



June 2024

THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940



VOLUME 84 ISSUE 6

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 1, 2024 - Board Mtg

July 1, 2024 – Genl Mtg

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sngmsshowchair@gmail.com
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sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

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

Hi Everyone!

Summer has definitely arrived. With temperatures over 100, we ask that you take extra care and stay well hydrated.

I'm pleased to announce that Ron Mazz and Joel Coombs were voted Lifetime Memberships at the last meeting. Congrats to both of them!!

UNLV has had SNGMS listed as a scholarship donor for some years. We are considering renewing that relationship. We have put together a Scholarship Committee to finalize details and qualifications. Debbie Bucknam will give us an update at the next meeting.

This is an excellent time to use the air-conditioned shop and refine all the treasures you found into finished products. The SNGMS Lapidary Shop staff have been working extra hard to keep the machines in working order. Remember they will assist you if you need a refresher on how to cut that particular rock. Plus, if you have a few extra hours, Chops Wenzl (702-378-2205), the Shop Manager, is always looking for volunteers.

We have a few great rock hounding trips yet this month so please check your email for updates. Jonathan Tredwell suggested forming a Rockhounding Committee. This should expand our free trips and give others a chance to lead a trip or two. If you are interested in helping, or suggesting a trip, please contact Jonathan (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com).

Remember we have lots of classes coming up. AND... If you'd like to teach one, let us know. We have interest in a silver smithing class, more resin classes, and cabochon classes too.

Upcoming Shows of interest :

** Prineville, Oregon June 13-15, 2024 – check this url for details:

www.crookcountyfairgrounds.com/events/2024/prineville-rock-hound-pow-wow

** Tonopah, Nevada Rock & Bottle Show July 19-21, 2024 – check this url for details:

www.tonopahnevada.com/tonopah-rock/

See you in the Rocks!

Andrea Packo, President

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2024 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Rainbow Petrified Wood Field Trip, \$45 per bucket or 3 buckets for \$120 ²	Saturday, June 15 - 16, 2024, meeting time: 9 am, departs 9:35 am	Jim Gray's Petrified Wood Co. 147 US-180, Holbrook, AZ 86025
Turquoise Pay to Dig, details TBA ³	June 23 – 24, 2024	Tonopah, NV
Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies Show	October 2024	Oklahoma City, OK

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com)
- 2) Phone/text Andrea Kincannon 323-977-0374 to reserve your spot
- 3) Contact Del Walkenshaw to reserve your spot desertartsupply@aol.com or 702-451-8040

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.rmfm.org
 Rock & Gem Magazine website – www.rockngem.com

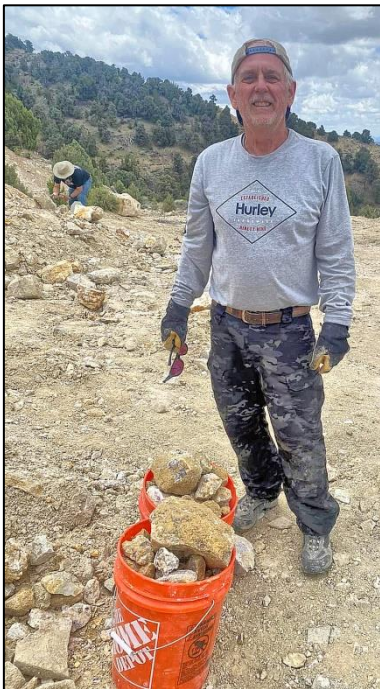
Digging Through Time

An early incarnation of the SNGMS was the Mineralogical Society of Southern Nevada (MSSN). MSSN meeting locations alternated between the Las Vegas High School and the recreation room at the Department of Water and Power Building in Boulder City.

There was some internal disagreement between the members of the MSSN, probably over organizational bureaucracy. In February 1948, Paul Mercer invited 30 of the original MSSN members to meet at his home in Boulder City and they formed the Clark County Gem Collectors (CCGC).

The first CCGC meeting was held in 1948 at the Grace Community Church in Boulder City, Nevada. The CCGC continued to meet at the church, and there were monthly potlucks.

(The digging continues next month!)



Joe Weibert
 May 2024 Austin, NV Fluorite Mine
 Photo courtesy of Jonathan Tredwell



Left to right: **Tiana Elliot, Adam Flink**
 May 2024 Austin, NV Fluorite Mine
 Photo courtesy of Jonathan Tredwell

Backup SNGMS Lapidary Shop Supervisor Needed

Thursdays 5-9 pm
 Please contact
Chops Weinzell to volunteer
 702-378-2205

SECOND ANNUAL
TONOPAH NEVADA

ROCK & BOTTLE SHOW

JULY 19TH, 20TH
 & 21ST 2024

Vendors please contact Chrissy Pope, Tourism & Events Coordinator Town of Tonopah at 775-277-0804 or email: chrissy.townoftonopah@gmail.com

To view a full list of vendors please visit TONOPAHNEVADA.COM/TONOPAH-ROCK

THIS EVENT IS HOSTED BY THE TOWN OF TONOPAH



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 6/3/2024

On June 3rd 2024, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Eagles' Lodge at 3:54 PM by the President. All Board members were present except the Parliamentarian and the 3 year Board member. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 6, 2024 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: The balance of the checking account is \$34,344. The increase from the previous month was \$4,826, primarily due to the Jamboree profits. The investments balance is \$125,445. The maturing CD yielded a \$1,345 profit. A \$50,000 CD with a 12 month term and 5.3% interest was purchased.

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report: One trim saw is down and waiting for parts for repair. The flat lap disks need replacement at a cost of \$1,400. A new flat lap machine at a cost of \$4,000 is requested. An order for oil will need to be made in August or September. An existing 24" saw may be added to the saw room. The CabKing wheels are still looking good after three weeks.

Bruce Martin proposed, seconded by David Ford, and approved by the Board, that "flat lap discs be purchased up to \$1,400." David Ford proposed, seconded by Bob Belcher, and approved by the Board, that "a new flat lap be purchased up to \$4,000." These proposals will be presented to the membership at the General meeting for approval. New member orientation will continue on an 'as needed' basis. A committee will be formed to implement equipment training and certification.

Unfinished Business: The SNGMS Scholarship Chair, Debbie Bucknam, and Mary Savage discussed previous scholarships that SNGMS had awarded at UNLV. Del Walkenshaw proposed, seconded by Bruce Martin, and approved by the Board, that "SNGMS will donate a \$1,000 scholarship to a UNLV student selected by the Earth Sciences professors next year instead of the current scholarship plan." This will be presented to the General membership for approval.

Shows: Orville Wiemers reported on the shows listed below.

- 2024 Boulder City Spring Jamboree Show – Budget was \$8,000, actual expenditures were \$7,928.57. The profit after all expenditures is \$8,752.93.
- Viva Las Vegas Rocks 2024 Show – 60% of vendor slots are taken.

New Business: Mary Savage proposed Joel Coombs for a lifetime membership. Orville Wiemers proposed Ron Mazz for a lifetime membership. The Board approved the proposals and they will be presented to the General Membership for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
ROCKS, GEMS & JEWELRY SHOW
 SANTA FE STATION
 HOTEL-CASINO
 November
 1st, 2nd & 3rd
**VIVA LAS VEGAS
 ROCKS**
 VENDORS, DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE!

Las Vegas Beading Society

The Las Vegas Beading Society receives many bead donations, and they sell the extras - even to non-bead society members. If you are interested, please text or call Stephanie Foote at 702-595-1299.



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 6/3/2024

On June 3rd 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 May 6th 2024 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: The Balance of checking account is \$34,344. The increase from the previous month was \$4,826, primarily due to the Jamboree profits. The investments balance is \$125,445. The maturing CD yielded a \$1,345 profit. A \$50,000 CD with a 12 month term and 5.3% interest was purchased.

Unfinished Business: None

Membership: Claudia Crouse reported the membership is 558 adults and 85 kids..

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities. The next meeting at the Shop will be June 9th when the focus will be on the Earth & Space Merit Badge. July will be a field trip to the Planetarium, and the Aug. 11th meeting at the Shop will focus on the Special Effects Badge. September will be a field trip, to the Moqui Cave, funded by David Ford.

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report: Chops Wenzl reported that one trim saw is down and waiting for parts for repair. Additional supervisors are needed, and please help by cleaning up after yourself when you use the Shop. The flat lap disks need replacement at a cost of \$1,400. A new flat lap machine at a cost of \$4,000 is requested. Debbie Bucknam proposed, seconded by Wendy Dresser, and approved by the membership, that "flat lap discs be purchased up to \$1,400." Joel Coombs proposed, seconded by Allen Stratton, and approved by the membership, that "a new flat lap be purchased up to \$4,000."

SNGMS Scholarship: Debbie Bucknam discussed the scholarship recipients, one of whom was present at the meeting. All three recipients will be attending UNR. The board recommendation that next year SNGMS award a \$1,000 scholarship to a UNLV student selected by the Geo Sciences Department was discussed. After consideration this will be tabled and a committee will be formed by Debbie Bucknam to discuss this plan and what recipient criteria the club would like to specify.

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

Cabochon Contest: The Cabochon Contest theme for May was Sunset. First place was Bruce Martin and tied for second place were Peggy Sue and Bill Moore. The July 2024 subject will be Mountains.

Shows: Orville Wiemers reported on the shows listed below.

- 2024 Boulder City Spring Jamboree Show – Budget was \$8,000, actual expenditures were \$7,928.57. The profit after all expenditures is \$8,752.93.

- Viva Las Vegas Rocks 2024 Show – 60% of vendor slots are taken.

New Business: Jonathan Tredwell discussed upcoming Field Trips. See the Slab and emails for details. Classes were discussed, see emails and Slab for details. Volunteers are needed for Publicity & Media Chairmanship, and for Facebook.

Mary Savage proposed Joel Coombs for a lifetime membership. Orville Wiemers proposed Ron Mazz for a lifetime membership. Wendy Dresser proposed, seconded by Peggy Sue Moore, and accepted by the membership, that "Joel Coombs be awarded lifetime membership." Wendy Dresser proposed, seconded by Bruce Martin, and accepted by the membership, that "Ron Mazz be awarded lifetime membership."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.



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.

Mike Jenkins and Lori Syddall are both gaining weight after serious illnesses. Jim Jones is in the hospital with an infection. Eric Stefani became a grandfather!

Rock Spotlight: Uranium

Uranium is a dense metal. It is a poor conductor of electricity, malleable, and ductile. Uranium is naturally radioactive, emitting gamma radiation.

Uranium was discovered in 1789 by Martin Klaproth, a German chemist. He named it "uran" after the planet Uranus.

For many years, uranium was used mostly to color ceramic glazes (like the notorious Uranium Red Fiestaware) and for color tinting in early photography. Its radioactive properties were not recognized until 1866. Uranium is now used to power nuclear reactors that produce electricity, and to produce radioactive isotopes for medical, industrial, and defense purposes.



There are about 93 mines in Clark County, Nevada where uranium has been found.

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

Uranium Ore

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=241773>

DIG WITH US!
Pleiades Stone

(725) 867-7009
- - -
booking@
tredstoneshop.com

TREDSTONE 
Gems, Minerals, and Artistry





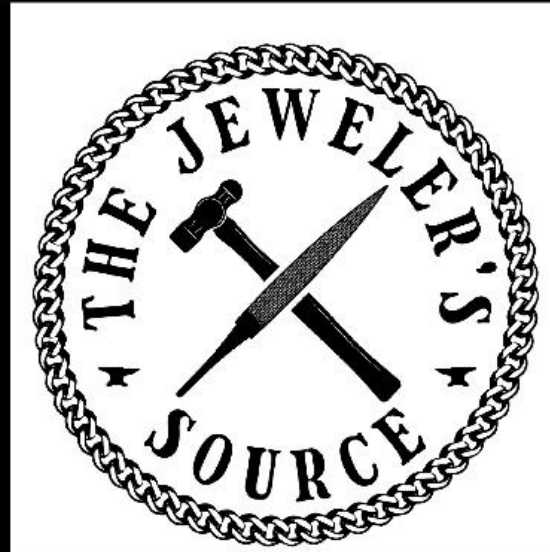


REGISTER HERE

Backup SNGMS Lapidary Shop Supervisor Needed

Thursdays 5-9 pm
Please contact
Chops Weinzell to volunteer
702-378-2205





Members Receive 5% Off

- **JEWELRY SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT**
- **JEWELRY FINDINGS & METALS**
- **LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**
- **JEWELRY WORKSHOPS**

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 ⁴
Jul. 1	Jul. 1	See page 11
Aug. 5	Aug. 5	
Sep. 9	Sep. 9	
Oct. 7	Oct. 7	
Nov. 4	Nov. 4	
Dec. 5	Dec. – no general mtg, Awards Banquet	

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, membership required, meeting starts at 6:30 pm
- 4) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary Shop with exception of some field trips, membership required

Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

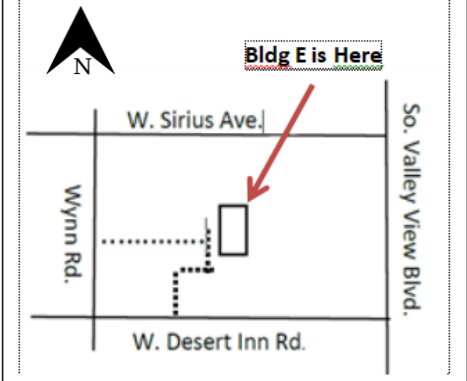
The SNGMS Lapidary Shop is located at:
3111 South Valley View Blvd,
Building E Shop Suite 125
Las Vegas, NV 89102

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

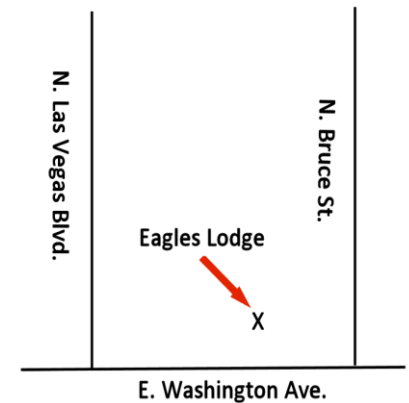


Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

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.

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

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Code of Conduct

- I will treat all Supervisors and other Volunteers with respect
- I will treat all shop equipment with respect
- I will leave all equipment that I use as clean or cleaner than I found it
- If I use a CabKing, I will have the wheels inspected by the shop supervisor before I start and after I finish
- I understand if I abuse and harm club equipment, I may lose the privilege to use it

Backup Shop Supervisor Needed

Thursdays 5-9 pm
Please contact
Chops Wenzl to volunteer
702-378-2205



Jewelry Hammers

Hammers are used to shape, form, and texture metal in handmade jewelry designs. Most hammers have two faces that are differently sized or shaped; mallets have identical faces. Most hammers have straight handles. The exception is the chasing hammer, which has a bulbous handle. There are two basic hammer types: 1) hammers for striking metal and 2) hammers for striking tools, like stamps and punches. "Peen" refers to the business face of the hammer. A ball-peen is a ball-shaped face; a cross-peen is one that is at right angles to the hammer handle. Here's a simple guide to the anatomy of a hammer, different types of hammers, and what they are used for in the studio.

Hammer Anatomy

- Face: a striking surface used on a piece of metal.
- Neck: the slightly curved area near the face.
- Peen (or pein): the opposite side of the face, mainly used for bending or shaping metal.
- Cheek: the middle portion of the hammer head.
- Eye: a hole in the head where a wedge connects the hammer head to the handle.
- Head (or poll): the straight section beneath the face of the hammer.
- Grip: where your hand holds the hammer handle



Hammer Anatomy

Types of Hammers

Six basic jewelry-making hammers are discussed below.

Ball-Peen Hammer: a good all-round hammer with a domed side and a flat round side. The ball side of the head is ideal for texturing metal, while the flat end can be used to hammer doming punches with a doming block to create curves and domes in flat metal.

Ball-Peen Hammer



Mallet: a mallet has two identical faces and can be made of plastic, rawhide, or metal. A rawhide mallet is commonly used to shape metal around a mandrel without leaving a hammer mark.



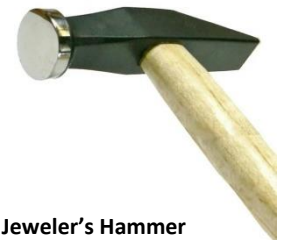
Rawhide Mallet

Raising Hammer: has two rectangular, blunt, or wedge-shaped cross-peen faces. It's used for raising sheet metal into shapes like bowls.



Raising Hammer

Jeweler's Hammer: this hammer is small and light weight, with one cross-peen face and one flat face. It is used for precision work such as riveting and shaping. It can also be used to flatten wire, and the thin tapered end can be used to texture metal.



Jeweler's Hammer

Texturing Hammer: this hammer has machined or patterned faces, for striking texture directly onto metal. The SNGMS Lapidary Shop has a few texturing hammers with interchangeable heads for sale.



Texturing Hammer with Interchangeable Heads

Chasing Hammer: has one flat face for striking tools like stamps and smoothing (planishing) metal, and one round face for forming and riveting. The handle has a bulbous end and a narrow neck for more bounce back and less strain on the wrist.



Chasing Hammer



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	
August	Tropical	
September	Ocean Blues	
October	Fall Leaf Colors	
November	Landscapes	
December	No Contest	

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at each of 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 July 2024 cabochon theme is “Mountains.” **Good Luck!**

Mojave Desert Mountains



**Black Mountain
Henderson, NV**
www.stavislost.com

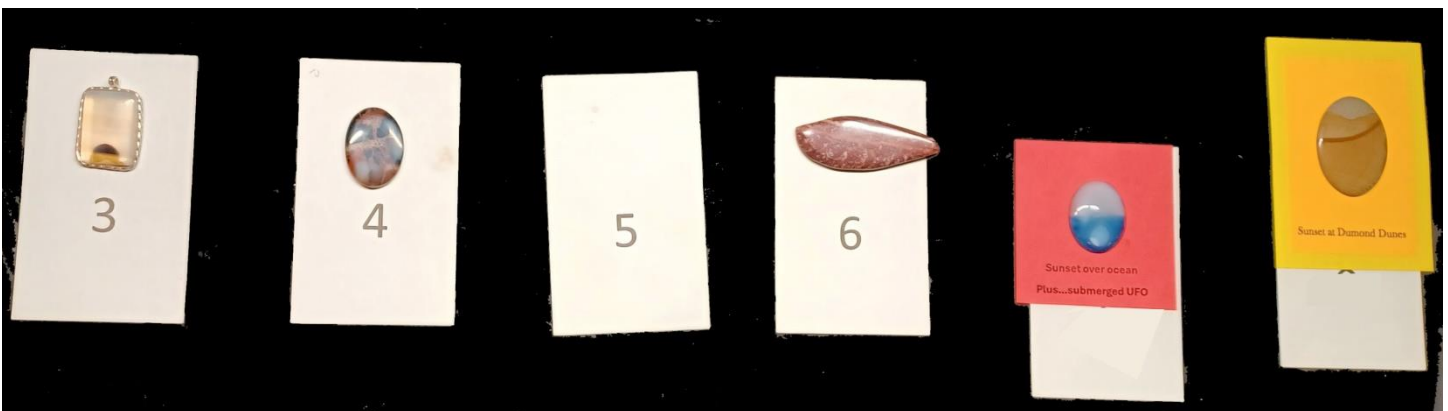


**La Madre Mountains
Clark County, NV**
www.nevadawilderness.org



Left to right: Bill Moore, entry 8, 2nd place tie;
Peggy Sue Moore, entry 7, 2nd place tie;
Bruce Martin, entry 3, 1st place

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



BIRTHDAYS

If you have a JULY birthday, Please bring something for the refreshment table at JULY’s meeting.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

RHONA ALTER, LINDA ARNOLD, FRANK AUERSWALD, SR., SUSAN BERGER, THOMAS BOES, JACK BUCHALTER, GLENN CARLSON, HELEN CARLSON, JESSICA CASERO, KWAI PING CHAN, JOHN COX, BUD CRANOR, CLAUDIA CROUSE, KYLE DALEY, JULIANN DEASON-POUPARD, ANDREA GARCIA, PAT GOFF, ANDREW GOMEZ, LOREN HANISH, TRACY HASSETT, GREG HOVERSTEN, SHERI JOHNSON, MICHAEL KIRK, STEVEN KLIPPER-FISCHBEIN, CAPRICH LANE, KAREN LAWSON, AMINA MAHMOOD, LINDA MARTIN, PATRICK MCDONOUGH, CORINNE MEADOWSTONE, WAYNE MUTH, JEFF NORRIS, ANGIE OWENS, MARY BETH PALADINO, COLLIN REINKE, ROBERT RIEMER, GAIL SEIDNER, JON THIRIOT, LOREN TRUMAN, CELESTE WADE, RONNIE WAKEFIELD, REBECCA WILLIAMS, GAIL WISNIEWSKI

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, June 9, 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

Speakers For 2024 General Meetings

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

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 1, 2024	Jim Boone, birdandhike.com	Hiking, Camping and Birding in Gold Butte
Aug. 5, 2024	Desire Schultz, Protectors of Tule Springs	Horsemanship Program at Tule Springs
Sep. 9, 2004	Lorri Dee Dukes and Connor Murphy, BLM	How Mining is Established and Conducted on Federally Owned Public Lands
Oct. 7, 2024	James Sloan, SNGMS Member	Opal Formation and Its Relationship to Chalcedony
Nov. 2024	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec. 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) .

Thank you to Ron Mazz for his numerous donations for speaker gifts, and to Ken Bucknam for donating display stands.



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

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Earth in Space Merit Badge	June 9, 2024, 3- 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Field Trip – Planetarium – FREE but RSVP Required³	July 13, 2024	College of Southern Nevada North Las Vegas Campus 3200 E. Cheyenne Ave. North Las Vegas, NV 89030
No Meeting	July 14, 2024	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Special Effects Merit Badge	August 11, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Moqui Caves Field Trip – FREE and lunch provided courtesy of Dave Ford – RSVP Required⁴	September 7, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	Meet at SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
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 – HOLIDAY PARTY DATE TBD	December 8, 2024	

- 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*
- 3) **RSVP REQUIRED NO LATER THAN JULY 6, 2024, call or text Wendy Dresser 702-556-2748**
- 4) **RSVP REQUIRED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31, 2024 DUE TO LIMITED BUS SEATING. If you need to cancel after making an RSVP, please contact Wendy Dresser ASAP so the vacancy can be filled with someone else.**



**Young Rockhound at SNGMS Meeting
With her Parents**

Kid’s Quiz

Q: What’s a stone’s favorite type of music?

A: Rock and roll!!

Q: Did you hear about the stone that went on vacation?

A: It had a rock-solid adventure!

Q: What’s a stone’s favorite place?

A: The Rocky Mountains!

Q: What did the rock climber name his son?

A: Cliff!

Q: Why do rocks make great pets?

A: They’re low maintenance!



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 Wenzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Open		
Hospitality	Barbara Belcher		
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	Open		
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



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SNGMS Life Time Member
Diane Burgess

Life Time membership is an honor extended to members who have rendered extraordinary service to the SNGMS. As of 2023, the SNGMS requires that nominees for a Lifetime Membership be a member for 10 years with no breaks and hold a board position or committee chair in the Society. Life Time Members are selected based on outstanding contributions and devotion to SNGMS, its ideals, purposes, and its progress.



Diane Burgess

Diane Burgess was born in Buffalo, New York. Her father brought Diane some bracelets and boxes of mineral specimens from a job interview in Colorado. This sparked her interest in rock hounding. Her family moved to Colorado, and there they all enjoyed rock hounding, often in the mountains. Diane joined the Las Vegas Gem Club (LVGC) about 1996, then she went to Colorado for two years. When she returned to Las Vegas in 1998, she joined the Clark County Gem Collectors (CCGC). LVGC and CCGC merged to form the SNGMS.

Diane collects sulfide specimens and "other sparkly rocks!" She became a silversmith after buying silver smithing tools at a Las Vegas flea market. She took classes through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas extension program. Diane cuts her own cabochons for silver smithing.

In 2000, the CCGC did a multi-day field trip to Burro Creek, Arizona. This was one of Diane's favorite trips in spite of the cold and having a tent pole snap.

Diane served as president of CCGC for two years, from 2000 - 2001. She also served as a one-year CCGC board member in 2002, and as the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society (SNGMS) Secretary in 2009.

Diane received a Life Time membership in the SNGMS in October 2013.



Did You Know?

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop rents metal detectors to SNGMS members.

Metal Detector Rentals
\$3.00 per day
Provide your own batteries
(8 AA batteries required)
Rentals limited to 7 days

HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of capping 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

Desert Varnish



Desert Varnish, Capitol Reef National Park, Utah

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/03/03/1184309/-DKos-Tour-Series-Capitol-Reef-NP#>

Desert varnish may sound like the latest beauty trend, but it's actually a geological phenomenon that paints rocks in the desert with its unique colors. Desert varnish is a thin coating of dark manganese and iron oxide minerals that forms on the surface of rocks in arid environments. It's like nature's way of giving rocks a makeover, one layer at a time.

Ever wondered how this mysterious varnish ends up on rocks in the desert? Climate, rock composition, and microbial activity all play a part in the formation of desert varnish. Chemical reactions between minerals in the rock, and ions in water, create the recipe for desert varnish.

Manganese and iron oxides are the main ingredients in desert varnish, giving it its dark and often shiny appearance. These elements bond with the rock surface, creating a durable coating. Desert varnish isn't just a pretty face – it plays a role in protecting rocks from weathering and erosion. The coating is laid down by bacteria that use manganese as a sunscreen!

Manganese oxides turn dark when old bacteria cells die and new ones take over. In this way, the varnish builds up in layers.

Geologists use desert varnish as a natural archive, recording environmental changes and geological events over thousands of years. Its presence on rocks tells a story of past climates, landscapes, and even human activity. By studying the growth rate of desert varnish layers, scientists can estimate the age of rock surfaces and archaeological artifacts like petroglyphs. This dating method is known as varnish microlamination.

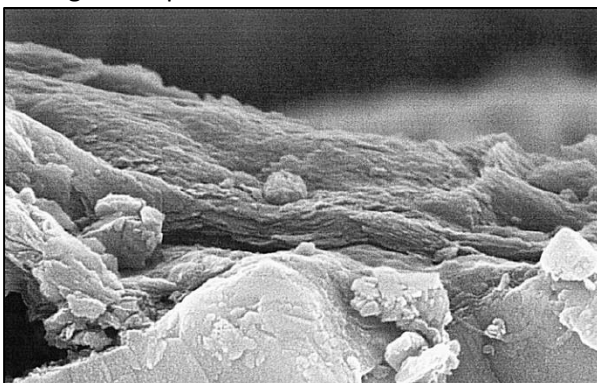
If you scratch through the varnish layer, the lighter-colored rock underneath is exposed. For thousands of years, Native Americans used desert varnish to create petroglyphs. In Clark County, Nevada there are elaborate petroglyphs including spirals, circles, wavy lines, footprints, people, deer, and bighorn sheep.

Pollution, climate change, and vandalism threaten the preservation of desert varnish. Airborne pollutants can degrade it, while physical disturbances to rock surfaces can disrupt its growth and development. Conservationists and researchers are working to protect and preserve desert varnish through monitoring programs, public awareness campaigns, and sustainable land management practices.



Sloan Canyon Petroglyphs, Clark County, NV

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/sloan-canyon-petroglyphs>



To understand desert varnish formation, analytical techniques like scanning electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction, and isotopic analysis are used. By combining field observations with laboratory analyses, researchers can piece together a comprehensive picture of desert varnish and its significance in the natural world.

Extreme Close-up of Desert Varnish on a Rock Taken With Scanning Electron Microscope

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Scanning-electron-microscope-micrograph-of-rock-substrate-with-varnish-cut-normal-to-the_fig2_253900858



June 2024 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday, June 10, 5 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Gem Identification* ¹	Karen Griffith-Hedberg	Saturday, June 29, 9 am - noon	\$10	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014	desertartsupply@aol.com 702-451-8040
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, June 24, 5 pm	\$11	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
Silver Smithing*	Bella Romero & Mary Savage	Fridays 12:30-3:30 pm EXCEPT NO CLASS JUNE 7, 2024	\$35	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

1. Class size limited to 6 students

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.



Sapphire Engagement Ring Made By Silver Smithing Student
Photo Courtesy Bella Romero



Hand-Cut Rhodonite Cabochon Set In A Sterling Silver Ring By A Student
Photo courtesy of 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.

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

POLISHED SLAB ADVERTISING RATES		
AD SIZE	SIX MONTHS RATE	12 MONTHS RATE
<i>Business Card</i>	\$18	\$30
<i>Quarter Page</i>	\$48	\$90
<i>Half Page</i>	\$90	\$170
<i>Full Page</i>	\$150	\$275

