VVGMC June 2025

The Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club The Bulletin for June 2025

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President's message for June



Greetings to all members and friends.

Summer is almost here, and it's getting a bit to hot for most

Dave Dunca of us to go rockhounding.

So, come to the shop. Work on your new finds and visit with some friends. And please remember our new hours: Noon to 4PM Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

This month I would like to recognize Gayland Graves and all that he does for you and our club.

Gayland, like the rest of the instructors and board members are, of course, unpaid volunteers.

Need help on a project? Want to learn to do intarsia? Gayland has been the lead instructor 10 hours a week for several years. Even when it's not his day to run shop, you often see him there helping people or cleaning up the shop. With out his help, and the help of all our other volunteers, we would be lost. So, please thank Gayland when you see him. He is this our Volunteer of the month! Read more about Gayland elsewhere in this issue of "The Bulletin"

And please, help the club in anyway you can. Spread the word, volunteer to help or just donate what you can.

Dave

We welcome our new members!

Ray (Chief) Flores Sandi Keays Ray Keays Cary Abadie

We hope to see you at general meetings and would like to listen to your stories.

THE BULLETIN PAGE ONE

Lurking Around Lavic

You know it's May because it's starting to get hot! And that's why VVG&M held our field trip to the Ludlow area for jasper, agate, and whatever could be found on Saturday May 3rd. While undeniably a warm day, I can say the weather was perfect for the last trip before the Mojave becomes a furnace.

After the 9am group meet up at Hector Rd, Chris Koch and Jake Brower led a decent sized group to the first site of the day: the Lavic area south of the tracks. This was exciting for me as I've never actually been to Lavic proper, having only collected on the north side of the tracks in what's called The Crayon Box. This is a great collecting area: easy to get to, plenty of parking, minimal brush, and tons of jasper.

Chris schooled many attendees on what to look for as no one knows this area better; I've seen absolutely beautiful cabs created by him from material he found here. The moss agates are what to look for but even the bright red jaspers and brecciated material will cut into beautiful gems. Everyone attending seemed to find stuff they like; a couple members who have been to Lavic several times even said they hadn't been to this particular spot so were pleased to have a new area to search. Lavic was definitely the highlight of this field trip for me.

About noon we headed over to the second location for the day: the Quarry Cove area of the South Cadys. This is an area where exploration is definitely required, although lots of colorful jasper is available adjacent to the parking area. Lots of stuff can be found in the immediate area: agate, jasper, small barite crystals, calcite rhombs, and even dogtooth calcite crystals; I saw examples of most of these that were located by various guests and members. A lucky hunter may even locate some of the golden lace jasp-agate or moss agates this area is known for.

Our time here was limited, this being the second location of the day, so no moss agates for me on this trip. It really is an area one needs to spend a whole day at and get back in the areas where the good stuff is... oh well there is always next time!

Although the time spent at Quarry Cove was kinda a bust we still all had a great time. With the great finds at Lavic and several new members in tow, in addition to guests from as far away as Las Vegas and Agua Dulce we all had a blast.

Thank you Chris and Jake for leading the first half of the trip and thanks Dave Duncan for helping run the trip, sign new members up, and help running the caravan!



Scott Gray Wagon Master





Above: A couple of Sasha's samples, ready for trimming.

THE BULLETIN PAGE TWO

Collecting At Kokoweef

Scott's report on the Kokoweef trip

Don't you love it when a plan comes together? I sure do. This is the tale of a field trip with many moving parts all coming together and resulting in a fantastic trip that all who attended will not soon forget.

Our story begins in Barstow at the Diamond Pacific sale where Dave Duncan introduced me to members of the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society who were there, like us, perusing and purchasing some great rocks. Talk turned to field trips and I was informed of SNG&M's upcoming trip to the Kokoweef Mine to collect cave onyx and other cool stuff. This put me in touch with Jonathan Tredwell, who runs the trips for their club. At his gracious invitation 10 members from our club could attend too... sounds like fun! Let's do it! Finally Saturday April 5th arrived. With an extra early meet up at Eddieworld everyone was on time, and geared up to go. It was a quick jump on I-15 north for our group for the hour and 15 minute ride to our rendezvous with the SNG&M group and also with Jake Brower And Ron Coleman who were 20 minutes ahead of us on the free-

After exiting and a wait of a few minutes we met up with Jonathan's group, with him leading us to the site with Sasha and I running the tail for the trip. After entering some beautiful Joshua groves our destination could be seen up ahead of us: Kokoweef Peak with the mining camp at its base.

There is a ton of history regarding this location and I fully recommend Googling it, or better yet, quizzing member Jake Brower who is our resident Kokoweef expert. The mining camp could be considered a destination on its own with relics from mine's heyday on display everywhere, as well as chunks of the cave onyx everywhere and even a small museum on site. Waiting for our bunch was Steve Bisyak: the Director and Camp Manager at Kokoweef, who was a pleasure to meet and is full of jokes and made this excursion even more memorable.

The mine dumps are pretty high up on the hillside and outside of an entrances to the caverns and would be a tough hike for anyone to get to. Luckily Steve supplies rides in groups of 5 in a small 4WD vehicle that could navigate the steep narrow trail. I was in the last group to head up but could see the other attendees about a 1/4 mile away scattered over the mine dumps like ants. Finally it was our turn up the hill. The digging area afforded a breathtaking view of the valley below and is dominated by the cavern entrance with mine cart tracks leading out of it and to the dumping point for the cave onyx: a giant welded "A-Frame" projecting over the waste pile and something usually only seen in black and white photos.

Finally we made it! The cave onyx is easily identifiable with its cauliflower like bubbly appearance and smaller pieces are everywhere, larger ones obtained by digging. Banded calcite and chunks of banded aragonite are also found here so there are several things to look for and many of these minerals grade into each other in a single piece! Stalactites of the onyx can also be found. We found several small ones but a couple of lucky SNG&M members found pieces the diameter of a drinking glass. The cave onyx, also called cave popcorn, takes a beautiful polish and lends itself to freeform creations utilizing the unique shapes it is found in; some look like coral, others a bunch of grapes, others like twigs and sticks. It's fun stuff to work with. I even saw several nice pieces pulled right out of the road! Steve also gave some attendees tours of the cavern, everyone wearing hard hats with lights on them. The amount of material on the dumps is staggering, with 30 or so buckets filled that day you couldn't even tell we had been there and it was a much heavier ride back down to the camp with five passengers and 5 full buckets of goodies.

When we arrived back at camp Jake had a full display of his Kokoweef memorabilia collection spread out that included vintage tshirts, old photos, hand drawn diagrams of the fault systems that run thru the mountain by one of the mining engineers, and much more; an amazing collection! Even Steve was amazed by the items Jake has painstakingly hunted down over the years about this legendary location. (continued on next page)

THE BULLETIN PAGE THREE

(Scott's Kokoweef report cont'd))

All in all it was the perfect ending to what amounted to a perfect day... my absolutely favorite field trip so far by far!

I owe thanks to many for making this a great trip: Dave Duncan for putting the idea in my head, Jake Brower for sharing his knowledge and extensive collection of Kokoweef related items, all our members attending and contributing to the fun, SNG&M for inviting us to tag along and, most of all, Jonathan Tredwell and Orville Wiemers for running a perfect show and Steve Bisyak for hosting a bunch of rock nuts and getting us safely up and down the mountain. Steve is a great dude and VVG&M can look forward to our very own trip to Kokoweef in the future. I, for one, can't wait!



THE BULLETIN PAGE FOUR

June 7-8, 2025 - Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club

The California Center for the Arts, The Museum, 340 N, Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92035

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

The Cal Arts Museum is a beautiful place is a beautiful place with great lighting, clean bathrooms and generous galleries. There are many great restaurants in Old Town Escondido directly across the street. Also 5 banks with ATMs are a 1-2 block walk from the Cal Arts Center.

We have vendor space for two more vendors. You can contact us, and we will send an application. Don't wait, this show was sold out until two vendors backed out because of illness'

We try to vary our gem vendors assuring you a well-rounded shopping experience. You will enjoy beautiful mineral specimens, faceted precious and semi-precious stones, polished cabochons, faceting and lapidary rough, fossils, and eye-catching handmade and vintage jewelry. Our club experts will be demonstrating faceting, silversmithing, and cabbing. Our gem ID booth is often staffed with students from the Gemological institute of America.

Admission for adults is \$5.00, children under 12 free. Enjoy a large free parking lot.

So, if you do not have time to go to Quartzsite or Tucson, come and visit Escondido and shop locally at the show that is rapidly becoming the premier gem and mineral show in Southern California.

Contact: (425) 281-6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com

Website: http://palomargem.org









THE BULLETIN PAGE FIVE

More Show Dates

June 14, 2025 – Bellflower, CA

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society

Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, 14515 Blaine Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706

Hours: 9 AM - 4 PM

Rock and Lapidary Extravaganza – Parking Lot Sale Website: https://delversgemclub.wordpress.com/

June 28-29, 2025 – Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230

Hours: Saturday 10 AM-6 PM, Sunday 10 AM-5 PM Festival of Gems Show – Featured Gem – Fluorite

Club Exhibits, Dealers, Demonstrations, Classes, Jewelry, Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Games for kids, Books, and Tools. Our club aims to introduce to the public the joys of collecting rocks and minerals, the art of lapidary, silversmithing, and jewelry making.

Contact: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com

Website: https://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/





THE BULLETIN PAGE SIX

We're going to run this important article again this month.

Information about the newest monuments in Southern California that rockhounds Need to know

From "Save Gem Hill, Lonely Butte and Rock Collecting in Southern California."

There is a ton of misinformation going around due to the Chuckwalla National Monument having been declared by Proclamation last month. This is understandable as the Hauser Geodes beds, Chuckwalla, and all the Wiley Well's collecting spots are within the boundaries of the monument.

Know that:

1) Nothing changes with respect to recreational rock and mineral collecting until a Management Plan is created. That plan will replace the existing management plans in place for the public lands within the boundary of the new monument.

Mining is affected now in that upon proclamation, no new mining claims can be made. As with the Mojave Trails National Monument, existing claims will remain unchanged.

There is some provision in the Proclamation for areas to be closed in the interim for Native American ceremonies and to protect artifacts.

2) The existing MOU with the CFMS and BLM DOES NOT protect the Hauser Beds from being closed to collecting in the Management Plan for the Chuckwalla National Monument. It can be useful in arguing that they should stay open, but it holds no water over formal land management plans.

A VERY FIRST FOR RECREATIONAL ROCKHOUNDING, THE PROCLMATION SPECIFIES RECREATIONAL ROCKHOUNDING AS A RESCOUCE AND THAT THE HOBBY BE ALLOWED IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

"Protecting the Chuckwalla region will preserve an important spiritual, cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and protect places inscribed with history for future generations; maintain a diverse array of natural and scientific resources; and help ensure that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific resources and values of the region endure for the benefit of all Americans. As described above, the region contains numerous objects of historic and scientific interest, and it provides exceptional outdoor recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, backpacking, rockhounding, sightseeing, nature study, birding, horseback riding, hunting, climbing, mountain biking, and motorized recreation, all of which are important to the travel- and tourism-based economy of the region."

The Proclamation for the Chuckwalla National Monument can be found at https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/
DCPD-202500054

I have no doubt Rockhounds have Linda Castro from Cal Wild to thank for the Proclamation specifically specifying recreational rockhounding be considered for inclusion in the Management plan. Linda is a fierce proponent for the Chuckwalla National Monuments. She has supported recreational rockhounding the Mojave Trails National Monument as well. Her goal when pushing for Chuckwalla National Monument to be declared by Proclamation was to avoid the problems that arose with the management planning for Mojave Trails and recreational rockhounding.

While no monument would certainly be much better for our hobby, if they are going to be pushed, we have to appreciate the work of those that support our hobby being involved.

The Proclamation protects many resources, and conflicts definitely exist that will affect where and how the management plan may allow collecting. IT IS IMPORTANT that all rockhounds and Clubs stay involved in the management planning process and take part when given the opportunity to speak up.

THE BULLETIN PAGE SEVEN

Birthstones and Birthdays

Paul McCartney.....The Beetles

Ronnie Wood.....The Rolling Stones

Charlie Watts.....The Rolling Stones

Steve Vai.....The Mothers of Invention, etc.

Ann Wilson.....Heart

June Birthstones

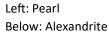
June is one of two months with three official Birthstones. They are; the pearl, alexandrite and moonstone.

The pearl is known for it's classic beauty and is the only gemstone produced by a living creature. It is associated with purity and serenity.

Alexandrite is bicromatic, having a different color depending on the light. It was discovered in the Ural mountains in Russia.

Moonstone has a milky, pearly luster and indicates intuition and emotional balance.











Left: Moonstone

Club Member Birthdays for June!

Jessie Saldana
Ron Kauffman
Jennifer Cultrona
Doc Hannon
Pat Estes
Robert Arias
Dustin Conrad
John Bradshaw
Destiny Donal
Linda Hastings
Doug Paul



Happy Birthday to you all!

THE BULLETIN PAGE EIGHT

Our Lapidary for the Youth, Junior Rockhounds

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Hello all. This is Yaya, head of the Junior Rockhounds program here ay VVGMC!

We are discontinuing the badge program temporarily and introducing Lapidary for the Youth. If you are 17 or younger come join us on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. The only requirement is that you and your parent (s) must be members of the VVGMC. This Summer we will be doing other art and science related projects as well. Hope to see you there.

Our club is open Saturday, Sunday and Thursday for the summer. Youth meetings are held on every other Saturday at 9:00 at the club.

15056—B 7th street, Victorville, CA 92395

760-243-2330

Contact Yaya at vvgmcjrrockhounds@gmail.com

A recent photo of some of the youngsters, with an older kid in the background .



Don't forget to pay your dues for 2025.

THE BULLETIN PAGE NINE

From Lava to Labradorite: How Volcanoes Gift Us Minerals

By Cristiane Stoll

Have you ever held a piece of obsidian and wondered—how did something this smooth and glassy come from the raw chaos of an eruption? That's the magic of volcanic minerals. Born from fire, pressure, and time, these treasures are some of the Earth's most dramatic gifts—and many of them can be found right here in California.

Long before we were out exploring with field guides and rock picks, this land was alive in a very different way. Volcanoes once shook the Earth, spilling lava across vast stretches of what would become desert and mountain. While destructive in the moment, those ancient eruptions left behind something extraordinary: a geologic legacy full of crystals, glass, and vibrant minerals that now sparkle in our collections.

Let's start with one of the most iconic volcanic stones: **obsidian**. Formed when lava cools so rapidly that it doesn't have time to crystallize, obsidian is nature's glass. Sleek, dark, and often reflective, it's more than just beautiful—it's sharp. So sharp, in fact, ancient cultures used it for tools, weapons, and ceremonial blades. Today, it's a favorite among collectors for its striking appearance and spiritual folklore (some even call it a stone of truth!).

Another stunner that owes its life to volcanic activity is **labradorite**. Unlike obsidian, labradorite forms *slowly*, deep beneath the surface as molten rock gradually cools. The result is a feldspar mineral with an internal shimmer that seems to glow from within—a phenomenon called *labradorescence*. With flashes of blue, green, and gold, it's no wonder labradorite is associated with transformation, intuition, and the northern lights.

Then there's **pumice**—a stone so full of air that it can actually float on water! Pumice forms when lava filled with gas bubbles cools rapidly, trapping the gas inside. It may not be flashy, but it's incredibly useful (think exfoliators, polishes, and even building materials). Volcanic rocks like **rhyolite** and **basalt** also tell rich stories. Rhyolite can be swirled with vibrant colors, sometimes forming wonderstone. Basalt is common, but often hides little surprises inside—like **vesicles** (air pockets) lined with quartz or zeolite crystals.

All of this is to say: when you're out in the field and find something glassy, bubbly, or glowing under the sun—pause and ask yourself, *Could this be the child of a volcano?* You might be holding a piece of deep Earth history in your hand.

Volcanoes may seem like things of the past, but their fingerprints are everywhere. The High Desert landscape is full of subtle reminders—textured hillsides, basalt flows, and fields of hidden gems just waiting to be discovered. It's one of the many reasons why rockhounding here never gets old.

So, the next time you see a mineral that looks too beautiful to be real, remember: it might just be forged from fire, shaped by time, and waiting for someone like you to unearth its story.

Note: A bit of web research was done to compile the list of volcanic minerals and their general locations, but please keep in mind that nature can be unpredictable, and no site can guarantee specific finds. Half the fun is in the adventure!

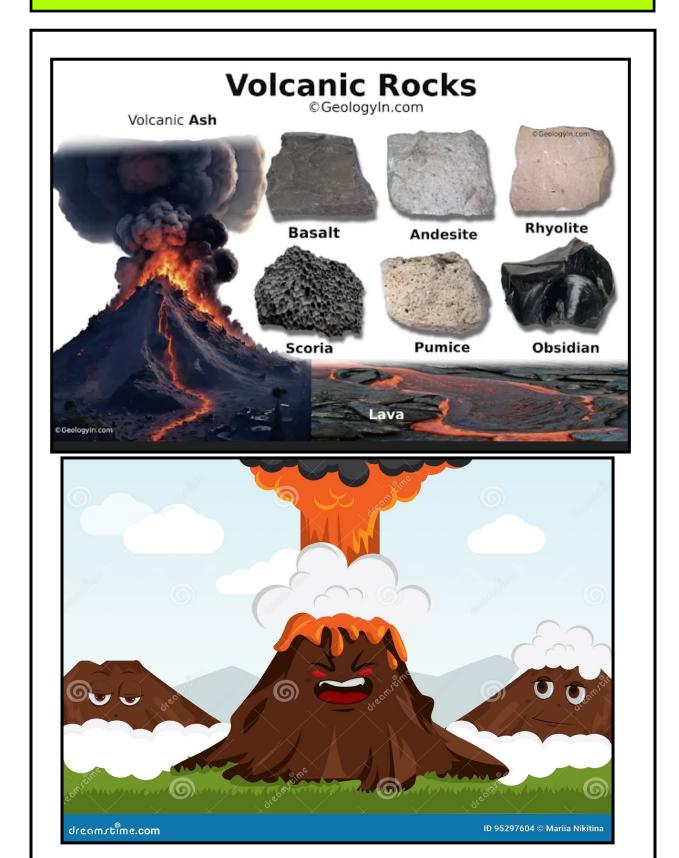


Cristiane is a well-regarded massage therapist in Apple Valley





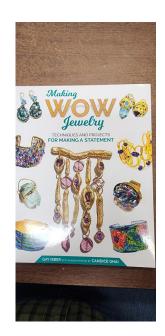
THE BULLETIN PAGE TEN

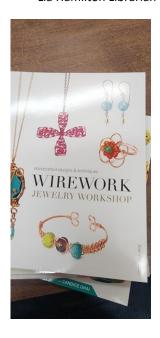


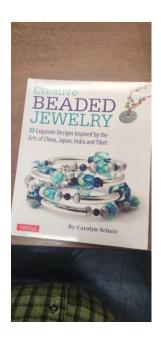
THE BULLETIN PAGE ELEVEN

Our Library

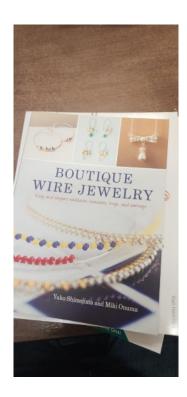
Lia Hamilton Librarian

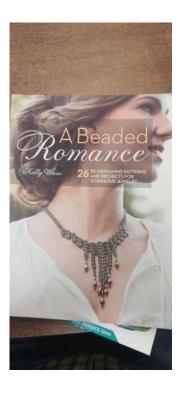






New additions to our library. We really have a great supply of resources and ideas in our library. You should check it out!





THE BULLETIN PAGE TWELVE

A trip report from David and Debbie liams

From David's desk...

Trip to Carlsbad California in the last week of April. Bet you are expecting to see beautiful shots of the ocean, maybe a sunset or two...well so did I...

But if you know my wife Debbie, she has the rockhounding "bug"! So, what we did most of the trip, we visited rock retail shops. (at least on this day)

The first "rock find", was a small, quaint shop called the Village Rock shop located at 2815 Roosevelt Street. Our timing was perfect, late morning, mid-week and she had the whole store to herself. The Manager Xenia was delightful, and the two of them had a wonderful time talking. We mentioned our membership of the V.V.G&M club and said we would pass on the experience.











I get my beach!



Next, we stumbled upon Earths Elements, at 300 Carlsbad Village Dr. The outside was unassuming and sand-wiched in between all the other shops in this trendy little spot, but the inside was huge and loaded with larger samples to purchase, many looking "high end" on my retail meter, but very impressive for sure. Overall, we both had a great time.

From CFMS WATCH WHAT YOU CLICK!!

The "phishers" are out there and seem to be getting better and better at what they do. In the past few days I've gotten "emails" supposedly from Susan, Bob Papac, and some AFMS people wanting me to pay a bill, send a wire transfer, etc. and that's just

the federation phishing. Don't get fooled into responding to them. If in doubt contact the person whose email is being spoofed at their real email

THE BULLETIN PAGE THIRTEEN

Beat the Heat!

An alternative rockhound adventure.

Merri Lynn Casem

As the summer season creeps up on us with temperatures that take all the fun out of walking around the desert, I would like to share one of my favorite "non-desert" spots.

North Ponto beach is a very rocky part of Carlsbad State Beach. The amount and variation of beach cobble makes this a great location to wander along the shore looking for "pre-tumbled" treasures. North Ponto is a public beach with free parking and access to basic bathroom facilities.





I have found a wide range of interesting material at this location including a fossil oyster shell. There is material to cut or to tumble; conglomerate, porphyry, quartzite with muscovite and more. Colors range from silver to blue-green to red to black with lots of interesting patterns. One of my favorite finds was boring looking green cobble that revealed a hidden Anarchy symbol inside when I cut it!





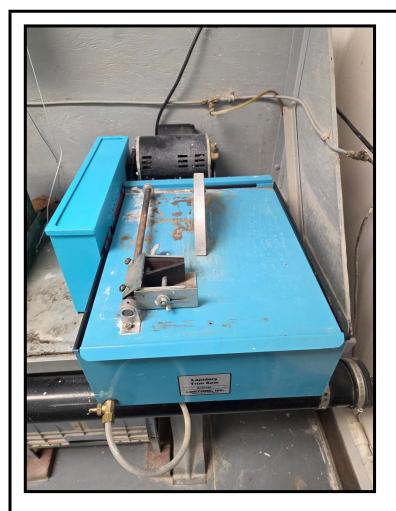


Because North Ponto is part of our California State Park system there are a few rules that apply to collecting. You are allowed to collect a maximum of 15 lbs of material per person per day for non-commercial use. Collecting should be from the low tide to high tide area of the beach. Vertebrate fossils and Native American artifacts may not be collected.

I realize that Carlsbad State Beach is over 140 miles from Victorville, but if you are looking for an escape from the heat and a change of scenery, consider this location. You might want to check a tide table to plan your trip around a low tide, but really there isn't a bad time to visit!



THE BULLETIN PAGE FOURTEEN



This is our new (to us) water lubricated saw.
Ken put a really nice belt guard on it and now it looks better than new.
Thanks for keeping us safe Ken! If you have some turquoise, variscite or other type of rock that cuts better in water than in oil, the saw is in the trim room, give it a try.





Variscite Turquoise

THE BULLETIN PAGE FIFTEEN

Gayland Graves

A self-proclaimed Old-timer

Gayland Graves has been a member of the VVGMC since, at least, 1996. He has held a number of officer/board positions and is currently an instructor for us. Gayland lives in Hesperia with his two cats, a dog, and a parrot, He is the caregiver for his 88-year-old mom as well. He collects "anything, from anywhere," especially pennies and likes to target shoot at cans in the desert. He is always up for exploring the desert or anywhere else.

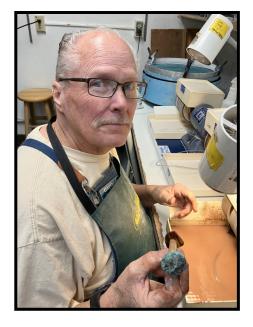
Gayland is especially interested in intarsia and has been practicing it for around 14 years. It is a skill he first learned from Bob Menelly, an old-time member of VVGMC. He likes to teach people how to do lapidary work and is quite gratified when he sees the work others have done after his instruction.

If you have been lucky enough to get instruction on the myriad varieties of lapidary work from him great. If you wish to have a knowledgeable, patient and generous teacher come on down to the club and look him up.

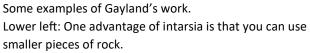




Above....examples of Intarsia Right...If you want some quality help this is who you look for









THE BULLETIN PAGE SIXTEEN

My friend and colleague, John Fisher, who was the chair of the Redlands High School Art Department is having a sale of his art up in Arrowbear on the Fourth of July weekend. Go up and enjoy the cooler mountains! ja.



THE BULLETIN PAGE SIEVENTEEN

Some photos Dave took at the Lancaster Show last weekend.



Entries to the State display Show







Above...Patrick and Alexis Right...Steve and Regina





Coming next month....

Ken Villars will be presenting a large and interesting article about the art of flint knapping. Also Ody's trip up North!

THE BULLETIN PAGE EIGHTEEN

Officers, Department Chairpersons & Instructors

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

Vice President / Membership. / Beka McNeil

2nd Vice President: Education/ Lia Hamilton

3rd Vice President, CFMS/ 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/ Yaya Avila

Maintenance / George Robles

COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

Tailgate Chairman, Ody Oriva

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Lia Hamilton

Facebook Editor / Stina Smith / stinesmith2@gmail.com

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

INSTRUCTORS:

Chris Koch, Stine Smith, Dave Duncan, Ann Musick, Ody Oriva, Lia Hamilton, Gayland Graves, Beka McNeil, Lorie Cunningham, Janel Russell

THE BULLETIN PAGE NINETEEN

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 though 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.

JUNE SHOP DAYS:

SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 12:00pm - 4:00pm SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS - 12:00pm -4:00 pm SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - 12:00pm - 4:00 pm

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>CLUB CLEAN UP DAY:</u> TO BE ANNOUNCED (usually the Thursday before the General meeting at 11:00 AM)

INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TBA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: First Tuesday at

5:30 PM (June 3rd)

EDUCATION NIGHT: None planned at this time.

GENERAL MEETING: - June 21, 2025. 12:00 - 2:00 Shop

work resumes APPROXIMATLY 2:00 -4:00 pm.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: Every other Saturday at 10:00

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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