



# THE BULLETIN

## 48th ANNUAL TAILGATE SHOW, MARCH 2024

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

- ELIZABETH MITCHELL**
- ANDREAUS MARTIN**
- DWENNIS MONTILEPRE**
- EMILIO VASQUEZ**
- GARY ROTH**
- MARIE CALVO-ROTH**
- KIMBERLY KELLY**
- TINA PAREDES**

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 UP WITH OLD FRIENDS, MAYBE HAVE FEW LAUGHS AND ALWAYS SOME GOOD EATING'S.

# TAILGATE!!

March is here and it's time for our club's big event of the year, the desert Tailgate.

The tailgate is a club tradition for almost half a century. People from all over the southwest look forward to joining us every year for this unique event. The tailgate is still free for vendors and attendees.

But it takes a lot of effort on behalf of our club. Mark Lantz has been working on this for most of the year! And now we need your help.

We will be bringing out everything we need Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, please meet us at the clubhouse at 9AM.

During the event we will need volunteers to man our various tables. These include, Club Sales, Club info and membership, Pick your Prize, and kids table (spin the wheel).

And then, Sunday evening we need to bring everything back to the club.

Also, the club is seeking donations of individually wrapped store bought pastries or snacks that we can sell during the event.

So, a lot of work ahead for us in the next 10 days. Please help us where you can. We have a club we can all be proud of. People are joining us from all over SoCal for our Field trips (Thanks Wagonmaster Scott! Gray) and our welcoming attitude.

Thanks for all you do to make our club great!

Dave Duncan, President



*FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY*

**Super Rock Sunday! By Scott Gray Wagon master.**

Sunday February 11, 2024 was the day of the club's field trip to the Early Man Site for agate, jasper, and elusive petrified palm root and palm root fiber the area is known for.



Meeting up at Eddie's World; itself a destination for all things fuel, treats, snacks; our large group of rock-hounds signed in and gathered around a couple containers of assorted goodies I found on the pre-site visit. Small colorful samples of agate, jasper and palm root were passed around and admired, and also so attendee's could become acquainted with what could be found at the location. A few minutes later we rolled out in a 17 car strong caravan of excited rock hounds.



SCOTT GRAY

The Early Man Site has quite a history; prior to the archaeological dig it was mined for bentonite, a whitish clay used primarily as a drilling mud in the oil and natural gas mining industry for lubrication and cooling purposes for the big drills. There is a lot of information online about the area and it's a rewarding read. It's also an easily reached site with a mostly maintained road and a couple short sandy spots. Early Man is a vast area and this section has seen little recent rockhound activity as it was off limits for collecting for many years and was behind a locked gate until BLM cleaned it up and reopened it for the general public. After parking everyone fanned out in different directions; some to the washes to the south, some to the small hills to the east, and others along the ridge to the north. While there is literally tons of material here, much of it being a bland brown color, with a keen eye and patient searching more



colorful and high quality pieces can be obtained. The hillsides, with fresh cuts and still muddy from the recent rains tended to be the best producers. Everyone turned up with rocks they liked; red/orange swirled jaspers, green/yellow jaspers, and brecciated type pieces. One attendee found a nice piece of common opal; our prize was a nearly basketball sized piece of top quality palm root filled with eyes and rootlets found by Sasha Gray. Truly one heck of a bragging rock!



Around 2 pm we called it quits at the Early Man and about 10 of the attendees made part 2 of the days trip: a visit to The Two Sisters rock yard! Diane and Lesley graciously opened up their yard for field trippers to peruse their huge assortment of cuttable material, all for the bargain price of a dollar a pound! Sasha and I purchased a huge piece of petrified wood, some small but showy moss agates, and neat piece of green palm root. Others purchased quality cutting materials to their liking; there is something for everyone here with a little searching.

Overall a very successful trip on a Super Bowl Sunday with several new members, and guests from Los Angeles, Long Beach, Taft, and even Las Vegas! A lot of fun was had by all! A special thank you to Dave Duncan for setting up The Sisters trip and also to Anne Musick and her son Simon for helping me run the caravan. Thanks you guys! *Big thanks to Scott for killer field trips!* JB

## FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT, BY SCOTT GRAY

**Stoddard Wells, Tailgate Show by Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club. Field Trip on Saturday, March 9th** will be the club field trip to the Tri-Color Marble Quarry for the brecciated dolomitic limestone and marble the location is well known for. This is an easy to work material that is readily available in large pieces and quantities at the location. This trip is in conjunction with the VVGM Tailgate. Meet up will be on Stoddard Wells Rd immediately east of the entrance to the Tailgate parking area and there will be a large sign in place to designate the meet-up area. Bring a bucket, spray bottle, rock hammer and, if you want to break pieces off boulders, a sledge and chisels. While being a somewhat soft material it is surprisingly difficult to break the boulders apart. Smaller pieces are readily available so the heavy equipment isn't necessary for most collectors. **THIS IS A 4WD TRIP ONLY.** The road is a tough one. If you don't have 4wd arrive early and you should be able to hitch a ride with someone who does have 4WD. See ya there!

Note that this is also the site for Antique Verde Marble: Here's a short write up that explains how popular it was around the turn of the century, 1900's.

It was the 1890s when the management of the old Palace Hotel in San Francisco was seeking the most attractive marble that could be found to redecorate the interior of the palatial hostelry, among the stone selected was a handsome sulphur yellow and lime green marble veined in chocolate and cream—from the Verde Antique quarry 17 miles northeast of Victorville, on California's Mojave Desert. The old quarry, located on the treeless highlands which slope down to the Mojave River, is no longer being worked commercially, but it remains a popular hunting ground for rockhounds in quest of attractive cutting stone. The quarry's name was derived from the ancients' term for dark green marble veined in black—Verde Antique. The Italian marble's hue is much deeper than the marble found on the California desert.

*The stone selected was a handsome sulphur yellow and lime green marble veined in chocolate and cream. Image to right. Sample from Land-Sea Discovery Group.*



# California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

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

**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. **Contact Website:** <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

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

**Phone:** (760) 243-2330 and leave a message. Email: 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



**March 29, 2024 - March 31, 2024 Annual Pearblossom Gem & Mineral Show. Hours are 9am to 5pm daily. Venue is the Outpost. Address: 34141 116th Street East, Pearblossom, Ca. 93553. <http://facebook.com138outpost>.**



Images from the 2023 the Stoddard Wells, Tailgate Show. Our 48th year doing this great outdoor event. Check the schedule .



**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 MARCH 2024** Our **potluck luncheon** for March 16, 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 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 It is a known fact that a huge range of people all over the world believe in the birthstones and what these stones have to tell about the personality of an individual.



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**  
**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR**  
**SEPCIAL DAY**

- KAREEM JACOBS
- MARY LOU FLECHER
- JANET FLECHER
- MIA KOWASLKI
- HAYLEE JAIMEZ
- VICTOR AUBERRY
- GAYLAND GRAVES
- QUINN MASON
- JACK HORN
- VERONICA PODGORSKI
- SHIELA PARKER
- TINA BREEDLOVE



For the lucky individuals born in March, **Aquamarine** birthstone is associated with this early spring month. If you happen to be one such individual, then you have landed on the right page.

The name Aquamarine speaks for itself, meaning seawater. Aquamarine immediately brings to mind its stunning pastel sky blue or the bright color of the sea.

For centuries, this timeless gemstone has been a symbol of youth, hope, health and fidelity. Since this gemstone is the color of water and the sky, it is said to embody eternal life. It was long thought that Aquamarine has a soothing influence on married couples, making it a good anniversary gift.

Aquamarines are found in a range of blues; from a pale pastel to a greenish-blue to a deep color. Darker shades of blue are increasingly rare and in turn, make the value increase. Aquamarine is frequently a pastel gemstone but the color can be more intense in larger

gemstones, smaller aquamarines tend to be less vivid.



## ELMERS BOTTLE TREE RANCH, by Jake Brouwer

So, you're out on the in the lower Mojave Desert. Hesperia, Victorville, and Apple Valley is where you live, shop and go out for a nice dinner. But, you really would like to explore and see something different. Well, I've got the place for you for a nice 1/4 day jaunt. Weird, quirky and innovative thoughts come to mind, from the time you park out front, to clearing the entrance gates and walk inside. Elmers Bottle Tree Ranch is the place and wonderment is the attraction.

Susan and I have traveled this road many times, visiting Oro Grande on the National Trails Highway. West of Victorville, route 66, seeing amazingly large cement plants, crosses on the roadside that memorialize the unnamed victims of unnecessary speed on the twisty Route 66 and many more signs of economic failures, delapidated buildings, then some nice revitalized antique stores with an amazing array of treasures within on the southern side of the road. From there, Lots of empty land, small homesteads and finally off to the left, a glimmer of one mans quest and dream, to build something, in the beginning, simply a place to keep his massive bottle collection.

His name is Elmer Long. Son of Elmer Long Sr. Growing up with his dad, they went hunting in the desert for treasures, and find them they did. Old mining camp dumps were quite numerous in those days of the 1950's. When they found their first bottles, it started a 30 year collection, which Elmer Junior inherited and brought to Oro Grande on the Mother Road.

Elmer unlike his dad, Elmer wanted to do something with the 1000's of bottles they had collected. Dad just collected and let things sit, but a younger Elmer had to be creative with them somehow. Starting by hanging a bottle from a wood post and continuing on until he soon realized he needed more and went out searching the old camps again. His Dad had save the maps of places they hunted over the year to find more.

In 2000 he started building his "bottle tree ranch." It has grown to be 2 acres, and 200 bottle trees. Elmer died in 2019 at the age of only 73 years. But he had created his vision and now people from all over the world stop in to see this curiosity at 242 National Trails Highway, past Oro Grande, CA.

It is free to enter and open sunrise to sunset. Gate in front is usually open and worth the time to drop in . Elmer's family has taken over the ranch, and have a wishing well on site near the back for donations.

It you love road side attractions, with rust, bottles of all colors, old road signs, whimsical treasures like typewriters, old rifles, weather vanes, a jeep, steering wheels, license plates, and more you'll fall in love with this place and end up stopping every time you're in the area.



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

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*

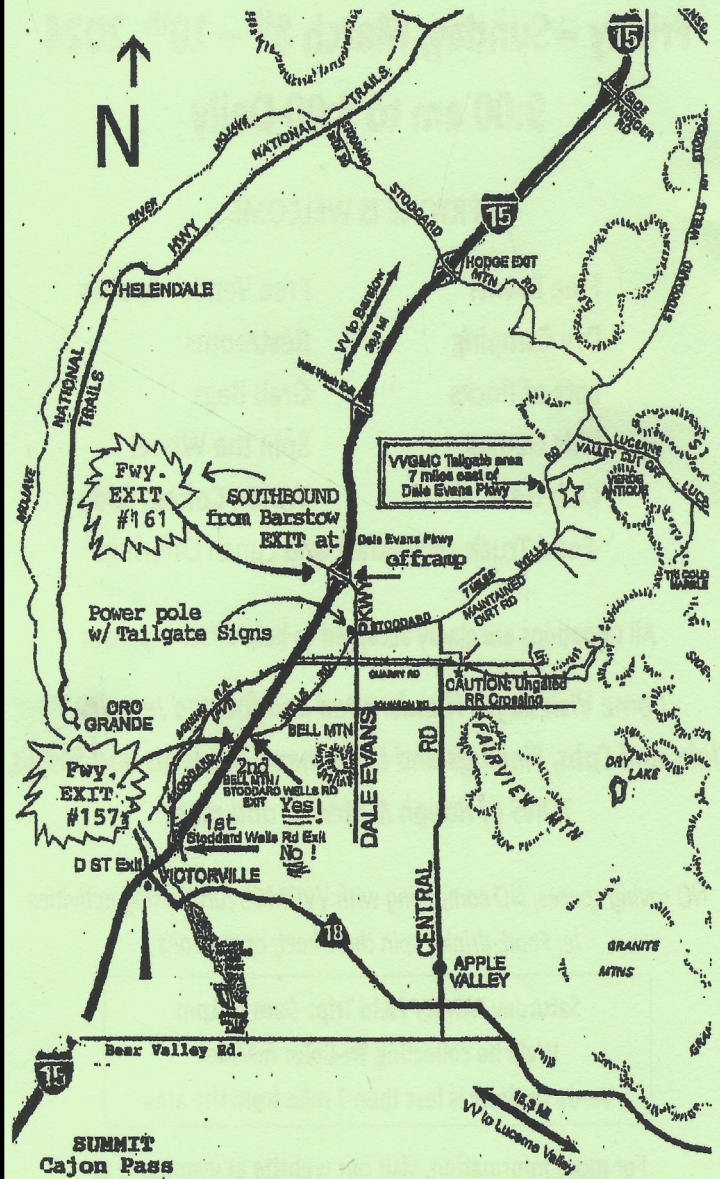
*NO saving spaces, NO competing with VVGMC's fundraising activities ie: Food, drinks, spin the wheel, or auctions*

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***

## Our Junior Rockhounds Earned Badges!

Over the Summer and into the Fall, 9 Jr Rockhounds came to the club at 9:00 on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. They learned about Earth Science and Geology. The program is designed by the American Society of Mineral Societies and is taught by Mark Lantz. Each week there is a different unit that is presented to kids ages 8 – 17. Once the Juniors understand a topic, they earned a badge.

Parents also can help their kids with each concept or project. Mark Lantz taught the parents as well as their children although the instruction is aimed at a student level. The following Junior Rockhounds earned these badges in 2023.

**Vivian Trozera, Johnny Williams, Morgan Williams, and Bryan Swanson** earned badges for **Rock & Minerals**, **Earth Resources**, **Earth Processes** and **Collecting**. **Mason Parker, Chat Campbell, and Amarissa Shively** earned the **Rocks and Minerals** Badge. **Abraham Valenzuela and Elias Valenzuela** earned the **Earth Resources** Badge. ***Congratulations to all for your good work!!***



If any Jr. Rockhound is reading this and sees your name but has not picked up your Badge, come to the club on the Second or Fourth Saturday to pick up your badges. Below you will find a list and dates of the classes for the next four months.

- March 9th - Club Tailgate
- March 23rd - Lapidary arts Part 1
- April 13th - No meeting
- April 27th - Lapidary Arts - Part 2
- May 11th - Communication in rock hounding
- May 25th - Maps
- June 8th - Field Trip
- June 22nd Rocks and Minerals.



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 MARCH 12, 19, 26,2024  
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, MARCH 5, 2024, 3pm**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: TUES MARCH 5, 2024  
4:30pm TIL FINISHED.**  
**EDUCATION NIGHT: TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
**GENERAL MEETING: - MARCH 16, 2024. 12:00 - 2:00  
pm, followed by our tradition door prizes, and more.**  
**Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm.**  
**JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: MAR 9 TAILGATE, MAR 23TH,  
2024 9am - 11:45am**

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

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