



THE BULLETIN

AUGUST 2025

POT LUCK 8-16-25

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's message.....	1
Field Trip Reports.....	2,3,8
CFMS + OTHER Shows.....	1,4
Board Members	5
Committee Chairs.....	5
Instructors.....	5
Membership News	1,6
Birthday's & Birthstone.....	9
General Meeting & Potluck.....	9
Junior Rockhounds.....	11
Meetings, hours.....	11

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

**AUGUST 2025
BRIAN RITCH
CARMEN CISNEROS**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT
GENERAL MEETING AND UPCOMING
EVENTS. COME IN TO THE SHOP TO
LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN LAPI-
DARY ARTS. POT LUCK LUNCH ON
THE 16TH , 12:00 PM WITH DOOR
PRIZES & OTHER GOINGS ON. AL-
WAYS A GREAT TIME TO MAKE NEW
FRIENDS, MEET OLD FRIENDS, MEN-
TORS AND GET A FEW LAUGHS.**



President's message for August 2025

Summer greetings to all members and friends.

A lot of good things going on at the club. You will read elsewhere in this edition about a hardware donation from a gentleman in Corona that includes a newish Genie and a Diamond Pacific desktop saw, among other goodies.



Meanwhile, the club purchased a new intarsia machine so that we can all learn to make intarsia pieces from Gayland! And we have some fine and helpful members that joined this summer who at the shop weekly and adding to the enjoyment of all. And lastly, thanks to David Disbrow, we have a new swamp cooler that is keeping the clubhouse cooler, and hopefully saving us some money on the electric bill.

So, David Disbrow is our volunteer of the month for August. David and his wife Nancy give their time to the club when we need it most, at the March Tailgate. You will find them manning the various sales tables, helping with setup and breakdown, an, of course, cutting geodes!

Knowing that David is in the HVAC business, I asked him what we could do to help keep the place cooler and lower the electric bill. He suggested the equipment we needed and used his day off from work to install it for us. A big "Thank You" to David for all his help. There will be a beautiful prize and certificate to honor his contribution to be presented at the next general meeting.

Thanks to all of you who volunteer your time to help the club. *Dave Duncan President*

Kyle Sandahal, member from Pearblossom, Ca. came into the club and made few beautiful pieces in the silver-smithing room.

Kyle, is the manager of the OUTPOST and puts on some great shows out in Pearblossom. Next one is on Oct 24,25,26th 2025 See ya there!



FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

Musings with Scott Gray. Lapidary is a hobby of choices: what are you going to make? Silver or gold? What shape for that cab? And my favorite: what kind of stone are you going to use? This is a hobby with never ending possibilities and nowhere is that more apparent than choice of cutting material. Lately I've been working with dumortierite aka desert lapis... it has earned this nickname due to its typically dark blue appearance and can be confused for lapis lazuli, a rarer and more valuable gemstone. Don't overlook dumortierite though. With a Moh's hardness ranging from 7 to 8 it makes a durable stone in a color off the beaten path. While it is hard the stone is easily shaped. Most dumortierite on the market is found in massive form, often looking like blue/black river cobbles. It also forms in crystals, usually as fiber-like parallel growths imbedded in other material. It is typically formed in metamorphic rocks rich in aluminum like schists and gneisses, and occasionally in pegmatites that carry boron. This makes sense when you see its chemical formula: $Al\ Bo\ (Sio)\ O$: aluminum/boron/silica/oxygen. Dumortierite is commonly found with kyanite and andalusite, both of which are metamorphic silicates with aluminum in their makeup. Another neat thing about dumortierite is its color range: from a light sky blue to violet and even pink, as in the Nevada Rose material. Now how can you get your hands on some? My best rough is the stuff I purchased in Quartzsite at the Desert Gardens show: little mini boulders obviously from a stream bed located somewhere in Africa. I went to get more from the dealer this year and he was sold out! I also have a beautiful piece of Dumortierite quartz rough. This is a clear quartz with deep blue fibers running thru it that is gorgeous when backlit!

Another place to get some is collect it yourself. There is a location in San Diego County near Alpine that has a crystalline material and massive, all on the Violet end of the color spectrum, however I'm unsure if this location is still legal to collect at. I found my self-collected pieces at the Indian Pass location in Imperial County. This is of a lower quality but still a nice deep blue color. I bet with a little stabilizing this stuff would be comparable to the African material. A little closer to our usual hunting areas is the Black Jack mine off Kelbaker Rd in the Mojave. I haven't been here yet but it's on the list of potential places to check out to see if it's field trip worthy. It's found on the mine dumps there and definitely requires stabilizing. There are locations in Nevada (the aforementioned Nevada Rose location) and some is even found about 3 miles south east of Quartzite AZ, both of these being the pink varieties. I do have a chunk of the AZ stuff but can't remember where I put it! So I will end my story here where several other of my rock stories have ended: "I have a piece of that somewhere, I gotta find it!"

Scott Gray Wagonmaster, rock hunter, explorer, and learning more and more every time we see him. It is a pleasure to hang with Scott on a field trip! Found & worked on right.



Below are some cabs made by Scott Gray.



"WING STOP" BY LAURIE BYRNE

I know I'm not alone in my love for collecting interesting rocks and minerals. I also suspect I'm not alone in searching for imaginative and appealing ways to display all the collectibles I bring home. I was recently sharing my latest project with a fellow member and she suggested it might be a nice anecdote for this newsletter.

A couple of weeks ago, I attended an open house at the Transition Habitat Conservancy in Pinon Hills. This event was to educate the community about the Monarch Butterfly, mapping their migration patterns and creating waystations. So I signed up! In order to be considered an official Monarch waystation, your garden must offer at least 3 milkweed plants, the staple for Monarch eating and nesting. It also must contain a variety of nectar plants, a water station (shallow with rocks or marbles for them to land on) and a butterfly house.



This sounded like such a fun and beneficial project, and also a great way to display some of the nice rocks I've collected on some of our field trips this past season. I found a nice empty spot in my garden, planted 3 milkweeds and some of our favorite native nectar plants; verbena, guarra and a couple of different types of sage. Then I added some nice grounding pieces like a large hollow log, driftwood from around my property and a couple of

boulders I pilfered on recent hikes. My friend gave me a shallow water dish and I made a bug house out of natural materials. Then my favorite part, I placed my favorite rocks into sections around the garden to enhance the beauty and nature vibe I was trying to create. I registered my Monarch Waystation on the official Monarch website and named it "Wing Stop".

My garden is now part of the migration path that is monitored and mapped. I have sections in this garden displaying the Watermelon Opal from Kramer Hills, Jasper and Agate from the Cady Mountains, Scheelite from the Princess Pat Mine, Actinolite I recently collected from the Wrightwood area, some Chrysocolla from my Black Canyon adventure, a big beautiful piece of Silver Lace Onyx from Calico and Quartz, which is prolific in my area. To top it all off, the other day I went out to water my garden and what did I find? The first Monarch visiting my Wing Stop!

So I conclude by saying that rocks are the building blocks of nature. No ecosystem is complete without them. Rocks provide a solid foundation in which to build upon. The more rocks I collect, the more opportunities I provide myself to create beautiful landscapes. Some of these are even beneficial to nature.



PHOTOS BY LAURIE BYRNE



Laurie Byrne



California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

For the months of August, closest to our location

August 1-3, 2025 – 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

57th Rock and Gem Show. Over 60 dealers and 13 inside dealers

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

Website: www.oms-inc.org

August 16-17, 2025 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society

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

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM both days

Tehachapi Valley Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show during the Mountain Festival weekend in Tehachapi, CA

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

Website: <http://tvgms.net>

September 20-21, 2025 – Pasadena, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia

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

65th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Inspiring and educational gem show provides an opportunity for families to explore the world of gem, mineral, rock and fossil hunting, earth science and the lapidary arts. Dealers will be present selling goods that range from minerals to beads and gems, lapidary tools. Kids can try their luck at the Treasure Wheel and Sand Scoop for goodies and get started on a 'starter rock collection'. There will be grab bags for sale, a club sales table and lovely raffle prizes. Free entry, plenty of free parking Contact: (626) 260-7239

Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org/pls-2025-show/>

LOOKS LIKE THE OCTOBER PEARBLOSSOM GEM SHOW WILL BE THE CLOSEST TO US IN THE DESERT, BUT WE'VE GOT TO HANG IN UNTIL OCTOBER 24, 25 & 26, 2025 TO ATTEND AS A SHOPPER, COLLECTOR AND ALL ROUND ROCK LOVERS. FREE ADMISSION, PARKING.. SPACES ARE \$15.00. CONTACT KYLE AT 661-998-9389.

MEANTIME, WHY NOT HEAD OVER THE VVGMC CLUB HOUSE TO WORK ON SOME ROCKS. 5 GENIES, VARIOUS SIZES OF SAWS, FLAT LAPS, AND SOME GREAT INSTRUCTORS FOR CABS, SLABS, INTARSIA, SILVERSMITHING AND MORE

The Outpost
34141 116th St. E. Pearblossom, CA 93553

Pearblossom Gem Show

Free Admission • Free Parking • Outdoor Venue

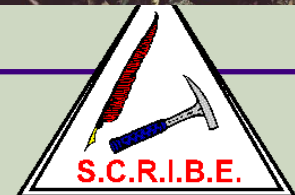
Oct. 24th, 25th, & 26th
9am - 5pm - daily

- Gems
- Minerals
- Agates
- Handmade Jewelry
- Sterling Silver Jewelry
- Lapidary Tools/Supplies
- Slabs
- Cabs
- Fossils
- Petrified Wood
- Geodes
- Food Vendors

Raffle every other hour, \$1 tickets
★ 1 free raffle ticket upon entry ★

Vendors Wanted!
\$15.00 ea day
"Free dry-camping for vendors"

Contact for more info, Kyle (661) 998-9389
Ksandahl24@gmail.com @ 138outpost



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 (Off for Summer)

3rd Vice President: Tailgate Chairman, & CFMS Liaison: Ody Oriva

Recording Secretary / Interim : Sara Arnold, Thank you for filling it!!!

Treasurer / [Ann Musick](#)

Corresponding Secretary, Facebook (Temp) / Jake Brouwer

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

Board Member / Sara Arnold, Past President

Board Member 1 year / Cory Beck, YaYa Avila

Maintenance / George Robles

COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

Junior Rockhounds: YaYa Avila

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Lia Hamilton

Newsletter / Jake Brouwer filling in for John Alcorn EMAIL: jakelsdg@verizon.net

Webmaster / Tech / Jim Fosse, PH: 760-245-8644 /
EMAIL: info@vvgmc.org

INSTRUCTORS:

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

Anyone out there considering volunteering their time to the club? Please call the club at 760-243 2330. We could use people for becoming shop instructors and associate's, folks with Facebook knowledge, website knowledge, a knowledgeable recording secretary for club meetings.



Send your articles in by the 22nd of each month please!



VVGMC MEMBERSHIP NEWS, with Beka McNeil



Ron Kauffman, above, loves to hike, explore remote sites, treasure hunting, making bows and recently getting back into silversmithing which was by Janet Flecher a number of years ago.

GOOD WILL AMBASSADOR

Introducing to club members Mr. Ron Kauffman. Ron has been with VVGMC for many years, and on planet earth for 84. Still kickin' and wants to volunteer to be a Good Will Ambassador for the club.

This job involves going to places west of the I-15 Freeway, and setting up interested parties with brochures, flyers and business cards to promote the club & and all it does, along with promoting The 50th Anniversary of the Stoddard Wells Tailgate shop in March 2026.

This is Beka McNiel, your VP in charge of membership, for the club. Our members are our best hope for the future. We've been around for 78 years this year and many of us can see new things coming for the club's benefit. Newsletters that are emailed to members, a new brochure to give new members an idea of what we do, and more.

Think about it this way, if you average it out over a year. For example \$40 over 12 months is only \$3.33 a month. A couple at \$70 is \$5.83 a month all with free instruction and reasonable shop costs. DEAL!



Dave Duncan, and Jake Brouwer, would like to acknowledge Beka McNeil for coming in after an illness to fill in the vacant membership position. She has been knocking on doors at schools, businesses etc. to get us seen at places that maybe do not know about us. She does a great job, has a great personality, and essentially has been working this "Good Will Ambassador" program way before it had a name. Thanks for the great work!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALAN VERNON, CORONA, CA.

We would like to say a special thank you to Alan Vernon of Corona for his generous donation of a Genie, Slab saw, tumbler, rocks and more.

Alan called the club recently to say he wasn't using his equipment anymore and wanted it to go to people who would use and appreciate it.

Needless to say, I headed down to Corona as soon as I could!

Alan took such good care of his equipment; it all looks brand new.

Among the rocks Alan gifted us were several small pieces of Blue John Fluorite from Derbyshire, England. This is a unique type of fluorite highly prized for its distinctive banding of purple, yellow, and white colors as well as its history. It is rumored that the Romans worked this mine as far back as 500BC.

We thank Alan for his generous donations and invite him to stop by the clubhouse whenever he is in the area. *Dave Duncan, President VVGMC.*



THE SECRET LIVES OF ROCKS: What Your Collection Says About You

By Cristiane Stoll – Massage Therapist by Day, Rock Whisperer by Night

Have you ever looked at your gem and mineral collection and thought...do I pick the rocks, or do the rocks pick me.? Fear not, crystal comrades. Below is a completely unbiased and spiritually questionable personality quiz to reveal the soul of your stash. Let's find out what your favorite mineral is saying behind your back at the next rock club meeting.

☐ PICK A ROCK. ANY ROCK.

Which of these stony superstars do you gravitate toward?

- A. Amethyst
- B. Turquoise
- C. Jasper
- D. Agate
- E. That weird unlabeled rock you found in a parking lot but now sleep with under your pillow

What was your choice? _____



Cristiane Stoll

Mostly A – Amethyst Admirer

You're a mystic in a baseball cap. Intuitive, dreamy, and the first to suggest a crystal grid for anything (missing keys, back pain, Mercury retrograde...). You believe the universe speaks in signs—and it probably does, through your geode shelf.

Mostly B – Turquoise Toter

You're earthy, wise, and everyone's favorite person to talk to at a potluck. Your energy is calming and ancestral, like you've been here before—and brought snacks. You believe healing comes from the heart... and maybe also a road trip through Arizona.

Mostly C – Jasper Junkie

You are solid. Dependable. The emotional support rock in human form. People come to you when they need grounding or a ride to the airport. Your jasper pieces may look humble, but they've seen things. You probably have a rock in your pocket right now "just in case."

Mostly D – Agate Aficionado

Balanced, curious, and aesthetically pleasing, you're the kind of person who color codes their crystal shelf and has strong opinions about banding patterns. You collect agates like they're Pokémon and probably say things like, "This one helps with boundaries AND inner harmony."

Mostly E – Parking Lot Philosopher

You are the free spirit, the rebel, the rock whisperer who doesn't play by the label game. You once found a chunk of concrete that felt right, and you still talk to it. You're not here for perfect specimens—you're here for soul resonance. Rock on, you mysterious weirdo.

Whether you're here for the shimmer or the spiritual downloads, remember: your collection is a mirror. And sometimes, it's a really sparkly one.

So next time someone asks why your glove compartment has four pieces of petrified wood and a lump of blue lace agate, just look them in the eye and say:

"It's called being prepared." Stay radiant, stay quirky, and above all—stay rock solid. *Cristiane*



***Sue Sutton:** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club's prolific traveler extraordinaire, recently went on an excursion to Guatemala, Central America and is sharing some photos of her & Eddie's trip.*

Hello club members George & I recently visited Guatemala to meet our son in law's (Eddie) relatives. While there we saw many beautiful things, rocks being one of them. The 1st photo is of Eddie's niece (former miss Guatemala City beauty queen) posing in front Lake Atitlan, deepest lake in Central America. Next time at the club I'll bring some pumice stones from there.

While in Antigua, I was drawn like a magnet to a couple of jewelry stores. Inside they had mini displays of replicas of archaeological digs. Lots of them were made of Jade. Ps, Antigua was an old Spanish town Mini vehicle is a Tuk-til taxi. Next is a motorcycle taxi.3rd photo is of indigenous ladies working in an underground marketplace. Hope you enjoy a few sights of Guatemala.

Stay cool & See you later, Sue Sutton



Welcome all club members to August 2025. Our **potluck luncheon** for August 16, 2025. 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, give support to those who are ill. 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 early to get a seat, July's meeting had 50+ members and guests/. luncheon was packed, and the food was great.



PERIDOT BIRTHSTONE MEANING & HISTORY

Peridot is the yellowish green to greenish yellow gem variety of the mineral olivine. Throughout history, peridot has often been confused with other gems such as topaz and emerald. The Red Sea island of Topazios, a purported source of the name "topaz," actually produced peridot. The Shrine of the Three Holy Kings in Germany's Cologne Cathedral is decorated with 200 carats of gems that were believed to be emeralds but are, in fact, the August birthstone peridot. Some historians even speculate that Cleopatra's famous emerald collection may have been comprised of peridot.

The word "peridot" comes from the Arabic *faridat*, meaning gem. This August birthstone was valued in many ancient and medieval cultures. It appeared in priests' jewelry as early as the second century BCE and later in the chalices and churches of medieval Europe. The peridot birthstone has also been used for centuries as a protective talisman, shielding the owner from evil spirits and "terrors of the night."

The preferred color for peridot is a pure "grass" green without any hint of yellow or brown. The large (364 ct) crystal is from the historic Red Sea source, Zabargad. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA



GIA.edu

August Birthdays

Best wishes to all!

Sara Parsley
Karen 'O'Rielly
Ben Roberts
Steve Harris
Cynthia Robinson
Darla Villars
Martina Monet
Sasha Gray
Susan Brouwer
Abbie Rosenthal
Ray Castellan
Allison Rege
Jim Fosse
Oscar Gonzales



“Rockhounding Injury Delays Possible Surgical Treatment “ by Ken Villars

We all know that personal protection equipment is important, but maybe my current situation can provide inspiration to take it all the more seriously.

I have been on a long path to find out if I need back surgery. It has included MRIs, nerve resistance tests, epidurals, physical therapy, and, sadly, the unexpected death of my original neurosurgeon. My new neurosurgeon ordered a more current MRI because of the prolonged delays. Here is where it becomes relevant to rockhounding: Awhile back, the



VVGMC had a field trip to the Early Man site out off of Minneola Road. While there, I was using my rock hammer (which I had ground clean to avoid metal spalls flying off) to test rocks for Knappability. I was wearing safety glasses of course, and the same thin cut resistant gloves I use when knapping. Occasionally when striking a flake off a rock, I would hear it whizzing off like a bullet ricochet, and I was glad to have my glasses on.



Suddenly, one of the flakes penetrated my glove and drove deep into my left thumb. It was little more than a minor nuisance once healed, and I thought little of it until I was being slid into the MRI machine some time later. Immediately (before the scan even began), the nerves in my thumb around the object in my thumb started firing painfully (akin to when a dentist drills before Novocain has completely taken effect), and I had them slide me back out.

So, it turns out my path to possible back surgery is yet again delayed, this time by a foreign body in my thumb! I've had to get X-rays and consult a hand surgeon, and we are still working on getting that done. To the surgeon it looks like a piece of metal in the X-ray. He says I am looking at two or three weeks of recovery while I protect the wound from infection.

It is possible that these delays are giving me more time to heal and find out if I actually need back surgery; and I found some nice material, so I am not complaining.



Ken Villars, resident knapper, writer & all round great guy preparing to Knapp at the shop at the club

Photo on right is the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club members taking the time to recognize our Newsletter Editor, John Alcorn for all the work, time, and love that he puts into everything he does for the club.

We would like to pass on all our best wishes to John while he is fighting his illness and we are hoping for the best possible outcome for his future.

THANK YOU JOHN!



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.

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

SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—12:00pm-4:pm

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS

CLUB CLEAN UP DAY: TO BE ANNOUNCED

INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TUES, AUG 5th 4:30 PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: AUG 5th 5:30 PM

GENERAL MEETING: - AUGUST 16th 12:00 - 2:00 pm, followed by our tradition door prizes, and more. Shop work resumes 2:00 -4:00 pm.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: SATURDAYS AUGUST 9, 23, 2025. Starts at 9:00am to 10:30am.

THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...

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