

THE BULLETIN

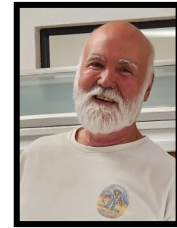
FEBRUARY 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....1
Welcome New Members.....1
Quartzite Trip Report.....2
Field Trip Reports.....3&4
Tailgate information.....5, 6, 7
New Books!.....8
CFMS & upcoming Shows.....9
Ody and the Saw Room.....10
Cristiane Stoll.....11
Juniors Page.....12
Knappers Corner.....13
The Traveling Rockhound.....14
Member Birthdays/Rockstars.....15
Instructors, Officers, Chairs.....16



Our President's Message



Dave Duncan

Greetings to all members and friends of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy our unusually mild winter. It's been perfect for rockhounding!

I was able to go to the Quartzite shows a few weeks ago, and I've brought back a variety of crystals and polished slabs. These will be used as "Pick your Prize" prizes at the upcoming tailgate, as well as incentive prizes to encourage member participation in club activities and volunteerism.

To kick this off, any of you that write an article for the March newsletter will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful polished slab of Mookaite Jasper. So, consider writing a few paragraphs about your activities, travels or whatever and send to John by Feb 22.

Please keep in mind that our annual Tailgate is coming up early next month. Please make sure to clear your calendars so that you can help us with this big event. We especially need help on Thursday, March 6 for setup, And Sunday evening for packing everything up and packing it into our storage container. There will be another gift drawing or two based on your participation.

Finally, I would like to thank Scott Gray for another great Field trip last weekend. We had a great turn out of club members and guests for our trip Kramer Hills, were everyone found an abundance of Palm root and colorful agate at the former Key Kay claim.

Stay tuned for info on our next field in February to the Castle Buttes area, west of Boron.

Dave Duncan

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Oscar Gonzalez
Shiela Whitesock
Merri Lynn Casem
David and Debbie Iiams



A Quartzite Report Scott Gray

Well it's 2025! A new year and what better way to start it than with a trip to Quartzsite AZ. For a change of pace we decided this year to spend 2 days hounding and 2 days at the shows so the easiest way to break down our trip is with a day to day report.

Wednesday: we headed out in the AM, our destination... Indian Pass to hunt for agate, jasper, palm root/bog and dumortierite aka desert lapis. This is a challenging area to hunt, not because there is no material but because everything is covered with a desert varnish. We managed to find some stuff but only had a couple hours to look around, definitely want to revisit here.

Thursday: The Pow Wow! It was great seeing everything even though the event was scaled down with less vendors. The highlight was actually seeing several club members and a bunch of folks from other clubs who attend our trips. We picked up a flat of garnets and some cabs for Sasha. Patrick from Mohave Mineral Miners gave me a very nice piece of Barella Blue Chrysocolla he had recently dug up! Sweet!

Friday: Tyson Wells and Desert Gardens. We purchased a display set up for Sasha's wraps and other lapidary stuff from the Wells and at Desert Gardens we picked up saw blades, some cabs to wrap, and a cool piece of palm root given to us by Jim Hare!

Saturday: we decided to head back down to the Midway Well area where Sasha found a very nice geode last year. No geodes this time but we managed to find some narrow seam agate and a bunch of cool little water line agates from an adjacent area. Saturday was topped off with a stop at Kenny's Rock Shop in Palo Verde where we purchased some Oregon thunder eggs and some cutting rough.

Overall the trip was good but too short as always. Nothing better than seeing a bunch of friends old and new, eyeballing some awesome rocks, and getting out in the middle of nowhere looking for gems. Can't wait for next year!

Thank you for the great report Scott. We hope you get to spend more time next year! ed.



Scott Gray



Stoddard Wells Tailgate Information On Page 6, 7, & 8

February Field Trip! Castle Buttes

Hey Rockhounds!

The destination I'd like to make for the February field trip is to the Castle Butte area for agate, jasper, and potentially petrified wood, palm, and maybe a piece or two of bloodstone. This trip is not finalized due to potential weather issues as rain is forecast for most weekends in February and this area is completely inaccessible after considerable amounts of rain.

This is a good area for beginners as lots of stuff can be found in float, despite this area being collected heavily in the 70's and 80's. Lots of leaverite is found here too but as the pics show, good stuff is still available with a little luck and a keen eye, Sasha and I collected these pieces on a scouting trip right around New Year.

Make sure to check your emails regarding any updates for this trip once we have a handle on the weather situation.



Examples of the rocks that can be found at Castle Buttes.



A Field Trip to the Kramer Hills

It was a cool morning becoming quite sunny with a few clouds and warm. That would change by the afternoon. For the first stop we drove southeast out of the junction area a few miles to a wash, which will now be referred to as Kelly's Claim, that offered palm bog and root with plenty of float that will go into the tumbler. Kelly found some very clean twig specimens. The group, which consisted of about a dozen vehicles and 25 or so rockhounds, spread out over the area and found some really beautiful treasures.

After a couple of hours we all loaded up to travel to the Key Kay spot. There were already some excavations to exploit and of course, plenty of float for the tumbler. President Dave got some tools out and banged away at the matrix in one of the holes finding some fine looking opal/agate specimens, most of which he promptly gave away to some folks nearby. Nice. On Sunday Dave cut and polished a beautiful cab from KK.



Most of the vehicles were in front of us.



On top of the Key Kay locality.



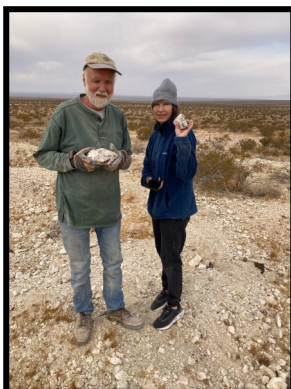
Dave doing some hard rock work at Key Kay.



Scott and Dave in Key Kay.



A cabochon that Dave made from material out of the Key Kay site.



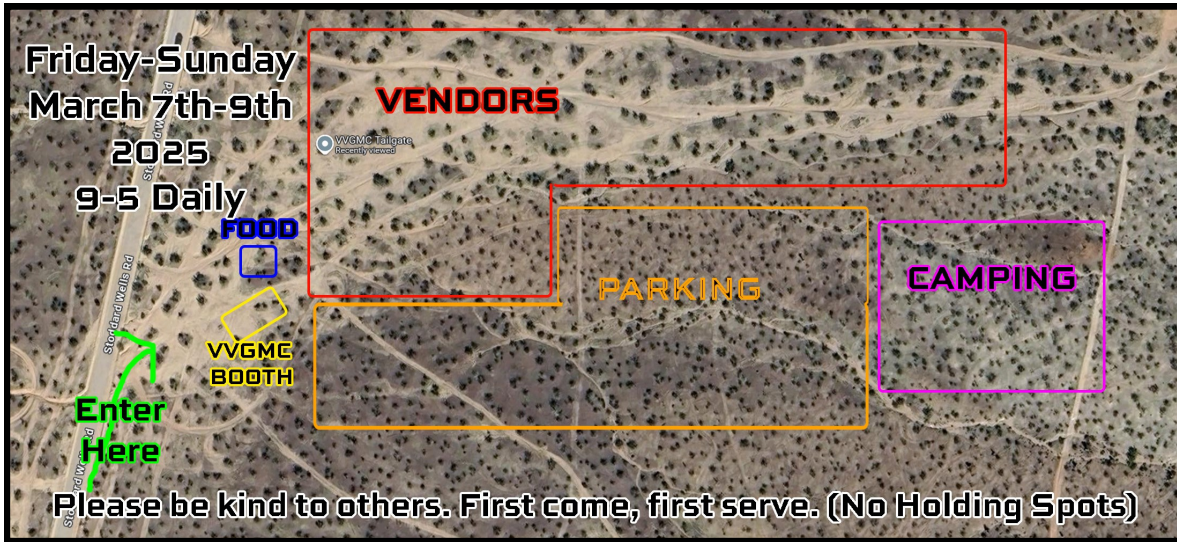
Up: Kelly and Dave holding rocks they found.



Right: Some twigs found at the Kelly Claim.



Tailgate Satellite View And New Set-up



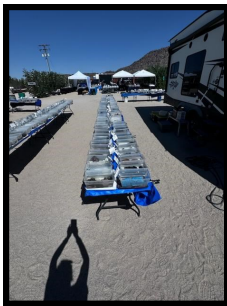
2025 Stoddard Wells Tailgate

The newly revamped Tailgate is scheduled for the first weekend in March, the 7th, 8th and, 9th.

Our new chairman for the Tailgate, Ody Oriva, has made several changes to the layout of the event. First, the information and club information booth is at the beginning of the sales area instead of farther back. He also moved the food provider to the front. The vendor area is clearly set out, as is the parking area. A camping area has been set at the Southeastern end, closer to the mountain.

We have many vendors who have said they were coming, and we are looking forward to hosting this much anticipated event.

As in years past, there is no charge to sell. We just ask that you keep your area clean and neat. As stated on the map; Please be kind, first come first served, don't hold spots. Enjoy yourself and have many successful sales or purchases. Please see map on the following page.



A few views of what to expect from visiting the Tailgate.



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*

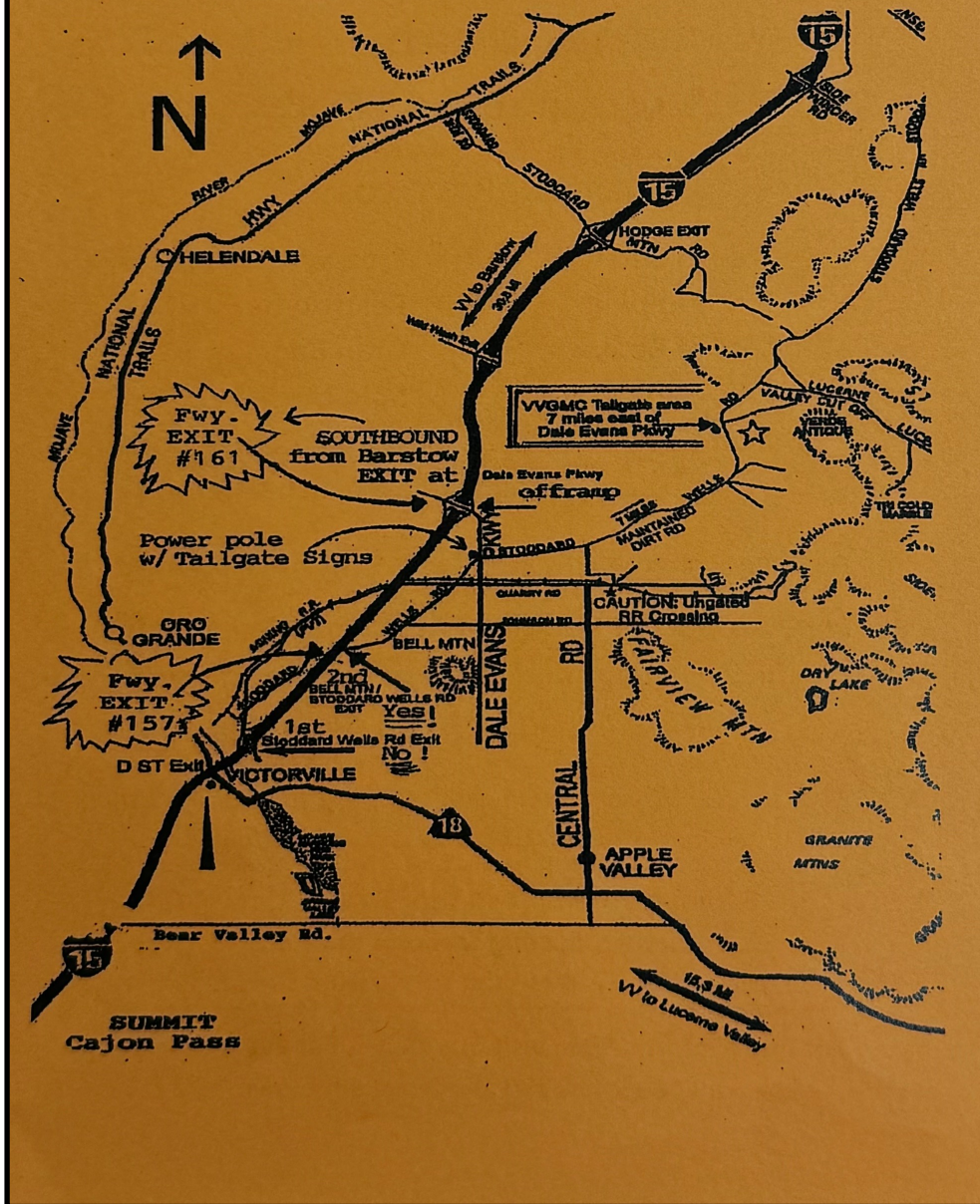
*NO saving spaces, NO competing with VVGMC's fundraising activities
ie: Food, drinks, spin the wheel, or auctions*

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

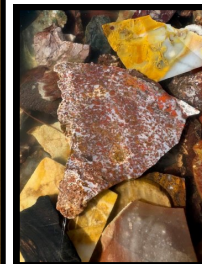
For more Information, visit our website at vvgmc.org or
call 760-243-2330 and leave a message

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!

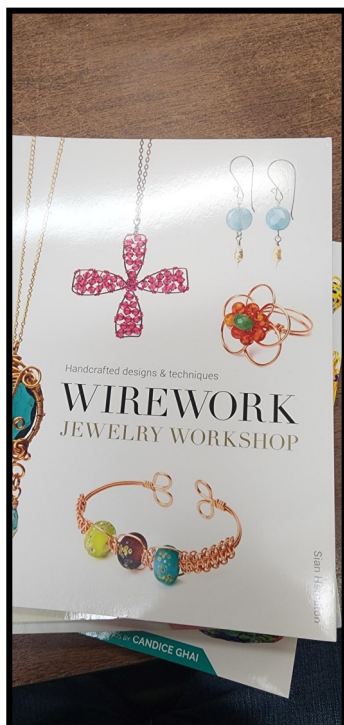
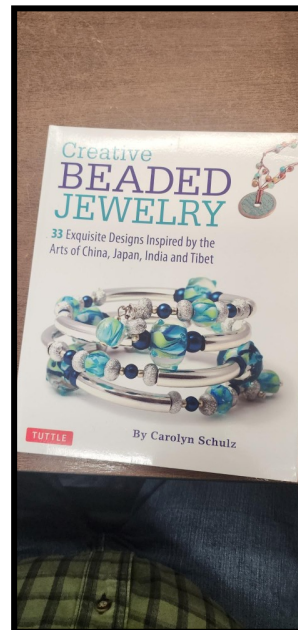
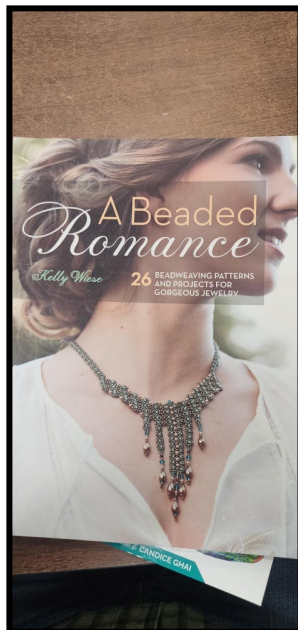
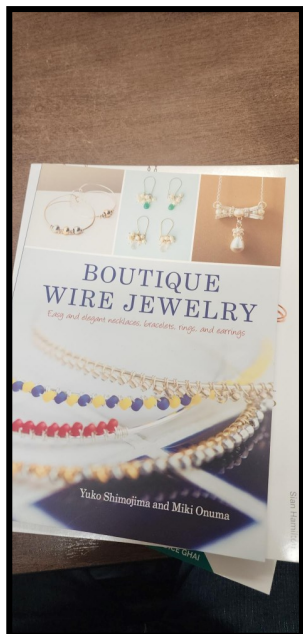


From last year's event

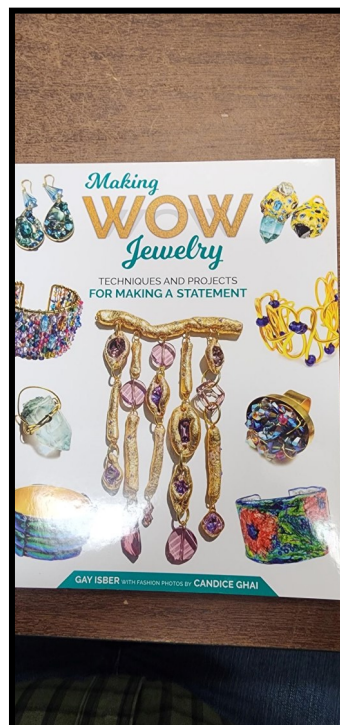


WE HAVE NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

Lia, our vice president for education, asked that we begin to report on our library. These photos are of five new titles she recently added to our shelves. Thank you Lia.



Have a photo of you and the book and it's checked out. Please don't forget to bring it back.



2025 Gem and Mineral Shows

February 22-23, 2025 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA

Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM

59th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

Contact: (415) 254-1506

Website: <http://vigems.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>

March 22-23, 2025 – Torrance, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society

Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

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

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society presents our Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Natures Treasures. Free admission and plenty of free parking.. We will have educational demonstrations, slabs, raffle, rough rock, silent auction, polished stones, fluorescent minerals, children's activities, crystals, etc., etc., etc.

Vendors, please contact: edwhitefire@gmail.com, (310) 283-3448

Website: <http://southbaylapidaryandmineralsociety.com>

March 21-23, 2025 – Fresno, CA

Fresno Gem and Mineral Society

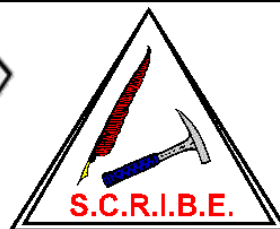
Clovis Rodeo Grounds, 748 Rodeo Drive, Clovis CA 93612

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

Central Valley Gem and Mineral Show. The 5th Annual Central Valley Gem & Mineral Show, sponsored by the Fresno Gem & Mineral Society, presents a great show for viewing, learning about and purchasing minerals, fossils, gems, beautiful handmade jewelry and much more! Food Vendors on site. \$5 Admission for ages 13 years and up. Free Parking.

Contact: (708) 821-7575

Website: <https://www.fgms.rocks>



The Saw Room A Report by Ody Oriva

Hello, my name is Ody Oriva. I would like to share my saw room experience. At first, I was nervous about using this room and the equipment in it. I've been a member of the VVGMC for around a year and it took me some time to go into the saw room and learn how to use it. The other members (Instructors) were very welcoming and knowledgeable in teaching me how to use and maintain each of our 7 saws.

There are 2 trim saws and 5 slab saws to provide a way to cut almost any rock, of almost any size. The saws are easy to use with training to help you become familiar with them. Just ask any Instructor and start slabbing today!

Thanks Ody! Ody is training to become an Instructor and should be ready soon. He also recently repainted the donation box (see photo).



Above: The repainted donation box done by Ody.
Above right: Some slabs Ody has cut.
Left and below/right Ody works on the saws.



This Month's Gift From Cristiane

Chrysocolla and Malachite: A Tale of Beauty Born from the Earth

Deep within the earth, where ancient geological forces meet, a mesmerizing duo emerges: chrysocolla and malachite. These vibrant copper-based minerals often form side by side, their stunning colors and rich history captivating scientists, jewelers, and lore lovers alike. Let's explore their story, from their shared origins to the legends that surround them.

The Science Behind the Union:

Chrysocolla and malachite owe their existence to copper deposits found in arid, oxidized environments. Over millennia, water percolates through copper-rich rocks, carrying dissolved minerals with it. As this mineral-rich water interacts with oxygen, new compounds form, including chrysocolla and malachite.

Chrysocolla appears in vivid blue to green hues, thanks to its high content of hydrated copper silicate.

Malachite dazzles with its deep green bands and swirling patterns, created by copper carbonate hydroxide.

Often, these two minerals grow together, their contrasting textures and colors enhancing one another. This pairing occurs because they share similar chemical requirements and form under nearly identical conditions. Together, they create striking specimens prized by collectors and gem enthusiasts.

Earth's Masterpieces

Visually, chrysocolla and malachite are a match made in heaven. Their complementary colors evoke lush, tropical landscapes or the meeting of sky and earth. Some specimens even exhibit intricate botryoidal formations, resembling tiny bubbles or ripples that highlight their natural beauty.

From a scientific standpoint, their shared growth is a testament to the earth's ingenuity. These minerals often develop in the oxidation zones of copper ore deposits, areas where chemical reactions transform primary copper minerals into secondary ones like chrysocolla and malachite. This process not only produces their stunning appearance but also plays a role in the geological recycling of copper.

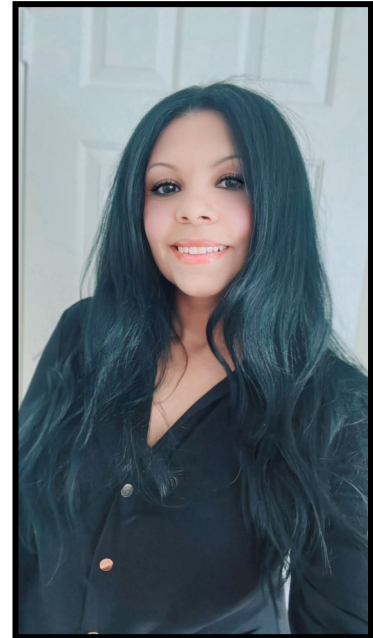
A Stone of Harmony, Protection, and Transformation

In ancient lore, chrysocolla and malachite were considered stones of transformation and harmony. Chrysocolla, with its calming blues, was thought to soothe tempers and inspire clear communication. It was often associated with goddesses like Aphrodite and linked to the throat chakra, aiding in self-expression and emotional balance.

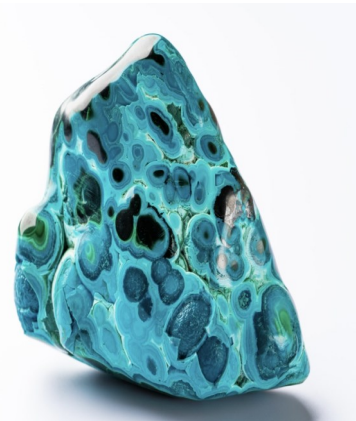
Malachite, on the other hand, has long been seen as a protective stone, especially for children. Ancient Egyptians believed it could shield against negative energies and even physical harm.

Invite Their Magic into Your Life

Every chrysocolla-malachite specimen carries the story of its creation—a tale of water, copper, and time weaving together to create something extraordinary. Let them inspire you to embrace your own journey of growth and harmony.



Cristiane Stoll



VVGMC Juniors Program

Thanks to our new Juniors Program leader, Yaya, the kids are enjoying and working towards expanding their knowledge.



The Kids are all suited up and ready to practice lapidary.

In a club with an average age of “old” it’s good that we encourage our junior members to participate. Some of these youths will inherit the responsibility of operating the club long after we’re gone. We are lucky to have about a dozen Juniors who regularly participate in the Saturday sessions.

An activity they have planned for the upcoming Tailgate is a scavenger hunt during which the participants will explore the different vendors to find specific things outlined in the rules handed out prior to the activity. Yaya is doing a great job with the program and deserves all the support we can give her.



A fine slice of Mookaite offered as a prize in the drawing for writing an article for the Bulletin. Remember it just has to be about you and or your interest in rockhounding. It could be about anytime in your life too. Remember when you as a kid found a personal treasure? No to mention that John would love to have others participating. ;)

Flint Knapper's Corner

Ken Villars

Creating Ridges and Convexity to Promote Thinning Flakes

Whenever you take a series of flakes, you lose width. There is a sort of slow motion race to get the thinness you want in the piece before it gets narrower than you would like. Only flakes that travel past the midpoint of the face thin the piece. Understanding this might not comfort you when you keep ending up with drills and chunky points, but at least it will give you something to work on. You can set yourself up for better flakes by taking advantage of knowing what makes longer flakes:

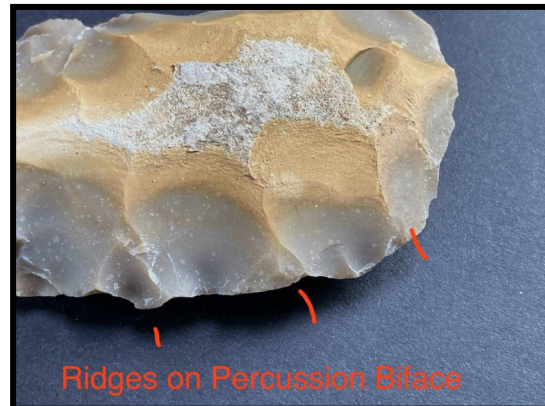
- Narrower flakes travel farther than wider flakes.

- Flakes travel farther across convex faces. They spread out on flat faces, and they fail miserably on concave areas.

We can create concave faces using either lapidary equipment or by skillful knapping. Since this is an article for a lapidary club newsletter, we will assume you are going to at least try grinding convex faces on slabs. The knapping solution to getting convex faces from a slab is to start with a series of short, steep flakes. After about two passes (or more) of slightly less steep flakes you should have a fairly convex face, at which point you can concentrate on pretty finishing flakes.

Flakes leave behind flake scars, with ridges on either side. By habitually spacing your flakes in a series to create these ridges, you can build the foundation specifically for a nice, finished piece; and, generally, for knapping success.

The next article will show photos of pressure flakes taken in series off of flat faces and convex faces, as a prelude to me going forward in my journey to learn FOG (Flake Over Grind) knapping. I plan to share my progress and failures as I go, in the hopes that you will learn with me.



The Traveling Rockhound

From Stars and Stripes

IDAR-OBERSTEIN, Germany

One of Germany's most luminescent towns is nestled in a wooded valley north of Baumholder. Idar-Oberstein, the center of the country's precious stones route, draws rock hounds and jewelry fanatics from around the world to ogle and buy gems from amethyst to zircon. Many who visit the pleasant little burg are Americans.

Some 5,000 troops live in Baumholder, a mere 15 minutes away, and another 40,000 Americans live in the Kaiserslautern area, another 30 minutes southeast of Idar-Oberstein. "We get about 1 million visitors every year," said Dagmar Kramp, who was stringing a necklace in her tidy shop along the town's main shopping thoroughfare. "Americans spend the most money."

Once a producer of semiprecious gems in its own right, Idar-Oberstein merchants now import the stones, mostly from Brazil, Kramp said. Yet the town still trades on its reputation for colorful rock and polished stones. Idar-Oberstein is one of several towns and mines included on the 30-mile precious-stones route, where communities have been in the gemstone business since the Middle Ages. Among the stops on the route are Fischbach, where a copper mine can be toured, along with a precious stone museum. Just outside Idar-Oberstein, visitors can tour the Edelsteinmeine Mines, which no longer produce stones. Or they can stop in Steinkaulenberg and dig for their own sparkling stones.

A stop in Idar-Oberstein alone, however, is a fine way to spend an afternoon. The town has plenty of restaurants and coffee shops where shoppers can get re-energized before trying to find that perfect gem. In general, prices are relatively low and service is fairly good.

The journey through a fascinating world full of splendor and preciousness begins in the only gem mine in Europe that is open for inspection, the gem mines in the Steinkaulenberg in Idar-Oberstein.

The visitor tunnels are illuminated by spotlights. So you can not only see beautiful agates, but also glittering rock crystals, amethysts, smoky quartz, calcite and others. like. You feel like you are in a fairytale cave.

Expert guides explain the evolution of the gemstones. A visit to the historic mine - located in the middle of a nature reserve - will be an unforgettable experience for everyone. The visitor mine can be visited in normal street clothes. A protective helmet is provided. Inside the mountain, the paths are laid out without steps and slides. Group strength: 25 persons

At the gem camp treasure hunters can try their very best to dig for the coveted gems. Very nice pieces of agate, amethyst, smoky quartz etc. have often been found.

The mining fields primarily intended for children and adolescents - are filled with minerals and precious stones from all over the world every day. Advance registration required! Registration with the management.



Club Birthdays for February

Donald Perez
 David Wilson
 Pam Golightly
 Bryndon Michener
 Colin Mason
 Linda Hays
 Teresa Podgorski
 Kimberly Kelley
 Alison Ellison
 Christopher Garland
 Donna Sparling
 Jhenya Meunier
 David Ians

Rock Star Birthdays for February

Alice Cooper
 Axl Rose—Guns and Roses
 Ice-T
 Kurt Cobain—Nirvana
 Johnny Van Zandt—Lynyrd Skynyrd
 Shakira
 Carole King
 Peter Gabriel—Genesis
 George Harrison—The Beatles



Classified Advertisements

In this section any club member may have a five line space for them try to sell or buy items they have that other members might be interested in. Please include, a description of what you have and your preferred method of contact. If you are attempting to sell an item, please include a price. Thanks. At this time ads will be limited to members in good standing and limited to one month.

Thank You!

Sincere thanks are due to a number of folks this month. As always it's good to thank Dave Duncan and Lorie Cunningham whose dedication is part of the heartbeat that keeps our club alive. Also thanks to Cristiane Stoll, Ken Villars, Ody Oriva, Lia Hamilton, Emily Mason, and Stars and Stripes.

A special thank you to our Wagon Master, Scott Gray, who sets up all of our Club field trips which is usually once each month. He usually goes ahead of time to check out the area and to collect some typical specimens we are likely to find. Scott deserves the thanks and support of our entire club. If you haven't had the pleasure of going on a trip with Scott and Sasha you are missing one of the best parts of rockhounding with VVGMC.

Thanks also to the officers, chairpersons and instructors who volunteer their time to make us a great rock club!

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

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 / George Robles

COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

CFMS representative / Ody Oriva

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:

Janet Flecher, Chris Koch, Stine Smith, Dave Duncan,
Lia Hamilton, Gayland Graves, Beka McNeil and, Lorie Cunningham

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Ann Musik, Ody Oriva

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.

JANUARY SHOP DAYS:

Tues January, 4, 11, 18, 25.....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 (usually the Thursday before the General meeting at 11:00 am)

INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TBA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: First Tuesday at 5:30pm

EDUCATION NIGHT: None planned at this time.

GENERAL MEETING: - February 15 2025. 12:00 - 2:00

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

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: There will be a field trip to the Tailgate in March. A scavenger hunt is planned.

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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