

The Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

The Bulletin for July 2025

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Table of Contents

President's Message.....	1
Welcome New Members.....	1
Scott Gray.....	2
More from Ocean View.....	3
Ody Oriva.....	4
CFMS Shows.....	5/6
Merri Lynn Casem.....	7
Birthdays.....	8
Welcome Keays.....	9
Cristiane Stoll.....	10
The July Birthstone.....	11
Ken Villars.....	12
Our Junior Winners.....	13
New Tailgate map.....	14
Thanks and Good Bye.....	15
Photos around the club.....	16/17
Pearlblossom Gem Show.....	18
Officers, Chairs, Instructors.....	19
The Last Page.....	20



President's message July 2025



Greetings to all members and friends.
Just in case you missed it, we had a great meeting and potluck last Saturday with about 40 people in attendance. This included several new members and guests. Most left with a rock or 2 they won or purchased. **Dave Duncan**

Volunteers of the Month for July!

If you've been to the clubhouse in the past week or 2, you may have noticed our newly rejuvenated nice shiny floor. This is due to the efforts of our volunteers Oscar and Alfonso Gonzales, who spent their day off helping our club. The Gonzales brothers have a business cleaning floors and carpets for business and home owners. So, if you have a need for their services, call Oscar at 442-382-9214. I know I will!

Please remember that the club is built around volunteers. Please ask yourself what you can do to help the club.

Summer is officially here and it's getting warmer! We don't recommend going out rock hunting in the heat, but if you do, bring lots of water, a friend and a second vehicle.

We welcome our new members!

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

Kyle Sandahl Bri Murcia Leah Castillo Karen O'Rielly

Jean DeLucia David DeLucia Ben Roberts Raquel Roberts

Luis Gomez

A great compliment to our club that all these folks joined!

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!

Ocean View Adventure

Summer is here and it is putting a kink in collecting in our favorite desert locations. So what's a rockhound supposed to do when they're jonesing for stones? Head south to Pala, California and look for tourmalines, aquamarines, and other crystals at the Ocean View mine!

The Ocean View is a popular pay dig site and is nice as you don't have to bring any tools; all are provided by the mine. We've been here a couple times before so it was a no-brainer way to spend Fathers Day weekend.

With our two rockhound nephews Evan and Eric in tow, we headed south for the 1 hr drive to see what we could dig up. Paying our fees at the gate we took the sorta steep dirt road up to the digging area, where there is a large pile of dump material surrounded by a circle of screening tables with water reservoirs to clean your rocks and the mine supplied buckets and shovels.

Although you are up on the side of a mountain with excellent views of the valley below you can't see the ocean. You can see other mines over the hills around you and that definitely stirs the imagination of what still may be hiding in the ground at this classic gemstone area. After looking at the samples of what could be found we set up Eazy Ups over our tables and screens and spent a few minutes looking in the small dump piles the staff lets you peruse until the actual dig begins.



**Scott Gray Wagon Master
Wagon Master**

After instructions by the staff we were given the green light to start and it was game on! When Sasha and I are here we basically try to screen as many buckets as possible; the more you go thru the better your chances at getting the good stuff. The boys needed a little coaching but not much. In Sasha's first bucket she got a very nice quartz crystal, the biggest either of us had found on previous trips; this turned out to be a preview of things to come: all of us getting very nice quartz crystals, including a huge one Evan uncovered near the end of the day.

(continued on next page)

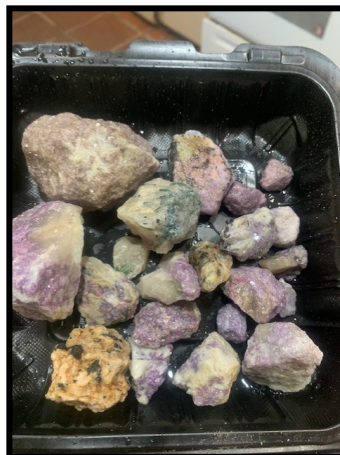
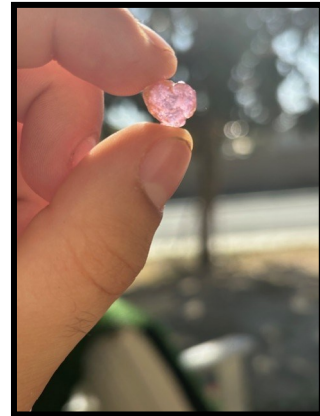


Soon I was muddy and wet from the waist down, my finger tips getting sore from rubbing the dirt thru the provided screens... and I couldn't have been happier.

It was a excellent day at the Ocean View; a younger guy two tables over uncovered the bluest clearest aquamarine I've seen from here and it was good sized too. Sasha got a couple nice pieces of aqua and Evan, again, got a very nice one in one of his buckets. My best finds were a very small piece of aqua, a nice sized quartz crystal with a good tip, lots of little pieces of pink tourmaline, a couple dark blue ones (one with a termination!), some nice pieces of lepidolite, and a good sized piece of pegmatite with black and blue tourmaline running thru it that was, surprisingly, found in the cast off piles before we even began the actual dig!

Although it's a 4 hour dig the time flies by, and soon the staff called for the last bucket. Wow, what a day. The boys had a blast, and we did too... this being overall the best day we've had here yet. Quartz was definitely the rock of the day as most attendees also found decent pieces and between the four of us we managed nearly a dozen of them. After looking at Sasha's and Evan's aquamarines I finally figured out why the mine is called Ocean View... it's the pretty blue aquamarines! Duhhh!

With a warm, but not too hot day, killer finds, fun with the family, and In And Out Burgers on the way home it was a perfect way to spend a Saturday on a holiday weekend and one we will fondly remember for a long time!



Ody's Collecting Trip Up North

My first trip to the Peacock Opal mine in Northern Nevada was something to remember. I didn't find any opals this time around but I did find some interesting things, old wood and a few different types of rocks (I can't remember the names of) that I can still wire wrap and make into nice jewelry.

The mine guide was very helpful in teaching what to look for, even helped look for stuff. I would like to return someday soon and I do have a better idea for the next trip.



Along my trip I was impressed enough with the scenery I decided to share it with you!



CFMS GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS

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 2-3, 2025 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society

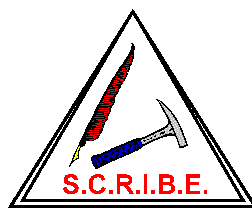
Roebbelen Event Center @the Grounds, 700 Event Center Drive, Roseville, CA 95678

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

It's the Roseville Rock Rollers 63rd annual show! This large event features over 70 quality vendors for all your interests with beautiful Crystals, extraordinary Minerals from around the world, ancient Fossils, Brazilian Amethyst, Australian Opal, sparkling Jewelry, Beads and Gemstones, and for Kids and Scouts – "Education Station" a fun interactive educational area, Petrified Wood, gorgeous Gold nuggets, Gold Panning for real gold, out of this world Meteorites, Turquoise, Stone carvings, and more. Watch live Demonstrations in the Lapidary Arts, join the bidding fun on Silent Rock Auctions. Free – Scientific Mineral ID; bring your Rocks, Gems, Minerals, Meteorites and treasures, for a no-cost Scientific Identification. Be sure to get there early, lots to see!! Adults \$10, Kids 12 and Under Free, Parking Fee

Contact: (916) 216-1114, gloriarosevilleroockrollers@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.rockrollers.com/pages/gem-mineral-show>



Shows continued...

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) 9752-1117, tehachapiVGMS@outlook.com

Website: <http://tvgms.org>

September 13-14, 2025 – Reno, NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Silver State Pavilion at the Grand Sierra Resort, 2500 E. Second St., Reno, NV 89595

Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

JACKPOT OF GEMS = DIAMOND JUBLILEE

Gem and mineral vendors, demonstrations, gold panning, kids center (fossils and dinosaurs). Silent Auctions every 30 minutes, showcase raffle, display cases.

Contact: (925) 785-4551, sabl@comcast.net

<p>The Roseville Rock Rollers presents the 63rd Annual</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">GEM, JEWELRY, FOSSIL & MINERAL SHOW!</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">August 2 & 3, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10 am-4pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Roebbelen Event Center @ the Grounds</p> <p style="text-align: center;">700 Event Center Drive, Roseville, Ca 95678</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Event details, advance tickets, prepaid parking www.rockrollers.com</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">63rd Annual Show!</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70+ Vendors Family Fun! Crystals Minerals Fossils Meteorites Jewelry Gemstones Beads Kids Gem Hunt Demonstrations Mineral ID Silent Auction Door Prizes Drinks & Snacks <p style="text-align: center;">Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society www.rockrollers.com</p>
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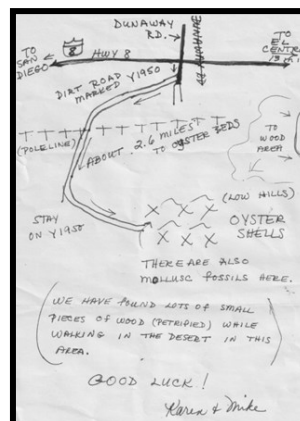
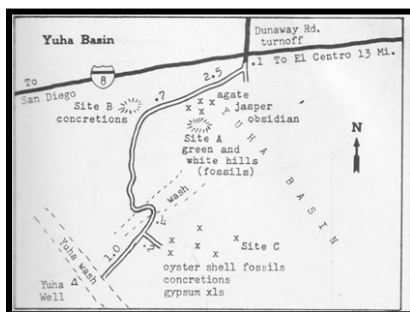


Treasure Map?

Merri Lynn Casem

Ten years ago or so, I was sorting through a pile of old cards and letters when I discovered a hand-drawn map, a treasure map, inside a Christmas card. The card was from some friends of my husband. I don't recall him ever showing it to me, but then he wasn't a rockhound. Needless to say, I held onto that map with the hope that someday I would follow it.

That day happened last October!



Turns out this location was not really a secret.

It can be found in the rockhounding guide, Gem Trails of California by James R. Mitchell.

Ultimately, the map was good enough to lead me and my family to the fossil oyster beds! In addition to the 6 myo oysters, we found some interesting concretions and lots of petrified wood. And most important of all, we had a great time together!



Member Birthdays!

Congratulations for completing another trip around the sun!

International Rock Stars Birthday's



Mick Jagger	The Rolling Stones
Ringo Starr	The Beatles
Geddy Lee	Rush
Courtney Love	Hole
Slash	Gun N Roses
Brian May	Queen
Ritchie Sambora	Bon Jovi

Scott Gray

Dave Duncan

Jonathan Trozera

Carol McMichael

Rufina Lowery

Gail Afton

Mariah Jaimez

Alison Mason

Joe Cordero

Theresa Simmons

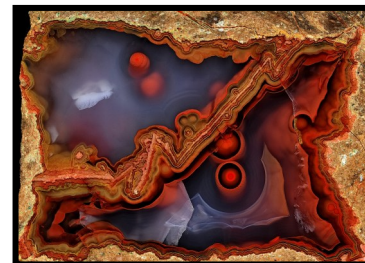
Deanne Ramsey

Lynn Bradshaw



Welcome to Ray and Sandi Keays

Below is Ray Keays. Ray, who, along with his wife joined the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club. His first project is a bolo tie. He chose to make his creation out of Silver Lace Onyx. What a great start! Welcome Ray and Sandi!



Don't forget to pay your dues for 2025.

Amethyst: Your Sparkly, Slightly Judgy, Totally Magical Bestie

Let's talk about amethyst—that dreamy purple crystal that looks like it came straight out of a wizard's pocket or a unicorn's jewelry box. You've probably seen it on someone's altar, in a ring, or suspiciously close to a cat's napping spot (cats know what's up). But don't let its beauty fool you—amethyst isn't just a pretty face. It's a powerhouse. A mystical multitasker. The Beyoncé of the crystal world.

Legend says amethyst can calm the mind, ease stress, protect against psychic attacks, and even prevent hangovers. That's right. According to ancient Greeks, amethyst could keep you from getting too tipsy at Dionysus's wild wine parties. (I'm just saying: maybe if they had added more amethyst to the punch bowl, the Trojan War could've been avoided.)

Personally? I trust in the healing powers of amethyst 100%. This stone has been with me through it all—emotional upheavals, weird dreams, Mercury retrograde, and that one time I overbooked myself and tried to give three massages back-to-back without a snack. (Spoiler: amethyst helped. And so did a granola bar.)

But here's the deal: while I can't promise amethyst will pay your bills or fold your laundry, I can say it holds a calming, wise presence. It's the kind of crystal that sits silently on your shelf like, "I see you spiraling. Do some breathwork, drink some tea, and stop texting your ex." It's honest. It's supportive. It's got mystical therapist energy.

So whether you believe in crystals, kind of believe in them, or just think they're fun to look at while procrastinating real responsibilities, give amethyst a try. Wear it. Meditate with it. Stick it in your bra. Let it whisper ancient cosmic truths to you while you're in line at the DMV.

Because honestly? In this chaotic world, couldn't we all use a little extra purple peace?
With sparkle and trust in the weird,

Cristiane Stoll

**Massage therapist, rock whisperer, and proud amethyst enthusiast
(currently protected by three geodes and an emotional support crystal grid)**



Cristiane Stoll

Cristiane is a well-regarded
massage therapist in Apple Valley





The Ruby July's Birthstone



Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, colored by the element chromium. All other colors of gem-quality corundum are called sapphire, which means color is key for this royal gemstone.

Accordingly, the name "ruby" comes from rubeus, the Latin word for red. In ancient Sanskrit, ruby translated to ratnaraj, which meant "king of precious stones." These fiery gems have been treasured throughout history for their color and vitality.

The chromium that gives ruby its red color also causes fluorescence, which makes rubies glow like a fire from within. Paradoxically, chromium is also what makes this gem scarce because it can cause cracks and fissures. Few rubies actually grow large enough to crystallize into fine quality gems, and these can bring even higher prices than diamonds.

Burma's Mogok Valley historically produced the finest ruby material, famous for its deep blood-red color with purplish hues. These Burmese Rubies, also called Pigeon's Blood Rubies, command a premium over brownish or orange-tinged varieties from other regions.

The Mong Hsu region of Myanmar began producing rubies in the '90s after discovering that heat treatment improved the color saturation. Other ruby deposits exist in Vietnam, Thailand, India, parts of the Middle East, East Africa, and even the United States.

Tough and durable, ruby measures 9 on the Mohs scale. **Diamond** is the only natural gemstone harder than ruby.

Ruby's strength and red fluorescence make it valuable for applications beyond jewelry. Both natural and synthetic rubies are used in watchmaking, medical instruments, and lasers.

Symbolic of passion, protection, and prosperity, ruby gemstones have been revered since ancient times. Rubies have been particularly prized in Asian countries. Records suggest that rubies were traded along China's North Silk Road as early as 200 BC. Chinese noblemen adorned their armor with rubies because they believed the gem would grant protection.

Burma has been a significant ruby source since at least 600 AD. Burmese rubies are still some of the most prized of all ruby gems. After classical Burmese mines were depleted, the Mong Hsu region of Myanmar started producing rubies in the 1990s. Though these lacked the rich red hue of traditional Burmese rubies, they were treated with heat to improve saturation and transparency. Heat-treated rubies is a common practice nowadays. Though ruby has a long history, it wasn't recognized as a variety of corundum until 1800. Prior to that, red spinel, tourmaline, and garnet were also believed to be ruby. Even the Black Ruby, one of the famed crown jewels of England, was considered one of the largest cut rubies until determined to be spinel.

Imitation ruby dates back as far as Roman times, though it wasn't synthesized until the early 1900s.

The red fluorescence power of ruby helped build the first working laser in 1960. Rubies—both natural and synthetic—are still used to make lasers, as well as watches and medical instruments.

Thanks GIA

An Aunt That Brings You Rocks - “Rocks”!

Ken Villars

My Mom’s youngest sister visited recently. She brought me some Chert from Flint, Kansas, as well as some interesting green mineral in a dark host rock she found in gravel at the train station. I am guessing it might be slag glass (from glass or steel manufacturing). I took a couple flakes off the chert and it looks like it might be knappable with heat treatment.

We took my aunt to the Fair, and showed her the food and craft items Barbara and the kids had entered, including a polished cab by Darla (as well as cabs by Rachel and Ruth Gaede, some of our new VVGMC friends). My aunt told us that she had at one point owned a faceting machine, and still has interest in lapidary.

So, of course, after lunch on Sunday we took her and my Mom and gave my aunt a tour of the rock club. She was very interested in her impromptu tour, and was pleased to meet Gayland and John and Ody. Dave wasn’t there, but Gayland was an excellent host, and even generously gave some finished cabs (including turquoise!) to my Mom and aunt.

It was supposed to be a short tour (the ladies had a social engagement that afternoon), but my aunt was having so much fun we stayed longer than expected. We showed my aunt the dollar slabs and the auction table, and a thunder egg caught her eye. She asked if I could cut it for her, and I said I could, so she bought it! Then she asked if I could cut it right then while we were at the rock club, and she gladly paid the shop fee for me to make one (turned out to be several) cuts with the trim saw. My Mom commented something like, “That’s how my sister does things!”

The next day, I was was able to do a quick (by no means perfect) polish on the display side and both sides of the little piece I cut off the bottom (at her request - so it would stand up on a shelf) on our equipment at home, just in time for her to take them with her. She left us the rest of the thunder egg to play with; and we won’t be surprised to learn that she obtains some lapidary equipment of her own to use at home, since my aunt twice said, “This may turn out to be a very expensive visit for me!” (referring to a rekindled desire to have her own lapidary equipment).

Thanks to Gayland and John and Ody and the rest of the VVGMC for being so friendly to the visitors and for their continued generosity, even with finished work!



Congratulations to three of our Junior Members



Our junior club members entered several items in the San Bernardino Country Fair, held in Victorville at the end of May! Darla Villars, Rachel Gaede and Ruth Gaede all entered necklaces they made in Beka McNeil's necklace class taught at education night this past November. Ruth got 1st place in the 8-10 years old category. Darla got 2nd place for her necklace in the 11-12 years old category and Rachel, also in the 11-12 age category, got 1st place as well as Best in Show! Rachel and Ruth also entered cabochons they had made in Junior Rock-hounds. They each got 2nd place in their age categories. It was the first time any of them had entered anything in the fair, and they were very excited about it! Congratulations to Darla, Rachel and Ruth! And a big thanks to Beka, Mark and Yaya for encouraging and teaching them, leading to their success!

From Rosanne Gaede



Nice Work Girls!



From CFMS

WATCH WHAT YOU CLICK!!

The "phishers" are out there and seem to be getting better and better at what they do. In the past few days I've gotten "emails" supposedly from Susan, Bob Papac, and some AFMS people wanting me to pay a bill, send a wire transfer, etc. and that's just the federation phishing. Don't get fooled into responding to them. If in doubt contact the person whose email is being spoofed at their real email

Here is a preview of the informational page and map to the 50th annual VVGMC Tailgate!

VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB



Invites you to their

50th Annual



Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Located in Apple Valley, CA

March 13th, 14th and 15th 2026

Fri - Sun 9 - 5 Daily

EVERYONE IS WELCOMED

All donations are gladly accepted
to help offset our expenses

Free Event
Free Vendor Spaces
Dry Camping
Restrooms On site

Silent Auctions
Grab Bags
Spin the Wheel
And More

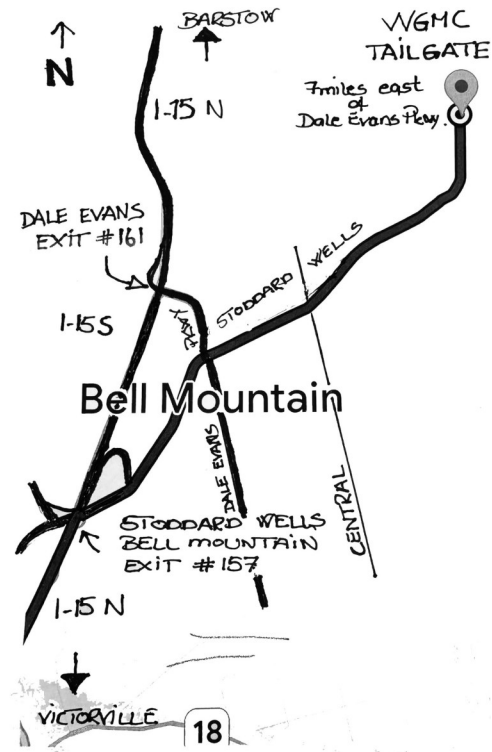
Come visit for handcrafted and faceted jewelry, slabs and cabs,
findings and equipment, minerals and fossils, tons of rough
material and more.

No saving spaces, No competing with VVGMC 's fundraising
activities. Food, drinks, grab bags, spin the wheel, or auctions,

Saturday Family Field Trip!

9am - 1pm

We will be collecting Tri-Color Marble
Verde Antique is less then a mile away.



Thanks to Ody for taking over the enormous task of
being responsible for the 2026 Tailgate!



Thank you to all of you, but especially....

Dave and Lorie, Scott Gray and Sasha, Ody Oriva, Yaya Avila, Merri Lynn Casem, Ken Villars, Rosanne Gaede, Regina Huffman, Cristianne Stoll, Gayland Graves, Jack Villars, Kyle Sandahl, and again, many more of you!



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!



A note from your editor.

I am sad to tell you all that my short tenure as your Bulletin editor is coming to a close. It has been one of the honors of my life and I have enjoyed, very much, producing it.

I have contracted cancer and will begin chemo and radiation on Monday the 30th. Jake Brouwer and Sara Arnold are going to take up my former responsibilities. Thank you to both of them! Thank you to all who have supported me through my brief editorship. I hope to return to help out where and when I may.

Rock on.

Love,

John Alcorn

News and photos from around the Shop



Dave has started a new award for us to consider. He has started awarding recognition to a volunteer each month. As has been said, our club only exists due to the generosity of members, former members, and through the hard work of the volunteers who do the work of running the day to day activities. This includes many of the chores, such as keeping our building clean and safe.

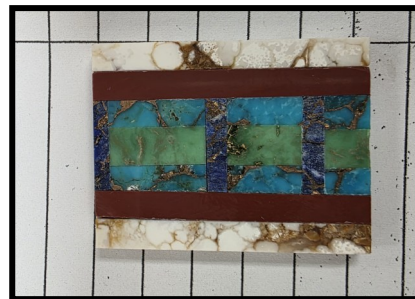


This month we would like to recognize Oscar and Alphonso Gonzalez who cleaned our floors so nicely. Thanks Oscar and Alphonso we hope you prosper in your business.



We would also like to recognize both Gayland Graves and Jack Villars. Gayland is nearly a permanent fixture at the club. We are so lucky he is! If you have a question about almost anything lapidary related he will probably have the correct answer for you. Jack Villars is one of our valued junior members who always comes to help clean the shop in preparation for the monthly General meeting. Thanks Jack!

To the left is our friend and member Dave Garcia, also known as "Lapidary Dave" on his You tube channel. He won one of our prize drawings during the General meeting in June.



Above is a beautiful piece of intarsia that Gayland created, donated to the club for the monthly auction. Someone got a fantastic deal for \$55.00.



Below, in the front of the photo are Kyle and Bri. They are new members from Pearblossom where Kyle runs the biannual Gem and Mineral show there.



More photos from the clubhouse



Left: Instructor Janel



Right: Lorie's raw glass

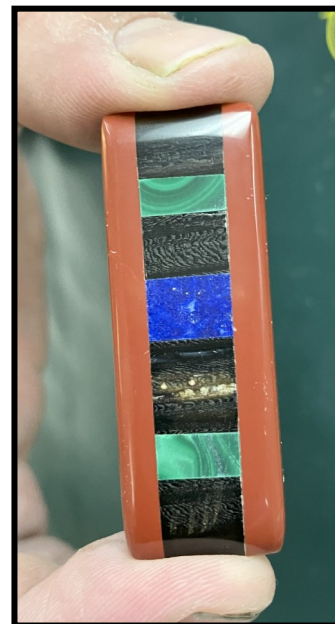


Left Dave and Luis

Left below: Oscar and Alphonso

Below middle: Kyle and Leah

Below right: Ody holding the intarsia he created



Pearblossom Gem Show
Produced by our member Kyle Sandahl

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.ea day
"Free dry-camping for vendors"

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

Officers, Department Chairpersons & Instructors

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

Vice President / Membership. / Beka McNeil

2nd Vice President: Education/ Lia Hamilton

3rd Vice President, CFMS/ Ody Oriva

Recording Secretary & Bulletin Editor/temporarily Sara Arnold and Jake Brouwer

Treasurer / Ann Musick

Corresponding Secretary / Jake Brouwer

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

Board Member / Sara Arnold, Past President

Board Member / One year term Corey Beck/ Yaya Avila

Maintenance / George Robles

COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

Tailgate Chairman, Ody Oriva

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Lia Hamilton

Facebook Editor / Stina Smith / stinesmith2@gmail.com

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

INSTRUCTORS:

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

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.

JUNE SHOP DAYS:

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

SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS - 12:00pm –4:00 pm

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:**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 5:30 PM (July 1st.)**EDUCATION NIGHT:** None planned at this time.**GENERAL MEETING:** - July 19, 2025. 12:00 - 2:00 Shop work resumes APPROXIMATLY 2:00 –4:00 pm.**JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS:** Every other Saturday at 10:00 AM**THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**

Published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral club and is distributed free of charge electronically to the members by email. Views expressed by authors in the articles appearing in THE BULLETIN do not necessarily reflect those of the VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB. The editor publishes content as presented with minor changes for continuity.

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