



# THE BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2024

POT LUCK 2-17-24-

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## LET'S HAVE A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS. FEBRUARY 2024

- ROBERT & HEATHER ASHWELL**  
**TERESA & VERONICA**  
**PODGIRSIJU**  
**AARON LUTCH**  
**DANIEL GREENBERG**  
**ALEXIS SILVERSTEIN**  
**ROSIE & RUTH GAEDE**  
**CRISTIANE STROLL**  
**TINA BREEDLOVE**  
**JEANIE & GISELLE AMAYA**  
**IONA ELLSWORTH**  
**CYRIL STELLMACH, SHELIA,**  
**MIKE AND UTAH PARKER**

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

## President's message for February

Things are going great at the clubhouse with lots of new members and lots of activities scheduled.

Here's what we have scheduled this month:

**Valentines Holiday sale- Feb 10<sup>th</sup> in the front building. Another chance, for our members and friends to sell to the public.**

**Field trips- Scott has scheduled a Field Trip to the Early Man area on Sunday Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.**

**Juniors Program: Mark is back from his cruise and will be back on the normal schedule of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning sessions.**

**Education Night. Fluorescent Minerals. Not on the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, we are moving this months meeting will be at 6PM on Sunday Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. This is when my friend Phil Stoffer will be in the area. Phil has a PHD in Geology and former employee of the USGS. And he loves fluorescent minerals. It should be interesting for those of us who share his passion.**

And if you use the Genies in the lapidary shop, you will be pleased with the new 280 grit and 24,000 grit wheels, made possible by a generous donation by one of our members. With the new 14,000 wheels you will see a huge difference in the shine on your work. Thank you anonymous donor!

Finally, please consider helping your club by getting involved. We are always in need of; volunteers (especially at the tailgate), your suggestions, articles for the newsletter, Lapidary equipment, rocks we can sell, and of course, money. *Thank you. Dave Duncan*



# FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

## Kramer Hills Rocks! By Scott Gray Wagon master.

Saturday January 13th was the first field trip of 2024! On a bright and not too chilly morning 30 plus members and guests, some from as far away as Long Beach, made the journey to the Kramer Junction meeting place to see what the area had to offer. After a brief mini Rock Show where I showed some samples of some goodies discovered on the pre-site trip, our group of nearly 20 cars headed out to see what we could find.



SCOTT GRAY



The Smith Family, West Covina

The first stop was the palm bog area halfway up the old Pole Line Rd. On my previous trip I did a little digging and turned up some neat stuff and this technique served field trippers well as several good root laden pieces were dug up: I dug up 2 pieces with exposed reeds and Pres Dave Duncan found a small but nice piece of palm fiber right on the surface.

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The next stop was the old Key Kay Claim, well known for the various materials that are found there. With an abundance of float and several pits and holes to dig in, visiting rockhounds had quite a few choices on what to find. Some surface picked, others jumped in a pit, and some started their own holes to dig. Guests Lisa and Kai exposed a section of nice green colored goodness in a hole they started on the north side of the hill. This was many of the attendees first time to Kramer Hills and all seem to be pleased with their finds.

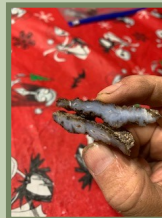
Next we caravanned west about a half mile to the amygdule location. After about 5 minutes of walking the little agate and chalcedony nuggets started to appear. Many in the group had trouble locating them at first, but after finding the first one or two, cries of "here's another one!" resounded. There were plenty of amygdule's to go around and everyone said they were please with their "baby geode" finds. I found 3 small limb casts and at least two others found some too; Sue Brouwer turned up with a nice piece of petrified wood.



Some of the 30+ folks that showed up

As the wind began picking up, Dave led a few attendees over to the wester most palm bog locations, Lisa and Kai went back to the Key Kay Claim to finish digging out the green material in their hole, and the rest of us packed it in. Overall everyone seemed to enjoy the trip and are clamoring for the next field trip! See you in February!

To the right are some of the amygdules, Scott found. 1st was one he sliced, 2nd tree limb / branch casts.



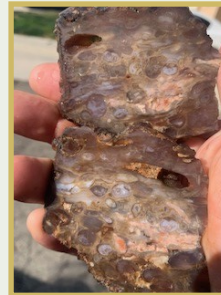
A group of rockhounds hunting

*FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT, BY SCOTT GRAY*

**YERMO BOUND..** The second field trip of 2024 will be on Sunday February 11th to Yermo Hills for agate, Jasper, and, with luck, some more petrified palm wood and root. This is a spot I scouted with decent results. Meet up will be at the Eddies World gas station (look for the giant milkshake) at 9am. Eddies World is located at 3617 Calico Rd, Yermo, CA.

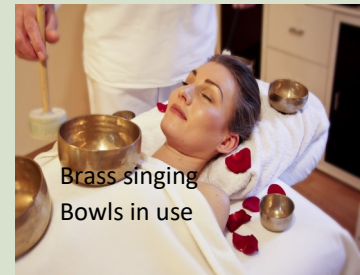


High clearance vehicles preferred. There are several hills to search and the dry wash also produces. Bring pick, bucket, and a spray bottle. There are potentially large pieces here so I will have a sledge and shovels if anyone needs to use them. I will bring some samples from my last 2 trips there to show attendees what may be found. See ya there!



*THE RISE OF SINGING BOWLS. By Cristiana Stoll*

Singing crystal bowls have gained immense popularity in recent times as a tool for relaxation, meditation and healing. These extraordinary instruments are made of pure quartz crystal and produce a beautiful, clear tone when struck or played with a mallet. They are frequently used in sound baths, yoga classes, and other spiritual practices to establish a sense of calm and harmony. Brass bowls are used as well, as in the photo.



Brass singing  
Bowls in use

One of the most distinctive features of singing crystal bowls is that each one produces a different tone or frequency. This is because the bowls are made from different sizes and shapes of quartz crystal. The sound produced by these bowls can be incredibly powerful and can have a profound effect on those who listen to them.

Singing crystal bowls are often used as a way to unwind and relax after a long day. The calming tones produced by the bowls can help to soothe the mind and reduce feelings of stress and anxiety. They can also be used as a tool for meditation, as the sound can help to focus the mind and bring a sense of peace and tranquility. **Healing Properties of Singing Crystal Bowls.** Apart from their relaxation and meditation benefits, singing crystal bowls are also believed to have healing properties. The vibrations produced by the bowls are said to help balance the body's energy centers and promote physical and emotional healing. Some people even use singing crystal bowls as a form of therapy, as the sound can help to release emotional blockages and promote a sense of well-being.

## 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 61st Annual Show / 15+ dealers

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, Second-Hand Treasures, free resources for teachers. **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

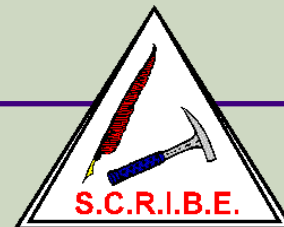
**Contact:** (909) 657-7200, [marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)

**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 /** Temporarily unavailable.



**COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....**

**CFMS /** Dwayne Barron.

**Wagon Master /** Scott Gray

**Librarian /** Algot Stephenson

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

**Photography /** Temporarily unavailable .

**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    Lorie Cunningham

**ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS** Stine Smith. Algot Stephenson. Ann Musik

**Welcome all club members to FEBRUARY 2024** Our **potluck luncheon** for February 17, 2024 starts at 12:00pm. Birth-day 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 a bit early to get a seat, see some old friend and make some new friends.

**AMETHYST, THE MODERN AND TRADITIONAL FEBRU-ARY BIRTHSTONE**, has a rich history and strong symbolic ties to love and spirituality. Due to its beauty, availability, and durability, this purple gem has become a very popular jewelry stone. You'll find them in everything from simple stud earrings to delicate bracelets to bold statement rings.

People have used amethyst for jewelry and decorative objects for thousands of years. The Ancient Egyptians associated amethysts with the god Osiris and carved amethysts into animal-shaped amulets. In the Old Testament book of Exodus, amethyst is one of the stones in the [breastplate of Aaron](#). The gemstone also appears as one of the [foundation stones](#) of the Heavenly City in the New Testament book of Revelation. Both these lists of Biblical gemstones contributed to the development of the modern idea of birthstones.

During the Middle Ages, royalty proudly wore amethysts because the color purple was associated with nobility. High-ranking priests also wore amethysts to represent piety. Amethysts were considered to be one of the "cardinal gems," along with diamond, sapphire, ruby, and emerald. They were often used in crowns, scepters, and other royal regalia. At this time, only people of the highest social status wore amethysts. Over the centuries, more sources of the colorful gem were discovered, making it more available and affordable. Today, the February birthstone is one of the top choices for jewelry stones.



**February Birthdays**  
**Best wishes to all!**

**Donald Perez**  
**Pam Golightly**  
**David Wilson**  
**Bryndon Michener**  
**Colin Mason**  
**Linda Hayes**  
**Teresa Podgorski**





# 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**

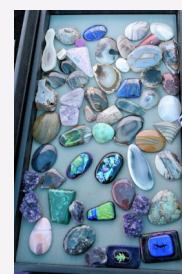
ALL MADE BY OUR LOCAL LAPIDARY ARTISTS, CLUB MEMBERS, ALONG WITH STONES FROM MANY DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AND THE WORLD

**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!  
NOW AT 18 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*

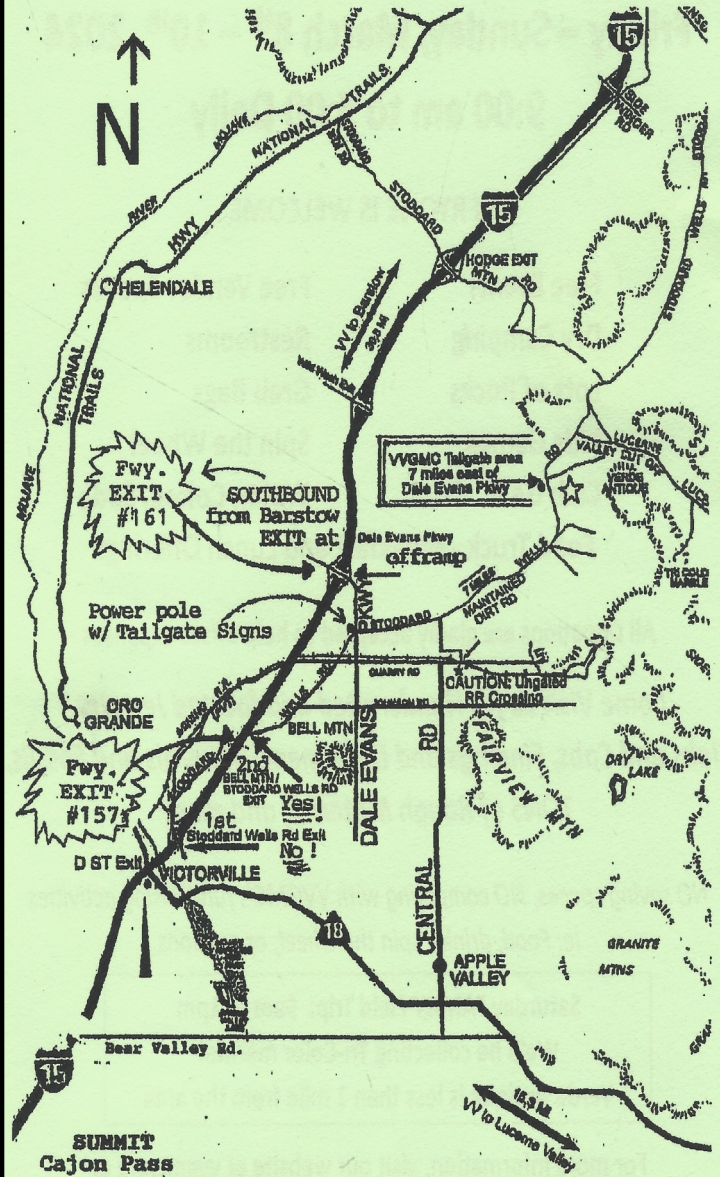
*NO saving spaces, NO competing with VVGMC's fundraising activities ie: Food, drinks, spin the wheel, or auctions*

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**



## Tailgate Sign-Up Sheets

***Please Sign -Up for specific jobs and times.***

We really need everyone to step up and put in some time for the Club.

Most of these activities will need 2 Hour Shifts.

Obviously, many members will have vending booths.

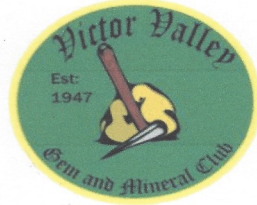
***Please plan your time so you can do at least one shift for the Club.***

*If you can do multiple shifts, please do so.*

Hopefully, you have your schedule planned out, so the shifts will be filled up by the ***end of the February Board meeting.***

***Days & Times are form set up through tear down***  
***Wednesday March 9 thru Sunday March 12***

## VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB



INVITES KIDS AND THEIR PARENT TO JOIN US AS WE PRESENT

### THE JUNIOR ROCKHOUND PROGRAM 2024

This program is created by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). The program is designed to reward youth with a series of badges, or patches upon completion of a topic. The program includes topics such as;

January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Rocking on the Computer	January 27 <sup>th</sup>	NO MEETING
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Collecting & Labeling	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Showmanship
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Club Tailgate & Fieldtrip	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lapidary Arts part 1
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	NO MEETING	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Lapidary Arts part 2
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Communication in rock hounding	May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Maps
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Field Trip	June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rocks and Minerals

**Meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Saturday of each month 9:00 – 11:45**

**Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club**

**15056 – B 7<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Victorville, CA 92395**

**760-243-2330**

**If you are interested, contact:**

**Mark Lantz**

**[marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)**



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 FEB 13, 20, 27,2024**  
**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, FEB 6, 2024, 3pm**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: TUES FEB 6, 2024 4:30pm TIL FINISHED.**  
**EDUCATION NIGHT: SUNDAY FEB. 25, 2024**  
**GENERAL MEETING: - FEBRUART 17, 2024. 12:00 - 2:00 pm, followed by our tradition door prizes, and more. Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm.**  
**JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: FEB 10 & FEB 24TH, 2024 9am - 11:45am**

**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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