



THE BULLETIN

JULY 2024

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

THRU JUNE 2024

**SAMAHARA HERNANDEZ
RICHARD FRANCO
VICTORIA MORALES
MAXIMILLIAN NELSON**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT
GENERAL MEETING & EVENTS!**

**COME ON IN AND SHARE OUR POT-
LUCK LUNCHEON, JOIN IN WITH
THE COMRADERY
WITH NEW FRIENDS.**

**LISTEN IN ON NEW CLUB NEWS,
EVENTS, GOINGS ON WITH OTHERS
IN THE CLUB, AND LEARN HOW YOU
CAN HELP TO MAKE US THE BEST
CLUB IN THE HIGH DESERT AND
SURROUNDING AREAS.**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE FOR JULY 2024

Summer is in full swing which means it's way too hot to go out rock-hounding for a few months. I know some of you will go out anyway, but please be careful for yourself and others. Although you may feel you are OK with the heat, please do not encourage others, or belittle the danger. We want all of you to be safe. There will still be plenty of rocks out there in the fall!

Meanwhile, it's time to stay inside and work on your creations. We have a great shop with lots of equipment and instructors and fellow members that are more than happy to show you some new techniques.

We have more opportunities for learning:

Education Night: Tuesday, July 9th at 6PM- fellow member George Ast will be teaching us about Fossils. I believe no one in our club knows more about fossils than George. So, if you are interested in fossils, take advantage of this opportunity.

Corey Beck will continue his demos and workshops on select Saturdays during shop. Right now the focus is on Sand Casting.

For those interested in Silver Smithing, Lorie has openings for one on one tutoring for certification to use the Silver Room. There is a \$200 plus materials charge for this 8 hour program.

Please take advantage of our lending Library. There is a lot of knowledge there waiting to be discovered
Thanks, Dave Duncan President

Shop Will be closed Saturday, July 13th

As of this time, we have scheduled for the parking lot to be top coated on Friday, and the striping to be completed on Saturday, the 13th. Sorry for the inconvenience. We were trying to get this done before the new tenant, The cages, gets going, and these were the only days available. I will let you know if there is any change to the schedule. *Dave Duncan, President*



FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

JUNE'S VACATION FIELD TRIP IN THE GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS, by SCOTT GRAY

Nestled in The Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina lies the small town of Franklin. A few miles northeast of the town proper is Cowee Creek and Cowee Valley; world famous for their gemstone deposits, the most notable being ruby and sapphire. This was our destination on Monday June 10th, part of a week long vacation in the beautiful state of NC.

After researching the various fee dig sites in the state this was the area we wanted to hunt. It was an easy decision, being a short drive south from Bryson City where we would be spending a couple days exploring waterfalls and tubing down a river. We decided on the Cherokee Ruby And Sapphire Mine, known for having a friendly staff and a shaded area to search with unsalted gravels you dig out yourself. The unsalted gravels was the deal clincher, who wants to find a "gemstone" that may have been placed there the day before and something not even native to the area? Not me!



SCOTT GRAY



Youngsters & Sasha Gray

Leaving Bryson City early Monday morning with Sasha, my youngest son Justin, and nephews Evan and Eric in tow we were excited for what the day would bring. While only 12 miles away from our hotel it was still a 40 minute drive on a windy road that followed a river. Pulling in before 10am the first thing I noticed was the long flume where you eventually will wash your gravels looking for gems. Then I noticed the mud. It had rained the night before and the main digging area was quite muddy. Everything looked pretty much as it did in the Crystal Collector's YouTube video on this site, the only exception the pit being larger, deeper, and muddier. Immediately we met Zack, who was managing the dig and quickly explained the rules, what to look for, and showed us examples of what could be found. Grabbing our buckets we jumped in the hole and got busy. Rockhounding can be a dirty business and caution went to the wind... there was no way we were gonna get out of here clean. Justin surface picked all over, Eric filled up his first bucket immediately, Evan scratched around where a 4ct ruby was found

the week before, and Sasha and I dug deep looking for the "crunchy peanut butter" gravel that tends to carry the best stones. The mud was very sticky and the only way to tell you were in the gravels was by the sound the shovel made while digging. This was definitely going to be harder than we first thought.



SASHA GRAY

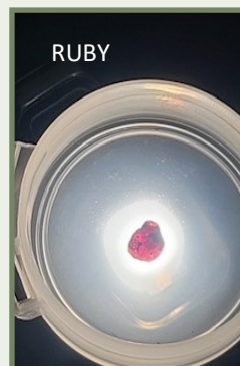


More visitors began arriving; a couple gals from Georgia, some locals, and a couple with their son from up north. We were all starting to look like mud monsters, there was no way to do this without getting messy. Using the flume was a simple affair, again as elegantly demonstrated in the Crystal Collector YT video. Even with several folks using the flume simultaneously it was pretty easy to get the stones clean enough to get a better idea of what you found. After going thru my first bucket all I got that was obvious was a few small pieces of kyanite and a tiny moonstone. Sasha got a nice little milky quartz crystal and some small pieces of sillimanite which could make some silky chatoyant stones if cut properly. The Cherokee Mine also has a darkroom equipped with several long wave black lights. This is step 2 of processing your gravels. Any rubies and/or sapphires found will give a strong red glow under the black light. With high hopes I carried my screen full of gravel to the darkroom. Dang no glow for me. Sasha struck out too. We went and started filling our second buckets as the kids were still processing their first. While I was washing my second

Continued...bucket, Sasha went to help the kids in the black light room.

Soon all three of them came out beaming! Justin had 1 ruby and a small pink sapphire, Eric: a small sapphire. These stones were small and would have been easily overlooked were it not for the black lights. Now we were cooking! The boys all went about the same process used to previously fill their buckets. I struck out again, as did Sasha when we finished going thru our second bucket. Evan scored a small quartz point and a small sapphire in his second, and the other two boys struck out. Justin's ruby was the find of the day: small but a beautiful red color when held up to a flashlight. His sapphire was a rare find too: still displaying crystal faces and the cigar shape it took during formation.

While not finding a lot of gemstones here we had a blast. It was neat seeing their operation and meeting other rockhounds, and the overall atmosphere of the Cherokee Mine was one of a laid back summer day with friends and rocks. I gave Zack a bag of stuff found on some of our fieldtrips: some agates, jaspers, a piece of palm root, and some opal. He invited us back anytime and said we could camp for free at the site and told me about other locations on the property. The in situ deposits of these little gems had never been found but higher up the mountain Zack and his partner have run into some promising finds. We wished them luck; If we ever make it back out that way again I'd love to see what they run into and would like to find a ruby or sapphire of my own next time!



RUBY



SAPPHIRE

Stine Smith visits Denmark and the Copenhagen Amber Museum

In the Spring of this year our friend and fellow member, Stine (pronounced Stina) Smith got the opportunity to visit her daughter in Denmark. Hoping to score a specimen of amber she visited the coast where the majority is found. Baltic is the best known and most desirable amber worldwide, famous for the small fossils sometimes found in it. Artists create intricate jewelry, often in the form of necklaces, bracelets. In Russia an entire room was created using amber.

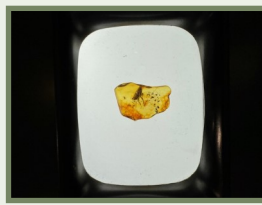
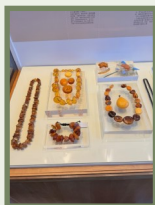


Clear Amber Wall



Although she didn't find any on the beach, she did have the opportunity to visit the Copenhagen Amber Museum. The museum is located in an old (1606) building, one of the oldest in the city, called the Kanneworffs House. During her visit Stine was most interested in the geologic history of amber.

Amber is the fossilized remains of tree sap. Baltic amber is more than 30 million years old and some contains the remains of living things that get caught and then preserved by the sticky stuff. Flies, bees, spiders and, beetles are among the more common invertebrates found but very rarely vertebrates such as bats, frogs, lizards and birds occur.



California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

For the months of May, June closest to our location

August 2-4, 2024 – Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society

Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444

Hours: Friday 10 AM-5 PM, Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Sunday 10 AM-4 PM

56th Annual Rainbow of Gems: Over 60 rock, gem and fossil dealers including food trucks. Kid's booth, Treasure Chest with Raffle at 3:00pm on Sunday.

Contact: (805) 929-2783, nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com

Website: <http://omsinc.org>

August 17-18, 2024 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East "F" St., Tehachapi, CA 93561

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM Both Days

Tehachapi Valley 18th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Mountain Festival weekend – Fun for the whole family, activities for the kids, raffles, and more.

Contact: (661) 972-1117, travis462@outlook.com

Website: <http://tvgms.rocks>

August 24-25, 2024 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA 91007

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

Now in our 75th year, Pasadena Lapidary Society celebrates our 64th Annual Tournament of Gems.

Contact: (626) 260-7239, marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com

Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

October 12-13, 2024 – Long Beach, CA

Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society

Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA

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

2024 Gems on the Hill

Contact: (562) 253-1390, lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com

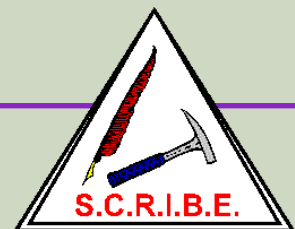
Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

NOTICE FROM VVGM

JULY IS A VERY HOT MONTH & NOT MUCH HAS BEEN SCHEDULED.

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AS WE WILL POST SHOWS THERE AS WE GET NOTICE OF SHOWS, BIG OR SMALL

WE ALL NEED OUR ROCKS. RIGHT?



BOARD MEMBERS, CHAIRS, INSTRUCTORS.....

President. / Dave Duncan, EMAIL : president@vvgmc.org

Vice President / Membership. Beka McNeil / EMAIL: vp@vvgmc.org

2nd Vice President: Education. Lia Hamilton

3rd Vice President: Tailgate Chairman, Junior Rockhounds Chairman, Mark Lantz EMAIL marklantz53@gmail.com

Recording Secretary / Mark Lantz (temporary) / EMAIL: recordingsecretary@vvgmc.org

Treasurer / Janalee (Jan) Arnold

Corresponding Secretary / Jake Brouwer

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

Board Member / Sara Arnold, Past President

Board Member / Cory Beck

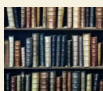
**COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....**

Facebook Page / Stina Smith in Training.

CFMS / Brian Ody, Yessenia (YaYa) Avila in Training.

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Algot Stephenson



Newsletter / Jake Brouwer / EMAIL: jakelsdg@verizon.net

Editor in Training, John Alcorn John.alcorn42@outlook.com

Webmaster / Tech / Jim Fosse / EMAIL: info@vvgmc.org,

Send your articles in by the 23rd of
Each month! jakelsdg@verizon.net

INSTRUCTORS:

Janet Fletcher Mary Lou Fletcher Dwayna Barron Chris Koch Stina Smith

Mark Lantz Dave Duncan Lia Hamilton Gayland Graves Beka McNeil Lorie Cunningham

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Algot Stephenson. Ann Musik



Welcome all club members to JULY 2024 Our **potluck luncheon** for July 20, 2024 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 will be 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 may start. News: Fossils with George Ast, Education Night, Parking Lot Paving, & more.

JULY BIRTHSTONE:

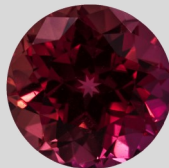
Ruby, the king of precious gems, is the birthstone for fortunate folks born in July. Whether you're showing your love for someone born in July, or celebrating a 15th or 40th wedding anniversary, there's no better gift than ruby gemstone jewelry

The ruby gets its red coloring from the presence of the trace element chromium. As a variety of the mineral corundum, rubies range in color from a deep, rich cochineal to a lighter rose red. When exposed to sunlight, the UV rays make the chromium glow!

Ruby gemstones may also have a shade of orange, pink, or purple. The most valued ruby color is "pigeon-blood red"—a bright red stone with a tint of purple. The depth of the red color depends on the amount of chromium present in stone.

Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, colored by the element chromium. All other colors of gem-quality corundum are called sapphire, which means color is key for this royal stone. Accordingly, the name "ruby" comes from Rubeus.

Rubies are believed to offer a range of benefits that extend beyond their stunning beauty. These red stunners are known as stones of passionate love. Rubies are also believed to be energy boosters, reviving your spirit and promoting overall well-being. So, if you're feeling a little low, ruby might just be your secret weapon to add some bling to your step.



JULY BIRTHDAYS CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

RUFINA LOWERY
SCOTT GRAY
MARIAH JAIMEZ
ALLISON MASON
GISELLE AMAYA
JOE CORDARO
THERESA SIMMONS



ROCK STAR BIRTHDAY; JULY 4, 1776 HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Fourth of July holiday in America marks the day in 1776 when the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence. This document proclaimed the official separation of the 13 original colonies from Great Britain.

Since that day, July 4, 1776 has been considered America's "birthday," making Independence Day 2024, America's 248th birthday.





Here are some definitions to help with future discussions: **By Ken Villars.**

Core or Workpiece: This is the rock we are knocking flakes or spalls off. The big donor rock for your useful smaller pieces of rock. If things go really well, this may end up by being a big tool or blade.

Direct Percussion: Hitting the Core or Workpiece directly with the tool. The tool in this case is called the



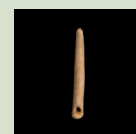
Percussor, billet, hammer stone (if stone) or even a bopper; and it can be rock, bone, antler, wood, or copper. Match the size of the billet to the spall or flake intended. For larger flakes and spalls, larger percussors are necessary. For this reason, it is common to have a variety of sizes of Direct percussion tools in each of the materials used (i.e. several sizes of antler billets, several sizes of hammer stones, several sizes of copper boppers).



KEN & BARBARA

Indirect Percussion: The tool is placed against the Workpiece and then struck with a billet (could be a percussor or a billet of antler or wood or even plastic). This gives a great deal of precision compared to Direct Percussion, especially for beginners. It can still be very powerful, depending on the size of the Indirect Punch used, along with the size of the billet and speed of the strike. If compared to wood working, Direct Percussion would be an axe or chainsaw, and Indirect Percussion would be a bandsaw or drawknife.

Pressure Flaking: One of the most precise ways of taking a flake. A Hand Flaker (about 6" long) or Ishi Stick (about 18"-20" long) is used to push off a flake with tool tip of antler or copper. Even weaker individuals (my children included) can take off a good flake, using proper form to maximize their efforts. The extra length of the Ishi stick allows more of the body to be involved in pressing off a flake. Hand protection is required to avoid flakes or tools injuring the hand holding the work piece. If we think about wood working, pressure flaking would be comparable to a spokeshave or scraper.



EDUCATION NIGHT WITH LIA HAMILTON AND SPECIAL GUEST GEORGE AST

I'll be doing a presentation on fossils at the clubs 7/9 educational meeting.

I've been collecting fossils in the west since 1970 and I'm a 35 year retired teacher for the public schools (Special Ed.) and Cal State system. When I retired in 2006 I began doing fossil and mineral shows in Arizona, Colorado and California. This keeps me busy and allows me to visit with geologically minded friends which I enjoy. Looking forward to our visit. ☺ George Ast



Rocks, Minerals and Today, we Discover the Enchantment of Septarian: Nature's Ancient Marvel. By Cristiane Stoll.

Greetings, gem enthusiasts! This month, we're diving into the fascinating world of septarian nodules. Known for their unique patterns and rich history, septarian stones are more than just eye-catching decor—they're windows into the Earth's ancient past.

What is Septarian?

Septarian is a geological wonder formed over 50 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. These striking stones, also known as "dragon stones," are a type of concretion, a rock in which a mineral cement binds together other rocks and minerals. The name "septarian" comes from the Latin word "septum," meaning partition, referencing the distinctive cracks and separations found within these stones.

The Formation Story:

Imagine a time when the Earth was a vastly different place, teeming with prehistoric life. During this era, volcanic activity was common, and marine life thrived. Septarian nodules began their journey as mud balls at the bottom of ancient seas. Over millions of years, these mud balls dried and cracked. Groundwater, rich in minerals like calcite, aragonite, and barite, seeped into these cracks, creating the intricate, stunning patterns we see today.



Septarian's unique appearance makes it a standout piece in any collection. Many artisans also fashion septarian into stunning jewelry, sculptures, and decorative items, allowing you to carry a piece of ancient Earth with you or display it proudly in your home.

Fun Fact: The Dragon Connection:

The term "dragon stone" isn't just a fanciful nickname. Some cultures believed that septarian stones were remnants of dragons' eggs or scales, petrified over millennia. This lore adds an extra layer of mystique to these already fascinating stones, making them perfect for sparking the imagination.

In my opinion, Septarian is a blend of ancient history, natural artistry, and a journey through time. Explore its magic today and add a touch of ancient wonder to your life! *With warm regards: Cristiane*



If you've been by the shop lately, you may have seen me working on my new passion: Using my slabs to create colorful drawer pulls.

This actually started about 10 years ago when I bought a quantity of blank drawer pulls with a place for a round Cab. Well, I made one, and discovered that making a round shape is very unforgiving, and generally, no fun! I lost interest and left the pulls in a box somewhere.

But when I went to the Lancaster show, a while back, I found a set of core drills that came close to fitting those settings I have kept for over a decade. Using these core drills I have been able to cut out perfectly round. Then it's just a matter of trimming them down and doming.

Only problem, I wear out the core bit after 6 or so uses. So I am trying different brands and searching for a sintered version that will keep on working.

If you see me at the shop, please feel free to ask me and look at my latest work.

Thank you, Dave Duncan. President





Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Invites kids and their parent to join us as we present The Junior Rockhound Program 2024 Part 2

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;

July 13 th	Rocks & Minerals	July 27 th	Rocks & Minerals & Collections
August 10 th	Earth in Space	August 24 th	Gemstones Lore & Legend
September 14 th	Stone Age Tools & Art	September 28 th	Fossils
October 12 th	Earth Resources	October 26 th	Earth Processes – Field Trip
November 9 th	Fluorescent Minerals	November 23 rd	Collections & Communication
December 14 th	Communication - Presentations	December 28 th	No Meeting

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

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

15056 – B 7th Street

Victorville, CA 92395

760-243-2330

If you are interested, contact:

Mark Lantz



WGMC ROCKHOUND'S SIZZLING SUMMER SALES IN JUNE

The Villars family, went to Diamond Pacific for their \$2.00 sale of rocks, about 15 others were there to hunt for treasures. Later they went to the Two Sisters Rock Yard and found lots of pieces including some knapping material for Ken and some coprolite for his son Jack. Barbara and Darla, picked. All had a fun time.

COME SET THE CAGED ROCKS FREE!

The residence and workshop of Didi & Scott Naples was the locality of this close and easy to "buy" collecting trip. Situated in Southeastern Apple Valley at 9179 Bowen Ranch Road, unpaved but well maintained. We entered through a cute little rock shop stacked with finished products from their work benches, including slabs, spheres, trivets and some pieces of jewelry for sale. Entry to the workshop is from the rock sales area. One will be quickly impressed by the clean and comprehensive shop, with several sizes of saws, some cabbing equipment and sphere making machines as well as other lapidary equipment.

The yard area, a couple of acres, has several hundred "wire cages" of rocks. These are cylinders of hardware cloth, open at the top and bottom, filled with rocks. Arranged in rows, they are organized according to price. \$3.00 to \$5:00 per pound. The choices are vast. There's jasper, agate, opal and more.

Didi & Scott are welcoming and generous, you will enjoy your visit. Go set some rocks free! *By John Alcorn.*

DIDI & SCOTT NAPLES "LET'S GET STONED" LAPIDARY PRODUCTS.

- SHOWROOM
- FIELD OF ROCKS
- WORKSHOP
- PH: 909.938.4870



PHOTO BY
JOHN ALCORN

NEW MEMBER'S 1st CABACHON VICTORIA MORALES



PHOTO BY
JOHN ALCORN

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 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 minerology and Lapidary Arts.

SHOP DAY: TUES JULY 9, 16, 23, 2024
12:00pm - 5:00 pm

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, JULY 2, 2024, 3pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: JULY 2, 2024 4:30pm
TIL FINISHED.

EDUCATION NIGHT: JULY 9, 2025 6:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING: - JULY 20, 2024. 12:00 - 2:00 pm,
followed by our tradition door prizes, and more. Shop
work resumes APPROXIMATELY 2:00 -5:00 pm.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: JULY 13, JULY 27, 2024 - 9:00
AM TO 11:45 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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Articles and pictures are due by the 23rd for each month. Please contribute when you can!

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