



# THE BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2024

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's message.....1  
 Welcome new members.....1  
 Upcoming field trips.....2 & 3  
 Local News and Dates.....5  
 General Meeting & Potluck.....5  
 Mineral Show Reports.....4 & 5  
 Tailgate information.....6 & 7  
 November Club Sale.....8  
 Board, Chairs, Instructors.....9  
 CFMS & upcoming Shows.....10  
 Goodbyes and Farewells.....11  
 Birthstones.....12  
 Birthdays and Rock Stars.....13  
 Election Information.....14  
 Education Night Report.....15  
 Cady Field Trip Report.....16  
 Feldspar: Mineral Helper to the World.....17  
 Rockhounding in Japan.....18 & 19  
 The Knapper's Corner.....20

## President's Message for November 2024

November greetings to all members and friends.

By the time you read this, we will have had our first Field Trip of the year, with many more to come over the next 6 months.

As those of you that were at our monthly meeting already know, Wagon Master Scott Grey is our Rockhound of the Year. Any of you who have been on one of Scott's many field trips over the past year or so, know how lucky we are to have this guy as our field trip leader. He comes a long way from Hemet to help us, and he doesn't just take us to the known places. Scott scouts to find better collecting areas and access the roads and parking situations. And did I mention what a nice guy he is? And he brings us the lovely and talented Sasha!

Its members like Scott, with their selfless donation of time from their busy schedules, that help make our club great, and the envy of other SoCal rock clubs.

Please join, Scott, me and so many others in donating some of your time to make our club even better.

On that note, we will be electing new officers at our next general meeting and potluck on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Some of you have expressed a willingness to help with the vacancies for Treasurer and Recording Secretary. It will help a lot if you make that official by sending an email to me at [vvrock-sandgems@gmail.com](mailto:vvrock-sandgems@gmail.com). We can then meet to discuss the details in the next week or so.

Thanks for all you do for our club.

Dave Duncan

## Let's Welcome Our Guests and New Members!

**Emily Stephens**

**Laurie Byrne**

**Don Zimmer**

**We look forward to seeing you at the club!**



Rockhound of the Year! Scott Gray!



### UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

Scott Gray

### Yermo Hills/Early Man Site

Sunday November 17th will be the date for this months field trip to Yermo Hills / Early Man Site. We will be looking for jasper, agate, petrified palm bog and root, and petrified reeds. This is a pretty large area with lots of washes, gullies, and hillsides and all can produce good material. The meet up will be at 9 am at Eddie World, on the southern side of the parking lot adjacent to the electric vehicle charging area. Eddie World is located at:

36017 Calico Rd  
Yermo, CA 92398



Eddie World is known as the Worlds Biggest Gas Station and has a huge milkshake out front and is hard to miss; it is almost due south of Calico Ghost Town and is on the south side of Interstate 15.

tify  
big



Bring your rock hammer, bucket, and spray bottle to help identify your stones, the palm root is illusive but it is there, sometimes in pieces. See ya there!

Left: fossil reed specimen from Yermo Hills

Right: specimen of palm root from the Early Man Site  
Below: Jasper from the Yermo Hills



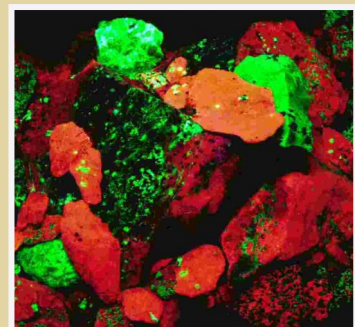
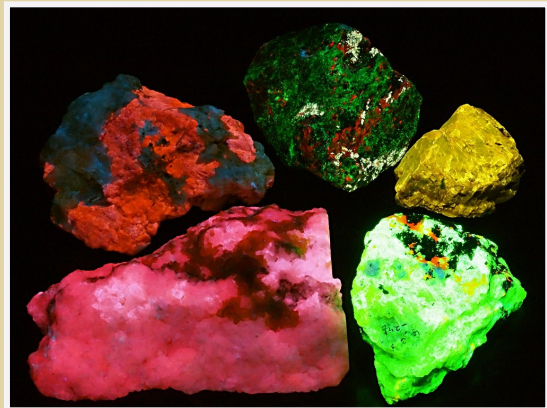
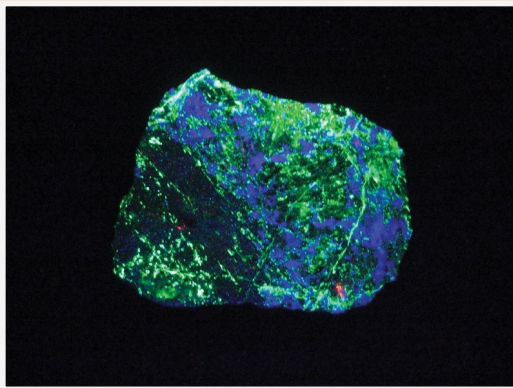
## Plans for an upcoming night-time trip to the Princess Pat mine for fluorescents

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 up coming 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*

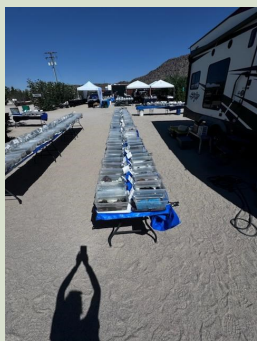




### The Joshua Tree Gem and Mineral Show

It was a hot weekend October 2nd through the 6th. That was understatement to the least.

Not to be deterred, vendors came prepared to have a good time and successful sales event. Unfortunately the weather was brutally hot and not the normal high desert Fall mildness we have come to enjoy. Following are some of the photos Stina Smith took of the vendors and their wares.





## VVGMC Local News and Thanks

### Upcoming Events

Patty Deer Memorial November 3rd.  
 Instructor Meeting November 4th  
 Board Meeting November 4th  
 Election Day VOTE! November 5th  
 Junior's Program November 9th  
 Holiday Sale November 10th  
**Pot Luck and General meeting November 16th**  
 Board Elections November 16th  
 Last Holiday sale of the year December 15th

### Thanks to:

Ken Villars, Scott Gray, Stine Smith, Jake Brouwer, Angela Auberry, George Ast, George Robles, Cristiane Stoll, Yaya Avila, Jenalee Arnold, and others who I inadvertently missed.

## The Pearblossom Gem and Mineral Show

The Pearblossom Gem and Mineral Show was held on a location right off of the Highway 138. The weather cooperated, it was very nice. There were many vendors including Regina Walker, who was selling predominately opal, John Scofield, Blaine Witte, Christopher Anthony, and Algot Stevenson and his wife, who were selling their home baked, delicious bread.



Some of the Minerals and Rocks for sale in Pearblossom



VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB  
Invites you to the  
**49<sup>th</sup> Annual**

# Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Victorville, California

Friday – Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 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*

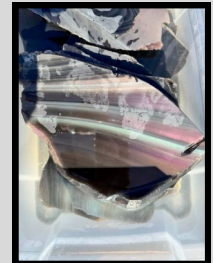
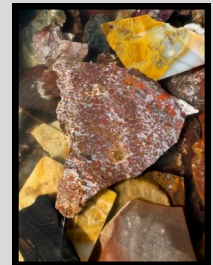
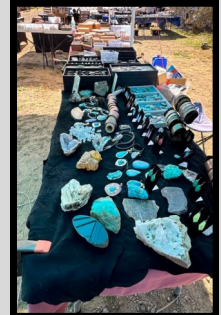
*NO saving spaces, NO competing with VVGMC's fundraising activities  
ie: Food, drinks, spin the wheel, or auctions*

**Saturday FAMILY Field Trip: 9am to 1pm**  
**We'll be collecting Tri-Color marble!**  
**Verde Antique is less than 1 mile from the area**

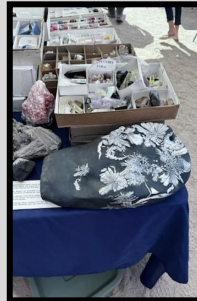
For more Information, visit our website at [vvgmc.org](http://vvgmc.org) or  
call 760-243-2330 and leave a message



From last year's event

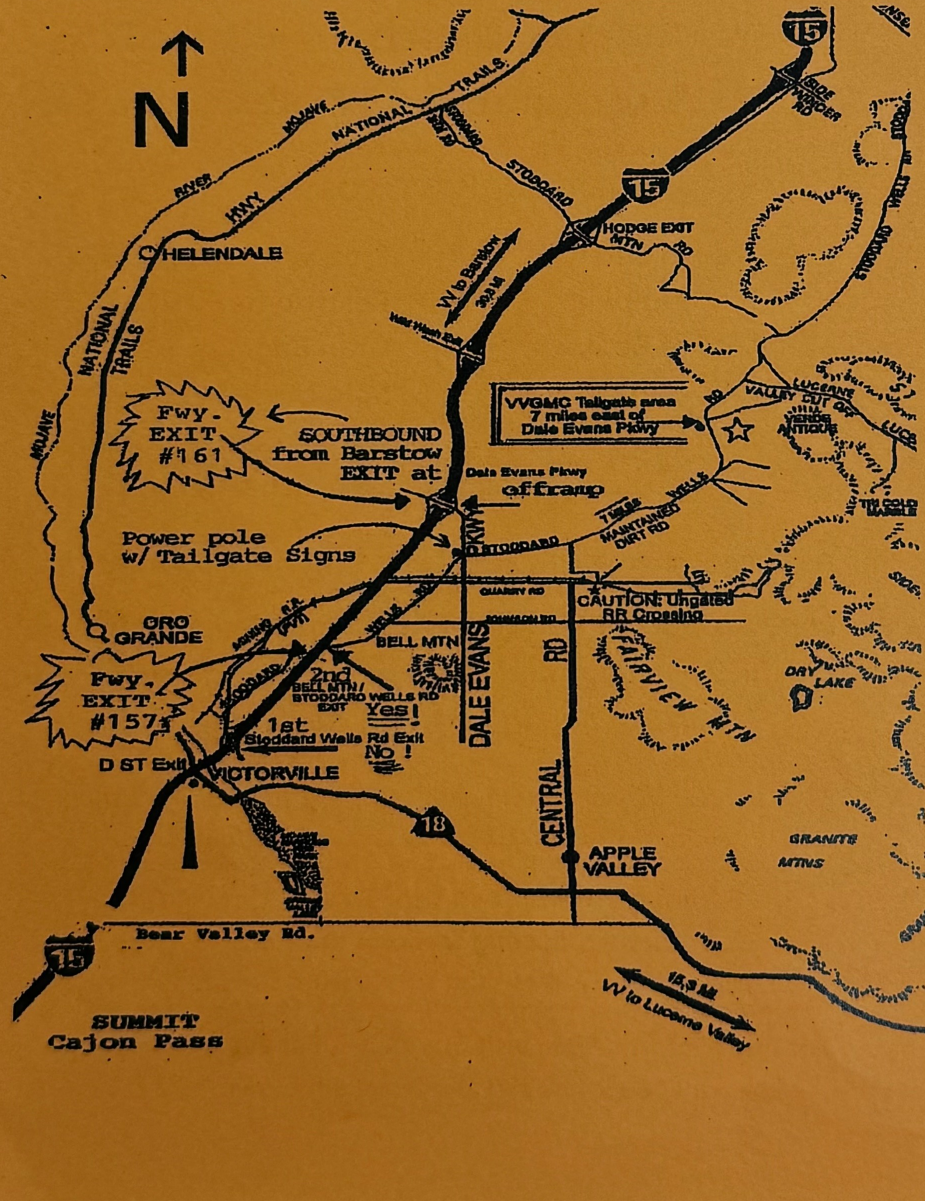






**Directions:** From I-15 Northbound towards Barstow : Hwy 15 North THRU Victorville EXIT Rt. At 2nd Stoddard Wells Rd at BELL Mtn. EXIT # 157. Turn Left/East at Ramp STOP Sign. STAY On Stoddard Wells Road 4 mi. until next STOP sign at Dale Evans Pkwy. "Tailgate" signs high on NW corner power pole. Check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





# Happy Thanksgiving

## CRAFTS, ROCKS, & JEWELRY SALE

LOCATION 15056, SEVENTH ST.  
VICTORVILLE, CA. 92395  
IN THE CLUB HOUSE. LEFT OF DEL TACO.

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10TH, 2024 9AM-5PM**

CUSTOM MADE JEWELRY, GEMS, ROCKS,  
MINERALS, SLABS, ROUGH, POLISHED  
STONES, INTARSIA, FOSSILS, ROCKS TO  
TUMBLE AND MUCH MORE

**FREE ENTRY, FREE TOURS** OF OUR CLUB HOUSE,  
SEE OUR GALLERY OF COLLECTIBLE ROCKS,  
EQUIPMENT, SPECIMINS, BLACK LIGHT DISPLAY AND  
MORE!





**BOARD MEMBERS, CHAIRS, INSTRUCTORS.....**

**President.** / Dave Duncan, EMAIL : [president@vvgmc.org](mailto:president@vvgmc.org)

**Vice President / Membership.** Beka McNeil / EMAIL: [vp@vvgmc.org](mailto:vp@vvgmc.org)

**2nd Vice President: Education.** Lia Hamilton

**3rd Vice President: Tailgate Chairman,** Mark Lantz

**Treasurer /** Janalee (Jan) Arnold

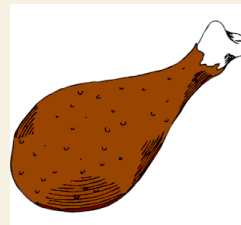
**Corresponding Secretary /** Jake Brouwer

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

**Board Member /** Sara Arnold, Past President

**Board Member /** Cory Beck

**Maintenance /** Temporarily unavailable.



**COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....**

**CFMS representative /** Ody Oriva

**Wagon Master /** Scott Gray

**Librarian /** Algot Stephenson

**Facebook /** Stina Smith / [stinesmith2@gmail.com](mailto:stinesmith2@gmail.com)

**Webmaster / Tech /** Jim Fosse / [webmaster@vvgmc.org](mailto:webmaster@vvgmc.org)

**Newsletter /** John Alcorn / email: [john.alcorn42@outlook.com](mailto:john.alcorn42@outlook.com)

**INSTRUCTORS:**

Janet Fletcher Dwayna Barron Chris Koch Stina Smith Mark Lantz Dave Duncan

Lia Hamilton Gayland Graves Beka McNeil Lorie Cunningham

**ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS** Algot Stephenson. Ann Musik



## CFMS and Other Shows

### November 2-3, 2024 – San Diego, CA

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society

Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA 92106

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Admission & Parking: Free (Service Animals Only)

San Diego's finest gem and mineral show located in the beautiful Point Loma neighborhood of San Diego, 1/2 block north of N. Harbor Dr. and the San Diego Bay.. Featuring 20+ Dealers, Demonstrations and Exhibits with Minerals, Gem, Fossils, Crystals, Jewelry, Lapidary, Slabs, Rough, Rock & Gem I.D., Books, Door Prizes, Kids' Zone, and much more.

Contact: LuAnn Benton, benton.luannz@gmail.com

Driving Directions: <https://bit.ly/libcmap>

Website: <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2024>

### November 2-3, 2024 – Ridgecrest, CA

Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society

Indian Wells Valley 68th Annual Gem and Mineral Show

Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM Both Days

Field trip to Rainbow Ledge Agate Claim on Sunday November 3rd at 10 AM

Contact for additional information or vendor space: Miguel Gonzales (760) 382-2967 or miglogonzal@hotmail.com

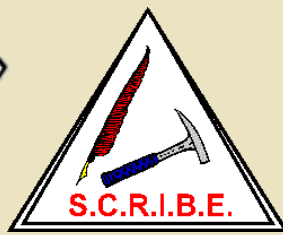
## For Your Information: Quartzite Shows In January and February

**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

**Quartzite Gold, Treasure & Craft Show:** February 7–9, 2025





## Farewell to Dwayne Lowery

I am sorry to say that fellow member Dwayne Lowery passed away on Oct 15th.

From his spouse, Rufina:

We will be having a memorial service on **Sunday, November 10 at 4:00 pm at Hesperia Church of the Nazarene, 8518 Maple Ave, Hesperia, CA 92345** and would like to extend an invitation to all of your members.

It would mean a lot to us for others to come celebrate Dwayne's life and share memories.

Please join me in offering condolences to them both.

Dave Duncan

## Farewell & Thank You To Mark Lantz!



By the end of November The VVGMC will lose a long-time member and valuable participant, Mark Lantz. Mark has filled many positions and was the principal teacher of the Juniors Program here. As Mark relocates to Texas to be closer to family we here at VVGMC bid him a fond farewell. Above are some photos taken by Janalee Arnold. They are the rock themed cupcakes that the families brought to the celebration for Mark. Below are some of the kids and a project on growing crystals.



## Birthstones for November

### Citrine and Topaz

Throughout much of history, all yellow gemstones were considered topaz and all “topaz” was thought to be yellow. Topaz is available in many colors, and it’s likely not even related to the stones that first donned its name. The name topaz derives from *Topazios*, the ancient Greek name for St. John’s Island in the Red Sea. Although the yellow gemstones famously mined there probably weren’t topaz, it soon became the name for most yellowish stones. Pure topaz is colorless, but it can become tinted by impurities to take on any color of the rainbow. Precious topaz ranges in color from brownish orange to yellow and is often mistaken for smoky quartz or citrine quartz, respectively—although quartz and topaz are unrelated minerals. The most prized color is Imperial topaz, which features a vibrant orange hue with pink undertones. Blue topaz, although increasingly abundant in the market, very rarely occurs naturally and is often caused by irradiation treatment. The largest producer of quality topaz gemstones is Brazil. Other sources include Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Russia, Australia, Nigeria, Germany, Mexico, and the U.S.—mainly California, Utah, and New Hampshire. Measuring 8 on the Mohs scale, topaz is a very hard and durable gemstone. Its perfect cleavage can make it prone to chipping or cracking, but when cut correctly, topaz makes very wearable and durable jewelry.

November’s second birthstone, citrine, is a variety of quartz that ranges from pale yellow to a honey orange color. It takes its name from the citron fruit because of these lemon inspired shades. The pale yellow color of citrine closely resembles topaz, which explains why November’s two birthstones have been so easily confused throughout history. Citrine’s yellow hues are caused by traces of iron in quartz crystals. This occurs rarely in nature, so most citrine gems on the market are made by heat treating other varieties of quartz—usually the more common, less expensive purple amethyst and smoky quartz to produce golden gemstones. Brazil is the largest supplier of citrine. Other sources include Spain, Bolivia, France, Russia, Madagascar and the U.S. (Colorado, North Carolina and California). Different geographies yield different shades of citrine. With a hardness of 7 on the [Mohs scale](#), citrine is very durable against scratches and everyday wear-and-tear—making it a lovely option for large, wearable jewelry. From Google



Three occurrences of Topaz, wheat, London Blue and orange.



Rough citrine crystals with, dark and light examples of the group.



### ***Birthdays for the Month of November***

Nancy Flanders  
 Brett Ward  
 Margarita Mendoza  
 Nancy Disbrow  
 Alla Shumko  
 Andreaus Martin  
 Dewnnnis Montilepre  
 Regina Walker  
 Maximillion Nelson  
 Joan Mulcare  
 James Rightmire  
 Robert Hughes  
 Robert Smith  
 Randy McOsker  
 Amanda Shively  
 Hector Morales  
 Eric Mandeson  
 Cliff Nelson

**To all of you, we wish for you  
 the most happy of birthdays!**



### **Rock Star Birthdays in November**

Neil Young, folk singer and member of the bands, Buffalo Springfield; Crazy Horse; and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Jimi Hendrix, an early player and innovator of the electric guitar who played Woodstock and died at a young age.

Billy Idol, who preformed songs such as *White Wedding* and *Rebel Yell*.

Sophy B. Hawkins, and alternative rock performer, popular during the 1990's.

Anthony Kiedis, of The Red Hot Chili Peppers

Art Garfunkle, of the popular duo Simon and Garfunkle who had a vast list of popular songs such as, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, *I am a Rock and*, *Sounds of Silence*.

Tina Turner, who sang with a family band in the 60's and 70's and then broke free to a successful solo career.

Steven Van Zandt, lead guitar player and singer in Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band.

## ITS TIME TO VOTE AGAIN FOR THE VICTORVILLE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

On November 16th 2024, the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral club will hold its annual election of officers and board members of your club. It is YOUR club as most of you know, and we hope you come out and vote with us. This is our 76th year in business, and the tradition continues with old and new members keeping things alive to the present days.

VVGMC has always been about family, camaraderie, and education of its members but it has been a struggle, without the extra income from our previous tenant in the Kamen Building This year will be no different, however, thanks to the present board members of 2024, a lot of volunteer work has been done, putting our club back in the spotlight again.

Current President Dave Duncan took us through some very hard times in 2023, and 2024 and, we are finally seeing the light of the future peeking through the doors. Our biggest hardship was getting our former Kamen Building rented. No income for close to 3 years. After covid, the club being closed for a while, and members coming and going, we had our 501 3C corporation put on hold. Thanks to Dave's leadership, and supportive board members, we have now been blessed with a renter, along with a 3-year minimum guarantee of paid rent. Secretary Janalee (Jan) Arnold helped pull things together, and then she took on the role of Treasurer, to clean up all past accounting, bringing us up to date with the State of California and the IRS. We now have our 501 3c status back.

We have lots of ideas for 2025, but need you, our members to help out when, and where you can, be it for a day, week, month or year of service to continue our forward movement. 2025 will be our 77th year and, our 50th year for the Stoddard Wells Tailgate show. In 2024 we also introduced holiday sales for our members, to set up and sell their lapidary and other treasures. This also brought to the club much needed funds, to get us to the point where we finally took a deep breath of air when the building was rented.

We expect to have a great 2025! Be a part of it! The elections will be held at the club house, during our November General Meeting. Come out and share a potluck with us, see some old friends, talk rocks and minerals. Below are those volunteering being either incumbent officers, and or new volunteers to vote

PRESIDENT: Dave Duncan has offered to do one more year. 1st VICE PRESIDENT; MEMBERSHIP: Kareem Jacobs 2nd VICE PRESIDENT; EDUCATION: Lia Hamilton, taking on an extra year RECORDING SECRETARY POSITION: TREASURER: Ann Musak CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Jake Brouwer, taking on an extra year 2 YEAR BOARD MEMBER: Lorie Cunningham, and Pam Trozera, both taking on an extra 2 years 1 YEAR BOARD MEMBER: Sara Arnold, and Corey Beck, Beka McNeil.





## Education Night

### Mostly Trilobites, with George Ast

The October lessons for Education Night featured VVGMC member, George Ast. George has been a generous contributor to the club's fossil knowledge. At least once before. He spoke about trilobites, local, national and international, as these "bugs" can be found worldwide.

George's early knowledge of trilobites came out of a book written by Ricardo Levi -Seti. He learned that there were trilobites that he could collect not too far from his home in Southern California. The locality was in the Marble mountains. Trilobites are arthropods who must shed their outer "skin" in order to grow. In most cases fossils must have "hard" parts that don't easily or quickly decompose. George told us stories about how he first found lots of shed bug heads and a few bodies, which are not good representatives of the fossils, and had several trips in before he started to find complete specimens. The formation these are found in spreads from California through Utah. A few of the localities are Tecopa, CA; Goldfield, Nevada; and Delta Utah. Some very fine specimens are also collected in Morocco and parts of Europe.

The fossils he was finding there were called Fallotaspids and Nevadaia, and Bristolia and were among the oldest forms of life on Earth. Trilobites lived throughout the Era known as the Paleozoic, from the Cambrian Period (600 million years BPE) to the Permian Period, (252 million years BPE). This stretched far longer than the length of time from the dinosaurs up to now.

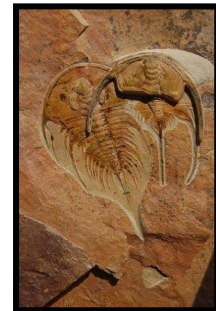
Trilobites were primarily bottom dwellers who buried themselves in the mud. Their primary predators were Eurypterids, sea scorpions, that could reach over 6 feet in length. In order to protect themselves, over time they evolved spines, the ability to enroll, and much thicker shells. As a result of the thicker shells, later trilobites were much better preserved. Life that has found a successful form often repeats that form. Trilobites became extinct at the end of the Permian and today the form is taken by the common "rolly-polly bug."

The first collectors of trilobites in North America were the Native Americans who used them in their jewelry. Early United States collecting was done by the USGS and its director named Wolcott who teamed up with miners in the old west to get the specimens sent to him. As a result many of the museums today have expansive collections of these fascinating fossils.

Thanks George for sharing your knowledge with us.



George Ast as Fossils Inc., at one of the many shows at which he sells.



## Field Trip Report South Cady Mountains Scott Gray

Saturday October 26th was the date of our first field trip of the Fall season: the South Cady Mountains.

After meeting up at the Hector Rd off-ramp and examining some stuff found on a pre-site trip and a quick safety talk we headed east on National Trails Highway, 13 vehicles with 24 members and 1 guest; Newer members Jack Horn and his wife met us enroute at the beginning of the power line road.

The first stop was the Quarry Cove area described in the Desert Gem Trails guide. This is a vast area with much jasper type material readily available and other collectibles available to the adventurous. Little did I know we were also at the base of a hill that was also a plume agate claim in the past; nobody knows this area better than Chris Koch and I was glad he came along to help identify and educate attendees. Sasha Gray dug in her favorite spot all morning and many others wandered the hillsides and mesa.

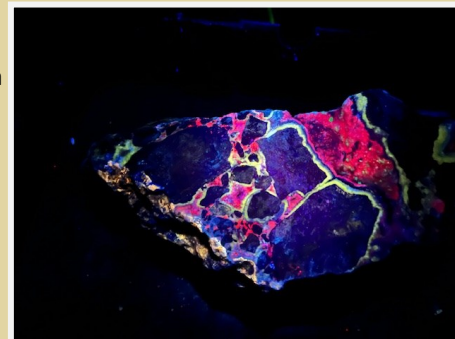
After getting 2 vehicles unstuck from the sand (thanks Shona and Danny Sweeney) we were able to head east to the second location: Jasper Hill. Since the last trip here material was a little scarcer but everyone seemed to find pieces they liked. Both of these locations definitely take careful searching and scrutiny to locate better quality pieces; they best stuff isn't going to just jump in your bucket. Most of the nicer pieces I saw for the day took digging to get them out of the ground or quite a bit of hiking to examine the washes and hillsides.

A neat added bonus for the day was the desert tortoise chilling outside of her burrow discovered by new members Kelly and Ashley Rose; always a good time encountering one of these in the wild! Despite a couple stuck vehicles and a member getting a little too much Sun this was a fun trip. Many new members attended, along with my first trip attended by Cynthia Wade and her husband Wade, who was a pleasure to meet. It was also great meeting Danny Sweeney from the Yucaipa Club who graciously used his 4WD to get a truck out of a tight spot... he also found a really neat big fluorescent specimen in the washes east of Jasper Hill... Check out the pic.

Thanks to all who attended and especially Chris, Jake, Sasha, and Danny who helped make my day a lot easier! See you guys on the next one!



Left: Jasp-agate found by Sasha



Right: a UV specimen with the UV light and below, without the UV light. Collected by Danny Sweeney



Left: An agate found by Scott above quarry cove





## Discover the Fascinating World of Feldspar

*From Cristiane Stoll*

Hello, rock enthusiasts and curious minds! This month, we're diving into the captivating world of feldspar, a group of minerals that might not be as flashy as diamonds or as mystical as amethyst, but certainly has its own unique charm and significance. Let's explore why feldspar deserves a spot in our mineral hall of fame!

### What is Feldspar?

Feldspar is not just one mineral, but a group of closely related minerals that make up a significant portion of the Earth's crust. In fact, feldspar accounts for about 60% of all minerals found on our planet! It's like the unsung hero of the mineral world, quietly supporting the structure of the Earth beneath our feet.

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### A Variety of Colors and Forms

Feldspar is often praised for its pearly luster and the shimmering effect known as "schiller" that some varieties, like labradorite and sunstone, exhibit. This optical phenomenon occurs when light interacts with the layers within the mineral, creating a captivating play of colors that can rival even the most sought-after gemstones.

### Everyday Uses of Feldspar

While feldspar might not be the star of your jewelry box, it's a crucial component in a variety of everyday products. It's used in ceramics and glassmaking, where its high melting point and ability to form a glassy phase make it an ideal ingredient. The next time you're sipping from a coffee mug or looking through a window, you can thank feldspar for its contribution!

### Feldspar in Folklore and Myth

Beyond its practical uses, feldspar holds a special place in folklore and mythology. In some cultures, it is believed to have protective properties, while others see it as a symbol of abundance and prosperity. Feldspar's ability to sparkle and shine has led many to associate it with magic and mystique, adding an enchanting layer to its geological significance.

### Final Thoughts

Feldspar may not always steal the spotlight, but its importance in both the natural world and our daily lives is undeniable. As you explore the world around you, take a moment to appreciate this versatile mineral and the quiet beauty it brings to our planet. Whether in the form of a sparkling sunstone or a sturdy ceramic dish, feldspar touches our lives in subtle yet significant ways. Keep on rocking!

*Samples of feldspar, with sunstone in the center*



## An Article in the ongoing feature, The Traveling Rockhound

SORA NEWS 24 Oona Magee

**Walk away with garnets, amethysts, rubies and sapphires at this little-known tourist spot.**

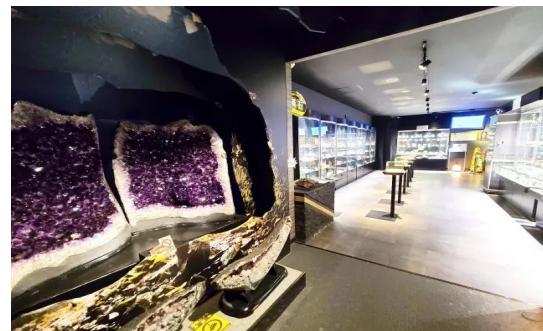
### *Gem hunting: A top Japanese activity more tourists need to know about*

Once you become an adult, it can feel like there are fewer things you can enjoy with the same unabashed freedom that you once had as a child. However, the other day, our reporter Maro came across something that nurtured her inner child for the first time in a long while, and it was located at a tourist facility in Yamanashi Prefecture called **Saiseiki no Kura**.

\*\*\*To be accurate, the place goes by the official name “Koushuu Tennenseki Koubou Saiseiki no Kura” (“**Yamanashi Natural Stone Workshop Unpolished Gem Warehouse**“), with “Koushuu” being the old name for Yamanashi.

As the name suggests, this facility specializes in stones and gems, which is apt, seeing as Yamanashi Prefecture has long had a thriving jewelry industry, and even has a gem museum dedicated to precious natural ores from all over the world. What makes Saiseiki no Kura so popular is the fact that it offers a **Gem Hunt for Adults**, where you can rifle through a collection of small rocks and take any semi-precious stones and gems you find home with you!

When Maro arrived at the warehouse, which is free to enter, she first made her way past a collection of glistening natural ores, including an amethyst that was larger than her.



The gem hunt is located in a building next to this one, so that's where she headed to next. This is where you'll find a gem hunt for children and one for adults, the latter of which is divided into several courses, depending on the value of gems that can be found.

*Cont'd on page nineteen*



Maro opted for the standard 2,200 yen (US\$15.40) course, which is guaranteed to **contain one of nine types of gemstones polished by an artisan**, in amongst other small chipped stones and craft stone replicas. The Gem Hunt has a **time limit of 30 minutes**, so time is a top priority for the gem hunter.



**The first task is to choose your excavation container.**



**Ordinarily, there's only one gemstone per container, but on rare occasions, there might be two gemstones in the container.**

The gemstones have already been buried by staff, so what kind of jewels you unearth depends on the container you choose. Each bowl has a comment attached to it, so you can use your intuition to help you make the all-important choice. The great thing about Gem Hunting for Adults is **you can actually find a lot of gems**. Just use the back of the spoon and the tweezers to rifle through the stones and you'll find a bevy of colorful gems.



Maro continued to mine for gems, concentrating so hard on the task that when it was over her shoulders, neck, and eyes were sore. The 30 minutes seemed to pass by in the blink of an eye, but she was glad it ended when it did because if she'd continued any longer she might have suffered even more aches and pains. Still, it was so much fun that she became totally engrossed in the activity and totally lost track of time, and what she went home with was far more than anything she could've dreamed of.



**The deep red stone was a garnet, which made Maro want to jump up and down in delight. This was the most coveted gem in her price category, so she was relieved to find it within the time limit.**

While it takes about 30 minutes to hunt for gems, if you include walking around the museum and browsing the store, you can spend a good two to three hours here. Both adults and kids will love the fun of the hunt, and staff are incredibly kind and friendly, so Maro can't wait to visit again in future.



## Knapper's Corner

This month I am not being lazy, but trying to be kind. Here are some photos to look at, with less text to wade through.

**Flake Scars** are what are left behind when we take a flake. The last series of flake scars are what we mainly see on the the face of a knapped piece when it is finished. They are a large part of what determines the beauty of the tool, point, blade, or eccentric.

The pattern of scars can be very regular, somewhat regular, varying to random. For reasons I will explore in future articles, techniques that result in regularly spaced flake scars also lend themselves to easier flake removal, with cleaner flake terminations.

Flake terminations refers to where the flake detaches from the core, especially the end of the flake (mainly the inside end of the flake). We want to see a clean termination that feathers to nothing, as opposed to a flake that stops and leaves a messy hinge or step.

It can be very pretty to have two flakes from opposite edges of the piece fade out into each other in the middle of the face, giving the appearance of one long clean flake. All of the photos shown have at least a few such flakes, with the one by Clint Kight exhibiting this the best. Some of the other points shown have a little mess in some areas where the flakes met in the middle. I do not say this critically, but to give you something to observe and think about.

All of these knappers are far more skilled than I, and I've learned personally from Barney and Ralph. I'm sure I would have learned from Joe Dabill as well if he hadn't passed away far too early.

*Ken Villars*



Some of the  
examples  
mentioned  
above.



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 minerology and Lapidary Arts.

**SHOP DAY:**

TUES Nov.5, 12, 19, 26, 2024

12:00pm - 5:00 pm

SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 12:00pm– 5:00 Closed 11/28

SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—12:00pm-5 pm

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

Closed Nov. 3 and 10

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:**

**CLUB CLEAN UP DAY: TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**INSTRUCTORS MEETING: Mon. November 4, 2024, 12 PM**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: November 4, 2024 1:30pm TIL FINISHED.**

**EDUCATION NIGHT: November 11, 2024 6:00 PM**

**GENERAL MEETING: - November 16, 2024. 12:00 - 2:00 pm, followed by our traditional door prizes, and more. Shop work resumes APPROXIMATLY 2:00 -5:00 pm.**

**JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: OCT. , 2024 - 9:00 AM TO 11:45 AM**

**THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**

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