



THE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2024

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Holiday Greetings to all members and their families.

Here's what happening at the club:



Santa Dave Duncan

***Final Holiday sale will be on Sunday, Dec 15th. Please come out and help support the club members and buy some Christmas gifts for yourself or your loved ones.

***Dec 21st is our monthly meeting and Christmas Party. Besides our usual potluck, the club is looking for 2 volunteers to cook turkeys for us. The club will reimburse you for the cost of the turkey. If you are not fixing a turkey, please bring the appropriate holiday sides.

***At the December 21st meeting, we will have a Secret Santa type gift exchange, instead of our usual door prize drawing. Those that bring a wrapped gift will be given a ticket that will allow you to pick a gift when your number is called.

***Also at this meeting, your 2025 board will be presented.

***If you haven't renewed already, please renew by the end of the month. Dues remain unchanged for 2025 (\$40 for individuals and \$30 for additional family members living at the same address). Checks and cash accepted. Again, Happy Holidays to you all!

Dave Duncan

Welcome to our new members!

Daniel Perez
 Joseph Lovan
 Stacey Lovan
 Austin Lovan
 Cindy Barber

FIELD TRIP TO THE EARLY MAN AREA

A report from first time field tripper, Regina Huffman

On Sunday November 17 I went on my first rock hounding field trip! The group from our club met at Eddie World at 9:00 am and caravanned to the Early Man Site from there. Our group consisted of about a dozen vehicles, filled with excited rockhounds.

When we arrived we split off into several different groups to explore the area. Once at the site I stuck to Scott like glue because I had no idea what I was looking for and wanted an expert guide. He took a small group up the wash and showed us what to look for. It didn't take very long to find my first rock filled with "eyes", a sure sign of palm root or reeds!! The piece was small with sharp edges, clearly broken off from a larger rock. So I wasn't yet confident I'd know what I was looking at if it were in its complete form. Next I stumbled upon an interesting dark rock and brought that to Scott's attention, he confirmed that it was fossil reeds. Score! Luckily Chris Koch was also in the group I was walking with and he provided helpful feedback as well. Throughout the day I found more palm root and many more jasper, agate and mystery rocks. I enjoyed every aspect of the field trip, it was an absolute blast! I'd been buying gems, cabs, slabs and rocks but it was a totally different experience being out there looking for treasures in the earth. I can't wait to see what is inside all of my "new" rocks! I brought the whole load back to the club at the earliest possible opportunity. The biggest one is being cut into slabs as I type.....



Left:
Signs to every-
where.



Right:
Potential
Treasures



Left:
A specimen
on the saw.



Right:
Closeup of the
eyes.

More from Scott about the trip to Yermo Hills

Sunday November 17th was the club field trip to Yermo Hills and The Early Man area for agate, jasper, palm bog and root, and petrified reeds. After the usual meet up, bathroom break, and snack grab at Eddie World (the world's biggest gas station... which could be a field trip into itself!) we headed east to exit at Minneola Rd, and headed north on the mostly decent dirt road.

This general area is listed in nearly every CA rockhound field guide, with most focusing on the Green Ash Hills and some on the more southern spot near the power lines. Nearly anywhere you look north of the freeway here has potential for decent finds, especially after the seasonal rains. While no recent rains had churned up the ground here members and guests alike did not seem to have any trouble locating pieces they liked.

Finds of the day probably go to VVGM member Regina Huffman who located several small but nice pieces of palm root on her very first rockhounding field trip! Way to go Regina! I had better luck finding jaspers on this particular trip despite finding a huge piece full of petrified reeds the day before on the pre-site trip. With a group of 20 members and 5 guests it was a busy yet fruitful day.



Scott Gray

Thanks to Chris Koch for helping attendees in identifying finds and thanks to Brian and Laurette Wellinger for helping run the tail on the caravan! Your help was much appreciated!

Left: Jasper from the Yermo Hills



Below: Fossil Palm Root



Plans for an upcoming night-time trip to the Princess Pat mine for fluorescents

Hey Rockhounds!

We would like to make another field trip this season to the Princess Pat mine for the fluorescent minerals scheelite, wollastonite, calcite, and quartz. We will probably do this trip in December. It will be a night time trip and a short wave uv lamp will be required. **Please note:** a short wave lamp will produce filtered uv in the 254 nm range.

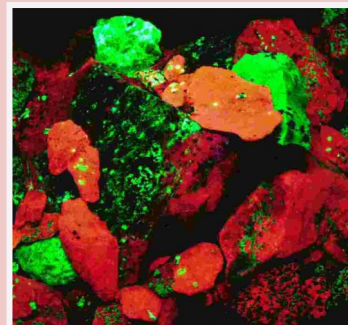
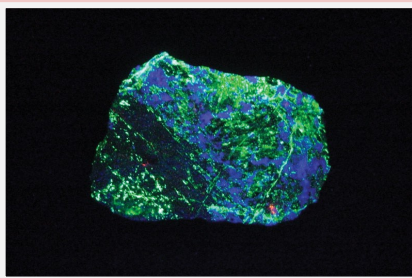
Currently any uv lamps available at Home Depot, Amazon, Harbor Freight, etc are long wave uv lights and YOU WILL NOT GET GOOD RESULTS for the minerals found at the Princess Pat as these minerals all fluoresce best with the short wave. I picked up my short wave 11 watt light at UVTOOLS.COM and it cost about eighty dollars. They also offer a dual short/long wave lamp for a similar price range and offer payment plans for the buyer. This is actually a good price for a 11 watt lamp and it works much better than the smaller handheld flashlight style lamps and also comes with a regular flashlight built in which is handy because you will be collecting at night.

Watch for upcoming emails and the newsletter regarding this trip. It's a fun one and not a far drive, being several miles north of Adelanto. It's also a welcome change of pace from hunting for the agates and jaspers we all love to find. Hope to see you and a new lamp there! Scott Gray *Photos for reference only*



Scott Gray
Wagon Master

December update: Keep an eye on your email. Scott says that the trip will be mid-December, hopefully.



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 Stina Smith Dave Duncan

Lia Hamilton Gayland Graves Beka McNeil Lorie Cunningham

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Ann Musik, Ody Oriva, Janel Russel



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! | 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

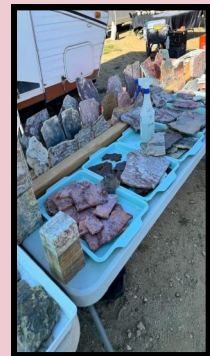
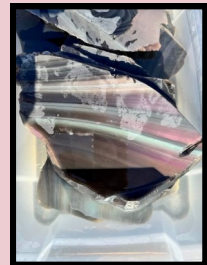
*Come Visit us for Handcrafted and faceted Jewelry,
Slabs and Cabs, Findings and Equipment, Minerals and Fossils,
TONS of Rough Material, and more*

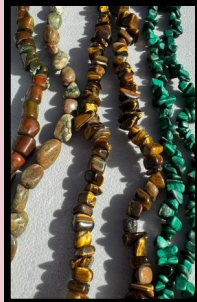
*NO saving spaces, NO competing with VVGMC's fundraising activities
ie: Food, drinks, spin the wheel, or auctions*

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 or
call 760-243-2330 and leave a message

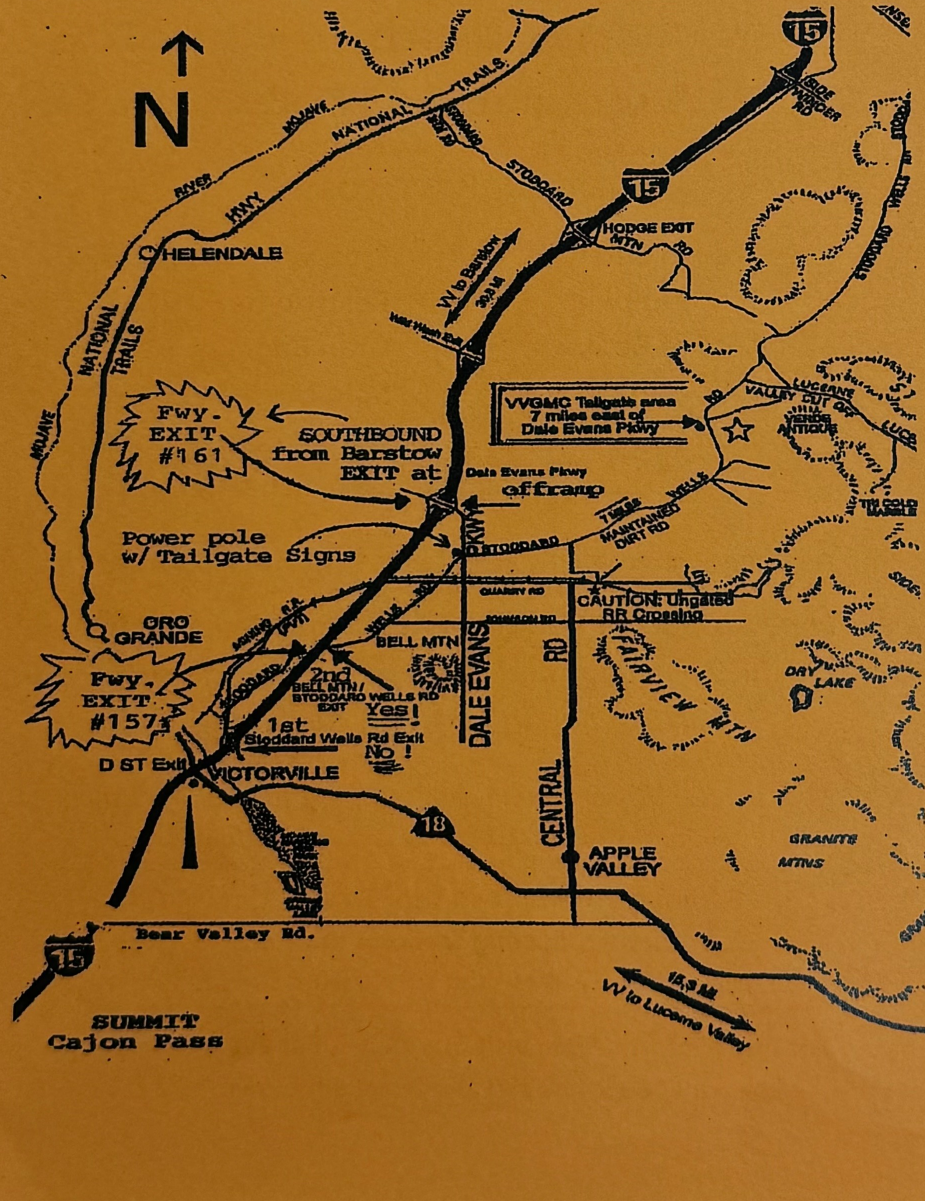
From last year's event





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!





Christmas

CRAFTS, ROCKS, & JEWELRY BIZARRE

- JEWELRY
- GEMS
- ROCKS
- SLABS
- FOSSILS
- MINERALS

December 15
From 9 am to 5 pm

15056, Seventh St.
Victorville, CA. 92395
In the Club House.
Behind Del Taco.



A Brief History Of Turquoise

Cristiane Stoll

Turquoise in Native American Culture: A Sacred Symbol

For Native American tribes, turquoise transcends its physical form, serving as a sacred talisman. Tribes such as the Navajo, Hopi, and Zuni regard it as a symbol of protection, guidance, and divine connection. Navajo folklore speaks of turquoise as a fragment of the sky, a divine gift to humanity. It is woven into jewelry, weapons, and ceremonial items to harness its protective and healing energies.

Healing Powers and Contemporary Appeal

Across cultures, turquoise is esteemed as a stone of healing and communication. Believed to calm the mind, dispel negativity, and foster self-expression, it remains a cherished choice in holistic practices. Modern jewelers and collectors appreciate turquoise for its timeless elegance and adaptability to everyday fashion.

Historical Tidbit: Turquoise in Ancient Civilizations

Did you know that turquoise adorned the burial mask of the Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun? The ancient Egyptians viewed the stone as a symbol of immortality, incorporating it into their most cherished artifact

Caring for Your Turquoise

Turquoise, being porous and relatively soft, demands gentle care. To preserve its vibrant color, avoid prolonged exposure to water, oils, and chemicals. Store it in a cool, dry place, and keep it separate from harder gemstones to prevent scratches.

A Timeless Journey Across Cultures

From the deserts of the American Southwest to the heights of Tibet, turquoise connects us to the earth's natural beauty and spiritual secrets.

Let turquoise serve as a reminder of your bond with the world's vastness and the enduring magic of nature's artistry.

Thank you for joining us on this journey by reading our articles! Stay inspired, stay curious, and let the stories we share continue to brighten your day!



CFMS and Other Shows

For Your Information: Quartzite Shows In January

Desert Gardens International Rock, Gem & Mineral Show: January 1–February 28, 2025

Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show: January 3–12, 2025

QIA PowWow Gem & Mineral Show: January 15–19, 2025

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

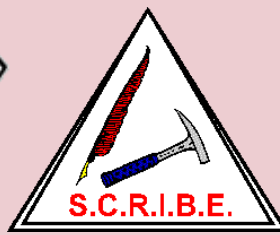
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

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>



Quartzite with help from Janet Flecher

In about a month, the new year 2025, will usher in the craziness that is Quartzite, Arizona. In an effort to help newcomers, and even folks such as me, who have visited a couple of times, Janet shared her knowledge of the town and the massive event that takes up, importantly to us rockhounds, all of January. The Event is divided into eight shows. We will cover three well-known ones, Desert Gardens, Tyson Wells and The Pow Wow.

Desert Gardens, which calls themselves the fifth largest show of its kind in the world, begins on January 1st and runs through February 28th. According to Janet the best time for rocks is to get there the first week. There will be over 150 vendors showing their wares.

The Tyson Wells Rock and Gem Show begins on the 3rd of January and runs through the 12th. They do business from 9AM to 5PM daily. With 396 spaces T. W. is a huge venue with over two miles of walking required to see it all. As before, the best time to get there is at the beginning, in this case Jan. 3rd.

The third show we discussed was The Pow Wow. It runs for 5 days, beginning on January 15th, running through the 19th. 640 vendors are expected here and of course, the best day to visit is day one, Wednesday the 15th.

In our discussion Janet said, being there early is the best for selection, walk the entire show if possible before purchasing anything, having some experience helps with finding and buying the quality material you want. She also said not to be afraid to negotiate and to avoid "brick and mortar" stores, as their operations require a higher markup.

Thank you Janet, for sharing your thoughts with us!

We'll have an article about "Tucson" next month.

Here's a couple of tips from your editor:

****Blythe is on the California side of the river and is in the Pacific time zone. Quartzite is an hour ahead, in the Mountain Time Zone.**

****It's about 255 miles from Victorville to Quartzite, 232 miles to Blythe.**

****A good number of VVGMC members have stated they are going to visit the shows in Quartzite. You might wish to seek out folks to meet there, especially those who have some experience.**

Top center: Quartzite years ago
Below: Larimar



Below: Lightning Bolt Agate.
Below center: Merry Christmas. ;)



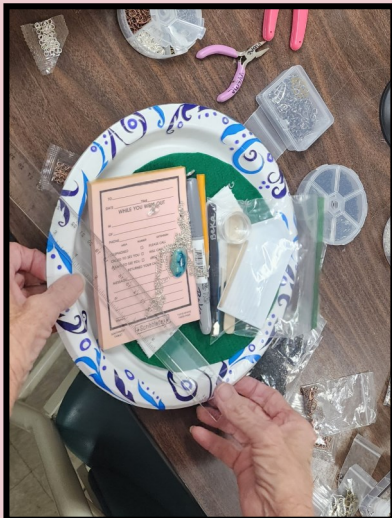
Education Night with Beka McNeil

Making beautiful Chain necklaces

The November Education Night featured one of the most interesting and fun evenings at VVGMC. Beka McNeil, former vice president and current board member, generously volunteered to share her supply of chains and assorted items needed for a successful project. The event was extremely well attended with 28 folks making the evening trip. This was a hands-on activity and everyone had the opportunity to create and take home a treasure.

THANK YOU BEKA!

Below are some examples of the pendants made that night.



Recent happenings....

On a recent Saturday at the shop Dave suggested that we have an impromptu raffle of slabs. We all put a nice slab in a pile. Tickets were used to determine the winner and it was Beka McNeil. Photo below.



Visit the club on any day you can as these opportunities are likely to continue. :)

Thank you to....:

Lorie Cunningham, Beka McNeil, Ken Villars, Cristiane Stoll, Regina Walker, Janet Flecher, and many others who have helped make this publication possible.

No Education Night In December

We will Start

Again

In January

Knapper's Corner Ken Villars

This month's article could be considered a continuation of last month's article, focusing in on **Flake Terminations**.

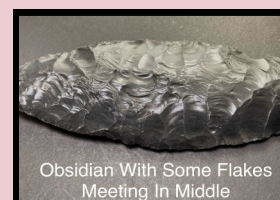
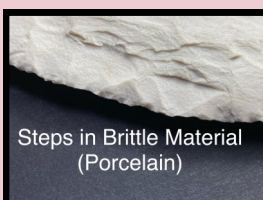
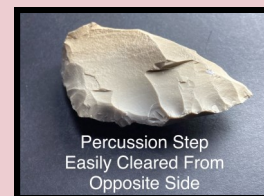
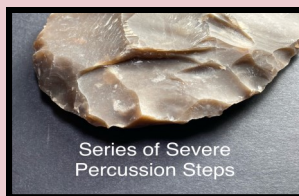
When a flake doesn't feather out cleanly to nothing, it leaves a bit of a mess. One very common form is the **"Step"**. A small low step might be considered a "Hinge", and a series of steps alongside each other is often called a "stack", or "plateau".

Other than knapping skill, the occurrence of steps is dependent on the brittleness of the material, the shape and composition of the tool, and platform preparation (strength and suitability).

It is very difficult (bordering on impossible for beginner to intermediate knappers) to hit a clean flake into a step to remove it. The best way to remove a step using knapping techniques is to go under it from the other side of the piece. This requires that you can drive flakes long enough to reach. The two photos with obsidian show pressure flakes that were too short. In the cropped blade, you can see some flakes that met and joined scars (right side), and some that didn't quite reach and made a mess (left side). This photo also has an example on the right of an "overshot" flake, which is pretty much the opposite of a short flake. It was so strong it carried all the way across and removed part of the far edge (accidental and unwelcome in this case).

The pieces labeled "Porcelain" and "Tough Texas Chert" are pressure work by knappers other than myself. The rest are my mess, with the obsidian being pressure and the rest being percussion (which I do prior to pressure work).

Since we have access to lapidary equipment, there are several ways to grind off steps, stacks, and other messes. In fact, the percussion examples shown were pulled from my pile destined for such treatment at the club shop.



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 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.

DECEMBER SHOP DAYS:

TUES Dec 3, 10, 17, TBA 24/31 2024...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:
Mon. December 2, 2024 10:30 AM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: December 2, 2024
12:00 PM TIL FINISHED.
EDUCATION NIGHT: Will begin again in January
GENERAL MEETING: - December 21 2024. 12:00 - 2:00
pm, followed by Secret Santa. Shop work resumes
APPROXIMATLY 2:00 -5:00 pm.
JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: Will begin again in January

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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MAILING LABEL

