



September 2024

THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



VOLUME 84 ISSUE 9

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 7, 2024 - Board Mtg
October 7, 2024 – Genl Mtg

SNGMS Contacts:

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sngmsshowchair@gmail.com
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sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

Greetings Members!

Today I traveled to the Reno area which meant leaving the ash clouds in Las Vegas for the ones here! So many wild fires this time of year. Anyway, I'm attending the Jackpot of Gems show in Reno – hope you can attend. The big news this month is Elections. Volunteer for the position you'd like or nominate a candidate. You should have received the latest descriptions of responsibilities of each Board opening by email. Candidates are introduced in October and we will vote at the November meeting. You can contact Amber Palachek (pipfithis@gmail.com) or Ruth Dziadon (rbdziadon@cox.net) to be on the ballot.

The Viva Las Vegas Rocks show is racing ahead... Only eight vendor spaces are left. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer at the show (SNGMSPresident@gmail.com).

Did You Know?

Discounted equipment fees are in place on Sundays **only** from now – September 30, 2024 at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop! Come on into the air conditioning and cut some stones for \$5 per hour!

If you'd like some free specimen rocks, we have an event coming up just for you. Watch your emails for the time and place on Sunday Sept 22. And we will have a weekend of sales of a large estate of rocks on Sept 28-29. These are both due to generous member donations. Mark your calendars and watch your emails.

Be sure to get you tickets for the Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for December 8, 2024 at the Sunset Station Casino in Henderson, Nevada. Contact Chops Wenzl (702-378-2205) or Del Walkenshaw (desertartsupply@aol.com, 702-451-8040) for tickets. Tickets are \$35 each for members.

See you in the Rocks!
Andrea Packo
SNGMS President

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2024 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Agate, jasper, opalite	September 14	Gem Field, NV
Opalized fluorite	October 12	Austin, NV
Yellow Mountain Wonderstone	October 13	Fallon, NV
Agate, jasper, rhyolite, & more with Reno Gem & Mineral Society	October 24 - 28	Monte Cristo Mountains, NV
Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies Show ²	October 25 - 27	Oklahoma City, OK
Desert Art Supplies Parking Lot Sale ³	October 5, 9 am – 4 pm	Desert Art Supplies, 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014
Awards Banquet ⁴	December 8, 2024	Sunset Station Casino, 1301 W Sunset Rd, Henderson, NV 89014

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com)
- 2) <https://www.rmfs.org/general-clean>
- 3) Contact Del Walkenshaw for reservations (desertartsupply@aol.com, 702-451-8040)
- 4) Contact Chops Wenzl for tickets (702-378-2205)

Some links with information you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies – www.amfed.org/whatsnew.htm
 Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies – www.rmfs.org
 Rock & Gem Magazine website – www.rockngem.com



Ore Car Mine Field Trip, Lake Mead, NV, August 2024
 Photo courtesy of Jonathan Tredwell



Joshua Tree GEM & MINERAL SHOW

JOSHUA TREE LAKE RV & CAMPGROUND
2601 SUNFAIR ROAD, JOSHUA TREE

OCTOBER 2 - 6
WEDS. - SAT. 9 to 5
SUNDAY 9 to 4

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 COME ONE & ALL FOR A DAY OR WEEKEND
 DISCOVERING THE EARTH'S AMAZING
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- Gemstones
- Slabs
- Equipment
- Cabochons
- Crystals
- Spheres
- Jewelry

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Clarkdale Rocks Gem & Mineral Show

53rd Show

Show & Sale

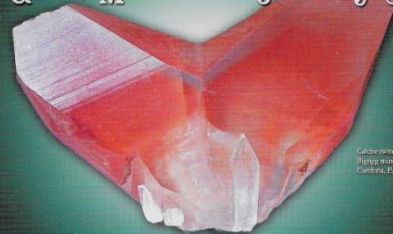


September 27-29, 2024
 Clark Memorial Clubhouse Auditorium
 1945 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, AZ 86324
 FRI & SAT 9am-5pm, SUN 9am-4pm
Free Admission
 Mingus Gem & Mineral Club
www.mingusgem.club



Crescent Agate
 from Bitter Spring, NV August 2024
 Photo courtesy of Jonathan Tredwell

Albuquerque Fall Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show



Oct 4-6, 2024 at Expo New Mexico (State Fairgrounds)



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 9/9/2024

On September 9th, 2024, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Eagles' Lodge at 4:07 PM by the President. All Board members except the Parliamentarian were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the August 5th, 2024, meeting were approved as read.

Ongoing Business:

Treasurers Report: Balance of the checking account as of August 31st was \$22,978, a decrease of \$7,376 from the previous month. The investments balance is \$127,561, an increase of \$90 which was interest and value change of CDs. Major upcoming expenses include payment to Station Casino for VIVA Show and Awards Banquet payment to Sunset Stations. The Board considered adding a surcharge to Paypal payments and the consensus was to not do so at this time. The item that was selected for Award Banquet gifts exceeded the allocated funds and an alternative gift will be used.

Lapidary Shop Report: Everything at the Shop is in working order. Wayne Muth reported that an app must be installed on Bob Belcher's phone so that he monitor the security system. This may require help from Brinks. The cost of tools for shop resale has increased dramatically, and retail purchase may be cheaper. Further investigation will be done to attempt to locate tools at a reasonable price for resale in the shop. Awards Banquet tickets are available through the November meeting.

Field Trips: Field trips were discussed by Jonathan Tredwell.

Unfinished Business:

Orville Wiemers reported on the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show. There are 52 vendors and 9 spaces left. Rack cards were distributed for display in local museums. Many of the museums would like to have a table at our show, and some are willing to do presentations. We may need to rent some additional 8 foot tables.

New Business:

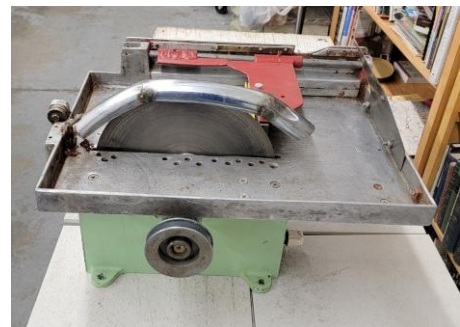
Volunteers and Donations: Mary Beth Paladino will be our representative to the RMFMS Show in Oklahoma City. Mary Savage is taking over production of the SNGMS Calendar. Sonya Edwards is the new Historian Chair.

Andrea Kincannon introduced a UNLV Student who can create a rotational promotional program of club and shop activities for \$600. Del Walkenshaw proposed, seconded by Bruce Martin, and approved by the Board, that "up to \$600 be allocated to pay for a rotational promotional program produced by UNLV student with content, length, etc. worked out with Board members."

Two rock collection opportunities were discussed by Del Walkenshaw. One is a sale, the other a giveaway and they will schedule and notify club members.

Debbie Bucknam discussed the need to facilitate more involvement by younger club members, and suggested later meeting times might be helpful. The Board decided that a questionnaire would a good way to find out if this or other measures would help. Del Walkenshaw and Orville Wiemers will implement the questionnaire.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.



A 10" trim saw is the September SNGMS Lapidary Shop auction item. **The saw is as is and has no motor.** Starting bid is \$100 with \$10 increments. Bidding will end on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at noon. Write your bid on the clipboard at the shop before noon on September 28, 2024.



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 9/9/2024

On September 9th, 2024 the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the August 5th, 2024 meeting were approved as read.

Ongoing Business:

Membership: SNGMS is close to 700 members.

Treasurers Report: Balance of the checking account as of August 31st was \$22,978, a decrease of \$7,376 from the previous month. The investments balance is \$127,561, an increase of \$90 which was interest and value change of CDs.

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities. She thanked the members who have donated to and helped with the Kid's Club. The field trip, to the Moqui Cave, funded by David Ford, was a huge success. October 13th meeting will be at the Shop and Peggy Sue Moore will teach wire wrapping which will help earn the Lapidary Badge. Volunteers are needed to help with the Kids Club booth at the VIVA Show.

Lapidary Shop Report: Chops Wenzl reported that the Shop is in good condition. He thanked members for help moving equipment in the Shop. A trim saw without motor will be up for auction this month. Awards Banquet, December 8th, tickets are available through the November meeting. They are \$35 for members, \$70 for non-members.

Federation: The RMFMS Show will be in Oklahoma City on October 25-27. Our members are encouraged to attend.

Volunteers and Donations: Sonya Edwards is our new Historian. Donations of speaker gifts are needed. Please take donations to the SNGMS Lapidary Shop and label them as Speaker Gifts.

Sunshine Report: Mary Beth Paladino shared news from the membership. The Sunshine report is available in the Polished Slab.

Cabochon Contest: The contest theme for August was Ocean Blues. First place was Lloyd Chayette and second place was Ron Maz. The October 2024 subject will be Fall Leaf Colors.

Shows: Orville Wiemers reported 87% of vendor slots for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show are sold. Rack cards were distributed to local museums to display. Many of the museums would like to have a table at our show, and some are willing to do presentations.

Field Trips: Jonathan Tredwell reported field trip plans. See the Slab newsletter and emails for field trip details.

New Business:

A Nomination Committee is needed, and volunteers were Amber Palecek, Mike Kirk, Ruth Dziadon, and Lisa Wiemers.

Classes were discussed, see emails and the Slab newsletter for details.

There will be rock collecting opportunities, one free, and one with a charge. Details will be distributed by email.

The Board approved spending up to \$600 to have a UNLV student produce a rotational promotional video for the SNGMS's use.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Media Coordinator for social media volunteers needed.
Please contact Andrea Packo sngmspresident@gmail.com



Sunshine Report

from Mary Beth Paladino



If you hear of any SNGMS member with an event to celebrate (wedding, anniversary, etc.) or who is in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, etc., please contact Mary Beth Paladino at 702-255-1647.

Lorri Syddall died in August after losing her battle with cancer leaving behind her partner, Joel Coombs.

Bill Wertz, former SNGMS field trip leader, died in August.

James Sloan is recovering from a spider bite. Ken Bucknam, Juliann Deason-Poupard, and James Ball have some health issues. Wendy Dresser's son is getting married!

SNGMS Elections

Several SNGMS Board of Director members are stepping down at the end of 2024. This leaves openings for the following positions: President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Three Year Board Member. Peggy Sue Moore wants to train a new Federation ribbon manager for 2025.

Please consider running for these positions. For full descriptions of officer responsibilities, please visit <https://www.sngms.org/bylaws>



Nominate A Teacher For Grant Money!

The National Association for Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) is now accepting nominations for:

- 1) **Outstanding Earth Science Teacher** (*kindergarten through grade 12*). Ten finalists will receive free memberships in a variety of geoscience organizations, subscriptions to multiple publications, and a \$700 award or travel stipend. Awards are based on "exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the Earth Sciences at the pre-college level." For more details, see <https://nagt.org/nagt/awards/oest.html>.
- 2) **Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award** for any instructor who teaches geoscience part-time at a 2-year college. There is one finalist and three runners-up. The runners-up receive a 1-year NAGT membership. The finalist receives a \$1000 award. For more details, see <https://nagt.org/nagt/divisions/2yc/oafa.html>.

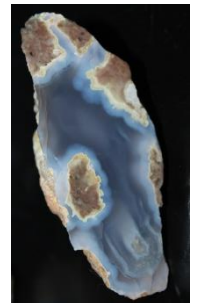


Chalcedony from the
SNGMS Ore Car Claim

<https://www.mindat.org/20Q-037>

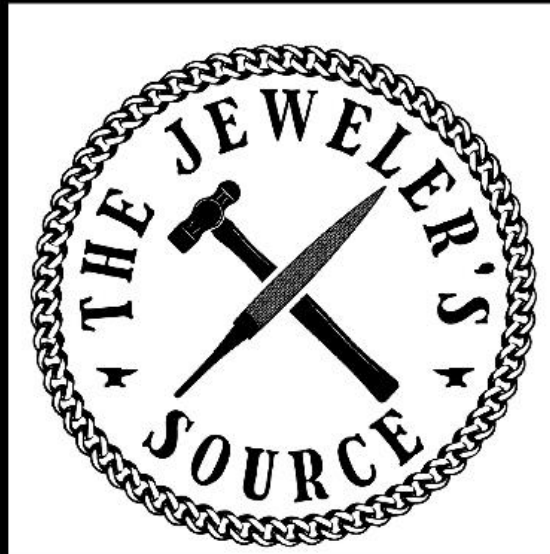
Spotlight on Chalcedony

Chalcedony (KAL-sə-doh-nee) is a form of silica. It has a waxy luster, and may be semitransparent or translucent. The most common colors are white to gray, grayish-blue or a shade of brown. Commercial chalcedony is often enhanced by dyeing or heating. Agate, carnelian, chrysoprase, and onyx are all forms of chalcedony. Chalcedony can be found in Clark County, Nevada at the Ore Car Mine (the claim is owned by the SNGMS) and the Green Monster Mine, which is privately owned. "Mt. Airy" blue chalcedony comes from Lander County, Nevada and has a grayish blue color.



Mount Airy Chalcedony
<https://www.mindat.org/locentry-280420.html>





Members Receive 5% Off

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7022 West Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89117

702-745-1127

thejewelerssource@gmail.com

IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and Lapidary Shop Hours

SNGMS 2024 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting ¹	General Meeting ²	Kids Club Meeting ³
Oct. 7	Oct. 7	October 13, 2024, 3- 5 pm
Nov. 4	Nov. 4	November 10, 2024, 3 – 5 pm
Dec. 5	Dec. 8 – no general mtg, Awards Banquet Sunset Station Casino, 1301 W Sunset Rd, Henderson, NV 89014	

Due to limited staffing of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop on Sundays, shop users are asked to help keep the trash emptied and the floor mopped

- 1) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge, 4 pm, before the general meeting
- 2) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge 1st Monday of the month, unless there’s a holiday, open to the public. Show & Sell 5-6 pm, meeting 6-8 pm
- 3) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary Shop with exception of some field trips, membership required. Details on page 11

Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

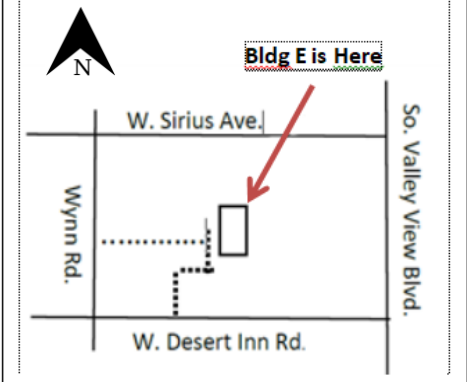
The SNGMS Lapidary Shop is located at:
3111 South Valley View Blvd,
Building E Shop Suite 125
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the SNGMS Lapidary Shop). The owners of the units come in at odd hours and need access to their parking spaces. There is ample parking across from the SNGMS Lapidary Shop that is not in front of any unit.

SNGMS LAPIDARY SHOP HOURS*

Sunday 10 am - 3 pm
Monday Closed for general use:
Various Classes
Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm
Wednesday 10 am – 7 pm
Thursday 12 - 9 pm
Friday 12 - 9 pm
Saturday 1 - 6 pm
SHOP EQUIPMENT FEES:
All equipment is \$6/hour. Machines are metered, so you only pay for the time the equipment is actually running.
SHOP CLOSED:
Kids Club: 3- 5 pm 2nd Sunday of the Month
Board Mtg: Various Thursday 6-7 pm
***Check Email and “Polished Slab” for possible date changes.**

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Locator Map



Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

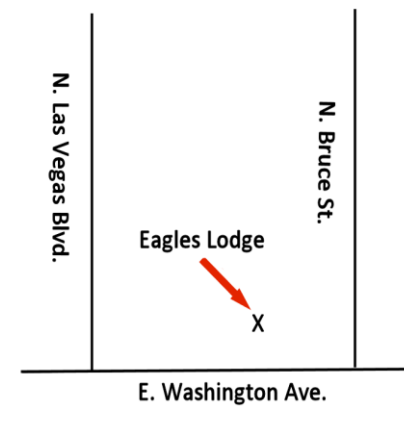
Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past South Valley View Blvd. into the industrial park area. Drive past the building on your right, then jog right, then left and you will be in front of Building E. Another option is to enter off of Wynn Rd. Go west on Desert Inn Rd. to Wynn Rd., turn right onto Wynn Rd. and go to the first entrance on the right (past the BIG white Commercial building sign) turn right and straight in front of you is Building E, Suite #125.



But Chops, You Covered the Saw Letters Which is Annoying
Left to right: Chops Wenzl, Dave Ford, Kemo Taylor
Photo (not the caption) courtesy of Emlyn Altman

Eagles Lodge Locator Map

Eagles Lodge #1213
1601 E Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101



Location of the Eagles’ Lodge

The Eagles’ Lodge is located at:
1601 E Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101



Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks Cutting Heart Shaped Cabochons

Excerpted from

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzySdVSpTWI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZezzTUimXKs>

Start with a slab that is 1/4 inch thick.

1. Draw a heart with a thin marker on your lapidary slab. The SNGMS Lapidary Shop has heart-shaped stencils to help with the drawing.
2. Use a trim saw to cut a preform heart shape from the slab.



**Step 3, Cut Right Side of Vee
On Edge of Wheel**

3. Grind the edges of the preform down to the line you marked in Step 1. Make sure you have a sharp point at the bottom of the heart. To cut the vee at the top of the heart, use the RIGHT side of the CabKing wheel to remove part of the vee at the top of the heart on the RIGHT side. Don't cut all the way to the bottom of the vee.

4. Repeat Step 3 on the LEFT side of the CabKing wheel to remove part of the vee at the top of the heart on the LEFT side.

5. Flip the form upside down and make sure the heart is symmetric. If it isn't, repeat Steps 3 and 4 as needed to get a symmetric shape.



Step 7, Dome the Heart

6. Start doming the cabochon. If you are going to set the heart in a bezel, don't try to make the dome at the vee of the heart as deep as the dome on the sides. It helps the silversmith not to have to fold the bezel into a sharp crease. Do clean up the dome on the top of the heart at the vee to make it symmetric. Cut a 45 degree angle off the top of the preform EXCEPT at the vee. The angle will be shallower there. You want a girdle that is about 3 mm thick.

7. After the doming is complete, polish the top of the heart as usual, being careful to keep a sharp point at the bottom of the heart.

8. Use a flat lap to smooth the bottom of the cab.
9. Start with right side of the vee at the top of the heart, and bevel the BOTTOM edge of the cabochon on a CabKing to smooth out any chips on the bottom edge. Move around the cabochon to the bottom of the heart and back up to the left side of the vee at the top of the heart. The bevel also helps the cabochon sit inside a bezel. The bevel raises the edge of the cabochon above any solder scars next to the bezel.
10. You can polish the back of the cabochon if the heart will be set in jewelry with an open back.



Step 2, Pre-form Heart Shape



**Step 4, Cut Left Side of Vee
On Edge of Wheel**



Congratulations – you made a heart shaped cabochon!



2024 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	CONTEST WINNERS
January	Snow	1 st – George Stewart, 2 nd – Del Walkenshaw
February	Forest Colors	1 st – Mary Savage 2 nd – Joel Coombs
March	Spring Flowers	1 st – Joel Coombs 2 nd – Lloyd Chayette
April	Storm Clouds	1 st – Lloyd Chayette, Bruce Martin, tie 2 nd – Ron Mazz
May	Blue Skies	1 st – Peggy Sue Moore, 2 nd – tied, Ron Mazz & Lloyd Chayette
June	Sunset	1 st – Bruce Martin 2 nd – tied, Peggy Sue Moore & Bill Moore
July	Mountains	1 st – Bruce Martin 2 nd – Ron Mazz
August	Tropical	1 st – Lloyd Chayette 2 nd – Bruce Martin 2 nd - Ron Mazz
September	Ocean Blues	1 st – Ron Mazz 2 nd – Lloyd Chayette
October	Fall Leaf Colors	
November	Landscapes	
December	No Contest	

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at our monthly meetings. Bring a cab you have cut that matches that month’s theme. Meeting attendees vote on their favorite cab, and the first and second places winners are announced at the meeting. The first place award is 2 hours of free shop time, and the second place winner gets 1 hour of free shop time. The October 2024 cabochon theme is “Fall Leaf Colors.” **Good Luck!**

Fall Leaf Colors Theme

<https://travelnevada.com/outdoor-recreation/finding-fall-colors-in-northern-nevada/>



Left to right: Ron Mazz, 1st Place,
Lloyd Chayette, 2nd Place



Cabochon Contest Entries, September 2024

Digging Through Time

In 1963, the Clark County Gem Collectors (CCGC), an ancestor of SNGMS, split into three groups due to disagreements about how to run the lapidary shop. Two of the groups were the CCGC and the Las Vegas Gem Club (LVGC). Some members did not want to take sides and declined to join either the CCGC or the LVGC. They formed a new group named the Happy Valley Gem Club.

The Boulder City Gem Club formed sometime before 1967, probably in frustration over a lack of communication within the CCGC.

The digging continues next month ...



BIRTHDAYS

If you have an **SEPTEMBER** birthday, Please bring something for the refreshment table at **SEPTEMBER's** meeting.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



LEONARDO ACEVEDO, HARVEY BERGERON, DARLENE BOURLAND, CHEYANNE CRUM, TERRY DAVIS, TERRY DEHN, KELLY FITZPATRICK, EDWARD GERING, KRIS GILL, HAYES GRIFFITH, JENELLE HOPKINS, MICHAEL HORNHOLTZ, JERRY HUGHES, ELIZABETH JEFFREY, BEN JOHNSON, SUSAN KELLER, VALERIE KIRALY, DAVID LANDRY, JESSICA LASH, BARRY LAWSON, BRIDGET LERA, SUE LOFARO, EMELIA LOYA, PHILLIP LUCHETTA, GINA MCKOWN, SOPHIA MUNSON, RIMMA MUTH, MICHAEL PALADINO, LUSBEL PENUELA, TINA POKORNEY, MARK PRUTER SR., JUDITH ROSS, DIANNE SPERRY, MICK SPROTT, SARA TREDWELL, TYRA TRIPP, BENJAMIN WASHMON, SHARON WEBB, BARBARA WYSOCKI, TSEQAI ZEWELDE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to members who recently/rejoined SNGMS. We look forward to getting to know you better.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Welcome new members to the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society! Your passion for gemstones and minerals is a perfect fit for our community of enthusiasts. To acquaint you with our workshop and equipment, we offer orientation and training sessions at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

To reserve your spot, please email Richard Nelson (richard_nelso89@hotmail.com). There is a \$10 fee for the orientation to help cover the cost of materials which will be provided for you.

The session will include demonstrations on the use of rock saws, flat laps, a geode saw, and other equipment. Best practices for working safely and effectively will be reviewed. Orientations are offered as listed below.

New Member Orientation Sessions

Orientation and Training Date	Time	Cost	Location
Sunday, October 13, 2024	10 am - noon	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Shop Suite 125 Las Vegas, NV 89102 Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas NV 89102
Sunday, November 10, 2024			

Speakers For 2024 General Meetings

(please contact Romy Umholtz romyvision@gmail.com with speaker suggestions)

Date	Speaker	Topic
Oct. 7, 2024	James Sloan, SNGMS Member	Opal Formation and Its Relationship to Chalcedony
Nov. 4, 2024	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec. 8, 2024	Holiday Party, no meeting	

Speaker Gifts

Donations of mineral or fossil specimens for speaker gifts, and display stands for specimens are needed. Please leave donations at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop with "Romy" or "Speakers" written on it, AND contact Romy Umholtz (702-503-0252 or romyvision@gmail.com).

Did You Know?

Discounted equipment fees are in place on Sundays **only** from now – September 30, 2024 at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop! Come on into the air conditioning and cut some stones for \$5/hour!

**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club
2024 Field Trips and Meetings¹**

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Rocks Stars Campout	October 5-6, 2024	Sandy Valley, NV
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	October 13, 2024, 3- 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	November 10, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
NO MEETING	December 8, 2024	
Kids’ Club Award Banquet	TBA	

- 1) *Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.*
- 2) *3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Shop Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102*

Hello Rock Stars!!!

Thank you Dave Ford for funding our field trip to the Moqui Caves in Kanab, Utah and stopping for lunch at Chuck-A-Rama in St. George and then our final stop at Thunder Junction All Abilities Park. We all had a fabulous day!!! Thank you Mary Beth Paladino for making activity booklets for the kids to use on the long bus drive. You never would have known we had 19 kids on the bus. They were so well behaved. I'm so proud of them. Thank you to our Anonymous Donor who gave each of our kids \$15.00 to buy themselves souvenirs. They loved shopping at the gift shop inside the Moqui Caves. Thank you to all of our chaperones, parents and kids who made it such a pleasurable day. The only problem I had was I didn't get my afternoon nap. Just kidding. Thank you to Tamara Farion who donated tons of glass beads, tools and findings so the kids can make jewelry.

At the October 13, 224 meeting of the Kids’ Club, Peggy Sue Moore teach Wire Wrapping for the Lapidary Arts Merit Badge. Lloyd Chayette with teach cabochon making, and Tamara Farion will teach jewelry making for the Lapidary Arts Badge at the November 10, 2024 meeting of the Kids’ Club.

We need some crafty people to help us make Christmas ornaments for the kids to sell at their booth for the Viva Show in Nov. If interested in helping please call or text: Wendy Dresser 702-556-2748. We will meet September 23, 2024 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

Energetic volunteers are needed to sell items at the Viva Las Vegas Rocks show Kid's Club Booth. If you can help please call or text: Wendy Dresser (702-556-2748).

Thank you,

Wendy Dresser
Kid's Club Leader
Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society
702-556-2748



**SNGMS Kids Club at Moqui Caves
September 7, 2024**
Photo courtesy of Wendy Dresser

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Lockers

Lockers are available to rent at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop for \$3/month, or \$36/year. You can pay in cash at the Shop.

Coming Soon!

A SNGMS video is in production. It will show case SNGMS activities and will air during the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! event at Santa Fe Station casino November 1 – 3, 2004.

Thanks to Andrea Kincannon for spearheading this effort.

Stay Tuned!



SNGMS 2024 VOLUNTEER STAFF

Contact any Director to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chair to offer to help on their committee.

SNGMS 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Andrea Packo	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Vice-President	Orville Wiemers	owarea22@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Dave Ford	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	831-521-0214
Parliamentarian	Jack Toogood	vegasbmw@hotmail.com	702-510-4192
One Year Board	Del Walkenshaw	desertartsupply@aol.com	702-451-8040
Two Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighterman@yahoo.com	702-210-9612
Three Year Board	Jean Chayette	jalmiz201@gmail.com	714-474-6384
One Year Board	Bruce Martin	brucemartinlv@yahoo.com	702-896-5811

SNGMS 2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
Communication	Del Walkenshaw	sngmsnews@gmail.com	702-451-8040
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Sheri Johnson		
Alt Federation	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Field Trip	Jonathan Tredwell	sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com	725-274-3003
Shop Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Sonya Edwards	worldgemart@gmail.com	
Hospitality	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Inventory	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Librarian	Mario Luchetta		
Membership	Claudia Crouse	ccrouse295@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Mary Savage	lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com	
New Member Liaison	Joann Sprott		
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	romyvision@gmail.com	
Raffle/Lottery	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Refreshments	Richard and Elizabeth Nelson	richard_nelso89@hotmail.com	
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam	grandmadeb10@gmail.com	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277

Back-Up Lapidary Shop Supervisor Volunteers Needed

Contact Chops Wenzl for details 702-378-2205



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**Michael Kirk
Life Time Member**

Michael Kirk grew up in Richton Park, Illinois and joined the Navy after graduating from high school. He learned aircraft ramp management and docking, traveling the world with the Navy.

While working at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington State, he saw a woman on the beach every day picking up stones. Finally, he asked what she was collecting, and she told him “beach agates,” and Mike was hooked on rocks.



After leaving the Navy, Mike moved to Las Vegas and began tumbling rocks. He joined the Las Vegas Gem Club (LVGC) in 1993, and continued to rockhound with the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society (SNGMS) when it formed.

His favorite stones to tumble are Apache Tears. He fills decorative glassware with them for displays. Buffington Pockets in the Muddy Mountains of Nevada is Mike’s most memorable rock hounding trip. He stumbled across some mountain lion cubs coming out of a cave, who were soon joined by their mother! Luckily for Mike, the cubs went back in the cave, and the mother followed. Mike quietly and quickly left the scene.

Michael collects faceted gems and LARGE mineral specimens, including a collection of quartz crystals. He has shared his collections with the Kids’ Club, and displays specimens in his home. He also participates in gem and mineral shows, creating display cases of his collection. Mike has won multiple first place ribbons for his displays. Doris Currington, a long-time member of the Las Vegas rockhound community, inspired Mike to share his collection at general meetings. He often brings a specimen or two for others to examine and discuss before the meeting starts.

Mike has served on the SNGMS election committee, and as a lapidary shop supervisor. SNGMS awarded Michael Life Time membership in January 2024.

HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of cabbing supplies and equipment. They offer a 10% discount to SNGMS members, friends, and families on everything EXCEPT machines, gift cards, and repairs. The discount is applied when you enter the discount code **SNGMS** at checkout. The code must be manually entered at checkout, it is NOT an automatic discount! The Hi-Tech website is www.hitechdiamond.com.



Mineral Musings
Kelso Singing Dunes

Excerpted from
<https://www.nps.gov/moja/kelso-dunes.htm>
<https://wikipedia.com>



Map Showing Kelso, CA and Las Vegas, NV

Kelso Dunes, also known as the Kelso Dune Field, is the largest group of wind-blown sand deposits in the Mojave Desert. They are within the protected Mojave National Preserve near the town of Baker, California. It's about 95 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada. The dune field covers 45 square miles and includes migrating dunes, vegetation-stabilized dunes, sand sheets, and sand ramps. Some dunes are 650 feet tall.

The Kelso Dunes are singing dunes. Singing sand dunes make noise when sand avalanches down the sides of the dunes. Sand can start moving when wind blows over the dunes, or when someone walks near the top of the dunes (so you can make them sing!). The Kelso dunes make a loud low-pitched rumble. Listen here: <https://freesound.org/people/acs272/packs/13540/>



Certain conditions are needed to create singing sand:

- The sand grains have to be round and between 0.1 and 0.5 mm in diameter.
- The sand has to contain silica.
- The sand needs to be at a certain (low) humidity.

The Kelso Dunes formed millions of years ago when the Mojave River started flowed from west to east. The river carried quartz and feldspar sand from the San Bernardino mountains. It filled a huge lake called Lake Manix, which was 93 square miles – about 1/3 the size of Lake Mead.



Kelso Dunes
www.wikipedia.com

About 25,000 years ago, Lake Manix drained, leaving behind Afton Canyon. The draining water formed Silver Lake (just north of Baker) and Soda Lake (in the Mojave Preserve). As the climate got drier and hotter, the lakes dried up, exposing sediments containing the sand from the San Bernardino Mountains. Winds blew the sand to form the Kelso Dunes.

Kelso Dunes are closed to any vehicles, but are completely open to hikers. The dunes are open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Camping is allowed only at established undeveloped campsites. All sites are first come, first serve. Camping at the Dunes trailhead is not allowed. The trailhead is at the end of a three-mile graded dirt road splitting from Kelbaker Road. This road can be accessed from both Interstate 15 (at Baker) and Interstate 40 (east of Barstow). The road to the trailhead is bumpy and potholed. Drive slowly and carefully.

Hiking the dunes in summer is not recommended. Temperatures can reach up to 120° F.

- Water is not available at the trailhead. Bring water with you.
- There is no shade on the trail. Wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat.

Though the trail is only 3 miles round-trip there is 600 feet of elevation gain, so it is a strenuous hike. For most people, the round trip takes 2-3 hours.



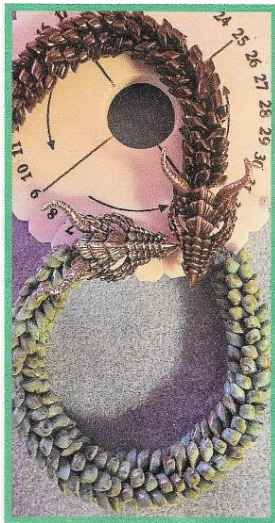
September 2024 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday September 16 from 5 – 8 pm	\$6 (exact change only)	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday September 23 5 pm	\$6	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations – 4 slots currently available, must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Peggy Sue Moore	Saturdays 1 pm – class limited to 3 people		SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations
Silver Smithing	Andy Gomez	Sundays 3 – 7 pm	\$25	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	andrewquilesgomez415@gmail.com
Silver Smithing*	Bella Romero & Mary Savage	Fridays 12:30-3:30 pm	\$35 all materials provided for first class	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014	Text 702-425-0149 no later than noon on Thursday before class for reservation

* Sponsored by Desert Art Supplies

All class fees include a modest donation to the SNGMS. SNGMS Instructors volunteer their time and expertise to help extend the knowledge of our members.



Dragon Bracelet Beading Project for September 2024
Photo courtesy of Theresa Brooks



Clock Project from August 2024
Photo courtesy Mary Skaarup



Wire Wrapping Project for September 2024
Photo courtesy of Peggy Sue Moore



Student's Sterling Silver Bead Project
Photo courtesy Bella Romero

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society
 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125
 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Return Service Requested



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>SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren</p> <p>SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise</p> <p>SNGMS Motto: Rocks-R-Us</p> <p>SNGMS Web Site: www.snvms.org</p> <p>Membership is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silver smithing</p> <p>Annual Dues: Individual - \$25; Family - \$35 Meetings start 6 pm on the first Monday of the month at:</p> <p>Eagles Lodge #1213 1601 E Washington Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 642-1213</p> <p>No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.</p>	POLISHED SLAB ADVERTISING RATES		
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