



THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



June 2020

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUDS SINCE 1940

Volume 80 Issue 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 02nd - Board Mtg
- Jul 06th - General Mtg
- Jul 30th - Board Mtg
- Aug 3rd - General Mtg
- Sep 10th - Board Mtg

See page 8 for details on scheduled classes and instructor contact information
 SNGMS Contact :
 sngms2013@gmail.com
 www.snvngms.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JUNE 2020

To all SNGMS Members:

Greetings fellow Rockhounds and members of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. We are missing our monthly general membership meeting, due to gathering size restrictions of the COVID-19 issue. We are planning on a July meeting, pending the Eagles Aerie availability. We will know later on in June as they are rebuilding their A/C system.

I know that everyone who knew Mary Switalla, was very saddened to hear of her passing. Mary, her husband, Jim, and their grandson Anthony Rivera have accompanied us many times, on our field trips over the years. We will all miss her very much.

I hope you have all had a chance to come back to the shop and work on your lapidary projects. The crew worked very hard repairing, organizing and cleaning the shop prior to the reopening. Faceting classes have resumed and wire wrapping class will start back on June 29th. Beading class should commence on the 2nd Monday of June and Bob Belcher is working on starting Silver/Metal Smithing classes. The start date for Silver/Metal Smithing is to be announced.

Former member, Dick Askew, has been reorganizing his yard and has decided to donate many of his rocks to our members. We have already collected many, but we will have to wait for the weather to cool down before we get together with him again. We will keep you posted on when he is ready to have us over again.

We finally had the opportunity to do some field trips, one for red and white onyx and another for purple agate. The response in attendance was fantastic. It felt good to get out in the desert again. June will host a trip to Tonopah for a "pay to collect" trip and then the Rocky Mountain Federation Show and Convention in Big Piney, WY, on the 19th, 20th & 21st of June.

Stay healthy and active with your projects, my rock friends.

Peggy Sue Moore, President, SNGMS, June 2020

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Field Trips & Events

Tonopah, NV: Sat-Sun, June 13th-14th

Holt Canyon, UT, Sunday, July 12th

Goldfield, NV: Goldfield Days, Aug 1-4

Pahrump Winery: Sat, Aug 22nd

Delta, Ut: Sep 18th-19th

2020 Outings Being Considered (Dates to Be Finalized):

Geocaching (Local): Sat, Sep 26th

Tule Springs, NV: Sat, Oct 10th

Parking Lot Sale: Sat, Nov 7th

Wickenburg, AZ: Feb 2021

Hinkley, CA: Sep 2021

Oatman, AZ: Feb 2022

McDermitt, NV: July 2022

Bitter Springs-May 18th:

(Photos Courtesy of DiAnn Lawson)



SNGMS Board Meeting minutes for May 28th, 2020

On May 28, 2020, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 4:30 PM by the President.

All board members were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting read by Secretary were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Account Balances were reported.

Shop report:

All equipment is up and running well.

Unfinished business:

Ongoing show report – Sheri Johnson has started working on the 2021 show in Boulder City. A question was asked if club members attending the Federation show in Big Piney could attend the delegate meeting and were told that they could attend all meetings except for the Executive meeting.

There will be no general meeting for June as the Eagles in closed and they are using this time to repair the air conditioning system.

New Business:

The club has received a donation of a floor standing drill press which will be picked up by Chops and Gary.

The club has had a donation of rocks from Dick Askew and Peggy Sue has put what has been collected so far in her yard for club members to access, there are still more at his property but will have to wait for cooler weather for them to be collected.

July Cabochon contest is: Bald Eagle.

The dates for the Federation show in 2022 were discussed and the federation will be notified of a possible date change as the dates have to be approved by the General Membership when next we can safely meet.

The amount for the scholarship that the club usually donates to the American Federation was discussed with the amount of \$300.00 motion to approve by Sheri Johnson seconded by Bob Belcher motion was carried by the board.

Members of the board are researching fundraising ideas to help offset the cost of the Federation show in 2022.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheri Johnson seconded by Bob Belcher the meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm



General Meeting scheduled for June 1st was cancelled.

More Bitter Springs:



Birthstones for the Month of June are Pearl, Moonstone and Alexandrite:

Pearl is a hard glistening object produced within the soft tissue of a living shelled mollusk or another animal. It actually belongs to the marine animal kingdom, but most people consider them precious stones. A pearl is composed of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) in minute crystalline form, which has been deposited in concentric layers. A pearl necklace is believed to warn sensitive people of imminent danger.

Moonstone is a sodium potassium aluminum silicate with the chemical formula $(\text{Na,K})\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ and belongs to the feldspar group. Moonstone has been used in jewelry for millennia, including ancient civilizations. The Romans admired moonstone, as they believed it was born from solidified rays of the Moon. It has always been the stone of love and lovers.

Alexandrite belongs to the chrysoberyl family (BeAl_2O_4) with a hardness of 8.5 on the Mohs scale. The three main varieties of chrysoberyl are: ordinary yellow-to-green chrysoberyl, cat's eye and alexandrite. Alexandrite will show emerald green, red and orange-yellow colors depending on viewing direction in partially polarized light. It promotes inner harmony, joy and cheerfulness for the wearer.

Mr. David Otteson's formula for backing stone, especially Turquoise and Variscite:

The backing is super glaze or glaze coat resin (both are a 50-50 mixture) and unsanded grout.

Add grout to the glaze mixture, getting it to the desired thickness, a heavy paste.

Then after thorough mixing, spread out the backing mixture onto a sheet of parchment paper.

Place the stones you want to back onto the mixture.

Wait 24 hours allowing it to cure.

It then should then be hard enough to start cutting
Simple.



SNGMS 2020 Meetings

Jan 02 Board	Jul 02 Board
06 General	Jul 06 General
30 Board	30 Board
Feb 03 General	Aug 03 General
27 Board	Sep 10 Board
Mar 02 General	14 General
Apr 02 Board	Oct 01 Board
06 General	05 General
30 Board	29 Board
May 04 General	Nov 02 General
28 Board	Dec 03 Board
Jun 01 General	Dec 13th (Annual Awards Banquet)

Board Meetings (site to be announced)
 General Meetings at
 Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave.

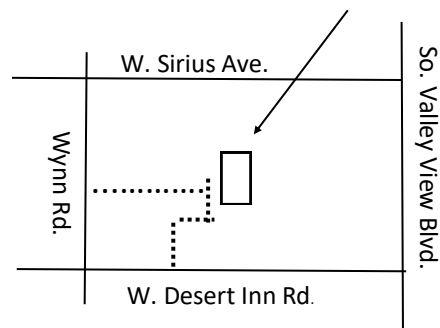
SNGMS General Meeting

1st Monday of every month
 (2nd Monday if holiday falls on
 the first Monday) No meeting in
 December.

Non-members welcome!

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington
 Ave.

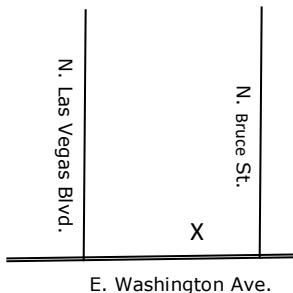
Show & Sell 5-6 PM
 General Meeting 6-8 PM

**3111 So. Valley View Blvd,
 Building E Shop Suite 125****Finding the Shop Location**

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past So. 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 #125.

SNGMS Contact:
sngms2013@gmail.com
www.snvgms.org

**Finding the General Meeting Location**

Eagles Lodge #1213
 1601 E Washington Avenue, Las Vegas,
 NV
 (702) 642-1213

KIDS CLUB / EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The Kids Club meets on the second Sunday of most months at the SNGMS Shop from 3-5. As always, for more information, or to volunteer to lead an activity, or to help with an educational event contact Mary Beth Paladino at 702-255-1647

Meeting scheduled for Sunday June 14th 3pm to 5 pm

Hands on chemistry experiments conducted by guest instructor, Bart Soloman, chemist.

Masks, gloves & goggles will be provided.

Shop Talk : Brad's Bench Tips

QUICK CLOSE-UPS

Often when trying to get a close-up photo with your iPhone or Android, you end up with a fuzzy, out-of-focus image. Next time try using your loupe over the camera lens. It works quickly and easily.



LITTLE THINGS CAN BITE

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We've all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of a half horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I'm not going to harp on it. That's not the point of this story.

I want to talk about the smaller motor powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3 inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flexshafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself sometimes, and believe me it can get you in trouble. Here's what happened to two people I know.

One friend had a polishing burr bend in the handpiece and then whack the thumb that was holding the workpiece. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small under-powered motor?

Not so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines, the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it !

Buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friends arm. There was no way to get a hand of the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when someone nearby could grab the power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even the little motors for granted.

Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Classes

Wire wrapping, led by Peggy Sue Moore meets on most Mondays (except for the General Meeting night). Hours for the class are 5 - 8 PM. The fee is \$5.00 for the shop and \$1.00 pattern fee.

Beading: Gary Webb and Sue Dobson will be hosting the beading class. Classes will be the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

Silver Smithing: Silversmithing classes are being planned to fit a Monday schedule .

Faceting classes. Saturdays 9 am to 12 pm. Please contact Peggy Sue Moore moorepeggysue@gmail.com) in advance to see if a machine is available. Class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor, Tom Kidwell.

Wire wrapping, metal smithing, flint knapping, and silver smithing have a very modest donation of \$5.00 per session, that goes to the club. Faceting class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor. Other class donations may vary, depending on what is included in the class. All donations go to SNGMS, all instructors volunteer their time and expertise to help extend the knowledge of our members.



Sunshine Report

from Beth Jones

Please if you hear of any SNGMS member in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, death in the family or other need, call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at Punkyjones@hotmail.com (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)

Mary Switalla, passed away last month. She was with her husband, Jim in Utah.

Harvey Bergeron is doing well after Open heart surgery on May 29th. He is in Summerlin Hospital 657 N Town Center Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89144 room 441 now. He has his phone so he can receive calls.

Scott Edwards is still in the Mt. View hospital. He will be going to St. Joseph Rehab, 2035 W Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89102 across from UMC on Charleston. He is getting better, now able to sit up and do some leg exercise from the side of the bed with help.



SHOP INFORMATION

"New" SNGMS Workshop Schedule

SHOP HOURS

Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

Monday Closed for general use: Various Classes

Tuesday 10 am to 7 pm

Wednesday 10 am to 7 pm

Thursday 12 pm to 9 pm

Friday 12 pm to 9 pm

Saturday 1 pm to 6 pm

SHOP CLOSED :

2nd Sunday of every Month For Kids Club

Board Meeting: Various Thursday Nights 6 pm to

Approx 7 pm

Check Email and "Polished Slab" for possible date changes.



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse



2020 Monthly Cabochon Contest: (Birds)

- Jul Bald Eagle
- Aug Road Runner
- Sep Ring-Neck Pheasant
- Oct Raven
- Nov Peacock
- Dec (None)

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CABOCHON CONTEST YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF SHOP TIME. THE WINNERS RECEIVE FREE SHOP TIME. A "*Bald Eagle*" cabochon will be the contest entry to be judged at *July's* general meeting. **Good Luck!**

1st Place:

2nd Place :

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the 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 Shop that is not in front of any unit.



Happy Birthdays!

June

Anthony Alverson, Scott Amberson, Soraya Amberson, Linda Arnold, Frank Auerswald Sr., Mark Baxter, Bonnie Brown, Roberto Calvera, Hector Carrillo, Janine Carruth, Steve Chavez, John Cox, Claudia Crouse, Linda Darling, Janet Frei, Tracy Hassett, Evan Helmuth, Wendy Higel, Bill Hildebrandt, Margaret Johnson, Sheri Johnson, Kevin Kettleson, Michael Kirk, Ashley Laster, Mark Leppert, Margaret Mahler, Linda Martin, Madeleine Masters, Livyana Muniz, Morgana Muniz, Wayne Muth, Destry Myers, Tsukiko Nakano, Naomi Nozoe, Mary Beth Paladino, Colin Reinke, Robert Riemer, Gail Seidner, Cortney Smith, Scott Stevens, Jim Switalla, Jon Thiriot, Gail Wisniewski, Jennifer Zangger, Vincent Zebrowski.

July

If you have a July birthday please bring something for the refreshment table at the July meeting.

Cindy Allison, Ayla Amberson, Joseph Boisvenu, Molly Cole, Julie Cooley, Leander Demlow, Kay Dorance, Scott Edwards, Irian Figearo, Thomas Garcia, Jacqueline Gerideau, Samantha Giddens, Massimo Greco, Rob Hernquist, Derik Johnson, Jim Jones, Thomas Lawlor, Katherine Matthews, George Messenger, Alex Mross, Alejandro Muniz, Nelson Muniz, Amanda Munson, Edward Munson, Skya Munson, Jane Nicholson, Deanna Radabaugh, Jeilyn Shirtz, Caity Stackhouse, Joseph Webb III, Kim Wnzel, Orville Wiemers.

Welcome New Members!

A hearty welcome to members who joined or rejoined SNGMS .

We look forward to getting to know you better

Robert Brown, Hector Carrillo, Valerie Carrillo, Linda Darling, Terry Davis, Maria Demeo, Rocky Dipple, Iri-na Figearo, Francisco Garcia-Mendez, Jeff Greenwood, Adam Q. Huijnh, Alyssa Jarred, Jacson Manina, Jaden Manina, Jen Manina, Tami Mohr, Michelle Muniz, Stephen Nordstrom, Gabor Orosz, Gabriel Orosz, Skira Orosz, ZsaZsa Orosz, Suzanna Pearson, Dorene Saters, Jerilyn Shirtz, Kali Swope, Marcu Winters, Michael Zoccoli.

SNGMS 2020 Board of Directors

President: Peggy Sue Moore moorepeggysue@gmail.com 702 348-9600
 Vice-President: Sheri Johnson sherisrocks89121@gmail.com 702 525-0256
 Secretary: Debbie Bucknam grandmadeb10@gmail.com 805 415-1870
 Treasurer: Gary Webb SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com 702 876-2592
 Parliamentarian: Ananaka Rau arau3@yahoo.com 775 400-6511
 One Year Board Remaining: Del Walkenshaw desertartsupply@aol.com 702 451-8040
 Two Year Board Remaining: Bruce Martin brucemartinlv@yahoo.com 725 400-1472
 Three Year Board: Kerry "Choppers" Wenzl 702 378-2205 Kheffner@levi.com
 Past President: Bob Belcher f35fighterman@yahoo.com 702 210-9612

Contact any Board member to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chairman to offer to help on their committee.

Committee Chairperson

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej
desertartsupply@aol.com
 Communications.....Del Walkenshaw sngmsnews@gmail.com
 Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore
 Alt. Federation.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256
 Field Trip.....SNGMS Board
 Shop Foreman Kerry "Choppers" Wenzl
 Historian.....Jack Toogood
 Hospitality.....Open
 Inventory.....Frank Timbers ftimbers@centurylink.net
 Librarian..... Mario Luchetta
 Membership..... John Stackhouse 702-239-0437
 New Member Liaison... Barbara Belcher
 Program..... Cindy Allison
 Publicity.....Scott Edwards memuldt@yahoo.com
 Raffle.....Steve Chavez
 50-50 Raffle.....Orville and Lisa Wiemers
 Refreshments..... Fran & Allen Stratton
 Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647
 Show Chairperson.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256
 Sunshine.....Beth Jones punkyjones@hotmail.com
 702-505-5819
 Webmaster.....Lorrilee Stackhouse lorrilee@cox.net

SNGMS Contact:

sngms2013@gmail.com
www.sngms.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are rock clubs throughout the United States and the computer is your friend in finding information about clubs and shows. Just search for the area you are interested in and rock club and you should find plenty to keep you busy, wherever you are going.

Big Piney, WY, June 19th –21st, 2020: Gem & Mineral Show, Contact pres@wsmsg.org

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies convention & Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society show

**Gem & Mineral Show
 2020**



**ROCK & ROLL WITH
 WYOMING ROCKS**

Hosted by the Sublette County Rock Hounds

June 19th, 20th, & 21st

at the Sublette County Fairgrounds
 10937 Hwy 189, Big Piney, Wyoming

Friday & Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-4

Dealers, lectures, demonstrators, exhibits, field trips, Mr. Bones, Fossil Butte National Monument walking fish fossil, fluorescent mineral display, kids' activities, food concession & more!

Admission: \$2.00 adults, kids free



and a funding contribution made by Pinedale Travel & Tourism Commission www.VisitPinedale.com

contact: janzon@wvmin.org

Some links that you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-

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.

Club Mascot: Rock Wren

Club Gemstone: Turquoise

Club Logo: Rocks-R-Us

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing

Annual Dues: Individual - \$25; Family - \$35

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at the Eagles Lodge #1213, 1601 E Washington

No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.

**POLISHED SLAB
 ADVERTISING RATES**

<i>Ad Size</i>	<i>Six Months</i>	<i>Yearly</i>
<i>Business Card</i>	\$18	\$30
<i>Quarter Page</i>	\$48	\$90
<i>Half Page</i>	\$90	\$170
<i>Full Page</i>	\$150	\$275