
THE BULLETIN

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

President's message

Hello VVGMC Members,

Welcome to July along with its record-breaking triple digit heat wave. Last month we only thought it was hot, this month is only half over, and August is yet to come. This is going to be quite challenging for many of us without a doubt. Please stay safe and of course as cool as possible.

The weather aside, we do have some plans for this summer (although no field trips until the tailgate due to summer's extreme desert temperatures). So, how about a Wednesday late morning class in silversmithing? Yolanda passed on an idea to make stack rings and bangle bracelets. Love, love this and we'll throw in a band for good measure. These are fabulous project ideas for beginners or if you have not done any metal smithing in a while and want a simple refresher class. The purpose will be to learn basic techniques of silversmithing along with torch and silver room safety procedures. We want you to be comfortable with the basics then in the fall we'll have more advanced classes with Janet Flecher. All the tools you will need will be available for your use. The silver and/or copper will be made available for you to purchase at the club, or you can purchase materials on your own prior to the class. The class will be limited to 4 persons per session, but multiple sessions will be available if enough people are interested in participating. We want to keep it simple AND inexpensive as possible. Silver prices are high, but small-scale projects keep the cost at a minimum as does using copper. Sign up if interested Saturday at the general meeting or at the next week's workshops. Classes will be soon.

REMINDER that this Saturday is Petrified Pups at 9am, General Meeting is noon to 1:30pm and following is workshop until 6:00pm. Workshop clean-up will begin promptly at 5:30pm. The club will be providing PIZZA and drinks. If you have a special need, let me know before Saturday. You supply the fixings. Cold is good and so are desserts! We're looking forward to seeing you there and breaking bread once again, it's been a long 17 months since we last gathered around a meal together. Additionally, the board thought it would be fun to do a rock swap this month. Let's see what you have and how good your negotiating skills are, ha, ha. Be fair everyone! We will spend approximately a half-hour and move on with the meeting. We are going to keep door prizes at a minimum to make room for both events to take place. The meeting portion will mostly focus on a small amount of business including the class mentioned above and the tailgate. I have flyers for the tailgate available for members to pass out.

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Officers, Committees

Board of Directors

Dwayna Barron - President/
Treasurer 909-234-5533
Ruben Martinez - 1st Vice-
President-
Membership 760-490-8263
Sara Arnold- Recording-Secretary
Gayland Graves - Board Member
Board Member - Yolanda Flores

Committees

Auctions - Lynn Bradshaw
Bulletin Editor - Doug Arnold
CFMS Director - Ruben Martinez
Displays - Board Members
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Historian - Denise Millar
Hospitality - VACANT
Librarian - Denise Millar
Maintenance - John Bradshaw
Petrified Pups - Yolanda Flores
Photography - Denise Millar
Sunshine - Yolanda Flores
Tailgate - Committee
Wagon Master - Gayland Graves
Webmaster - Jim Fosse

Instructors

Dwayna Barron Gayland Graves
Lia Hamilton Chris Koch
Ruben Martinez Janet Flecher
Mary Lou Flecher

President's Letter *Continued from Page 1*

I need helpers to assist with preparing for the general meeting. I plan to keep things very simple this year so no one is overworked. In case you haven't heard, my foot is in a splint and I'm moving (with the aid of crutches) at a snail's pace and can physically do very little at the moment, so I am requesting just a couple people to come in around 11:00am to help me set-up then everyone can help clean afterward. Thank you in advance angels whoever you are.

The workshops are going well, I have supply orders that are due to arrive soon that will get our equipment back up and in good working order, this thrills me more than you know. Also, if you see a need, let me know by putting a note in the suggestion box or sending me a text or phone call. Right now, the greatest need I see is your assistance in cleaning the club, especially the grinding room, saw room, silver room and tool room along with preparing for the tailgate. More on that though at the meeting.

See you all soon,

Dwayna Barron
President/Treasurer

Brad Smith's Bench Tips for July

BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

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CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased online (<http://amzn.to/2HkNTro>) or from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

See all of Brad Smith's books on Amazon

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Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club was founded in 1947 as a 501(c)4 Non-profit education club. Visitors are always welcome...

Our Objective and Purpose is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and the earth sciences. To encourage study in these subjects through various programs. To arrange field trips for exploration, study, and collection of specimens. The preparation, 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.

Catch us on the web!
vvgmc.org



Club Summer Schedule

1st Tuesday – Board Meeting – 4:00pm

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

15056-B Seventh Street
Victorville, CA 92395-3811
760-243-2330