

THE BULLETIN

JANUARY 2025

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January 2025 President's Message

Happy New Year to all our members and friends.

First, I would like to thank outgoing officers, Mark Lantz and Janalee Arnold. Both are moving out of state and we wish them the best of luck in their new adventures.

Otherwise, It's been a good year for our rock club:

We found a new tenant for our rental building. The cages fixed up the building and have been giving us income since last July. This is allowing us to operate on a balance budget.

Membership is strong. At the end of the year we had about 193 members. Folks come from all over southern CA to be members of our great club, often passing rock clubs much closer to their homes. We can all be proud of our club and its good reputation.

We now have younger people in key leadership positions. Kareem Jacobs as VP of membership, Ody Oriva Tailgate chairman and Yaya Avila in charge of the Juniors program. Please make sure to let them know how much we appreciate their contributions.

We have been able to offer members a variety of interesting activities for all ages. These include, a great Juniors program, field trips, education nights, demos, workshops and metalsmithing certification.

What activities would you be interested in seeing in 2025? A wise person once said, "If you don't tell people what you want, you are unlikely to get it".

Reminder, if you haven't done so already, please pay your dues as soon as you can.

Finally, the club needs your donations of time and money. If you are unable to help around the clubhouse, please consider donating cash. Although we have a balanced budget (for now), we need to build back our "rainy day" funds.

Thanks to all, Dave.



Dave Duncan

Welcome New Members!

Lets give a hearty welcome to our new members! Thanks for joining us!

Ray Castellaw

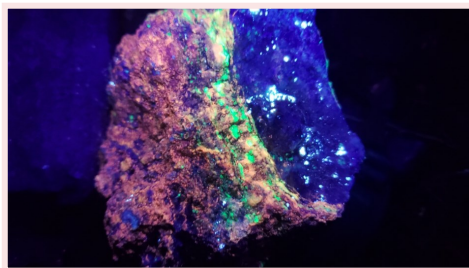
Suzanne Britain

Dian Hare

Alison Rege



The Princess Pat Mine



Scott Gray Wagon Master

Glowing Results: A Nighttime Field Trip For Fluorescents!

For the month of December VVG&M held a field trip to the Princess Pat mine for fluorescent minerals scheelite, calcite, quartz, and wollastonite. Meeting up on the the 14th at the clubhouse (after a busy day there of cutting rocks for myself while others were working on various projects) attending members headed out for the site at about 4pm. With 14 members in tow and several vehicles this was a better turnout than we had on last years trip here. Arriving at the location at dusk everyone bundled up to stay warm and we made the 10 minute walk up to a quarry like area and waited for darkness to settle in and see what we could find. This place is loaded with fluorescent specimens, the scheelite being my personal favorite. The short wave lamps made the rounds so everyone had a turn to use one and find pieces they liked. Several stones were found that glowed orange (calcite), green (irradiated quartz), and a bright whitish blue (the scheelite) all in the same piece! As usual the red glowing wollastonite was the toughest to locate but a few nice ones were found, including one by me! Did I say it was cold? It was, and was the only downside to this trip. Late arrival Danny Sweeney from the Yucaipa showed up and made everyone jealous with his small and mighty shortwave flashlight, the highlight of the night for me, I really gotta upgrade to one of these for the next trip! We slowly made our way back to the parking area, checking rock piles, quarry walls, and even a fire pit made of fluorescent stuff.

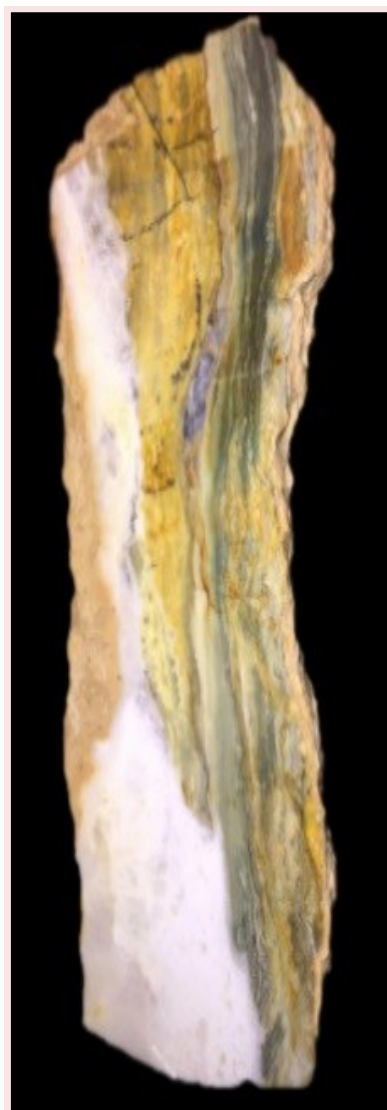
While being a shorter (and colder!) trip those attending seemed to have a blast. New member Daniel Perez found some nice pieces on his very first field trip; Danny Sweeney and I located a huge glowing boulder that was to big to do anything but admire, I'm sure it will stay there as you would need a mule to pull it out of the ground and get it down the hill. Thanks to all who showed up and made this trip a success. A special thank you to Jake Brower for bringing this location to my attention last year and helping explore it and to Justin Zzyzx (from the Barstow Book!) and his in-depth article on WhereToFindRocks.com that explained the formation of the occurrence and the strange mining history of the Princess Pat. I couldn't have led the trip without you two! Even though you guys weren't physically there you were there in spirit! A thank you also goes out to Dave Duncan for helping run the trip and giving several members rides to and from the site. Thanks one and all!

Hey rockhounds!

The January VVG&M field trip will be to 3 sites in the Kramer Hills, including 1 that is not in the books. Collectibles to be found include agate, jasper, palm bog, and maybe some decent opalite and moss agate with a little luck. This will be towards the end of January after the Quartzsite Pow Wow. High clearance vehicle required and bring spray bottles and digging equipment for the old Key Kay Claim site if you want to dig; there is plenty of material to be found in float as well. This is a great location to get pieces for your tumbler too! Watch for the upcoming email with updated trip info including the date and meet up location; we want to make sure we have cooperative weather out there as these roads are slick if they get too wet.



Above and Below: Kramer Hills Agate.
Right: Kramer Hills Petrified Wood.



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The New Board of Directors for 2025

VVGMC Board of Directors 2025

The Board of Directors for the 2025 year have been elected and sworn in.

We get to have Dave Duncan as our President. Serving in the roles of vice President will be: Kareem Jacobs, Lia Hamilton and Ody Oriva. Kareem will focus on the recruitment of new members. Lia will supervise our educational opportunities. While Ody has the job of bringing the Tailgate to life again this year. Corresponding Secretary will again be Jake Brouwer. John Alcorn will be the editor of the Bulletin and recording secretary. Sharing the responsibilities of Treasurer and bookkeeper will be Ann Musick and Regina Walker. Additional board members are; for the two year term, Lorie Cunningham and Pam Trozera. Serving in the one year positions are Corey Beck, Sara Arnold and Beka McNeil.

Committee Chairs are as follows, CFMS representative is Ody Oriva. Our juniors program will be headed by Yaya. Scott Gray will serve as wagonmaster and is in charge of field trips. Stine Smith is our facebook coordinator. Lia Hamilton will take care of our library. Our webmaster is Jim Fosse/

VVGMC Instructors are: Janet Flecher, Chris Koch, Stine Smith, Dave Duncan, Lia Hamilton, Gayland Graves, Beka McNeil and, Lorie Cunningham.

VVGMC associate Instructors are Ann Mucisk, Algot Stevenson and, Ody Oriva.

Thank you to all those who choose these responsibilities, we welcome your leadership!

Officers, Department Chairpersons & Instructors

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

Vice President / Membership. / email: Kareem Jacobs vp@vvgmc.org

2nd Vice President: Education. Lia Hamilton

3rd Vice President: Tailgate Chairman, Ody Oriva

Recording Secretary & Bulletin Editor/John Alcorn email: john.alcorn42@outlook.com

Treasurer / Ann Musick

Corresponding Secretary / Jake Brouwer

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

Board Member / Sara Arnold, Past President

Board Member / One year term Corey Beck/Beka McNeil

Maintenance / Temporarily unavailable.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

CFMS representative / Ody Oriva

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Lia Hamilton

Facebook Editor / Stina Smith / stinesmith2@gmail.com

Webmaster / Tech / Jim Fosse / webmaster@vvgmc.org

INSTRUCTORS:

Janet Fletcher Chris Koch Stine Smith Dave Duncan

Lia Hamilton Gayland Graves Beka McNeil Lorie Cunningham

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Algot Stephenson, Ann Musik, Ody Oriva

VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Invites you to the

49th Annual

Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Victorville, California

Friday – Sunday, March 7th – 9th, 2025

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*

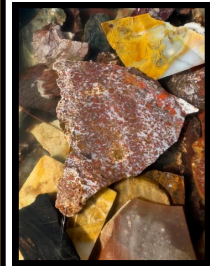
Saturday FAMILY Field Trip: 9am to 1pm

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 or
call 760-243-2330 and leave a message**

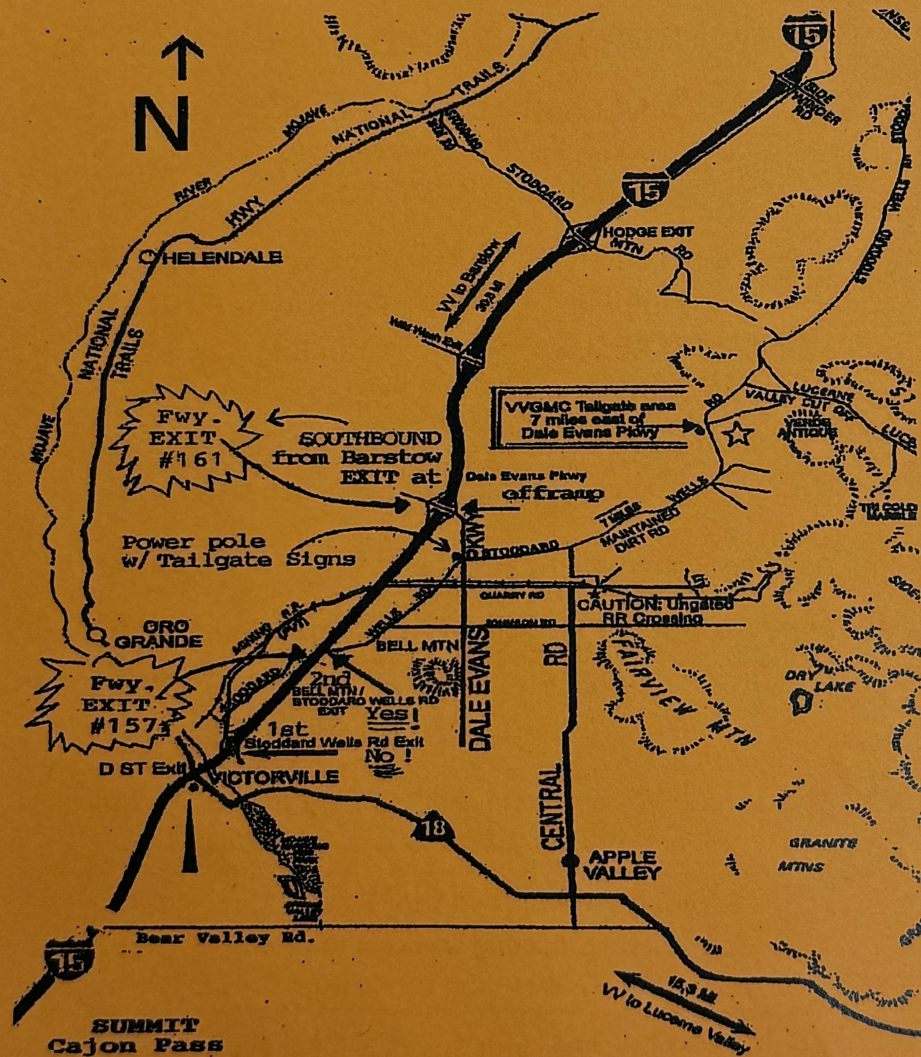
From last year's
event



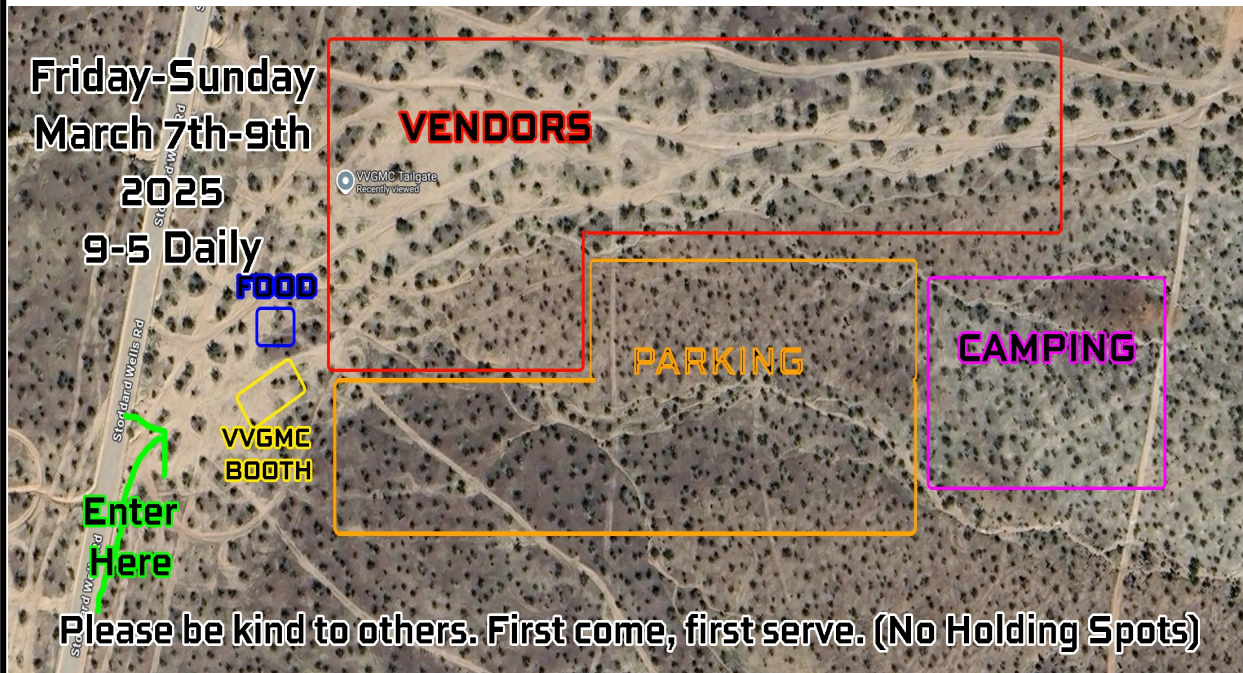


Directions: From I—15 Northbound towards Barstow : Hwy 15 North THRU Victorville EXIT Rt. At 2nd Stoddard Wells Rd at BELL Mtn. EXIT # 157. Turn Left/East at Ramp STOP Sign. STAY On Stoddard Wells Road 4 mi. until next STOP sign at Dale Evans Pkwy. "Tailgate" signs high on NW corner power pole. Check 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!



The satellite view of the Tailgate Location.



The Tailgate has undergone a few changes this year. Ody Oriva, who is in charge of the event this year, has instituted some ideas he had about how to make this year an even better sale than before.

First, the information booth has been moved to the front, closer to Stoddard Wells road, as well as the food provider. The vendor area is reserved for vendors only. They may camp right where they are set up. For non-vendors there is a camping area for those who wish to spend the night. Parking is going to be South of the sales area.

Early set ups are fine but do be considerate of your fellow rockhounds. There is no "holding" of spots. First come, first served.

Ody has been working hard to improve this event and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his efforts.



Photos From around the club!



Kelly, Jack and Darla
decorate the tree



Jake Brouwer



A delightful trio of pendants created by
Dian Hare in her silver lessons. Nice work!



Janet at a recent
club sale



Lorie at a recent sale.



Rockhound of
the Year! Scott
Gray!



Steve and Regina collaborate about
their upcoming trip to the Quartzite
Pow Wow.



Yaya Avila



Kareem and Son

2025–Rock and Mineral Shows

January 18-19, 2025 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society

Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 246 Chestnut St., Exeter, CA 93211

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

Tule Gem & Mineral Society Gemboree

Contact: bandgbing@aol.com

Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

February 15-16, 2025 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club

Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA 94509

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

Antioch Lapidary Club Jewelry, Gem & Rock Show. Admission \$7, Admission is Cash Only. All vendors take credit/debit cards.

Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

March 1-2, 2025 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem and Mineral Society

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93003

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

62nd Annual VGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Kids' activities; jewelry-making demos; exhibits; raffle prizes, hourly silent auctions; dealers in fossils, mineral, lapidary materials; gold panning, Second-Hand Treasures Store of gently used items, books, and plants.

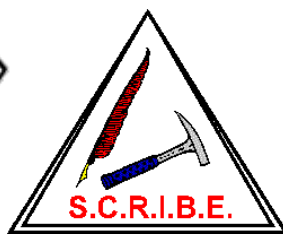
Free admission but the Fairgrounds charges parking if using the Fairgrounds lot.

Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org

Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

The Quartzite Shows are going on during January.

The Tucson Shows are going on during February.



The Gem, Mineral and, Fossil Shows in Tucson

Known as the largest Gem, Mineral and, Fossil shows, there are 43 of them this year, in the world, are set to begin in February, 2025. The city hosts shows in various locations and hotels. Many are specifically themed, for example, gems only or just fossils.

According to our friend and fellow member, George Ast, "the best way to navigate the shows is to pickup a free show guide, available at any of the venues." AAPS (The Association of Paleontological Suppliers) provides a guide he finds useful. It gives information on the show times and a listing of dealers and their locations and wares.

In Tucson you are able to visit with worldwide dealers and their very high quality gems, minerals and, fossils. "It's a bit like being in a museum and actually getting to touch and even purchase these amazing treasures," says George. Going to the Shows in Tucson is for many, a once in a lifetime, trip that can be both entertaining and educational. If you are looking for like-minded, geologically interesting people, this is the place you will find them.

Try to go at least once in your life. You won't regret it.

Thanks to George Ast for his input for this article.



Shine Bright in the New Year: Volunteer, Network, and Learn with Us!

Hey there, gem enthusiasts!

Isn't it exciting? A brand-new year is ahead of us, and it's the perfect time to dive into our passion for gemstones. Whether you've been collecting for years, are just starting out, or even if you're crafting beautiful jewelry, our gem society has so much in store for you this year!

Have you thought about volunteering? It's a fantastic way to share your love for gemstones with others. Imagine helping out in our gem classes—whether you're organizing workshops or mentoring newcomers, your contributions can really make a difference. Plus, it's a rewarding experience that enriches not just your life but the lives of those you inspire.

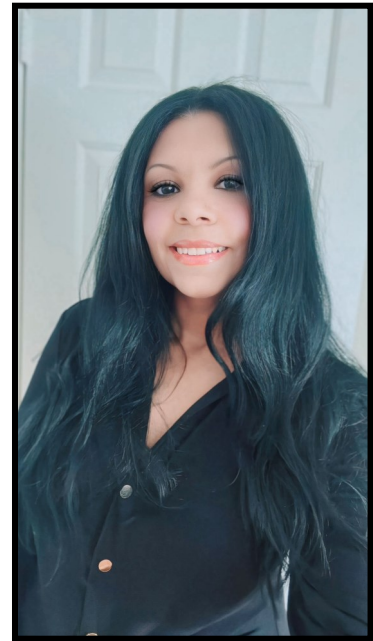
And speaking of connections, our events are a goldmine for networking! Picture this: you walk into a room filled with fellow gem lovers, all eager to share ideas and tips. There are endless chances to meet like-minded folks and maybe even forge some lasting friendships.

But wait, there's more! Each gem has a story, and so do we. At our events, you can share your knowledge, learn from others, and explore new techniques. Whether you're keen on mastering faceting or curious about the history of rare gems, there's always something fresh to discover.

So, consider this your official invitation to shine bright this year! By volunteering, networking, and sharing your expertise, you'll deepen your love for gemstones and help cultivate a vibrant community. Let's make 2025 a year filled with growth and meaningful connections!

Let's inspire each other and keep shining brightly together.

Here's to a year bursting with exciting adventures and sparkling connections! What do you think? Ready to join us?



Cristiane Stoll

Cristiane Stoll

Rock Stars birthdays in January

Steven Stills.....Crosby, Stills, Nash and, Young

David Bowie

Michael Stipe.....REM

Elvis Presley

Jimmy Page.....Led Zeppelin

Susana Hoffs..... The Bangles

Dave Grohl.....Foo Fighters

VVGMC Birthdays for the month of January

Beka McNeil, Kevin Parish, Louise Acherson, Algot Stevenson, Sue Sutton, Dottie Kaufman, Adrianna Senra,
Aaron Lucht, Rurh Gaede, Barbara Villars, Richard Franco, Doc Hanson, Sue Spinks and Judy Einboden.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL AND MAY YOU ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

Birth stones for the month of January

The gemstone assigned to January is garnet. This will displease many as most people believe garnets to be rather dull, dark red gems of little value and beauty. In reality, the garnet family is vast and diverse and garnets come in nearly all colours except a true blue. There exceptionally rare garnets that display colour change from teal green to reddish purple and others that display asterism (a mostly four-rayed star) or chatoyancy (a cats-eye effect).

Garnets were believed to protect warriors in battle and protect against wounds in both Native American Indian cultures and during the Mediaeval period in Europe. However, if garnets just don't appeal, other birthstones that represent January are rose quartz, emerald (according to Tibetan astrology).



Top and Right, Garnet



Left: Emerald

Right: Rose
Quartz



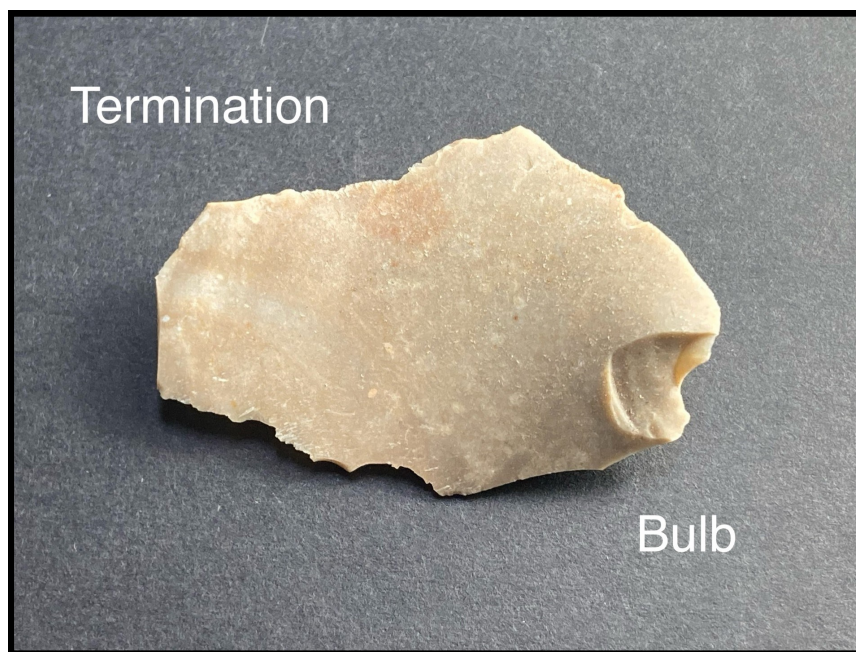
Knappers Corner

This month I will continue talking about flakes, and this will be mostly photos, as I am typing on my phone. Typically, a flake will be thicker on the end that contacts the tool, tapering down to a thin, sharp edge. The thick end often has part of the platform still attached, some damage from the impact or tear initiating, and a characteristic swelling shape. This is called the Bulb of Percussion (pressure flakes have similar characteristics).

The thin end is the flake Termination.

Only flakes that cross more than half the width of the piece will thin the piece, and these are termed "thinning flakes". Flakes that don't go at least halfway across the piece merely reduce width. It is preferable to trade a loss of width for increased thinness.

Next month I hope to discuss how to promote longer flakes, and in the new year I hope to take you with me on my personal journey as I begin to learn a rigorous but potentially beautiful technique - FOG knapping.



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.

JANUARY SHOP DAYS:

Tues January, 7, 14, 21, 28.....12:00pm - 5:00 pm

SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 12:00pm- 5:00

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: First Monday 10:00 AM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: First Monday, Noon

EDUCATION NIGHT: Will begin again in January

GENERAL MEETING: - January 18 2025. 12:00 - 2:00

Shop work resumes APPROXIMATELY 2:00 -5:00 pm.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: Will begin again in January

THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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