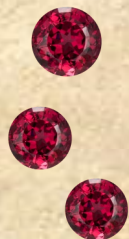
To the left are 4 mineral samples donated buy benefactor Steve Beavers found on the top 3 shelves, on the left side of the large glass case in the club-house. He donated close to 100 samples, and two binders of his work with rocks.



### GARNET BIRTHSTONE MEANING & HISTORY

The name “garnet” originates from the medieval Latin *granatus*, meaning “pomegranate,” in reference to the similarity of the red color. Garnets have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Necklaces studded with red garnets adorned the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Signet rings in ancient Rome featured garnet intaglios that were used to stamp the wax that secured important documents. The clergy and nobility of the Middle Ages had a preference for red garnets.

Garnet is actually a group of several minerals. Five of these – pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite – are important as gems. Pyrope and almandine range from purple to red. Spessartine is found in exciting oranges and yellows, while andradite is mostly yellow to green (the gem variety demantoid). Grossular may have the widest range, from colorless through yellow to reddish orange and orangy red, as well as a strong vibrant green called tsavorite.



COURTESY: NOMADS LTD, HONG KONG (FAR RIGHT)

### JANUARY Birthdays

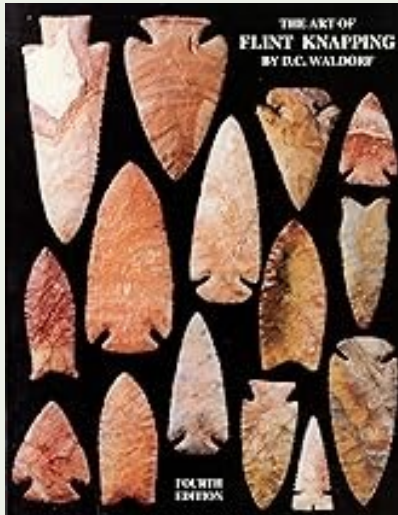
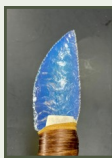
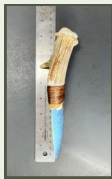
**Best wishes to all!**

- Louise Ackerman**
- Algot Stephenson**
- Karla Woods**
- Ross Quinn**
- Sue Spinks**
- Beka McNeil**
- Judy Einboden**
- Dottie Kaufman**
- Brad Van Den Berg**



# THE BOOK CORNER

So here we are at THE BOOK CORNER, again. Since this month's Education night is focusing on Flint Knapping, we are giving a review of an interesting book on the subject. Grab some coffee, pull up a chair and dig in.



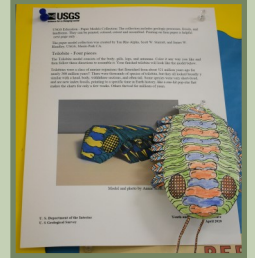
## THE ART OF FLINT KNAPPING BY D.C. WALDORF AND VALERIE WALDORF

If you are interested in learning how to work flint in the same manner as Prehistoric Man, this book is for you. It covers the basics such as tools, raw materials, percussion, pressure and indirect percussion flaking, as well as advanced theory.

80 pages. The Art of Flint Knapping, by D.C. Waldorf. In print since 1975. If you are interested in learning how to work flint in the same manner as Prehistoric Man, this book is for you. It covers the basics such as tools, raw materials, percussion, pressure and indirect percussion flaking, as well as advanced theory. The new Fifth Edition has been updated with appendices covering the use of modern tools such as copper billets as

# JUNIOR ROCKHOONDS with Mark Lantz

The Junior Rockhounds will be open Saturday from 9am to 11:45am Saturday January 13, 2024 and January 29, 2024 with instructor Mark Lantz. Give your children 7-17 years old a chance to get a start to understanding rocks, minerals and fossils. Who better than



Mark Lantz, with 33 years of teaching 6-12th grade students in earth sciences.

Each week brings some new lessons and projects that will not only help them learn but to understand the mediums they work with, and how they are used.

We still have openings for 5-6 children, who will in time learn all about cutting, polishing,, presentations, collecting and much more.

Come on in for a trial visit and you will be amazed at the kids , and what they've learned in the each month.

1. Cont... well as more on antler pressure flakers. 80 pages, 8 1/2 X 11", soft-bound. Over 100 illustrations by Val Waldorf.

Looking around on Amazon we found lots of other flint knapping books and also tool kits. The books sell for around \$22.00 to \$59.95 for others. Tool kits on the other hand are a little more pricey. Ranging from \$40.00 to over \$225.00. We are hoping that Mike Humineck, January 7, 2024's Education night speaker will give us some hints on doing it on the cheap and or a recommended kit for beginners . Below are some flint knapping methods.



**1. Abrasion:** Raking, or abrasion, is the process of using an abrader or grinding stick to remove micro flakes from the edges of small chunks of flint, known as bifaces or nodules. This technique requires excellent control and focus on completing fine detail work, such as crafting fishing lures or flintlocks for classic musket firearms.

**2. Percussion flaking:** This technique effectively removes large flake around the shape of your projectile point or Clovis arrowhead. Traditional flintknappers used antler tines as soft hammers to break large flakes from the edge of stone spalls.

**3. Pressure flaking:** When working stone with this technique, you can use specialized flintknapping tools like a palm pad or Ishi stick. An Ishi stick is a small cylinder of wood with a sharp metal point attached to one end. Press the metal point into the edge of your spall to break off flakes and shape the edge of your arrowhead or tool face.



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 and fostering of classes in mineralogy and Lapidary Arts.

SHOP DAY:TUES JAN 9,16,23,30 2024  
SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 2:00pm- 8:00  
SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—12:00pm-5 pm  
SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - 12:00pm - 5 pm

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS**

**CLUB CLEAN UP DAY: TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
**INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TUES, JAN 2, 2024, 3pm**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: TUES JAN 2, 2024**  
**4:30pm TIL FINISHED.**  
**EDUCATION NIGHT: Flint Knapping JAN 7, 2024**  
**7pm**  
**GENERAL MEETING: - JANUARY 20, 2024. 12:00 -**  
**2:00 pm, followed by our tradition door prizes, and**  
**more. Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm.**  
**JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: JAN 13 & JAN 29TH, 2024**

**THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...**

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HERE

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