



THE POLISHED SLAB



A Publication of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society

October 2010

Volume 70 Issue 8

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 17** - Field Trip (to the Beatty area)
 - Oct 28** - Board Meeting
 - Oct 29** - Rock Stars
 - Nov 1** - General Meeting and Election
 - Nov 6** - Shop Open House
 - Dec 12** - Awards Banquet
- Wire Wrapping** – each Monday
except General Meeting night
- Silversmithing** – each Tuesday

Acting President's Message

from Sheri Johnson

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

It's almost election time and I want to encourage all members to be at the November meeting to meet the people who have volunteered to run the club for next year. The current offices open and the volunteers:

President	Peggy Sue Moore	Treasurer	Pat Skeary
Vice-President	Jack Toogood	One year board	Howard Abrams Sheri Johnson
Secretary	Glen Beye Jan Fitzgerald	Three year board	Tom Skeary Sharon Rogow
Parliamentarian	Frank Auerswald		

And remember, the November meeting is a "show and sell". Bring some prized possessions for bragging or items to sell.
Happy Hunting!



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Committee Chairpersons

Chairpersons Needed:

The following committees are currently in need of chairpersons. These committees are necessary for the club to fully function so if you are interested in serving, or just have questions about a committee's purpose, please contact Sheri Johnson as soon as possible. We're grateful for your time and we'll be happy to help you get started!

Education
Historian
Hospitality
Library
Programs
Shop
Show
Sunshine

"Remember: rockhounding is MORE than a hobby; it's a PASSION!"

Fred Ott, Federation President 2010

General Meeting Minutes - Oct 4, 2010

Sheri asked for the shop and picnic volunteers to stand up and be recognized by the club for their dedication and hard work.

Field Trips Bill Lemon: Sunday October 17 scheduled field trip to the Beatty area. Club will meet at 7am at the Paiute smoke shop on I-95 north at Snow Mountain exit. Registration and identifying ribbons will be passed out. The location is six miles outside of Beatty. We are looking for Honey golden Beryl with purple fluoride. The mine and tailings are fenced off.

Rock Stars Mary Beth Paladino: Meeting October 29, 2010 at 7pm at Mary Beth's house. Traditional Halloween fluorescent program. Contact Mary Beth for additional information. Marbles can be fluorescent! Also, Mary Beth needs additional rocks in preparation for new programs.

Federation News Sharon Rogow: California federation website: www.cfmsinc.org
The federation newsletter is \$5.50 per year and it has lots of information.

Update on the workshop By Sheri Johnson and Chuck Huebler: Shop supervisors are still needed. Jack Toogood has pictures uploaded on the website. Use of Genies and saws are at \$5.00 per hour. Trim saw is \$3.00 per hour. The new oil is working well. Silver smithing and wire wrapping classes and the board meetings now occur at the shop.

There has not been a date set for the grand opening of the shop.

Nominating Committee: Kevin Lewis spoke. Doris Currington and Clare Breneman are also on the committee. *See Acting President's message, page 1 for list of candidates.*

Awards banquet was discussed by Clare Breneman. *Details on Page 5*

The Chinese auction committee members are Diane Burges and Mary Beth Paladino. Diane spoke about the process on how it works. She also asked for donations for the Chinese auction. Several opportunities for donation pick up: Mary Beth or Diane can be contacted. They can be dropped off at the shop. Please advise that the items are for the auction. Please leave your name with the item so we can put it in the program.

New Business:

November meeting will have the show and sell where members can show only or show AND sell their items. Contact Doris Currington or Sheri Johnson regarding getting a table.

Scholarship update: We currently provide a \$1000.00 scholarship to a geology student at UNLV. Accountant recommended increasing it to \$2000.00. The board approved the recommended change along with the stipulation that the recipient of the scholarship provide a presentation at the general meeting.

October General Meeting Minutes Continued

Motion to increase the scholarship to \$2000.00.

Motion moved by Kevin Lewis. Seconded by Frank Auerswald.

Motion passed on unanimous voice vote.

September Board Meeting, September 30, 2010

Attendees: Sheri Johnson, Bill Moore, Pat Skeary, Wes Bryant, Clare Brenemen, Bill Lemmon, Bob Lafaro

Unfinished Business - December Awards banquet – the Board determined that all members should pay half of the \$30 cost for the banquet, non-members shall pay the full price. Clare is in charge of ticket sales, to start at October general meeting. Items for the Chinese Auction are needed.

New Business - Chuck Huebler has volunteered to be the shop foreman. To offset some costs the prices will be raised to \$5.00 for all machinery with the trim saws only at \$3.00. Second, the shop needs day-use lockers. Third we just need instructors for classes, to include: Lost Wax Casting, Electroplating and faceting. And finally, the club should have an open house.

Doris Currington is in charge of the nominating committee, but was unable to attend the meeting. She and her committee will provide a presentation at the General Meeting of the volunteers and request nominations from the floor.

The Board voted to increase the amount for a UNLV Geology Student from \$1000 to \$2000, with the requirement that after the award, the student provide a presentation to the general membership on the impact the scholarship made on their life.

Howard Abrams has offered space to the club during the Wild Fest Show in Henderson, October 15 - 17. Sheri and Bill Lemmon will coordinate a small display case and 1-page flyers for the club.

Awards Banquet

The 2010 Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday December 12th at the Las Vegas Hilton, 3000 Paradise Road. For reservations please call Clare Breneman at 452-0175 or pick up your tickets at the November General meeting. Tickets are \$15.00 for members and \$30.00 for guests.



Happy October Birthday!



Birthstone – Opal or Tourmaline

Flower – Calendula or Cosmos

Leigh Abrams, Debra Adamson, Robert Boyle, Angelo Cervantes, Debra Curebanas, Susan Dobson, Leslie Dodge, Kathy Duran, Judy Flaster, Steven P. Gardner, Sandra M.Graves, Eileen Haugen, Jim Holmes, Althea Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, Beth Jones, Lois Kapsner, William Kogan, Tiffany Lyons, Lynn Manthey, Amanda Northrup, George Peterson, Rita Ravin, Ed Rupprecht, Jim Steffens, Lisa P. Strickler, Frank Timbers, Sheila Tremmel, Yeshi Woldehiwot, Patricia L. Wolf

Welcome to New Members

A hearty welcome to our new members who joined us during September and October. We look forward to getting to know you better!

Daniel Bell, Carolyn Chervenak, Josefina Edwards, David Landry, Kerin Landry, Angela McKane, Bobby McKane, Jeff Meckley, Andrea Meckley, Tony Monda, Sigfrid Monda, Ronald Nelder, Barbara Sines, Kevin Wilson

Jerry Hesch, MHS, PT
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YouTube: [jerryhesch](#)
www.heschmanualtherapy.com

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Reminder to Members

Keep your Membership Chairperson, Peggy Sue Moore, informed of changes in your information. You must keep your e-mail and address up to date to continue receiving The Polished Slab newsletter. It is especially important if you receive the mailed newsletter, because the post office will not forward bulk mail. If the newsletter is undeliverable the club must pay to get the reason for the return.

Dues To Be Paid Before Jan 1

The last date to renew your membership, is January 31st. A renewal after the end of January will result in an interruption in your membership. You must never allow your membership to lapse if you want to maintain continuous (uninterrupted) membership. Many members are already pre-paying, so that they don't have to worry about remembering the deadline.

Reasons to keep an uninterrupted membership:

- 1 - You must have a minimum of two uninterrupted years of membership in order to run for any elected office.
 - 2 - You must have a minimum of one uninterrupted year of membership in order to chair a committee.
 - 3 - You must have 10 uninterrupted years of membership to become a life member.
 - 4 - If you fail to renew by January 31st, you may renew and be reinstated for an additional \$5.00 fee.
-

Sunshine Report

Howard (Doc) Blanchard has been admitted to the hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery.

SNGMS Bulletin Board

Selling a Genie or saw? Or do you want to locate one to purchase? This is your bulletin board to post your for sale and wanted items. You may also submit letters that may be published upon Board approval. Send to sngms_editor@yahoo.com each month by the 20th—but please forgive if space is short. It may be placed in the following month's issue.

Shop Open House

Join your fellow SNGMS members at the Shop to celebrate the opening.

When: November 6, 2010

10 AM until ??

Where: The Shop

Howard Abrams will be there with his XRF machine and will be offering free mystery rock analysis for members.

Walter from the First Friday events will be there and provide music.

We hope to have other attractions so be sure to come so that you don't miss the fun!

Field Trip to Beatty Area

Sunday October 17. We will meet at 7 AM at the Paiute smoke shop on I-95 north at Snow Mountain exit. Registration and identifying ribbons will be passed out at the meeting point. This is an easy walk and so will be perfect for those with limited stamina. Four wheel drive is recommended for the final drive, and rides with 4-wheelers can be arranged at the meeting point for those who need them. We are looking for Honey golden Beryl with purple fluoride.

Upcoming Shows

Oct 16-17 2010, Placerville, CA - El Dorado County Gem & Mineral Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds 100 Placerville Drive Hours: 10-5 daily

October 16-17 2010, Santa Rosa, CA - Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society Veterans Memorial Auditorium 1351 Maple Ave Hours: Sat. 10-6: Sun 10-5

October 16-17 2010, Whittier, CA - Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Whittier Community Center 7630 Washington Hours: 10-5 both days

October 23-24 2010, Los Altos, CA - Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Los Altos Youth Center 1 North San Antonio Road Hours: 10-5 both days

October 30-31 2010, Lakeside, CA - El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society Lakeside Rodeo Grounds 12584 Maplevue Street Hours: 10-4 both days

November 6-7 2010, Concord, CA - Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Centre concord (in Clayton Fair Shopping Center) 5298 clayton Rd. (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.) Hours: 10-5 both days

November 6-7 2010, Landcaster, CA - Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club Antelope Valley Fairgrounds 2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14 Hours: 9-5 both days

November 6-7 2010, Ridgecrest, CA - Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society Desert Empire Fairgrounds 520 south Richmond Road Hours: 9-5 both days

Shop Report

The wonderful new shop is up and running. Be sure to drop in and check it out. The hours (subject to change based on usage) are Mon & Tues 9 AM to 5 PM, Wed thru Sat 9 AM to 9 PM, and Sun 10 AM to 5 PM. The shop is closed for equipment use on the Thursday before the General Meeting. The charge is now \$5.00 an hour for use of all equipment, except the trim saw, which is \$3.00 an hour. There is easy wheelchair access and there is sit-down space at the Genies.

Certification is now required on all shop equipment. Shop supervisors can help you get qualified for use.

You can come in with no lapidary experience and learn the entire process from rock to cabochon. If you need a rock they are available for \$2.00 a pound. Just wear closed shoes and old clothes (or an apron) and come to the shop for a great experience.

Chuck says "Come with an Attitude to Learn", "Safety, safety, safety is a Priority", and "If you don't know what you're doing ask!"

The Rockstars are alive and well and living in Las Vegas!

Our Rockstar chairman, Mary Beth Paladino, has given generously of her time and talent to spark an interest in geology among the youth within both the SNGMS and the larger community.

Since the beginning of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society the Rockstars have been an important part of the club. Originally known as the Pebble Pups, the kids decided they outgrew that name and evolved into the Rockstars. The Rockstars get together at least once a month to do an activity. This month, October 29th will be our annual Fluorescent Night. Many adults in the club bring their fluorescent lights and rocks that glow to share. This year each kid will receive chalcedony and fluorite which both fluoresce. We then discover what others things glow. Last year our light orange cupcake icing fluoresced green. We always have a good time and are hoping for a good turnout again this year.

The purpose of the Rockstars is to give hands on instruction in geology and lapidary arts to our young members. We go, see, touch and do. The kids love our field trips because we go to places where material is easily accessible. Not only do we study the different kinds of rocks and minerals but we use some of them in art or holiday projects. The borax eggs we collected turned into beautiful Easter eggs and we wire wrapped crystals we had collected, as an example. We also spend time at the shop. Older members partner with Rockstars to teach them how to make cabs and use the Genie correctly. Some of our teenagers have gotten quite good at cabbing and making jewelry.

Doris Currington is the mastermind behind most of our projects. Casting animal tracks was our last month's project when she shared generously by helping the kids make plaster casts from her casts. We are grateful for all the adults who have taken an interest in the Rockstars and donated their time and material to us. We look forward to many new learning adventures and good times. The Rockstars is open to children ages 6 to 18 and welcome all who like to have fun and share our love of rocks!

Our children's program also includes community service. The members of SNGMS are available to go to schools to share their knowledge and rocks with school-age children. We also help Boy and Girl Scouts earn their Geology Badges and Belt Loops. We have gone to church camps, boy scout day camps and many, many schools. We have given sample rocks to thousands of children thanks to the generosity of our members. We

Rock Stars Continued

have prepared fact sheets and brochures about the types of rock in Nevada, the geology of Nevada and what rocks and minerals are used for in our daily lives. We've taught rock identification techniques and shared our collections. In November we will start an after school program for seven weeks at Brown Middle School and do a one day lesson at Cadwallader Middle School.

November General Meeting Show and Sell

Call Doris Currington at 452-3707 to reserve a table at the November Show and Sell. Tables for sales are \$5.00 each. Bring jewelry, rocks, old or new equipment.

Rock Stars Meeting

The Rock Stars will meet on October 29, 2010 from 7 PM until 8:30 PM at Mary Beth's house. This is an evening meeting to explore florescent rocks and other florescent objects. Contact Mary Beth Paladino at 255-1647 for directions to her house.

Opal - Facts and Superstition

The opal, October's birthstone, is called "The Queen of Gems." Most opals come from Australia. The most precious type of opal, the black opal, only occur in New Whales, Australia and Virgin Valley, Nevada. Like snowflakes, every opal is unique.

Opals are formed in the cavities of rock, usually sedimentary rock. They consist of silica that collects into spheres of uniform size and distribution in the rock cavities.

The beautiful colors of the opal are created by the way light bounces through the silica spheres and the gaps among the spheres. It bends and is diffracted with the white light split into rainbow colors. The smallest spheres produce blue colors, while the largest ones produce red.

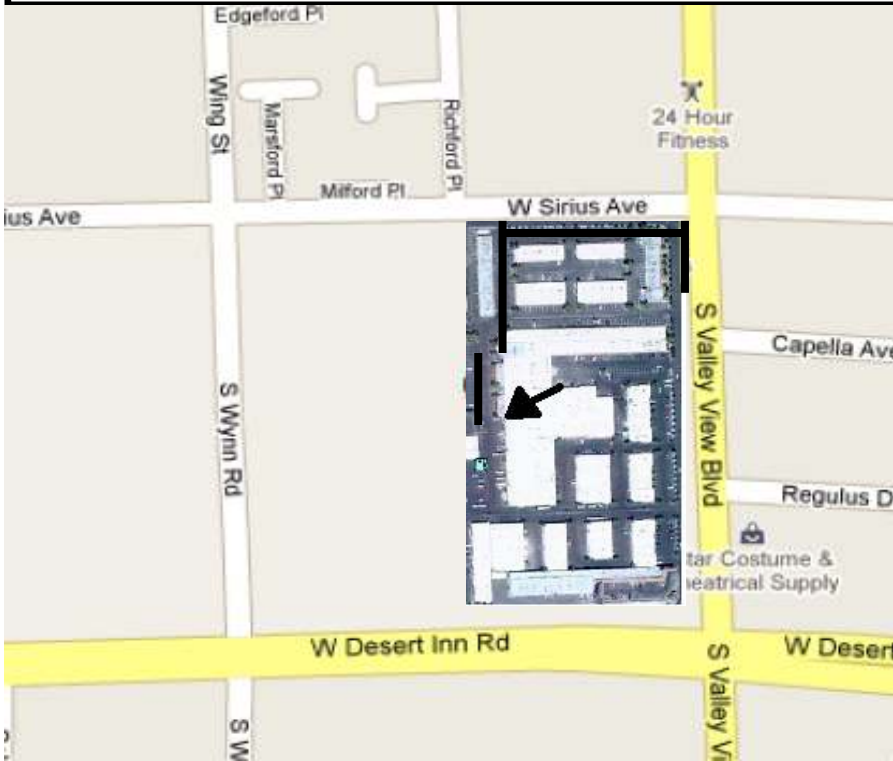
There are precious opals in four basic types: white, black, fire, and crystal or water opals. There are also opals that do not possess the play of light. They are called common opals or potch. They can also be cut and polished to make jewelry.

Many superstitions have been attached to the opal throughout history. It has been believed to be a lucky stone by many cultures and has often been considered a symbol of hope.

Opals have had a reputation of having supernatural powers, or of being bad luck to any but the wearer. Some diamond dealers of the past sought to slow the popularity of opals, once they became more available after their discovery in Australia, resurrecting some of the negative beliefs about opals.

SNGMS Workshop

3111 Valley View Blvd, Building E, Unit 125



Shop Hours

Monday	9 AM - 5 PM
Tuesday	9 AM - 5 PM
Wednesday	9 AM - 9 PM
Thursday*	9 AM - 9 PM
Friday	9 AM - 9 PM
Saturday	9 AM - 9 PM
Sunday	10 AM - 5 PM

* Closed for equipment usage after 6 PM on the Thursday before the General Meeting

Hours are being evaluated and may be changed dependent on usage

SNGMS General Meetings

First Monday
of Every Month!!

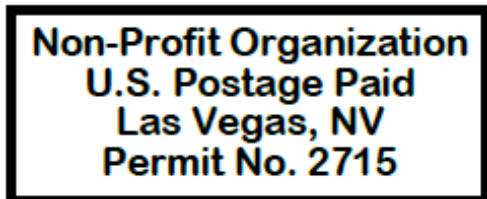
Non-members welcome
451 East Bonanza Road
Las Vegas, NV
(702) 229-6454

Show and Sell 5 - 6 P.M.

General Meeting 6 - 8 P.M.



Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 94744
Las Vegas, NV 89193-4744



Return Service Requested

The Polished Slab is available online at www.sngms.com

The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit corporation, organized to educate ourselves and the community in the science and arts related to rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and nature in general. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the physical world, we can use it and protect it for future generations.

<p>Club Mascot: Rock Wren</p> <p>Club Gemstone: Turquoise</p> <p>Club Logo: Rocks-R-Us</p> <p>Membership is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing</p> <p>Annual Dues: Individual - \$20; Family - \$30</p> <p>Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at the Senior Center at 451 Bonanza Road, on the southwest corner of Bonanza Road and Las Vegas Blvd. No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.</p> <p>Visitors are always welcome and bring a friend or two.</p>	Polished Slab Advertising Rates		
	Ad Size	Six Months	Yearly
	Business Card	\$18	\$30
	Quarter Page	\$48	\$90
	Half Page	\$90	\$170
	Full Page	\$150	\$275
	<p>SNGMS Web Page Ads and Links to your Web Page are available for additional fees.</p> <p>First month is free to club members. Ads must be paid in full prior to publication. Make checks payable to Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society. Mail to : SNGMS/Attn: Editor, P.O. Box 94744, Las Vegas, NV 89193</p>		