Section 1: CLUB INFORMATION

All American Club Yearbook Committee Members

Diane Cook ~
2017 VGMS President, Web Committee member
2017 Show Co-Treasurer and Hospitality Chair
2017 CFMS/AFMS Show & Convention Show Chair and Dealer Chair
Superintendent of the Gem & Mineral Department, 2016 Ventura County Fair

Nancy Brace-Thompson ~
2017 VGMS Treasurer
2017 CFMS/AFMS Show & Convention Secretary & Treasurer
Registrar of the Gem & Mineral Department, 2016 Ventura County Fair

Angela Brown ~
2017 VGMS Bulletin Editor, Web Committee member, Ways & Means Chair
2017 Show Publicity Co-Chair and Graphics & Print Chair
2017 CFMS/AFMS Show & Convention Graphics & Print Chair, Publicity Co-Chair
Assistant Registrar of the Gem & Mineral Department, 2016 Ventura County Fair
2017 Yearbook layout and assembly

Jim Brace-Thompson ~
2017 VGMS Educational Outreach Chair, Parliamentarian
2017 Show Publicity Co-Chair
2017 CFMS/AFMS Show & Convention Publicity Co-Chair, Kids Booth Chair
2017 CFMS Junior Activities Chair
2017 AFMS Juniors Program Chair

Special thanks to:

Terry Wilson ~
2017 Webmistress and Librarian
2017 Show Chair
Section 1: CLUB INFORMATION

ALL-AMERICAN CLUB “Yearbook” ENTRY – For Year 2016

Instructions for completing the entry form
1. Book can be submitted either as:
   A) A printed document, limited to a maximum of 100 pages (one or two-sided). A loose leaf notebook or a scrapbook are suitable binders.
   OR
   B) One pdf file, created with bookmarks to indicate sections, with a maximum page count of 150 pgs. This can be emailed, mailed on a flash drive or burned to CD.
      The Pdf can contain links to internal pages within the pdf, not external web links.
      For example, Section 2 in the Entry form can link to the first page of Section 2. Each item within the section can link to the documentation supporting that criteria.
      Printing the pdf should result in the generation of a complete physical book.

2. The document should have six (6) sections, divided with the numbers 1 - 6, with the entry form in section 1 and the supporting documentation for each of the entry sections following the appropriate divider. Do not include all of the club newsletters for the year – include a list and 1 or 2 issues as supporting documentation. Do not include all of the exchange bulletins for the year - a list and a few sample pages is sufficient. There is no restriction on the number of pages in any one section, PROVIDED THE TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS DOES NOT EXCEED 100 PAGES or 150 pages if submitted as a pdf. Supporting materials can include fliers, articles about club activities, show ads, show or meeting notices from newspapers; articles copied from club newsletter, screens shots, lists of chairs or officers, pictures, copies of certificates, reports printed in club newsletter, thank-you notes and other correspondence.

3. When filling out the entry form, mark all appropriate blanks (leave blank if answer is no) and entry numbers, or other information requested. Assemble supporting materials and lists following the appropriate section divider and insert photos and other graphics following the typed information.

4. All requested material is only for the year 2016.

5. Deadline for submitting to the AFMS chairman (rmkapta@comcast.net) is April 1st, 2017. Check with your regional chairs for their deadlines.

SECTION 1 - CLUB INFORMATION (NO POINTS AWARDED)

Club Name & Address  Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Date organized  1944  Federation affiliation  California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Number of members:  Adults 77  Honorary/Life 2 (Scholarship Recipients)  Juniors 1
Meeting Place:  Poinsettia Pavilion, Santa Paula Room
3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura, CA 93003

[Include city, state]
Person filling out form: Name  Diane Cook
Address:  PO Box 7727
City  Ventura  State  CA  Zip  93006
Phone:  805-340-9026  E-mail  johndianedaisy@yahoo.com

Mission or purpose of the club:  “In a welcoming club environment, VGMS encourages interest in the earth sciences, mineral and fossil collecting, field trips, and the lapidary arts, including jewelry making. Our monthly meetings feature interesting lectures by amateurs and experts. Via facilities in our clubhouse, we offer workshops and opportunities for crafting polished stones, in addition to maintaining a museum and library for educational use. We also sponsor an annual show for members to share their collections and jewelry with the community during which we award a student scholarship in the earth sciences.”

*By submitting this entry, permission is granted to AFMS to publish this entry or excerpts of this entry, on the official AFMS website if this entry becomes a Gold level winner in the All-American Club Award contest. (Only public information regarding the club as posted on their website will be included.)
   No, do not publish this entry on the AFMS website. (check box only if you do not give permission)
Section 1: CLUB INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS (30+ POINTS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of meetings</th>
<th>Average attendance</th>
<th>Guests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Meetings</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Meetings</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Meetings</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult leader(s)</td>
<td>Raul Barraza and Maria Flores</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus: Club uses AFMS/FRA Badge Program</td>
<td>Within the past year, we’ve awarded AFMS/FRA Fossil badges, Collecting Badges, and Showmanship badges, as well as Membership patches for our juniors.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Group Meetings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumbling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carving</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flint Knapping</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal-working/metalsmith</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossil study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intarsia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewelry making</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class on how to stabilize rock using Opticon</td>
<td>6-8 attendees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banquet</td>
<td>92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Dinner</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trips</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Date(s)</td>
<td>March 5th &amp; 6th, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dealers</td>
<td># 18</td>
<td>Demonstrators: # 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Displays</td>
<td># 31</td>
<td>Junior Displays: # 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus: Competitive Displays by members?</td>
<td>Yes X Include list of participants.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Features: Club library</td>
<td>Yes X NOTE: We also have a great museum!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearbook committee or Website committee</td>
<td>Yes X (BOTH)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapidary studio/workshop (supported by and available to members): Yes X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trips</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No. of trips in field</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other clubs invited?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All field trips organized with Oxnard Gem &amp; Mineral and Conejo Gem &amp; Mineral.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops (beading, lapidary skills, jewelry, etc): Yes X Include a separate list of workshops.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling club display (For other club shows, youth groups, schools, etc.): Yes X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY (15 POINTS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yes X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor’s name</td>
<td>Angela Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Website/Website site</td>
<td>Show information posted: Yes X Meeting information posted: Yes X Workshop information posted: Yes X Meeting notices posted in public places: Yes X Where? Ventura County Star, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura County Fair, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting notices published in local media:</td>
<td>Yes X Where? Ventura County Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show fliers posted in public places:</td>
<td>Yes X Where? Local businesses in Ventura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show information published in local media:</td>
<td>Yes X Where? Ventura County Star, The Breeze, Acorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper, AAA’s Westways Magazine, Rock &amp; Gem Magazine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free or paid ads on TV/radio/web: Meeting notices:</td>
<td>Yes X (KDAR Radio Station)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show information:</td>
<td>Yes X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Section 1: CLUB INFORMATION

**SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS AND OTHER CLUBS (20+ POINTS)**

Members served in Federation as Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members:
- **Regional federation:** Yes__ X __ Include a list of members serving.
  
  **Jim Brace-Thompson, Kathryn Davis;** see also CFMS Show Committee member list, pg. 12.

  **AFMS:** Yes__ X __ Include a list of members serving. **Jim Brace-Thompson**

Members attended a Federation convention or show:
- **Regional Federation:** Yes__ X __ # __ 7 __
- **AFMS:** Yes__ X __ # __ 1 __ While we did not attend the 2016 AFMS Show in-person, we did participate in that Jim Brace-Thompson issued a budget and annual report to the AFMS Board as AFMS Juniors Chair for the AFMS Directors Meeting and members purchased AFMS Raffle tickets.

Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds:
- **AFMS:** Scholarship fund: Yes__ X __ Endowment fund: Yes__ X __

**Other support for regional federations? (explain)___________________________________________**

Members gave programs for other clubs:  Yes__ X __ Include a list of programs.

Members attended other club shows, swaps, etc:  Yes__ X __

Members held joint field trips with other clubs:  Yes__ X __

Members displayed/demonstrated at other shows:  Yes__ X __

Club exchanged bulletins with other clubs:  Yes__ X __ Include a list.

**Bonus:** Club was host to a Regional Federation Convention or AFMS convention in 2016:
- Yes____ When and where? _________________________________________________________

**Bonus:** Bulletin Editor is a member of Scribe:  Yes__ X __

**Bonus:** Members performed as judges for Bulletin Editor’s contest, Competitive displays or Website competitions? _Yes_ _____ List names, details or photo documentation. **Jim Brace-Thompson & John Cook judged at 2016 CFMS Show in Placerville. Jim Brace-Thompson also served as a judge for Juniors Articles in the 2016 AFMS Bulletin Contest.**

**SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS (15 POINTS)**

Members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools:  Yes__ X __ Include a separate list of those given.

Members gave talks or demonstrations to local groups:  Yes__ X __ Include a separate list of those given.

Members maintained displays at local public sites:  Yes__ X __ Include a separate list of sites.

Members maintained a booth or an activity at a local event: Yes__ X __ Include a separate list of events.

Members donated materials to school, college, scouts, etc:  Yes__ X __ Include supporting documentation.

Members active in local affairs: Yes__ X __ Include supporting documentation.

**SECTION 6 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS (10+ POINTS)**

Members served on governmental agency committees:  Yes____ Include a list of those who served.

Members commented on government agency proposals, etc: Yes__ X __ List of proposals and participants.

Members contacted congressional representatives regarding legislation affecting access and collecting sites: Yes__ X __ Include a list of representatives contacted and legislation or copies of letters.  **See pg. 88 for details.**

Members supported access/collecting lobbying organizations like ALAA: Yes__ X __ List organization(s).

**Bonus:** Club is member of ALAA: Yes__ X __

**SECTION 7 - OVERALL FORMAT AND PRESENTATION - (10 POINTS POSSIBLE)**

This section evaluates neatness, organization, grammar, spelling, page count restrictions, and overall presentation of material.

**SCORING AND AWARDS**

- **Gold All-American Club Award:** 90 - 100 points (average of three)
- **Silver All-American Club Award:** 80 - 89 points (average of three)
- **Bronze All-American Club Award:** 70 - 79 points (average of three)
- **Honorable Mention:** Less 70 points (average of three)

**Bonus** +1 point for each
Section 1: CLUB INFORMATION

Club Name & Address

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.,
P. O. Box 1573, Ventura, California, 93002

Our clubhouse (photo to right) is located in Ojai, California, just Northeast of Ventura at 11969 N. Creek Rd., across from Camp Comfort County Park.

Date Organized

We first organized as a club in 1944, we joined CFMS in 1946, and incorporated with the state of California in 1954. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

We are affiliated with the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, as well as the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Membership

Our membership at the end of 2016 was 77 adults, 12 Pebble Pups (ages 12 & under), and 1 junior (ages 13-17). Our two scholarship recipients received one year Honorary Memberships with their scholarships, as well.

Meeting Place

Our regular meeting place is in the Santa Paula Room at the Poinsettia Pavilion, located at 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, California, 93003

(See photo, next page)
The **Poinsettia Pavilion** is located against the hillside, above the city; a great venue to enjoy a view of the islands and watch evening sunsets just before our meetings. It offers lots of parking, access to clean bathrooms, and a kitchenette. The staff is always helpful when we need extra tables and chairs for some of our events, and we always treat them during our potlucks and dinners there.

**Meetings**

We hold meetings on the 4th Wednesday of January through October, and the 2nd Wednesday of November and December due to the holidays. Our meeting times are from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

Our 2016 President completed the included forms (pgs.1-3):

**Diane Cook**  
P. O. Box 7727,  
Ventura, California 93006  
805-340-9026  
johndianedaisy@yahoo.com

The **Purpose of the VGMS** is as follows:

“In a welcoming club environment, VGMS encourages interest in the earth sciences, mineral and fossil collecting, field trips, and the lapidary arts, including jewelry making. Our monthly meetings feature interesting lectures by amateurs and experts. Via facilities in our clubhouse, we offer workshops and opportunities for crafting polished stones, in addition to maintaining a museum and library for educational use. We also sponsor an annual show for members to share their collections and jewelry with the community during which we award a student scholarship in the earth sciences.”
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

General Meetings

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society holds 12 meetings a year. Our meetings average about 41 members and six guests.

We hold a door prize raffle at each meeting for various rock, minerals, and fossils donated by members or by the club. It’s always very popular, and we have a lot of generous members. Sometimes our presenter donates items, too.
Monthly Programs and Presentations

Our monthly programs are always fun, educational and interesting. Last year’s programs were as follows:

---

Programs for 2016

January - *Show & Tell.*
Members show off their finds from the previous year, and places they went.

February - *Gem Show Review.*
This meeting occurs a couple weeks before our March show, so this is a good time to discuss set-up plans and times, where we need help, etc.

March - *Rocks of the Pilbara Region of Western Australia.*
Presented by retired geologists Dick and Mary Pat Weber. Discussed their travels in Australia and the interesting rocks and formations they encountered there. They brought a large selection of samples of the varying material they found.

April - *Diamonds.*
Presented by Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society member and gemologist Louisa Carey. Discussed all aspects of diamonds, from raw to finished gemstones; shared with the club members how to judge, grade and evaluate diamonds, plus her experiences in the diamond districts in Europe. She also did some appraisals after the meeting.

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*Continued next page...*
Presented by marine biologist Melissa Baffa. Discussed her experiences and finds aboard the submersible Nautilus.

June - *Silent Auction.* (Left)

July - *Fun with Fossils.* (Left)
This presentation was given by dual member VGMS/Conejo Gem & Mineral Club member and geologist Mike Havstad. A fascinating discussion about the morphology of fossils over time. Provided an interesting video slide show and lots of great samples.

Dr. Gray, geologist & retired professor from UCSB, gave this fascinating talk about mining history in California, and the development of different mining methods. Always a fun presenter!
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Programs for 2016

September - Fossils of Central & Southern California. (Left)
Aaron Miller, owner of ‘Ancient Earth Trading Company’ in Cambria, CA., gave this detailed discussion of local collecting locales and specific species identification for each. Great slide show given, and lots of samples to see.

October - Spooky Stones.
Our very own Lowell Foster gave this fun talk about myths, stories and cautionary tales surrounding mining and rockhounding.

November - Pumpkin Potluck & Silent Auction.
This is our pre-Thanksgiving dessert potluck and Silent Auction.

December - Holiday Dinner Party & Gift Exchange. (Below)
This whole evening is for enjoying a great dinner, exchanging gifts, awarding our ‘Rockhound of the Year’, and installing our incoming board members. Members enjoy the photo booth we’ve been renting the last couple of years.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our Board meets every month (12 times) in a year, with an average attendance of 11 members (one attendee is a member who is not on a board or committee). Our organized and efficient board members are extremely detailed oriented, but we still manage to have fun!

Our 2016 team:

- President Diane Cook
- 1st VP/Programs Chair John Cook
- 2nd VP/Field Trip Chair Luther Brown
- 3rd VP/Show Chair Terry Wilson
- Treasurer Nancy Brace-Thompson
- Recording Secretary Greg Davis
- Parliamentarian Jim Brace-Thompson
- Federation Kathryn Davis
- Membership Richard Slyker
- Editor Angela Brown
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

We also have a dedicated team of Committee Members, too.

**Hostess:** Shirley Layton  
**Ways & Means:** Maria Flores  
**Hospitality:** Richard Slyker  
**Museum:** Jim Brace-Thompson  
**Historians:** Lowell Foster & Steve Mulqueen  
**Librarian:** Terry Wilson  
**Educational Outreach:** Jim Brace-Thompson & Raul Barraza  
**Web Committee:** Terry Wilson (Chair), Diane Cook, Angela Brown, Richard Slyker.

**All American Club Yearbook Committee:**

(L-R) Jim Brace-Thompson, Diane Cook (Chair), Terry Wilson and Angela Brown. Not pictured: Nancy Brace-Thompson (Took photo.)
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

2017 CFMS/AFMS SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Chair — Diane Cook – johndianedaisy@yahoo.com
CFMS Federation Show Coordinator(s) – Pat & Bural LaRue (bplarue@earthlink.net)
Tony Fender (afender@cattech.edu)
Secretary – Nancy Brace-Thompson (nbraceth@gmail.com)
Treasurer – Diane Cook & Nancy Brace-Thompson
Budget Committee – Diane Cook; Nancy Brace-Thompson, Terry Wilson & Susan CW
Facilities Director – Diane Cook & John Cook (cookjohnr@sbcglobal.net)
Dealer/ Demo Chair – Diane Cook and Kathryn Davis (kathrynsgems@yahoo.com); Susan Chaisson-Walblom - (slchaisson@yahoo.com)
Hospitality – Louisa Carey (louisamaycarey@gmail.com)
Exhibitors Director – Brett Johnson (bj9709@yahoo.com) & Sandra Butchko (sunseeker365.sb@gmail.com)
Publicity Director – Jim Brace-Thompson
Show Web Site – Terry Wilson (terry@terryfic.com)
Graphics and Print Director – Angela Brown (vgmsetd@gmail.com)
Speakers & Special Programs – Deb Sankovich (sankovichdeb@yahoo.com)
Welcome Booth – Co-Chair Shirley Layton sal@iwvc.org
Ticket Booth – Phyllis & Dick White (rich_phil@msn.com) Phyllis – (rich_phil1026@att.net)
Sponsorship Committee – Louisa Carey & Diane Cook & Susan CW
Education Kids Director – Jim Brace-Thompson (braceth@roadrunner.com)
Raffle – Richard Slyker (sbsven@hotmail.com)
Silent Auction – Ron Wise & John Cook & Greg Davis - (clintwise@hotmail.com)
Food – Laura Driskell (w3slinger@yahoo.com)
Security – Luther Brown (ravenwolf2@att.net)

CFMS/AFMS Show Planning Committee working hard to make 2017’s show as successful as 2013’s.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our ‘Iron Bar Brigade’ is the unofficial but dedicated small group of club ‘worker bees’ that take care of maintenance, repairs, yard work and preparations for events at our clubhouse.

They are: Luther & Angela Brown, John & Diane Cook, Greg Davis, Blake Hahn, Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson, Jeff Geist, Andy Anderson, Ron Wise, Richard & Susan Slyker, Shirley Layton, Frank Boulch, Raul Barraza.

One of our twice yearly clubhouse cleaning days.

Weed-whacking and leaf blowing are regular chores.

(Above) Our Country Store (during our show) work crew, sorting & boxing donations.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Junior Meetings: Pebble Pup Program

In 2016, we instituted our ‘Pebble Pup Program’, directed by member Raul Barraza & Maria Flores.

Raul worked hard to set up a calendar of activities to be held in conjunction with our normal open workshop days. Our Educational Outreach Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson, was also instrumental in helping Raul get the information and materials he needed.

There were about 11 programs in 2016, with an average attendance of 3 kids.
Dear Parents and Grandparents:

Happy New Year! We are very excited to report that the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society has decided to embark on a special offshoot of the club just for Pebble Pups. We are writing today to invite your children or grandchildren and, any other children that you are acquainted with; to our upcoming Pebble Pup meetings to be held at our VGMS museum and workshop: 111969 N. Creek Rd. Ojai, Ca. (located across from Camp Comfort). Pebble Pup meetings will be held during our workshop hours every third Saturday of each month from 10 to Noon.

Below is a copy of our Pebble Pup calendar with information on the topics we will cover each month. We will be happy to modify our calendar based on input and suggestions.

For additional information please visit our web site at (www.vgms.org) or call us with any questions our phone number is (805) 312-8467 and our e-mail is pebblepups@vgms.org

We look forward to sharing an educational and fun year with each of you, and thank you in advance for helping us in making this venture a success!

Pebble Pups guidelines for 2016:

Due to insurance issues, parents must become members of the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society. Pebble Pups are free. Annual fees are $30 per family or $20 per individual. Minimum Age 5, Maximum Age 13. If sufficient participants participate on regular basis, activities will be divided into 2 groups 5-9, 10-13. For safety reasons, there will be one adult per 4 children under the age of 10. Minimum meeting requirements of 4 meetings per. Minimum of 1 field trip requirement per year. Pins and badges will be awarded upon participation and completion of guided activities. A section of the club newsletter will be reserved for Pebble Pup news. Recommended supplies will be announced prior to activities. Everyone must have fun.

2016 Pebble Pup Calendar
(Calendar is subject to change)

January - Fossils; Our Window to the Past.
February - What is a Rock?
March - What is a Mineral?
April - Collecting & Showmanship.
May - Dinosaurs; When Terrible Lizards Roamed the Earth.
June - Petrified Wood.
July - Geodes; Ugly Rocks with Hidden Treasures.
August - What is a Volcano? How They Formed.
September - Crystals & Types of Crystals.
October - Lapidary Arts.
November - The World of Miniature; Psammophile/Micro-Fossils.
December - Holiday Party.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Some of the other group meetings we had in 2016 were;

A Workshop Certification Course / Cabbing Class is offered so that all members of the club who wished to use the club’s equipment were instructed on their proper use & maintenance, as well as safety. This is done during our ‘open workshop’ days on the third Saturday each month. In conjunction with learning to use equipment properly, members are also learning how to create cabochons. The club maintains 4 Genies, 2 Pixies, a flat lap, a buffing wheel, 3 large saws, 3 trim saws, and a Paleo-Prep Station with magnifier, microscope, small hand tools and a Dremel tool.

The Cabbing Class is also given separately to those who are already familiar with the equipment. We had about 5-6 members usually attend.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

A Knapping Class, taught by our expert knapper, Ron Wise. Tools, safety equipment and some material to knap, along with detailed instructions were provided. Everyone took home an arrowhead or a spear point at the end of a three hour class.

An Opticon Sealant Class, taught by our own John Cook. This class was given to members who were interested in the process of sealing and hardening lapidary materials that are too fragile normally to cut or polish. Detailed instructions, as well as equipment recommendations, were given to all in attendance. Two classes were held in 2016 due to high demand!
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Social Events

The VGMS members are a pretty social group. We hold several events during the year, at least two picnics (Spring & Fall), a Pumpkin Potluck with Silent Auction in November, a dinner during the holidays, plus a Friday night banquet at the fairgrounds the night before our show starts with our vendors, demonstrators, and their families. There are a few informal work-lunches in between, too. The Spring picnic coincides with our Rockhound Rendezvous and Silent Auction. See next page for details.

Our Fall Breakfast Potluck.

Rockhound Rendezvous Lunch Potluck in June. See bulletin notice, right.

Post-Fair Planning Lunch in mid-July.

Our Holiday Potluck Dinner & Gift Exchange.
Rockhound Rendezvous
Lapidary Equipment Demonstration

June 18, 2016
Saturday 9:00 am To 2:00 pm

You are invited to join us at the VGMS facilities, at Camp Comfort, 11969 Creek Rd, Ojai, CA 93023. Don Depue will be demonstrating some of Diamond Pacific’s excellent equipment. You will be able to have a hands-on examination of equipment you might be considering purchasing for yourself or your club. Bring your check book if you are considering a purchase. Following are the machines he will be demonstrating:

1. Titan
2. Genie
3. Flat Laps for Titan or Genie w/polishing pads
4. Wizard 6” Trim saw
5. 12” Flat Lap
6. Gryphon Band Saw
7. Taurus 3, Ring Saw
8. Foredom
9. Multiplex (cabbing, trim saw, carving, flat lap)

- If you know of a machine that Diamond Pacific sells and you would like to see it in action, let me know and I will ask Don if it is possible to bring it along.

The Rockhound Rendezvous will offer you a chance to share some of your great field trip finds and lapidary work. There will be plenty space for you to set up a table to display your wares for viewing and trading. Who knows, someone may want to buy something you display. You can bring sell or trade anything it doesn’t have to lapidary involved. If you have used lapidary equipment for sale bring it.

VGMS will also be having the Annual Picnic, the club supplying the dish and drinks, members/guests bringing side dishes and desserts. Everyone welcome, just please sign up so we have a count.

Go to whoscoming.com/vgms or email info@vgms.org with any questions.

To find the VGMS facilities across from Camp Comfort, take the 101 freeway to highway 33 then turn right on Creek Road, continue until you see Camp Comfort and the VGMS facilities are on the left. Be careful with the left turn and if you get to Ojai you missed us.

If you need more information, contact me at 805-647-4393 or clintwise@hotmail.com

Ron Wise
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our Yearly Club Show

The VGMS hosts a show every year during the first full weekend in March; in 2016 it was March 5th & 6th. We hold it in the McBride Bldg. of the Ventura County Fairgrounds. We had 18 dealers and eight demonstrators, plus 31 member displays. While our show features non-competitive exhibits in order to share our hobby with the public, most of our members also enter competitive exhibits in the Ventura County Fair (See page 35).

Our 2016 Show Committee consisted of the following hard-working members:

**Show (Co-Chairs):**
Terry Wilson
Diane Cook

**Hospitality & Camping Chair:**
Diane Cook

**Demo/Dealer Chair:**
Kathryn Davis

**Exhibitor Chair:**
Sandra Butchko

**VGMS President:**
Diane Cook

**Publicity Chair:**
Jim Brace-Thompson

**Exhibitor Favors:**
Diane Cook
Angela Brown
Sandra Butchko

**Kids Booth Chair:**
Raul Barraza

**Raffle Chair:**
Richard Slyker

**Hauling & Transport:**
John Cook
Ron Wise
Blake Hahn

**Silent Auction Chairs:**
Ron Wise & Greg Davis

**Food & Refreshments:**
Laura Driskell
Dick & Phyllis White

**Country Store (Co-Chairs):**
Shirley Layton
Sue Slyker

**Plant Sale Chair:**
Terry Wilson

**Graphics & Print Chair:**
Angela Brown

**Show Treasurers:**
Nancy Brace-Thompson
Diane Cook

Show poster created by our editor Angela Brown.
Our editor, Angela Brown, creates our show brochure every year. We find the 8 1/2” x 14” folded legal size gives us lots of room to list everyone who contributed to our show, plus the membership application on the back.

Our Raffle Chair, Richard Slyker, upgraded the ticket boxes for the raffle this year with individual boxes for higher dollar items, as per frequent requests of members and visitors alike. It was a hit. We always get some great donations from our members and vendors, and the public loves to participate in it.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Great turnout!

Country Store (flea market)

Plant Sales

Silent Auction

Exhibits

Some of our dealers

Kids Booth

Member Wendy Holder demonstrating
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

During our Friday night dinner before the show, we present scholarships.

Rockhounds Rambling

VGMS Awards Not Just One but Two Scholarships for 2016!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Museum & Educational Outreach

At our pre-show dinner on Friday, March 4, we were pleased to award Sean Curran the 2016 VGMS Annual Scholarship and Theodore “Ted” Brown the VGMS Marie Haaeke Memorial Scholarship. Each award consists of a $500 grant, a Scholarship Certificate, and one-year honorary VGMS membership. They are presented on the basis of academic excellence and intent to continue studies within the earth sciences at the college level. Our board voted unanimously to provide these awards to Sean and Ted based on their academic transcripts, personal essays, and letters-of-support from faculty members.

Sean is a Santa Barbara native who graduated from Dos Pueblos High School. He notes that upon completing his Associates Degree in Earth Sciences at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC), he hopes to go to either UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Barbara, or UCLA to complete a four-year degree followed by graduate school. Said Sean, “The most exciting thing about geology to me is the mystery involved. Geology has revitalized my life with wonder and awe. When I go to the beach now, rocks in the cliffs tell me stories of times past, and I truly enjoy piecing together the puzzles that geology leaves us the clues to.” He is interested in researching coastal geomorphological processes to help conserve our coastlines.

SBCC Professor Bill Dinklage says Sean has stood out as a student leader in his classes, earning A’s or A+’s in the most rigorous courses while serving as a “Gateway tutor” for fellow students who found him helpful and knowledgeable. “He has a good sense of humor, is helpful, and fun to be around,” says Prof. Dinklage. Professor Jeffrey Meyer further notes, “Sean has been either the top student or among the top few in his classes. It has been a pleasure to watch Sean mature in his geological thought process and as a person over time. He has especially enjoyed his tutoring and has been involved in school outreach programs to elementary students and the community.”

Ted Brown is a Meiners Oakes/Ojai native who graduated from Gateway High School in Ojai in 2004. After various endeavors, he has found his “dream career” in the geosciences, enrolling in the newly established Associates Degree for Transfer Program in Geology at Ventura College. Said Ted, “From the time I was a young boy panning for gold with my dad, I’ve had a keen interest in learning how the rocks and minerals on Earth came to be. I’ve decided to turn a hobby into a career.” He hopes to transfer to a bachelor’s degree program at UC-Santa Barbara or to a school of mining and engineering at the University of Alaska or the University of Arizona. “My goal is a career in the minerals exploration field. I would like to help provide for some of society’s needs in the form of natural resources while doing what I love: exploring and learning about our awesome planet.” When not buried in his academic studies, Ted enjoys bicycling, hiking, gold prospecting, playing the guitar and vegetable gardening.

Ventura College Associate Professor Chloe Branciforte says Ted “is hardworking, inquisitive and engages in intelligent discussions with instructors and peers. He is an exceptional student and finished in the top ten percent of his class. He is always willing to help fellow classmates navigate more difficult concepts and is interested in all aspects of the earth sciences.” Ventura College Counselor Yia Yang notes, “Ted possesses excellent communication skills and a friendly personality. He has proven to be an excellent role model—a dedicated student who always shows great initiative and diligence.”

Please join me in congratulating Sean and Ted in their educational accomplishments to date, in wishing them well as they strive toward their long-term goals—and in welcoming them as our two newest VGMS honorary members!
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our Club Library

In one room of our clubhouse we house our diverse, and well-stocked library, maintained by our 2016 Librarian, Terry Wilson. She spent much of last year cataloging and digitizing the holdings, plus removing out-of-date materials, logging in donated new material. The digital list is now available in the Library page of our club website for members to see what’s available.

Our library currently has approximately 618 books. There are 137 books specific to Californian finds of varying types, 13 childrens & kids activities books, 44 earth sciences books, 125 field guides for areas outside of California, 6 fluorescent minerals books, 67 books on fossils and paleontology, 15 general reference books, 31 books on gold prospecting, 64 books on lapidary arts, 7 meteorite books, 15 petrified wood/fossil plants books, 87 books on rocks & minerals and 7 VGMS club history and resource books. We also have 17 videos and 12 DVDs. Last year’s big acquisition was the Agates II coffee table book by Johann Zenz.

Our library also currently has nearly a complete set of Desert Magazine (1945-1961), an almost complete set of Lapidary Journal, including Vol. 1, No. 1, and several miscellaneous issues of Rock & Gem from various years.

(Left)
Our Librarian, Terry Wilson, doing a little cleaning in the library. Terry is also our Webmistress.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our Club Museum

In an adjacent room to the workshop and library is our club museum. Member Jim Brace-Thompson has been making a lot of improvements, including organizing activities boxes for those members who participate in educational outreach trips to schools, etc., along with the club’s traveling fossil cast sets and single pieces. These are also used at our show and at other local shows. (Photo, left)

We have a great selection of minerals from around the world, and from the US only, housed in two lighted display cases. (Photo, right)

We also have a case of local finds.

Our editor, Angela Brown, started a ‘Rock Box Swap’ program from her ‘Exchange Editor List’ to add to the collection of unique minerals and fossils and has exchanged rocks and fossils with clubs as far away as Australia & Scotland. Our generous members help contribute to the project by donating all the samples. We are awaiting word from Sac & Fox Club of Iowa and the Lynchburg Virginia club of their mailing, and two more will be going out. The editor is hoping to feature the project in the 2017 CFMS Show, as well as to add to the club’s museum collection. (Photo, left).

We have an ‘Ice Age” mural in one corner of the museum, painted by fellow member and local artist, Martha Moran. It’s been a hit with the kids and adults alike, and really illustrates the animals the casts in front of them represent. (Photo, bottom right). We’re hoping to add a dino mural in the other room with dino fossils in 2017.

Jim with Pebble Pup Joey in our museum, discussing dinosaurs.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Field Trips

VGMS tries to have at least 9-10 field trips a year, almost always in cooperation with the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society and the Conejo Gem & Mineral Club. This sharing of trips splits the handling of trips amongst the three clubs, and the organizing of each trip while giving all members opportunities to go on trips in varying localities, while giving the different club leaders a break. Also, some organized events (by outside groups) were incorporated to fill out the schedule.

In 2016, our Field Trip Chair was Luther Brown. This was a rough year for trips, as there were a few fires and weather related cancellations, but we still managed to get outside and have fun. The hot weather months coincide with the Ventura County Fair, so trips aren’t usually scheduled, unless it’s to the beach.

2016 Schedule of Trips

1. January 9th - Was to be a trip to Sharktooth Hill in Bakersfield, CA, sponsored by the So., California Paleontological Society, but was rained out, and rescheduled for April 2nd.

2. February 14th - Tajiguas Beach, north of Santa Barbara, CA. This Valentine’s Day trip was lead by member Ron Wise, who brought roses for all the female members who came. Fossil whale bone, rootbear agate, and some brecciated jaspers were collected.

3. March 12th - Castle Butte/Kramer Junction. This trip was lead by OGMS leader Bob Driskell. Members collected pink chalcedony, mixed jaspers, and a few pieces of fossil palm wood.

4. April 2nd - Sharktooth Hill, Bakersfield, CA. Several members from both VGMS & OGMS, along with members of the So. Cal. Paleo. Society, attended. This fee dig site was the rescheduled trip from January,
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Field Trips, continued...

and was a mixed bag; recent excavations by the owner left parts of the popular digging area sparse. Still, members came away with small shark & ray teeth, plus some fossil whale bone.

5. April 23rd - Cady Mountains, Ludlow, CA. Member John Cook lead this time. This trip had a great showing of several different clubs. Everyone found colorful agates with yellow, red, orange, white plumes and seams.

6. May 14th - Paradise Road, Santa Barbara County, CA. Gorgeous weather, great picnic areas, and fossil whale bone, mixed jaspers and serpentine.

7. June 26th - Cerro Gordo Mine, Lone Pine, CA. This is the trip organized yearly by the Lone Pine Club. Members found small pieces of copper minerals, like chrysocolla and malachite.

8. July 23rd - August 14th - Ventura County Fair. These days are set aside for members to put in display cases and help with the set-up and running of the building during the fair.

9. Sept. 17th-18th - Greenhorn Mountains, Kern County, CA. This was one of our trips that was cancelled due to the proximity of area fires. This spot is popular for collecting rose quartz and epidote. It’s also one of the few trips that is an overnight trip. Usually very well attended by many different clubs, and includes a potluck dinner.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Field Trips, continued...

10. October 7th-9th - The Jade Festival near Big Sur, CA. Yet another great event that was cancelled by the organizers due to a local fire. A favorite of many members.

11. October 8th-9th - Gem-O-Rama, Trona, CA. Organized by the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society. Several members carpool and/or camped out together out in Searles Valley. Everyone took home nice specimens, which included halite, hanksite, trona and sulphohalite. Rumors that it might be last such event were heartily denied by SLGMC members, so we look forward to returning. (Photos above; people at mudhole, hanksite.)

12. December 2nd & 10th - Jewel Tunnel Imports; special invite to VGMS Members. JTI is a gem & mineral wholesaler in Baldwin Park, CA that is normally not open to the public, but allows clubs to attend their shop, by special invite, at the end of the year. This year, members had two Saturdays to attend. Members got great prices, and got their holiday shopping done, plus the club often shops for club needs, like exhibitor trophies for the following year’s show, and raffle prizes. So many beautiful things to see there. Members usually carpool there & back. (Photos above)
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Workshop

Our workshop is in an old ranger's house, owned by the County of Ventura. It has running water and a restroom. When we moved in, we set up three areas to function as work areas. The garage houses our big slab saws and a few smaller trim saws; the former kitchen and laundry rooms contain all our polishing units, plus a trim saw, a buffer, and a rotary flat lap. Each area has one or two shop stewards who maintain the equipment, and help members.

We hold an 'Open Workshop' day every month on the third Saturday from 9am-12pm, and a 'Certified Members Workshop' on the first Sundays from 1pm-3pm. On the 'Open Workshop' days, we welcome non-members to check out the museum, and members who want to learn the equipment, get certified on their use, and/or receive instruction on making cabochons or other polishing methods. The 'Certified Members Workshop' is just that; a day that we are not open to the public, just for members who are already certified, and can to do their own thing. Shop stewards are always on hand.

After a Certification class to make sure members know how to use all the equipment safely, the following pieces of equipment are available for members to use:

One 24 in. slab saw
One 18 in. slab saw
One 14 in. slab saw
Two 10 in, trim/slab saws
One 6 in. trim saw
One Lortone combination unit with 6 in. trim saw and two grinding wheels
Four Diamond Pacific Genie polishing units
Two Diamond Pacific Pixie polishing units
One Star Diamond combination unit with a trim saw, two grinding wheels, and a buffer
One buffer
One vibratory flat lap
One 8 in. rotary flat lap
One dop pot
A Paleo Prep area with Dremel, hand tools, magnifier and stereoscope

In 2016, our shop stewards were:
Ron Wise, Luther Brown, Greg Davis, Blake Hahn, and John Cook.
Our Club Websites

Our new, updated club website was created and maintained by our new Webmistress, Terry Wilson. With our long-time webmaster’s health declining, and technology changing, Terry stepped up to revamp our entire web site to a neat, colorful, and organized place to find everything you need to know about our club. The web address is www.vgms.org.

She’s included ‘Members Only’ and a ‘Board Members’ areas so that information that should not be available to the public is accessible to members, i.e. donation letters, tax information, forms, contracts, board member handbooks, field trip specifics, etc.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our Club Websites

VGMS Gem and Mineral Show, March 5-6, 2016
The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society’s 54th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Lapidary Show is coming to the Ventura County Fairgrounds (10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura), on Sat., March 5 (10AM-5PM) and Sun., March 6 (10AM-4PM). There are going to be beautiful displays, the annual Country Store & Hunt Sale, silent auctions and a raffle for great prizes. Kids Activities, demonstrations of rock cutting and jewelry making techniques, and all sorts of dealers selling rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry, and lapidary arts supplies. Entrance to the show is free, although there is a $5 parking fee imposed by the fairgrounds.

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Minerals • Fossils • Education • Collecting • Field Trips • Lapidary • Museum • Ventura County, CA

Club House
Our clubhouse, at 11909 Creek Road, Ojai, CA, across the street from Camp Colonia, is where members can learn lapidary, use the library, and enjoy the museum. We also hold our meetings at the clubhouse. The clubhouse is open twice a month. Third Saturday: open to anyone and everyone, but only certified club members can use the lapidary equipment. Anytime is free to come, including two club members, to see the workshop and/or museum rooms and to find out what we’re all about. First Sunday: open only to club members, and only to those who have taken our cabbing basics class and been certified to use the equipment.

Learn and Practice Lapidary in Our Workshop
Come by and pursue individual lapidary and jewelry-making projects under the supervision of two to three shop stewards. The workshop space is divided between two buildings: Our garage holds slab saws and thin saws for cutting rocks to size for lapidary work. And within the clubhouse, the kitchen and laundry rooms have been converted to hold grinding and polishing units to craft art. The shop also features a fossil prep station for extracting small fossils from matrix.

LINKS
• American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)
• California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)
• VGMS Facebook Page
• Cali Press – VGMS Merchandise
• California Oil Museum
• Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
• United States Geological Survey (USGS)
• Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
• Report any broken links

NEARBY CLUBS
• Conejo Gem and Mineral Club
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our Club Websites

Terry Wilson is also a web developer by trade, and created websites called ‘Whoscoming.com/vgms’ and ‘WhosBringingWhat.com/vgms’. These sites were set up to serve groups and organizations who need to have people sign-up for food items for potlucks, working time slots at events, and, in VGMS’s case, also show volunteers and field trip sign-ups. They can be viewed by any member who wants to sign up for a club function via links on the main club website, and prevents duplication of food items at potlucks and picnics, and doubling up volunteers in one location during our show. It’s been a great addition to club’s main website.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our Club Websites

Our club also maintains a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Ventura-Gem-Mineral-Society-338611886169983), which is linked to numerous other clubs, museums, scientific sites, and community sites. This page was established by club bulletin editor Angela Brown. It’s also a great avenue to share scientific articles and photos, activity photos, club activity and meeting notices, field trip information, and our show, of course.

![Facebook Page Screenshot]

We post meeting information here, and guests frequently comment that’s where they saw the notice.
Section 2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Our Traveling Club Displays

Our club maintains a large selection of replica bones and fossils of dinosaur and Ice Age mammals, as well as a set of items to represent the California State Rock, Mineral, Gemstone & Fossil, and a volcano for demonstrating eruptions, among the most popular items we have. Besides taking some of them with us to school and scout presentations, both Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society and Conejo Gem & Mineral Club borrow some of them from us every year for their shows, and we display them at our show and others out of the county.


Some of our fossil replicas on loan to Conejo Gem & Mineral Club for their show in April.

California Dinosaurs exhibit at our show in March.

Our volcano presentation is the most popular with the kids... and the most messy!
Our Club Bulletin

Our club bulletin is the **Rockhound Rambling**, and our editor is Angela Brown. There are 11 bulletins published per year, with November & December being a combined issue. Each bulletin is between 9-10 double sided sheets (18-20 pages) each month. Most members receive their bulletins via email, but there are about 9 members and 1 exchange editor’s club that receive it mailed.

Angela D. Brown
Editor, Rockhound Rambling
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA 93002

Visit us on the web! www.vgms.org www.amfed.org www.cfmsinc.org scribe.rbnet.net/
Our Club Bulletin

Sample bulletin

Angela D. Brown
Editor, Rockhound Rambling
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA 93002

rockhound rambling photo of the month (See inside for details)

Visit us on the web! www.vgms.org

The Ventura Gem and Mineral Society presents:

Rockhound Rambling
The Official Bulletin of the VGMS

Our 72nd Year

In this months issue:

Ventura County Fair Recap
YMCA Summer Camp Presentations
Nipomo Gem Show Report
Rhodochrosite: Denver, Co.

Pages 6-7
Page 8
Pages 12-13
Page 13

Volume 62, No. 8, August 2016
Purpose of the VGMS:
In a welcoming club environment, VGMS encourages interest in the earth sciences, mineral and fossil collecting, field trips, and the lapidary arts including jewelry making. Our monthly meetings feature interesting lectures by amateurs and experts. Via facilities in our clubhouse, we offer workshops and opportunities for crafting polished stones, in addition to maintaining a museum and library for educational use. We also sponsor an annual show for members to share their collections and jewelry with the community during which we award a student scholarship in the earth sciences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Central</th>
<th>2016 Elected Officers</th>
<th>Committee Chairs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Club E-mail:</strong> <a href="mailto:info@VGMS.org">info@VGMS.org</a></td>
<td><strong>President</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ways and Means</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Membership Dues</strong></td>
<td>Diane Cook</td>
<td>Angela Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>$20 - Single</td>
<td>1st Vice President-Programs</td>
<td>Hospitality</td>
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<tr>
<td>$30 - Family/Couple (1 bulletin) includes</td>
<td>John Cook</td>
<td>Richard Slyker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children &lt; 19 Years</td>
<td>2nd Vice President-Field Trips</td>
<td>Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>$17 - Students &gt;17 Years + 12 Units</td>
<td>Luther Brown</td>
<td>Jim Brace-Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pebble Pups &lt;13 years No Charge</td>
<td>3rd Vice President-Show Chair</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Terry Wilson</td>
<td>Web Site</td>
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<td><strong>Regular Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Treasurer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Historians</strong></td>
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<td>7:30 - 9:30 PM at</td>
<td>Nancy Brace-Thompson</td>
<td>Lowell Foster</td>
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<td>The Poinsettia Pavilion</td>
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<td>Steve Mulqueen</td>
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<td>Santa Paula Room</td>
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<td><strong>Hostess</strong></td>
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<td>3451 Foothill Rd. Ventura, CA 93003</td>
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<td>Shirley Layton</td>
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<td><strong>January thru October:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Recording Secretary</strong></td>
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<td>4th Wednesday of the Month</td>
<td>Greg Davis</td>
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<td><strong>November and December:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Membership Secretary</strong></td>
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<td>2nd Wednesday of the Month</td>
<td>Richard Slyker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anyone may attend and are welcome.</td>
<td><strong>Federation Director</strong></td>
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<td>The December meeting is normally a</td>
<td>Kathryn Davis</td>
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<td>Holiday party. Location is announced</td>
<td><strong>Bulletin Editor</strong></td>
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<td>elsewhere in the bulletin &amp; may vary.</td>
<td>Angela Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Field Trips</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parliamentarian</strong></td>
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<td>Announced monthly in the bulletin and</td>
<td>Jim Brace-Thompson</td>
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<td>at the regular meeting. Members</td>
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<td>can access directions &amp; maps via our</td>
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<td>web site and flyers at the meetings.</td>
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<td><strong>Annual Show</strong></td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>The Club’s Annual Gem Show is held</td>
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<td>the first full weekend in March at the</td>
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<td>Ventura County Fairgrounds.</td>
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<td><strong>Workshop/Museum</strong></td>
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<td>11989 N. Creek Road</td>
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<td>Ojai, CA 93023</td>
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<td><strong>Open Workshop Day:</strong></td>
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<td>3rd Saturday of the month.</td>
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<td><strong>VGMS Club Colors</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue and Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Refreshment Schedule</strong></td>
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<td>August - The Brace-Thompsons</td>
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<td>Sept. - The Whites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. - The Browns</td>
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**This Month’s Cover Photo:**
Taken by
Steve Mulqueen
“Sweet Home Rhodochrosite”
Denver, CO
(Article on page 13)

All images are member submitted to Rockhound Ramblings. Images submitted to the editor should be accompanied by subject, name and location. Selection is at the discretion of the editor. Submit images to:
VGMSeditor@gmail.com

_**Clip Art Credits**_

B&W animal/fossil clip art from the Florida Center for Instructional Technology (marked @FCIT)
Crystal & Mineral clip art ©Diamond Dan. Original clip art by the editor marked GAB
President’s Message

It’s Ventura County Fair Time! Most of our members participate by volunteering, exhibiting or just going to the fair to have fun. I am so proud of VGMS. Not only did our 3 displays win First Place, our Society Case won the Director’s Award. The Directors were impressed that we offer a scholarship to future rock hounds! Over 300,000 people attend the county fair; such a great outreach program. The fair is also a great place to get to know members from other clubs. All the local clubs participated this year. It was great to have the Gem & Mineral side of the building full. Thank you all for helping and participating in the Fair.

Summer is almost over, which means the weather is going to cool down for field trips. Lots of great places still to go collect – try to go on a field trip before they end up like the dinosaurs and become extinct.

The 2017 CFMS-AFMS Show is less than a year away. The committee will be meeting every month - our next meeting is September 11, 2016 at 1:00 pm at the Union Bank Community Room where the board meetings are held.

With the cooler weather, we will start work up at the Clubhouse. If you are available to help, please let me know so we can notify you when we have clean up days.

Rock On Team PINK!
Membership & Hospitality

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome New Members!

We have new members to add to your 2016 VGMS Membership Directory.

Adrian Ruiz of Oxnard.

Adrian is a member of the Oxnard Club and is active in many tri-club functions, including joint field trips. He has assisted the Ventura Club in its recent functions and is assisting at the Ventura County Fair.

Eric and Carol Stokes of Ventura.

Eric and Carol Stokes are currently active members of the Conejo Gem and Mineral Club. Eric is very talented and will assist in future VGMS endeavors.

We welcome these new members.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 81 members, 12 pebble pups and one Junior signed up for 2016.

At the July 27th membership meeting we had 38 members, 4 guests and 1 Jr. member in attendance.

Richard Slyker,
VGMS Membership Chair
334 Wesleyan Ave., Ventura CA 93003
vgmsmembership@gmail.com

Editor’s Note

Not a whole lot to report this month, as I was at the fairgrounds a lot, before, during and after! And I’m happy to note that I received four ribbons on my crystal case, which is very cool. I’m thinking of fine tuning it and re-entering it in the CFMS show next year, too.

Thanks to Jim Brace-Thompson for playing club reporter and photographer-at-large for the fair activities.

I may have a Rock Box on the way from the Lynchburg, Virginia club; I will have it out on a table when I receive it.

Check out the Ways & Means raffle at the meeting on the 24th; I hope to have some really nice material out again for everyone to have a shot at winning. I just received some really nice donations from Ron Wise, too. It’s a great opportunity to win nice samples of material not available to collect anymore, plus hard to find pieces, and it supports the club. Good Luck!

Rock ‘n’ roll.

Angela Brown,
VGMS Editor
vgmseditor@gmail.com
Thank you to Jim Brace-Thompson, John Cook and Richard Slyker – another school outreach program under their belts. We slow down in the summer, but our reputation is getting so good, that referrals are in high number and we still hear from the camps to come share our hobby.

Thank you to Cindy Martin for donating Dino Cards for our Educational Outreach Programs.

Thank you to the VGMS members who helped at the Ventura County Fair: Nancy Brace-Thompson, Angela Brown, John Cook, Ron & Jean Wise, Shirley Layton, Jeff Geist, Andy Anderson, Jim Brace-Thompson, Luther Brown, Terry Wilson, Dick White, Phyllis White, Austyn Frisk, Laura Driskell, David Mautz, Sandra Butchko, Maria Flores, Raul Barraza, Richard Slyker, Nancy Bogart, Miriam Tetreault, Kathryn Davis, Russ and Aileen Beckers, Stuart Bloom, Greg & Valli Davis, Laura Driskell, Wendy Holder, Brett Johnson, Krishna Juarez, David Mautz and David Springer. So many participated, as VGMS President I am so proud of the club’s participation, as Superintendent I am so Thankful! ~Diane Cook

Thank you to all who participated in the annual Ventura County Fair—with a special thanks to our own VGMS President Diane Cook and John for overseeing the Gem & Mineral Building!

Thank you to Richard Slyker, John Cook, and Jim Brace-Thompson for giving hands-on activity-based lessons to YMCA summer camp kids. (Story on page 8)

Know of someone who has gone out of their way to help the club? Email a thank-you note—even if to yourself—to our newsletter so that a pat on the back can be passed along.

September VGMS Birthdays
Wishing you all a very Happy Birthday, and Many More!

Tracy Colahan  September 25  Eric Stokes  September 16
Stuart Bloom  September 28
Section 3: PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Meeting Minutes

The following Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Mr. Davis, VGMS Recording Secretary.

VGMS Regular Meeting - July 27, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Cook at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at the Ventura Fairgrounds in Ventura. Diane introduced visitors and then asked for corrections, if any, to the previously printed board and regular meeting minutes. It was then in order to accept the minutes. Members were led in the pledge to the flag.

Old Business:

The Fair takes place August 3-14. There’ll be lots to do and all help is greatly appreciated.

New Business:

John Cook introduced Mike Havstad who gave a talk and slide presentation on fossils and how to detect some that are not as they are stated.

Diane Cook: There will not be a work shop the first Sunday of August due to the Fair. There will be the regular words shop on the 3rd Saturday, August 20th. String knot and bead weaving classes are going to be offered at the Union Bank building if enough people sign up. Classes cost $25.00 per person and dates will be set if 6 or more sign up.

This year’s Fair takes place August 3-14. Classes are still in the works for our work shop and will include knotting and Optioni use. Dates will be announced.

Luther Brown: The Fair setup begins in July and will continue through August. Be sure to check our web site for changes and to confirm if you plan on attending field trips. This year may be the last for the Troma show due to a decline in club membership. This is the 75th for the show, year so if you’ve never been, this would be the time to experience this very unique outing.

Jim Bruce-Thompson: He’s again offered to head the set up of our clubs display cases for fair competition and hosted a group at their house to assemble. With school out, tour requests of our museum have slowed down for the summer.

Kathryn Davis: Camp Paradise takes place August 28 - September 3. Get your forms in ASAP.

Terry Wilson: Use the web site to sign up for club functions. New post cards are ready.

Richard Slyker: Today’s meeting had 27 members and 3 guests.

Angela Brown: Submissions to the bulletin are due by the 10th of the month. Angela also overwrote the raffle prizes for the evening with many great items being handed out. A week away with Virginia in the works.

John Cook: Dr. Gray presents in August. In September, Aaron Millman presents fossils. In October will be Lowell Foster, spooky stones along with possibly a costume party.

Refresments were provided by Terry Wilson and Cindy Martin.

The next board meeting will be held on August 4, 2016 at the Union Bank 301 S. Victoria Ave in Ventura and the next monthly membership meeting will be held on August 24, 2016 at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura.

There being no further business, Diane adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Davis
Recording Secretary

VGMS Board Meeting - August 4, 2016

Present: Diane Cook, Richard Slyker, Terry Wilson, Luther and Angela Brown, Shirley Layton, Jim & Nancy Bruce-Thompson and Greg Davis.

The Board meeting of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Cook on August 4, 2016, 7:30 pm at the Union Bank, Victoria Ave., Ventura. It was in order to accept last months minutes of both the Board and regular membership meetings.

Old Business:

Diane Cook: Our Society and Publicity cases for the Fair won awards along with Director’s Choice award.

New Business:

Diane Cook: Nancy Bogart’s husband passed away and a card will be sent expressing our sentiments.

Our August meeting will feature Dr. Gray. Sept. will be Aaron Miller, and October is Lowell Foster.

Luther Brown: No field trips are planned in July or August due to the Fair. September 17 & 18 is the Greenhorn Mtns.

Shirley Layton: Refreshments have been arranged for the coming monthly meetings.

Nancy Bruce-Thompson: We’re solvent. Property taxes have gone up this year and although we’re fortunate costs are what they are. Diane and Nancy will visit the County Assessor’s office for an explanation.

Jim Bruce-Thompson: YMCA summer camp presentations will be held August 9 at Poinsettia School for 1st & 2nd graders and on the 16th at Elmhurst School for 20-40 5th graders.

Terry Wilson: 5K show cards are now available. First business planned for the first VGMS 2017 show meeting. September 11 will be selecting cards for plants booth, exhibitor chair and kids booth. Richard Slyker offered to do exhibits and exhibitor prices have already been Purchased from Jewel T Culpeo.

Richard Slyker: After discussion, it was in order to accept the membership applications for Adrian Ruiz and Eric Stokes.

Greg Davis: Greg reported that incorrect information is found on the Internet for our club and contacts at various sites other than our web page. Terry agreed to look into it and report back.

Angela Brown: Is allowing a few extra days past the deadline for submissions to the bulletin due to Fair activities. Angela will be overseeing Ways & Means for the remainder of the year.

The next club membership meeting will be held on August 24 at the Poinsettia Pavilion and the next Board meeting will be on September 1, 2016, 7:30 pm at the Union Bank Bldg. On Victoria.

There being no further business, Diane adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Davis
Recording Secretary
Section 3: PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY

**Important Announcements**

**CAMP PARADISE**

Space Available - 2nd Week Camp Paradise

Dear CFMS Members,

Please let your club members know there are 25 spaces available for the 2nd week at Camp Paradise, September 4th-10th this year. The registration form is on the CFMS web site. We hope to see you there!

~Jennifer Haley, CFMS, Electronic Communications

www.cfmsinc.org (ESS Camps tab at the top)

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**Pebble Pup Calendar**

**August -**

*What is a Volcano?*

*How They Formed.*

**September -**

*Crystals & Types of Crystals.*

**October -**

*Lapidary Arts.*

**November -**

*The World of Miniature; Psammophile/Micro-Fossils.*

**December - Holiday Party**

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**In The News...**

**2017 SOLAR ECLIPSE**

By Angela Brown

According to an August 19, 2016 article in Space.com, on August 21st of 2017, the Continental US will get the best and most complete view of a total solar eclipse in over 40 years!

“Next year’s “Great American Total Solar Eclipse” will darken skies all the way from Oregon to South Carolina, along a stretch of land about 70 miles (113 kilometers) wide. People who descend upon this “path of totality” for the big event are in for an unforgettable experience, said eclipse expert Jay Pasachoff, an astronomer at Williams College in Massachusetts.”

Mark your calendars!

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*Image Credit: Fred Espenak, MrEclipse.com*
VGMS Club Cases Earn Top Honors at the County Fair - & So Do Members!!

Article & photos by Jim Brace-Thompson, Museum & Educational Outreach

Our Ventura County Fair took place August 3-14. Annually, it sees attendance on the order of 200,000 – 300,000 over a period of nearly two weeks. This presents an unparalleled opportunity for getting word out about our hobby and enticing new members via the club case competitions in the Gem & Mineral Building, where our award-winning cases served us well this year. Led by Creative Design Genius Angela, VGMS pulled together two display cases: a Publicity Case (“What’s in the case that would make me want to join this club?”) and a Society Case (“Showcase the collections and/or lapidary work of at least five club members.”). At the last minute, we also pulled together a dinosaur display featuring “Gummy” (our no-longer toothless Allosaurus skull east) for an educational display. We won first-place ribbons in all three categories! Our Publicity Case also won two plaques for Best Club Case and Director’s Choice. Well done and thanks to all who participated in assembling these cases! These awards will be prominently displayed on our library room walls.

In addition to these group efforts, individual VGMS members did us proud by entering displays of their gem, mineral, fossil, lapidary, and jewelry work. We saw a strong harvest of ribbons, plaques, best-of-show, and other awards. The Gem & Mineral Division had 71 registrants, and nearly all entered multiple classes. 52 of the registrants were members of one or more of the three gem and mineral societies in Ventura County, and I’m proud to note that 27—more than a third of the registrants—were members of our very own VGMS. Another 8 VGMS members placed
entries into the Hobbies & Collections Division, and as many as 10 served as ongoing demonstrators of cabbage, beading, carving, wire-wrapping, silver clay art, jewelry making, fossil cleaning, and entries, and floor-walking during the fair itself. Last and certainly not least, our very own President Diane Cook, with John at her side, ably served once again as Superintendent of Gems & Minerals, Hobbies & Collections. A sincere thanks to all who shared their collections and artistic works with our broader community and who so generously donated their time!
Education & Community Outreach

YMCA Summer Camp Fun

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Museum & Educational Outreach

Thanks to VGMS member John Looby, who enrolled his son Joey into the YMCA Summer Camp program, we were invited by the Ventura Family YMCA Youth Programs Director Julie O’Brien to “talk rocks” to three groups of kids: Rainbow Camp (K to 1st graders), Voyager Camp (2nd to 5th graders), and Adventure Camp (5th to 8th graders). I shared our VGMS Earth Science Activities Manual with Julie, who shared it with the camp counselors, who then chose presentations from our menu of ten options.

Thus, on Tuesday, August 9, John Cook and Richard Slyker joined me at Poinsettia Elementary School on North Victoria Avenue. Our assignment: give a basic introduction to fossils, first to 24 Rainbow Camp kids; then an hour later to 36 Voyager Camp kids. After introductions, we started by fielding questions that ranged far and wide (some actually applied to fossils!) before talking about just what a fossil is and illustrating different forms of fossilization (mineralization, carbonization, molds and casts, trace fossils) with specimens from our club museum collection.

We then moved to the main event: helping the kids and their camp counselors make fossils. As one overly earnest and entirely correct child told us, “No! Actually, that would take thousands of years.” No! We won’t actually be making fossils. That would take thousands of years. Thousands.

Actually, “Thousands!” Kids pressed seashells, trilobite and ammonite casts, and shark teeth into cups filled with clay and pulled them out to craft molds while Richard whipped up batches of plaster and John kept a photographic record. Then it was all-hands-on-deck among the adults to help kids spoon and pour plaster, some of which actually made it into the cups. While the plaster dried, we returned to the lectern to talk about California state symbols: our state flag, flower, bird, fish, tree, etc. Just as actually happened back in the 1970s, we held a vote for the official California State Fossil between “Triley Bite” (the half-billion-year-old trilobite) and Smiley Don (the saber-tooth cat, Smilodon). With both groups of kids, Smiley Don won in a landslide, and to reward these wise voters, we had everyone line up for Goodie Bags containing coloring pages and background sheets on fossils and Smilodon, club flyers and show postcards, and two real fossils for each child to start a collection.

As I write this article, John, Richard, and I are preparing for the Adventure Camp kids on Tuesday, August 16. This time the topic will be igneous rocks and volcanoes. The plan is for the kids to get together in teams to make their own clay volcanoes, and we’ll end with “dueling volcanoes” by popping off both of our club volcanoes simultaneously. We’ll let you know how it goes!
CELESTIAL EVENTS OF THE MONTH
reports spotted by Jim Brace-Thompson in recent newspapers

A Mystery Visitor from on High

Did you spot that “mysterious fireball in the night sky”? As reported in the Ventura County Star, on the night of July 27—while we were holding our monthly club meeting—a ball of light crossed low for a period of some 90 seconds. One person described it as “a large green fireball with a tail of smoke” moving eastward. That green reportedly turned to orange then broke into two pieces. Residents in Ventura, Fillmore, and Oxnard phoned reports; more reports lit up Los Angeles media outlets; and even the Las Vegas station of the National Weather Service in far-off Nevada Twittered their sighting of the unusual event. What was it? A meteorite? A satellite falling out of orbit? Or a Close Encounter of the Third Kind? Stay tuned!

The Perseids Shower Down Again

In addition to the mysterious green streak that lit up our sky on July 27, visitors to the Ventura County Fair who kept looking up after the fireworks display on Thursday night, August 11, would have been treated to natural fireworks in the form of the annual Perseid meteor shower. This event peaks every August as the earth swings through debris left in our solar system by an ancient comet. The show continued on through the weekend for folks lucky enough to have a patch of clear sky without too much light pollution.

Federation News

Federation Director’s Report

By Kathryn Davis

The Earth Sciences Program at Camp Paradise is happening soon. Apparently there are still some places available for the second week. You can find registration forms on the CFMS web site (www.cfmsinc.org).

There are also forms available for Advance Registration for the CFMS Show and convention in Placerville, CA September 16-18. Tickets for Adults are $5 per day; a three day pass is $15. Demonstrators and Exhibitors receive complimentary Admissions for themselves and one guest. There is a banquet Saturday night ($35/person). There is a breakfast with Editors and Webmasters on 17 September ($20/ticket).


**Program Review & Schedule**

**JULY Program**

Our July 2016 meeting was in the Gem & Mineral Building (Santa Rosa Room) at the Ventura County Fair and club members who entered gems and minerals were able to check their scores. We had Mike Havstad of the Conejo Gem and Mineral Club talk about “Fun with Fossils”. Mike had a great program with photos of trilobites, ammonites, ice age fossils, and much more. Additionally, he had hands-on specimens talking about how he acquired them, origins of the fossils and his unique geological insight. The talk also discussed “is it fake or real fossil” giving clues on what to look for and be aware of the fossil origin when buying fossils at shows and silent auctions. I would like to thank Mike for giving us a great and informative presentation and bringing nice specimens for club members to look at and touch. I would also like to thank all the club members, guests and visitors who took the effort to attend the club meeting at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

**AUGUST Program**

Dr Robert Gray, professor of geology, at Santa Barbara City College will be giving a great talk about “The Golden Age of Mining 1848-1888”. This talk promises to be great with his insights on mining history in the US, practices and techniques to remove the ore out of the ground. Although the mines in the Mojave Desert have long since been abandoned, often these locations are open for field trips in California.

**SEPTEMBER Program**

For September, Aaron Miller of “Ancient Earth Trading Co.” of Cambria, California will be giving a presentation of fossils found in central and southern California. The talk will focus on fossils and collection localities from Monterrey, Vaqueros, and San Pedro rock formations in the local area. The fossils include pipe and cod fish fossils, shells and gastropods, shrimp and crab, and oysters to name a few. Also, Aaron will bring specimens and fossils for club members to purchase.

**OCTOBER Program**

Our very own Lowell Foster will give a talk on “Spooky Stones” for our October club meeting. I will provide more details about the program will be provided later.
Section 3: PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Field Trips Are Fun

TRI-CLUB FIELD TRIPS (VGMS/OGMS/CGMC) - 2016

This is a tentative schedule. Please call your club field trip leader to confirm that there is a field trip scheduled in the event of changes like unpredictable weather, etc. More trips may be added in the future. Please look for Field Trip flyers at the monthly meetings for directions, maps, etc., as well as the WhosComing site.

2016 Field Trip Information (by sponsoring club):

(VGMS) Field Trip Leader; Luther Brown. Phone: 805-312-8467 Email: ravenwolf2@att.net
(OGMS) Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society - Facebook Field Trip page:
www.facebook.com/OGMS.Excursions/events

Use the new sign-up page so we know you plan to come! Pick a trip, get location information, maps, and sign up! http://whoscoming.com/vgms

Well, the fair is over now, and many members not only participated, but won ribbons. There was no trip scheduled for August. Carolyn Howe from the Oxnard club submitted the following for September’s trip (please note the corrected dates). I will have a few maps at the meeting; please let Carolyn know you are going (her phone is below).

The Greenhorn Mountains and Rose Quartz Trip is next month on Saturday, September 17 & Sunday the 18th, 2016. We will meet at Frog Meadow Campground. There will be signs to guide you to that campground. There will be OGMS markers to indicate your turns, so you will find your way. If you have any questions, you could call me. My phone number is 805-486-1185. I will be leaving as early as I can get ready to go on Friday, September 16, as I will be in the classroom the night before.

Since it is quite hot there, be sure to bring Gatorade or EmergenC to supply electrolytes as we have had 3 people in past years trips have a medical problem the club had to help medicate and re-hydrate them. Alternate water and electrolytes to supply yourself, as water alone will not be adequate to keep you from possible illness or collapse. Bring Chisels, Hammer and bucket to bring your stones up the hill. It takes only about 7 minutes to walk down but twice that much time to bring stones back up or maybe longer. The material is abundant, so just finding the area you want to work is your only concern about collecting. There is a potluck on Saturday night, September 17, 2016. Please bring something to share and we will all have a nice evening meal after our hard work getting our pretty stones.

Future Trips:

25th Annual Big Sur Jade Festival,
Big Sur, CA. October 7-9; Fri. (12am-6pm), Sat. (10am-6pm), Sun. (10am-5pm). Public event. See web site: http://bigsurjadefest.com/

Trona-Gem-O-Rama, Trona, CA
Sat.-Sun., October 8th - 9th, 7:30am to 5pm both days. Might be the last year to attend! See web site: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/flyer.html

(OGMS/CGMC) Wiley’s Well Campout, Blythe, CA
Sat. - Sun., November 19th - 20th. More details as the trip gets closer. Tri-club trip lead by Rob Sankovich. Geodes, nodules, chalcedony, roses, agates, jaspers, psilomelane (manganese oxide), some petrified wood.

(Special invite for VGMS Members) Jewel Tunnel gemstone importers, LA. This is a trip for Ventura members by special invite and reservation; date to be announced, and sign up sheet will be posted. A Saturday in December.
The Nipomo Show

Article & photos by Jim Brace-Thompson

The 49th Annual Show of the Orcutt Mineral Society took place at the Nipomo High School grounds on August 5-7. I had been invited to enter an exhibit of my fossil fish, so I raced up for set-up on Thursday, barely making it back to Ventura in time for our monthly VGMS Board Meeting. (Theoretically, the round trip should take only four hours, but Santa Barbara traffic always adds at least one more hour.) Nancy and I returned on Sunday for some gawking and shopping before tear-down. While there, we saw familiar VGMS faces among the attendees: Kathryn Davis and Sunny Cross who were working as dealers, Wendy Holder and Bob Oliver, and David Springer. We hear that Terry Wilson attended on Friday. We brought Symon along, as well, only to learn on our arrival that no dogs were allowed even though this was primarily an outdoor event, so Nancy and I had to trade off walking poor Symon around the perimeter while the other walked the show. This is a new rule that the high school has imposed and that the club did not publicize in advance, so if anyone with a pooch goes to future shows here, please keep this in mind and make appropriate arrangements.

For years, this show has been organized and run largely by Wes Lingerfelt, who judges lapidary work at our Ventura County Fair and who has long been a dealer at our VGMS show with an impressive selection of spheres he’s crafted himself. He continued his involvement this year but more from the sidelines, noting that he’s gradually phasing himself out of the show. He’ll leave big shoes to fill, but other members of the Orcutt club were stepping up and doing a fine job. This has always been one of the best tailgates around. As many as 60 dealers sold
all manner of rocks, minerals, fossils, equipment (used and new), and lapidary wonders. There seemed to be a tilt to slabs and rough, so if lapidary is your thing, there was ample material to choose from. I picked up some California stuff for more trades with David Andrews of the Scottish Mineral & Lapidary Club, including Nipomo Beanfield Agate (seagenitic and marcasitic), Hornitos Poppy Jasper, colorful jasp-agate from the Pancho Hills and Rainbow Ridge, Horse Canyon moss agate, and more. Most was collected by the dealers themselves, so each came with a unique story or two. That’s the great thing about this show: the large number of mom-and-pop dealers who feature materials they’ve self-collected and offer at low prices that can be negotiated even lower if you take the time to get to know the person and become a “regular.” We encourage all VGMS members to consider exhibiting in future shows at Nipomo or, at the least, to make the scenic drive up the coast to shop-and-gawk in a relaxing and friendly venue.

Denver Museum or Nature & Science, Colorado

Article & photos by Steve Mulqueen

“The Alma King” Rhodochrosite - A superb specimen featuring the mineral rhodochrosite (cherry red), with quartz (clear colorless), fluorite (blue), sphalerite (black), tetrahedrite, chalcopryite and calcite (yellow). This mineral cluster measures 14 cm wide x 16.5 cm tall. It was discovered deep within underground workings at the Sweet Home Mine near Alma, Colorado in 1992. It is now on permanent display within the Coors Mineral Exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. The specimen was donated to the museum by the Adolph Coors Foundation. This large mineral cluster is considered the most outstanding of the workings at the Sweet Home Mine near Alma, Colorado in 1992. It is now on permanent display within the Coors Mineral Exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. The specimen was donated to the museum by the Adolph Coors Foundation. This large mineral cluster is considered the most outstanding of the
Educational Corner

Definition of the Month

By Steve Mulqueen

Mammoth Site, Hot Springs, South Dakota – In June of 1974, grading operations began at a proposed housing development site within the community of Hot Springs in Fall River County, South Dakota. Heavy equipment immediately began uncovering large fossil mammal bones. Grading operations ceased, allowing paleontologists to identify the content and extent of the fossil deposit. After its discovery, the excavation became an active paleontological dig site that has uncovered 61 complete fossil mammoth skeletons, including 58 Columbian Mammoths and 3 Woolly Mammoths. These fossil bones have been dated at approximately 26,000 years old. These and other remains represent a period when mammoths and other mammals roamed the High Plains of North America.

Other fossils found during excavations include extinct and ancient varieties of camel, llama, giant short-faced bear, wolf, coyote and white-tailed prairie dog. Bird feathers, fish skeletons and mollusk shells have also been found in this deposit, which has been identified as an ancient sinkhole. Bone, scat (fossil fecal material), plant and shell fossils that have been removed from the excavations have also been identified, cataloged and preserved. Most of the mammoth remains have been kept in-place, with minor alterations made for fossil preservation or for protection from damage during excavation. The fossil bones are very fragile, having the consistency of chalk. Preservatives are applied to the bones in order to harden the remains.

The site was a karst sinkhole and water-source that was formed over 26,000 years ago when a limestone cavern collapsed. The limestone consists of the Minnelusa Formation with associated shale of the Spearfish Formation. This karst sink measured 65’ deep and 120’ X 150’ in aerial extent and formed an opening for warm spring water to percolate upward to the bottom of the sink. Mammoths and other large animals recognized the spring as a water and food source, and became trapped after entering the sinkhole. The water and aquatic plants were the attraction and the sinkhole became the trap.

Dr. Larry Agenbroad was the principal investigator at the site beginning in 1974 until his death during the year 2014 at age 81. Numerous volunteers work every day with the tedious job of excavating, preserving and identifying fossils. A few paid staff members and scientists work to keep the museum building open and to continue with the research.

Today, the Mammoth Site is not only an active fossil dig site and museum but is recognized as a National Natural Landmark and research center for Pleistocene studies. Its mission statement: “Our
Educational Corner

mission is the preservation, research and interpretation of The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota, and the development of a broad understanding of the Quaternary record across a global framework”.

The museum is open every day. Visitors can take tours and watch active excavation operations for a nominal entrance fee. The entrance fee helps pay for the costs associated with the museums operations, excavations and staffing.

Source of Information: Refer to the official web site for The Mammoth Site, operated by Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota, Inc. Other web sites are available by searching related key words.

Written by Steve Mulqueen for the VGMS, August 2016. The ‘Definition of the Month’ features words related to geology, paleontology, mining and desert history. Refer to other definitions featured in past VGMS bulletins under the heading of Educational Corner dating back to June 2001 available on the VGMS web site at www.vgms.org.

Illustration of the Month

By Steve Mulqueen

Columbian Mammoth, stuck in the sinkhole.

This illustration can be used to depict condition that existed when mammoths became stuck in the Pleistocene sinkhole at The Mammoth Site in what is now Hot Springs, South Dakota.

The sketch shows a watering hole with steep sides. Once the large animals entered the sinkhole, there was no way to get out. They remained in the watering hole until they starved to death. Several hundred years later, the sinkhole filled with sediment and the bone fossils remained for thousands of years.

Text written by Steve Mulqueen for the VGMS, August 2016. The ‘Illustration of the Month’ features a drawing, sketch, pen & ink rendering, engraving print or any form of art rediscovered in books, maps, manuscripts and many other sources related to geology, paleontology, mining and desert history. This illustrated photo was chosen for its educational content by the author. Refer to other featured illustrations from previous bulletins beginning in June of 2001 available on the VGMS web site at www.vgms.org.
Gems of the Past

Broken Hills, September 1959
Collecting trip for opalized wood
Photographer unknown, from the Benson Collection, Photo #A-142

By Steve Mulqueen

This early photo is labeled “Broken Hills, NV, September 1959”. It shows Bruno and Opal Benson with friends on a collecting trip for petrified wood in a remote area north of Gabbs, Nevada. Bruno is digging in hard terrain in search of the elusive fossil wood that was buried by volcanic ash back in the Miocene Epoch. Opal Benson (standing, with red sweater) is supervising the entire operation with the help of rockhound friends.

The Broken Hills are located in Mineral County, NV. The hills are volcanic in origin, named after the abundance of fractures within the rock units common to the region. This area has been a source of beautiful opaque and translucent varieties of opalized wood since the early days of rockhounding. The region is also known for its rich mining history, consisting primarily of gold mining and the extraction of other metallic ores and industrial minerals. This remote area of Central Nevada was named Mineral County because of its rich mineral deposits.

Source of Information: Refer to key words within the Internet under the heading of Broken Hills, Gabbs (NV), opalized wood, petrified wood, Quartz Mountain and Nevada Highway 361.

Photographer unknown, photo taken September 1959. From the Bruno & Opal Benson Collection.


Photo Copyright © 2016 Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc., All Rights Reserved.

BenchTips

DO BEZELS SHRINK?

The engineer in me says there’s no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won’t quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here’s a fix that usually works for those times when there’s just a minor problem. 1 file or sand the stone down a little around it’s base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jasper or howlite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like agates or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone’s size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that’s in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress on the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at facebook.com/BenchTips/ or see the book “Bench Tips for Jewelry Making” on Amazon at www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/
Chips & Boulders

HELP WANTED - 2017 Show Chair Positions:
Positions to fill are Plant Sales Chair, Exhibitor Chair and Kids Booth Chair for our March 2017 yearly show. Plant Sales is a great position for a new member to jump into. Trainee will work with Terry Wilson and eventually replace her coordinating the Plant Sales. The majority of the work is just before the show, planting starters, coordinating plant donations, and show set up. Must have green thumb, space to have potted plants & maintain them until March show. There is a handbook for Kids Booth and Exhibitor Chair, but you’ll also get lots of help, too. Exhibitor Chair position requires some computer proficiency, willingness to call or email exhibitors, and planning display case placement. Kids Booth Chair position requires interaction and patience with kids, planning activities for the booth, and making sure you plan and order materials in advance. You can also co-chair or assist in each position. For specifics, please contact Show Chair Terry Wilson at: terry@terryfic.com

HELPWANTED - Educational Outreach Helpers:
Are you great with kids, willing to help out in the community at local schools, youth groups, and public events to help present educational programs? Available during the week? Great! Our Education Chair can always use more helping hands. Please contact our Educational Outreach Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson for more information: jbraceth@roadrunner.com

FOUND - Rock Hammer:
If you or someone you know lost a rock hammer on the Cady Mountains field trip, please contact member Russ Beckers to identify it. Cell # 818-515-7528

FOR SALE - Flat Dry Sanding Unit:
VGMS has a flat dry sanding unit, like new, make unknown...$100.00.. will consider offers. Please come to the open workshop days to see it. info@vgms.org.

Our business is putting fun and pride into your lapidary hobby or profession—by making the right tools for your needs
www.diamondpacific.com

Club Merchandise

VGMS continues to have Club T-Shirts for sale. Priced to all VGMS members at $12.00 and any club member associated to CFMS $15.00.

Sizes S-M-L-XL-2X-3X. All profits go directly to the VGMS.

Contact Diane Cook at johndianedaisy@yahoo.com to order.

Please remember that our CafePress VGMS logo site has many items available with the club poinsettia logo to choose from, new items being added when available. All profits can be used for future purchases of items to sell at our show in March with a markup.

Please visit www.cafepress.com/VtaGemSociety, or contact Angela at VGMSSeditor@gmail.com for more information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 16 - 18</td>
<td>PLACERVILLE, CA</td>
<td>PLACERVILLE MINERAL SHOW &amp; CONVENTION</td>
<td>El Dorado County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Fri - Sun 10 - 5 daily</td>
<td>Barbara Terrill, 530 676-2375</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@rockandgemshow.org">info@rockandgemshow.org</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfms2016show.com">www.cfms2016show.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17 - 18</td>
<td>CHICO, CA</td>
<td>Feather River Lapidary &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Oroville, Silver Dollar Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Sat 9:30 - 4; Sun 9:30 - 4</td>
<td>John Scott, (530) 321-6331</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jweazel@sbcglobal.net">jweazel@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.featherriverrocks.org">www.featherriverrocks.org</a></td>
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<td>September 24 - 25</td>
<td>LODI, CA</td>
<td>LODI LAPIDARY &amp; MINERAL CLUB</td>
<td>Lodi Grape &amp; Harvest Festival Grounds</td>
<td>Sun 10 - 5 daily</td>
<td>Jerold Kyle, (209) 368-9411</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeroldkyle@yahoo.com">jeroldkyle@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.stocktonlapidary.com">www.stocktonlapidary.com</a></td>
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<td>September 24 - 25</td>
<td>MONTEREY, CA</td>
<td>CARMEL VALLEY GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY</td>
<td>Monterey Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5</td>
<td>Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janis12@sbcglobal.net">janis12@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.cvgms.org">www.cvgms.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24 - 25</td>
<td>REDWOOD CITY, CA</td>
<td>SEQUOIA GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY</td>
<td>Community Activities Building</td>
<td>10 - 5 daily</td>
<td>Catherine Fraser, 650-954-6020</td>
<td><a href="mailto:catherinen@fraseradv.com">catherinen@fraseradv.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org">www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24 - 25</td>
<td>SANTA ROSA, CA</td>
<td>SANTA ROSA MINERAL &amp; GEM SOCIETY</td>
<td>Wells Fargo Center for the Art</td>
<td>Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5</td>
<td>Jolene Coon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Daviesb@yahoo.com">Daviesb@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.srmgs.org">www.srmgs.org</a></td>
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<td>October 1 - 2</td>
<td>BORON, CA</td>
<td>MOJAVE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY</td>
<td>Boron Recreation Park</td>
<td>Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4</td>
<td>Bruce Davies, (760) 338-8829</td>
<td><a href="mailto:daviesb@yahoo.com">daviesb@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.srmgs.org">www.srmgs.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1 - 2</td>
<td>VISTA, CA</td>
<td>VISTA GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY</td>
<td>Antique Gas &amp; Steam Engine Museum</td>
<td>Sun 10 - 5</td>
<td>Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7570</td>
<td><a href="mailto:raysrocks@cox.net">raysrocks@cox.net</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.srmgs.org">www.srmgs.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8 - 9</td>
<td>ANDERSON, CA</td>
<td>SHASTA GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY</td>
<td>Shasta District Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Sat 9 - 5; Sun 10 - 4</td>
<td>Steve Puderbaugh, 530-604-2951</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelly13@shasta.com">kelly13@shasta.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.shastagemandmineral.com">www.shastagemandmineral.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8 - 9</td>
<td>GRASS VALLEY, CA</td>
<td>NEVADA COUNTY GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY</td>
<td>Nevada County Fairgrounds (Main Building)</td>
<td>10 - 5 daily</td>
<td>Todd Lawson, (530) 305-9212</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webmaster@ncgms.org">webmaster@ncgms.org</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.ncgms.org">www.ncgms.org</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Section 3: PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Website Postings

Our Show
Section 3: PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Website Postings

Our Meetings

VGMS MEETINGS

General meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month (except November and December). 1900-2100 daily at Poinsettia Pavilion, Santa Paula Plaza, 1401 Foothill Rd. Ventura, CA 93004. The public is invited to attend any of our general meetings. For information on becoming a member, visit our Membership page.

Poinsettia Pavilion Meeting Location

We meet at Ventura's Poinsettia Pavilion in the Santa Paula Plaza, 1401 Foothill Rd. Ventura, CA 93004, the 4th Wednesday of every month except November and December, when we meet on the 2nd Wednesday. You do not need to attend the holiday. Park in either of the upper or lower lots and enjoy an awesome view of Ventura from the hillside venue just below Two Trees.

Our Workshop

Workshop

Our workshop at the clubhouse is open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9 am to 3 pm and the 1st Sunday from noon to 3 pm.

Learn and Practice Lapidary in Our Workshop

Come in and pursue individual lapidary and jewelry-making projects under the supervision of two to three shop stewards. The workshop space is divided between two buildings. One space has two workbenches and four cabinets for tools and materials, while the other is equipped with four workbenches and a demonstration bar set up for vising. The workbenches have been converted to hold grinding and polishing units to craft gems. The shop also features a full-size studio for extruding metal knobs from matrix.
Section 3: PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Monthly Meeting Announcements

Some of our Public Postings

The Publicity Case the club enters in the Ventura County Fair each August (10 days) contains everything you need to know about the club, including our show dates, our meeting & workshop days (yellow card on right case side), our events & projects.

Newspaper Postings

See also Page 33 under Club Websites; meetings announced on our Facebook page, yoo..
Section 3: PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Show Publicity

We go through several venues to advertise our show, including show posters at a display in the E.P. Foster Library (see page 84), in the Gem & Mineral Building at the Fair, fliers posted around town, & a radio interview.

(Below & right)
Jim Brace-Thompson and Diane Cook gave a 25 minute interview on March 2nd at radio station KDAR. It was a great opportunity to talk about what the club does, especially our educational outreach programs, our show, and the scholarships we were giving out at the show that weekend.

(Right)
Members Angela and Luther Brown helping hang up our show posters in downtown Ventura on February 20. The Ventura crew included Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson, Wendy Holder and Bob Oliver. Other members took fliers to their nearby hometowns, like Fillmore, Santa Paula, Oxnard and Simi Valley.

(Below & right)
98.3 FM KDAR. Ventura, California. Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. present a 25 minutes interview on March 2nd at radio station KDAR. It was a great opportunity to talk about what the club does, especially our educational outreach programs, our show, and the scholarships we were giving out at the show that weekend.

98.3 FM KDAR
The Channel 3 Station
Ventura, California

Community Connection: Preparations

Your Community Connection recording session will last roughly 30 minutes. Since the show is pre-recorded, mistakes can be cut out before your show airs. Simply let us know if any facts or statements were flawed at the time of your recording. The total length of your show is 25 minutes.

1. What theme or topics would you like to focus on during your Community Connection interview?
   - Educational activities VGSMS conducts throughout the year for elementary schools, homegroups, & other groups (school presentations, museum tours, lapidary arts and jewelry-making workshops, assisting with student projects, etc.)
   - Our annual college scholarship for local geology & earth science students
   - What we offer members (field trips, programs, lapidary/jewelry workshops, fairs)

2. What will we be interviewing? Please include their titles or positions.
   - Jim Brace-Thompson: VGSMS President (Education Outreach Chair & Past President)
   - Diane Cook: VGSMS President

3. What upcoming events, if any, do you want to make sure to mention?
   - Our 34th Annual Ventura Gem Show at the Ventura County Fairgrounds March 8 & 9 offering fun for the entire family. A Ventura tradition since 1983.

4. How can listeners contact you (phone, web, office location, etc.)?
   - Phone: 805-312-VGMS (8467)
   - Web: www.vgms.org
   - Email: info@vgms.org
   - VGSMS museum & workshop (open by appointment) across from Camp Comfort, Oxnard

We look forward to your visit to our studio. Should you need to change your interview time slot for any reason, simply call us at 805-485-8861.

Please take the time to answer the questions below and return them to us via email or fax to:
805-312-VGMS
Section 3: PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Show Announcements

We advertise our show in several different venues, which includes local newspapers, many different travel and tourist websites, Facebook, and on local radio, besides all the fliers we paper downtown with!
A show listing for our show in AAA's Westways Magazine, Current Events sections.
Members Serving In the California Federation

We have two members in VGMS serving the California Federation;

Kathryn Davis has served as our Federation Director for a few years now.

Kathryn's monthly section in the VGMS bulletin.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Members Serving In the California Federation

Jim Brace-Thompson is a CFMS Past-President, as well as the Juniors Activities Chair for CFMS.

Jim’s August 2016 article from the CFMS bulletin.

Members Serving In the American Federation

We have one member serving the American Federation; Jim Brace-Thompson is the Juniors Program Chair. In 2016, Jim updated and revised the Badge Program Manual into an expanded 4th Edition.

Jim’s November 2016 article from the AFMS bulletin.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Members Serving In the California Federation

2016 was spent planning in earnest for the 2017 CFMS / AFMS Show we are hosting in June this year. (See Section 2, page 12 for a list of CFMS / AFMS Show Committee Members.) We held multiple meetings during the year, every couple months, at a local community building in Ventura. We held a show theme contest, which Jim Brace-Thompson won, and an open poster contest, too. We had lots of great poster submissions, and in the end, the winner was VGMS / OGMS member, Brett Bednorz. Both gentlemen won free banquet tickets, and a show t-shirt.

Our May Show Committee Meeting, with CFMS guests, Pat & Burl LaRue on the right corner.

Our Publicity Packet stuffing party.

The multiple styles of posters on voting day were hard to chose from.

Winner Brett Bednorz with Diane Cook, holding his winning poster entry.

Our publicity team nailing the show presentation with the new poster at Visalia.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Members Attending a California Federation Show

In 2016, Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson, Diane & John Cook, Terry Wilson, Kathryn Davis & Sunny Cross attended the CFMS Show in Placerville, CA. Not only did they put in cases, but they watched the gold panning competition, admired the displays and vendor wares, and Jim and John judged. They found time to explore Sutter’s Mill and do a little panning in the American River, too.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

VGMS President Diane Cook, and John Cook at the Gold Panning Competition building.

VGMS member Terry Wilson, putting in her competitive jewelry case.

VGMS member John Cook’s entry for minerals from a single locality.

VGMS President Diane Cook entered her ‘What Makes It Pink’ case.

VGMS member Nancy Brace-Thompson, putting in her Ocean Jasper case.

Nancy Brace-Thompson, Terry Wilson, Susan Chaisson-Walblom and Diane Cook trying their hand at gold panning.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Members Supporting Scholarship & Endowment Funds

In 2016, VGMS contributed to both the AFMS & CFMS Scholarship Funds.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Members Supporting Scholarship & Endowment Funds

In 2016, VGMS members Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson also donated to both the AFMS & CFMS Scholarship Funds.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Members Supporting Scholarship & Endowment Funds

In 2016, VGMS, and members Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson, also contributed to the CFMS Endowment Fund.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Members Giving Programs For Other Clubs

Members Jim Brace-Thompson, Diane Cook, Steve Mulqueen and Mike Havstad all gave presentations to other clubs or organizations in 2016.

Jim Brace-Thompson gave a talk about his trip to Scotland and visiting the club there. He shared about the agates he got, and the variety found to Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society (right), as well as at the Cracker Barrel the night before the annual CFMS Fall Directors Meeting at Visalia in November.

Diane Cook gave a presentation at both Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society and Conejo Gem & Mineral Club about how to put a display case together for the Fair and club shows, plus about the CFMS/AFMS Show we are hosting in 2016 (Photos below).

Member and retired geologist Steve Mulqueen presented a PowerPoint lecture on the subject of Petroleum Seeps to the Southern Utah Rock Club, Cedar City, Utah and to Utah Friends of Paleontology, St. George, Utah. The lecture included numerous photos and data regarding the fossils from Rancho La Brea in Los Angeles. He also led numerous trips with a UCSB Geology class, Santa Barbara City College’s Geosciences class (see pg.83), and for the Southern California Paleontological Society.

Member Mike Havstad gave a talk about dinosaurs for the Antelope Valley Club (Right).
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Members Attended Other Shows

VGMS members attended various shows during the year, often carpooling. Members also put in cases at our sister club’s shows, Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society and Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.

Conejo Show:
Members Maria Flores and Raul Barraza, upper left, setting up cases.

Antelope Valley Show; members Sandra Butchko (also a vendor for our show), editor Angela Brown, president Diane Cook (below)....
...and Nancy & ‘Pebble Pup’ Symon Brace-Thompson (right).
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Jim, Nancy & ‘Pebble Pup’ Symon Brace-Thompson, who are also members of Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral, went to their show to help them with Silent Auction and set-up. (Above)

Jim, Nancy & ‘Pebble Pup’ Symon Brace-Thompson went to the Quartzsite Pow Wow, as well.

Jim, Nancy & ‘Pebble Pup’ Symon Brace-Thompson, Diane & John Cook went to the West Coast Show and the Nevada Book & Mineral Store nearby.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

Joint Field Trips With Other Clubs

VGMS is part of the ‘Tri-Club’ field trip scheduling each year, which includes Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, and Conejo Gem & Mineral Club. Since the editor exchanges with multiple other clubs, we frequently have members from all around Southern California. Please see the Field Trips pages 26-28 for more trip details.

This field trip sign in page is for our April 23, 2016 trip. At this trip were members from Oxnard & Conejo, plus Monrovia, Glendora and San Diego clubs. This was one of our best attended trips, and no one went home empty-handed.
### Reciprocal Gem Club Mailing List

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<tr>
<th>E-mailed To:</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Editor</th>
<th>Address</th>
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| X<br>sirockhounds@gmail.com<br>jbyron@cableone.com<br>doodle35146ss@yahoo.com<br>editor@gmc.info<br>beehivebuzz@gmail.com<br>kalisinean@gmail.com<br>debbie.blanton@calgarychristian.net<br>rocknie@gmail.com<br>bgmvo@yahoo.com<br>annachristian7132@comcast.net<br>shannonb787@gmail.com<br>saylor@redshift.com<br>rockdoc.anderson@gmail.com<br>mrbill4@gmail.com<br>csycrystals2@gmail.com<br>wishe@yahoo.com<br>heesacker@coho.net<br>7399gemihead@gmail.com<br>delairrockhounds@gmail.com<br>aquanamarinepaisley@yahoo.com<br>andrewhoekstra@gmail.com<br>editor.the mountaingem@gmail.com<br>beadbbox.carol@gmail.com<br>newsletter@gamineral.net<br>editor@goldenspikegem.org<br>bill.friday@earthlink.net<br>barlow596@gmail.com<br>kmceditor1@gmail.com<br>teresapolly@bellsouth.net<br>lgmceditor@windstream.net<br>eddtop@myfairpoint.net<br>mgsofly@gmail.com<br>bulletin@mineralsocal.org<br>joo36@gmail.com<br>mflover87@aol.com<br>nrvgc@aol.com<br>therockhounds@yahoo.com<br>sgardner3@mindspring.com<br>mx28@verizon.net | Orange Belt Mineralogical Soc., Inc.<br>Santa Lucia Rockhounds<br>Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club<br>Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society<br>Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club<br>Amador County Gem & Mineral Soc.<br>Beehive Rock & Gem Club<br>Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club<br>Blue Grass Gem & Mineral Club<br>Boston Mineral Club, Inc.<br>Burlington Gem & Mineral Club<br>Camaral Gem & Mineral Society<br>Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Soc.<br>Ct. Arkansas Gem.Min.&Geology Soc.<br>Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society<br>Cincinnati Mineral Society<br>Clackamette Mineral & Gem<br>Conejo Gem & Mineral Club<br>Del-Air Rockhounds Club, Inc.<br>Delaware Valley Earth Science Soc.<br>Delvers Gem & Mineral Society<br>Franklin Gem & Mineral Society<br>Geelong Gem & Mineral Club<br>Georgia Mineral Society, Inc.<br>Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society<br>Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society<br>Idaho Gem Club, Inc.<br>Keene Mineral Club<br>Knoxville Gem & Mineral Club<br>Lincoln Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.<br>Maine Mineralogical & Geological Soc.<br>Mineral & Gem Soc. of Castro Valley<br>Mineralogical Society of So. Calif.<br>Minnesota Mineral Club<br>Monrovia Rockhounds<br>Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club<br>No. Mississippi Gem & Mineral Soc.<br>No. Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club<br>No. Shore Rock & Mineral Club | Jim Wolford - Staurolite Newsletter<br>James King - Rockconteur<br>Wm. Lyon - A View From The Arubuckles<br>Sandra Sullivan - Rockhound Roundup<br>Russ Hall - News Nuggets<br>Shannon Byrd - The Moonstone<br>Dave Harris - Beehive Buzzer<br>Kelie Moore - Smoke Signals<br>Debbie Blanton - The Conglomerate<br>Nathan Martin - Boston Min. Club News<br>Bob Fendrich - BG&M Club Newsletter<br>Anna Christiansen - The Golden Frog<br>Rich Saylor - The Prospector<br>Ray Anderson - Cedar Valley Gems<br>Bill Acott - Arkansas Rockhound News<br>Carolyn Weinberger - Chippers Chatter<br>James Budnik - The Quarry<br>Beth Heesacker - Clackamette Gem<br>Kevin Lake - The Rocky Review<br>Chris Ward - Rockhounder Review<br>Ann Benson - DVESScapades<br>Andrew Hoekstra - Delvings<br>Ellen Crawford - The Mountain Gem<br>Carol Kirby (Pres.) - The Gemini<br>Roxanne Lopez - Tips & Trips<br>Tom Burchard - Golden Spike News<br>Bill Friday - Rocket City Rocks & Gems<br>Linda Barlow - Grindings<br>Randy Koons - Collector’s Corner<br>Teresa Polly - <br>Sharon Marburger - The Pick & Shovel<br>Ed Clepton - Rockin’ Around<br>Anthony Cooper - Petrograph<br>Linda Elsain - Bulletin of the Min. Soc.of So.Cal.<br>John Porter - Rock Rustler<br>Denise Davis - Moroks<br>Jim Caro - Napa Gems<br>Nancy Roberts - The Nugget<br>Susan Gardner - Rocky Trails<br>Michele Weisberg - Mineral Matters | 205 W. Benedict #8, San Bernardino<br>P.O. Box 1672, Paso Robles<br>2706 N. County Rd 382, Welumka<br>P.O. Box 1067, Springville<br>P.O. Box 13718, Albuquerque<br>P.O. Box 794, Sutter Creek<br>P.O. Box 1011, Ogden<br>718 Franklin Ave., Davenport<br>3133 Dale Hollow Dr., Lexington<br>711 Concorde Ave., Cambridge<br>P.O. Box 1712, Burlington<br>P.O. Box 517, Angels Camp<br>P.O. Box 1597, Melbourne<br>P.O. Box 5846, Carmel<br>812 Dewey Street, Iowa City<br>218 Old Highway 11 S., Hazen<br>P.O. Box 302, Glyndon<br>P.O. Box 903, Oregon City<br>P.O. Box 723, Newbury Park<br>14203 Gilmore Street, Van Nuys<br>P.O. Box 372, Maple Shade<br>101 W. Lambert Dr. #18, La Habra<br>25 Phillips Street, Franklin<br>7 Malvern Grove, Mandalay Heights, Victoria<br>14318 Steve Reynolds Blvd., Noncorss<br>P.O. Box 12835, Ogden<br>P.O. Box 8443, Boise<br>229 Main Street, Keene<br>P.O. Box 51554, Knoxville<br>P.O. Box 8342, Lincoln<br>901 Portland Rd., Saco<br>P.O. Box 2145, Castro Valley<br>Pasadena City College Geology Dept., E-Bldg., RM 420, 1570 E California Blvd., Pasadena<br>P.O. Box 580706, Minneapolis<br>P.O. Box 553, Monrovia<br>P.O. Box 404, Napa<br>P.O. Box 1445, Tupelo<br>15428 62nd Ave. NE<br>284 Bay Road, South Hamilton | CA<br>CA<br>OK<br>AL<br>NM<br>CA<br>UT<br>IA<br>AR<br>MD<br>CA<br>CA<br>AR<br>GA<br>UT<br>AL<br>ID<br>NH<br>TN<br>NE<br>ME<br>CA<br>CA<br>CA<br>CA<br>MI<br>WA<br>MA
### Support for Regional Federations, AFMS & Other Clubs

**Editor Exchange List**

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*Updated: Feb. 21, 2017*
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

S.C.R.I.B.E. Membership

The editor is a paid member of S.C.R.I.B.E.
Members Perform as Judges

In 2016, several of our members served as judges at other shows, as well as our yearly Ventura County Fair.

At the 2016 CFMS Show in Placerville, both members Jim Brace-Thompson and John Cook (badge in left photo above) volunteered to judge. John was judging lapidary cases, and Jim was judging self-collected mineral entries with Colleen McGann.

At the Ventura County Fair last year, Jim Brace-Thompson & John Cook were judges, and Terry Wilson, Angela Brown, Phyllis White, and Shirley Layton were judges assistants.
Section 4: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS & OTHER CLUBS

CFMS ‘Rockhound of the Year’

In 2016, at our Holiday Party, we announce the winners of the ‘Rockhound of the Year’. It was a difficult choice, as we have so many worthy members. We decided to honor both an adult member and Junior Member.

The ‘Rockhound of the Year’ was Terry Wilson, our webmistress and show chair. A transplant from New Jersey’s Delaware Earth Science Society, she has been a great asset, helping with all facets of our show, both in March and for the upcoming CFMS/AFMS Show in June, plus revamping and modernizing our website.

(Photo, right)

The ‘Junior Rockhound of the Year’ was given to Austyn Frisk. The grandson of members Dick & Phyllis White, Austyn has been our go-to guy and all around helper for our show, and especially in the Gem Building during the yearly Fair. He and his grandparents are also members of the Conejo Gem & Mineral Club. He regularly comes to meetings and many of the special workshop classes. We hope he continues to be the sweet helpful guy he is.

(Photo, left)
Section 5: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Educational Outreach; Programs For Schools & Scouts

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society presents many programs at local schools, scout groups, and public events geared to kids every year, as well as at our clubhouse museum. Our Educational Outreach Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson, is the driving force for these popular programs, and as a result, we are frequently asked to do them. He has a core group of helpers that assist or fill in for him; John Cook, Raul Barraza, Jeff Geist, Dick and Phyllis White, and Andy Anderson.

In 2016, we did presentations for Oak Grove School, Monica Ros School, Somis Elementary, El Rio Elementary, Pierpont School, Meiners Oaks School, Dos Caminos Elementary, William Elementary, Poinsettia Elementary, the YMCA during their Adventure and Summer Camps, the E. P. Foster Library for their Earth Day kids activities, along with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and the Boys & Girls Club.

Students from Oak Grove School field trip visit to our club museum with teacher Carole Sylvester-Gray in November.

Member John Cook giving a talk about volcanoes for a group of kids at the Boys & Girls Club, including a popular demonstration of an eruption!

Local area kids at a YMCA Adventure Camp being given a volcano presentation. Jim Brace-Thompson gave this presentation, along with another a short time later.

continued next page...
Section 5: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Educational Outreach; Programs For Schools & Scouts

Students from Monica Ros School private school visit our club museum for a program. Students are holding specially made gift bags of goodies that we give each group we visit with.

Member John Cook manning an educational booth at the E.P. Foster Library ‘Earth Day’ event.

The Girl Scouts invited us to participate in their October “Tent or Treat” event to present fossils. Members Dick & Phyllis White and Jim Brace-Thompson helped present this.

Members John Cook and Dick & Phyllis White helped with a ‘Star Wars’ themed science event at Somis Elementary School. There were Webelos Scouts also participating.
Section 5: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Educational Outreach; Programs For Schools & Scouts

Some of the nice ‘thank you’ notes the club gets after visits:

We frequently seem to inspire budding artists when it comes to writing their notes to us...and we’re okay with that!
Section 5: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Educational Outreach; Programs For Schools & Scouts

Our Educational Outreach Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson, along with his helpers, hand out great little yellow imprinted gift baggies at each school or scout group meetup. The contents can vary, but usually contain rocks, minerals, some kind of small fossil (shark teeth, etc.), dinosaur educational trading cards and sheets, our show and club information cards, and a small 'Rockhound' sticker. Jim also regularly puts together small rock/mineral classroom boxes for teachers, too.

Jim at the clubhouse with students from Oak Grove School, the kids holding their goodie bags.

Students from Meiners Oaks School. The kids are doing exercises with a rock box of samples.
Programs For Local Groups

Member and retired geologist Steve Mulqueen leads many trips with local college geological programs afield. Last year, he led the following trips:

March 11 – 13, 2016 – Led a field trip for the Southern California Paleontological Society to Southwestern Utah and to the Las Vegas area. Trip included a museum tour of the Dinosaur Discovery Center at Johnson Farm in St. George, Utah, field inspection of dinosaur tracks located on BLM land southeast of St. George, petrified wood collecting from Chinle Formation of Triassic Age near Hurricane, Utah and trilobite fossil collecting from shale of the Pioche Formation of Cambrian Age located in the Frenchman Mountains east of Las Vegas, NV.

April 12 – 17, 2016 – Assisted the Santa Barbara City College Geosciences Department with field camp set-up at two separate sites for their annual Death Valley Field Trip. Work included volunteering on the “Woolly” Crew with camp maintenance, food service and KP duty. Steve also led side trips for the Woolly Crew to remote sites, presents short lectures and writes/supplies geology handouts to students related to field instruction.

April, September & October – Donated rock, mineral and fossil specimens to the SBCC Geology lab including Eocene fish fossils from the Warfield Quarry, Kemmerer, WY, giant crystal clusters of the mineral hanksite from Searles Dry Lake and numerous other specimens. These specimens are applied to classroom instruction at the college.

October 18 – 23, 2016 – Volunteered on the “Woolly” Crew during the Santa Barbara City College Geosciences Department’s annual Eastern Sierra Field Trip. Assisted in camp set-up at two separate sites. Work included camp maintenance, food service and KP duty. Steve also led side trips for the Woolly Crew to remote sites, presents short lectures and writes/supplies geology handouts to students related to field instruction.

November included volunteering at the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society’s annual mineral show. Steve reviewed workbooks related to paleontology so that Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and 5th graders could earn their “Junior Paleontologist” badges. During the weekend mineral show, Steve issued over 50 badges after reviewing the completed exercises in the fossil workbooks. These workbooks were originally supplied to the OGMS by the National Park Service. The review of the workbooks and issuance of badges is usually conducted by a geoscience professional.
Displays Maintained At Public Places

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society puts in public displays yearly, and we are regularly invited to return to the E.P. Foster Library in downtown Ventura, and the California Oil Museum in nearby Santa Paula, CA, to name a few.

The **E.P. Foster Library** lets our club fill a glass case in their main lobby each year, just before our show in March, to advertise our hobby, our club, and our up-coming show. We also leave a "Take One" bin of small show fliers on the outside, on top of the case. Members get together their own personal pieces of rocks, minerals or fossils to show off. This is usually followed by a great dinner get-together. Last year’s participants in the library display were Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson, John & Diane Cook, Angela & Luther Brown, Ron & Jean Wiae, and Richard Slyker.

The **California Oil Museum** has varied exhibits that change throughout the year, and last a few months at a time. Whenever there is an exhibit coming up that fits our hobby, they always call on us to bring in our displays. David Mautz, Steve Mulqueen and John & Diane Cook are frequent contributors.
Section 5: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Our Second ‘Show’ of the Year; The Ventura County Fair

The VGMS has traditionally set up and run the Gem & Mineral Building at the Ventura County Fair in August of each year for many years now. Our president, Diane Cook, has been the Superintendent for the Gem & Mineral Building for a few years now, and is helped every year with a dedicated crew of club members and fair volunteers who do everything from set-up/tear down, to paperwork, putting out ribbons, judging & putting in cases.

As entries are judged at the Fair, members’ competitive spirits come out! Most members who enter a case or single item compete, and quite a few get a nice payout from premiums paid for top prizes.

Not only do members compete, but the VGMS competes against other local clubs for Publicity Case (share all aspects of the club, advertise show & activities), and Society Case (samples of individual pieces created/collected by one club’s members). VGMS won first place on the Publicity case, and first place on the Society Case (right) in 2016.
Activities in Local Affairs

The club was contacted by the Ventura County Library System representative to create unique and personalized trophies for their Haiku Poetry Contest. President Diane Cook got in contact with friend and show dealer Susan and David Walblom of Walblom’s Tools to secure agate slabs that were polished, and then laser-engraved with each winner’s poem. They were a hit with the top three winners.

Haiku Poetry Contest: A Celebration of National Poetry Month

Submitted by Scribbles on March 22, 2016 - 4:40pm

Between April 1 and April 17, 2016, the Ventura County Library System will be commemorating National Poetry Month by holding a county-wide Haiku Poetry Contest! Participants will be able to submit their own original haiku at any of our library locations or online at tiny.cc/vclaai. Entries will be judged by Ventura County Poet Laureate Phil Taggart, and the winners will receive custom-designed prizes commemorating their accomplishments.

All submissions should follow the traditional format for haiku: three lines of five, seven, and five syllables each. The contest is open to all ages and topics; contact the library for further information regarding contest rules. We hope that the community will join us in celebrating poetry and the arts throughout Ventura County—and have fun doing it!

Participation in this contest is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact your local library.
In April of 2016, the club was contacted about loaning crystals to Gloria Mesa of Gloria Mesa Photography. It was for a wedding photoshoot for the Style Me Pretty California weddings website. Members Diane & John Cook supplied the Celestite & Quartz Geodes, and Quartz Crystal.
Section 5: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Activities in Local Affairs

Member and editor Angela Brown is a volunteer wildlife transporter for Ojai Raptor Center in Ojai, CA. ORC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit wildlife rescue center.

She also assists them with triage on new intakes of wildlife, and is a volunteer shuttle driver for their twice yearly open house events. Opposum are her favorite!

(Above, right)
Angela with Education Ambassador, Nugget the Opposum.

Orphaned baby opposum, getting flea powdered.

Orphaned baby barn owls; nest cut down during illegal tree trimming (Spring/Fall).

Section 6: GOVERNMENT AGENCY & LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

Member Activities in Government

Jim Brace-Thompson provided lists and PDFs of collecting sites in the Mojave threatened by the new national monument that Diane Feinstein had established along the old Route 66 corridor and provided other assistance to ALAA. Jim also sent emails to Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer to urge that they consider recreational rockhounding and preserve hobby collecting as the new national monument area was being debated.

The club maintains membership in ALAA yearly to protect our hobby’s interests.

Thank you for your consideration and time reviewing this yearbook.