



August 2024

THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940



VOLUME 84 ISSUE 8

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 9, 2024 - Board Mtg
September 9, 2024 – Genl Mtg

SNGMS Contacts:

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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!

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Hi Everyone!

I'd like to say a word about the current and upcoming openings of volunteer positions within the club. The nominations start soon, and while not as exciting as the political elections, I think our SNGMS elections serve a more useful Rockhound's purpose.

Volunteers bring passion, dedication, and a range of skills that help our club achieve goals, whether it's supporting community education, organizing events, or offering your abilities and knowledge. Your involvement fosters a sense of community and shared purpose, making the club more impactful. Additionally, your participation is crucial in our non-profit club because it drives our organization's mission forward without the burden of high costs. You get to meet new people, build new relationships, and create a ripple effect that strengthens SNGMS. Without your support, SNGMS would cease to exist. And so, I encourage all of you to consider running for open positions which include:

Election Committee Chairperson plus 1-2 other committee members. This committee will announce SNGMS board of director candidates at the October 7, 2024 General Membership meeting.

SNGMS Board of Director positions: The current Secretary (Lorrilee Stackhouse) and Treasurer (Dave Ford) will run for re-election. New officers will be nominated for the following positions:

President
Vice President
Parliamentarian
3 Year Board Member

Two Year Board Member (Jean Chayette) and One Year Board Member (Bob Belcher) are not up for re-election and will continue to serve on the SNGMS Board of Directors.

Other Openings:
Publicity & Online Media Chair, and Facebook
Rocky Mountain and American Federation representative
Federation Ribbon Management
Raffle Chairperson
Projector Screen Set-up for meetings

Thank you and I'll see you in the rocks!

Andrea Packo
SNGMS President



2024 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Ore Car Mine for agate and travertine	August 24	Mile Marker 16, North Shore Road, Lake Mead Recreation Area
Agate, jasper, opalite, chalcedony	September 14	Gem Field, 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	Santa Fe Station Casino, Las Vegas, NV

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com)
- 2) <https://www.rmfm.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.rmfm.org
 Rock & Gem Magazine website – www.rockngem.com

The Pasadena Lapidary Society presents
64th Annual Gem & Mineral Show
 August 24 & 25, 2024
 10 am – 5 pm (Sat), 10 am – 4 pm (Sun)
 Arcadia Masonic Center,
 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia

Natural Ethiopian Wello Opal
 Carved from the rough by Gabriel Mosesson

Albuquerque
Fall Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

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

Calcite vein with Hematite inclusions
 Biggins mine
 Cumbria, England

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
ROCKS, GEMS & JEWELRY SHOW

VIVA LAS VEGAS
ROCKS

November 1st, 2nd & 3rd

VENDORS, DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE!



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 8/5/2024

On August 5th 2024, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Eagles' Lodge at 4:00 PM by the Vice President. All Board members except the President and Parliamentarian were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 1, 2024 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Balance of the checking account as of July 31st was \$30,393, a decrease of \$298 from the previous month. The investments balance is \$127,47, an increase of \$1,997 which was interest and value change of CDs. One CD was called, yielding \$1,880 interest, and it was replaced with another \$50,000 CD at 5.1% interest, so SNGMS continues to have two laddered CDs on 6-month centers.

Lapidary Shop Report: Everything at the Shop is in working order. The new flat lap machine has been made available for usage. A barrel truck is needed for handling oil barrels safely. Bruce Marin proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw and approved by the Board, that "a barrel truck be purchased for shop use at a cost of up to \$400". A replacement office chair is needed and "Chops" Wenzl will search for a low cost solution. Bob Belcher volunteered to be the shop security system contact. The possibility of installing a TV with a rotational promotional program of club and shop activities was discussed and will be further investigated. The new silversmith instructor, Andy Gomez, is holding silversmith classes at the Shop on Sunday afternoons.

Unfinished Business:

Orville Wiemers reported on the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show . Forty nine of the 63 booths are sold. Publicity work will increase in the weeks left before the show. Contact Orville to reserve a vendor slot (owarea22@gmail.com or 702-743-3277)

New Business:

Awards Banquet tickets will be available for sale at the September general meeting. The Awards Banquet will be held on December 8, 2024 at the Santa Fe Station Casino, Las Vegas. Contact Chops Wenzl for more information (702-378-2205).

A Parking Lot Sale will be held on October 5, 2024 at the Desert Arts parking lot. Contact Del Walkenshaw to reserve a vendor slot (desertartsupply@aol.com, 702-451-8040).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.



Left to right: **Katie Frank and Josh Solberg** gave a presentation on faceted stones at World Gem Art Gallery on August 8, 2024.



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 8/5/2024

On August 5th, 2024, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6 PM by the Vice President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the July 1st, 2024 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Balance of checking account as of July 31st was \$30,393, a decrease of \$298 from the previous month. The investments balance is \$127,47, an increase of \$1,997 which was interest and value change of CDs. One CD was called, yielding \$1,880 interest, and it was replaced with another \$50,000 CD at 5.1% interest, so SNGMS continues to have two laddered CDs on 6-month centers. Shop finances are doing great. The new silversmith class is not only a great class for members, but it is profitable for the club. Any questions about SNGMS finances should be directed to the Treasurer, David Ford.

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. July was a trip to the Planetarium. The Aug. 11th meeting at the Shop will focus on the Special Effects Badge with help from James Sloan. September 8th there will be no meeting at the Shop. September will be a field trip, to the Moqui Cave, funded by David Ford. October 14th meeting will be at the Shop and Peggy Sue Moore will teach wire wrapping which will help earn the Lapidary Badge.

Shop Report: "Chops" Wenzl reported that the Shop is in good condition. Awards Banquet, December 8th, tickets will be available for purchase at the next meeting through the November meeting. They are \$35 for members. Chinese auction items are needed. The new flat lap is in service. Due to the way the meter had to be wired to the machine the meter runs for the entirety of the time that the power is turned on to the machine, whether the machine is running or not. Please take this into consideration when using it. The old flat lap is available for auction starting at \$200, to close on August 17th.

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies: Peggy Sue Moore is looking for a replacement for the position of Ribbons Chair that she has held with RMFMS for several years. She will be happy to train a replacement this year so they can be ready to take over the position next year. To volunteer, contact Peggy Sue (moorepeggysue@gmail.com).

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

Cabochon Contest: The Cab Contest theme for June was Tropical. First place was Lloyd Chayette and second place was tied between Bruce Martin and Ron Mazz. The September 2024 subject will be Ocean Blues.

Shows: Orville Wiemers reported on the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show – 78% of vendor slots are taken. Two more payments will be due to the venue before the show.

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

New Business: Classes were discussed, see emails and The Polished Slab newsletter for details. Wire wrapping and beading classes will be \$5 through September 2024. Peggy Sue Moore is teaching beginning cab making on Saturday mornings with a limit of three people. Contact Peggy Sue to reserve a spot (moorepeggysue@gmail.com). August 25-26 will be the Clock Class, \$35 for all supplies & instruction, limit 8 people, text Amber Palecek to sign up (702-343-7150). The Parking Lot Sale will be on October 5th at the Desert Arts parking lot. Contact Del Walkenshaw to reserve a vendor slot (desertartsupply@aol.com, 702-451-8040).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 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.

Ananaka Rau, SNGMS member and sister of Scott Edwards, died. SNGMS is accepting cash donations to help her family with expenses. Please contact Mary Beth Paladino to donate (702-255-1647).

Dave Ford has sore knees reportedly acquired while running away from girls. Lorri Syddall is in the hospital. Harvey Bergeron is feeling better. David Jenkins and Wendy Dresser’s husband are both back at work. Amber Palecek’s mother is feeling better.

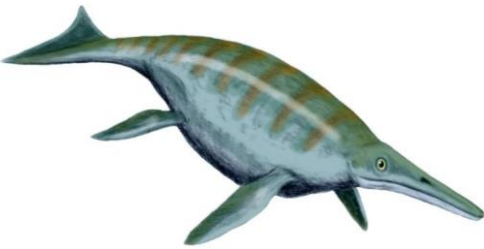
SNGMS Elections

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. Additionally, the 2025 Federation Director position is open.

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



Fossil Focus



Ichthyosaur
[wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ichthyosaur)

The August 2024 issue of *Desert Companion*, a magazine published by Nevada Public Radio, features an article about ichthyosaur fossils. Ichthyosaurs are extinct reptiles with fish-shaped bodies and enormous eyeballs. They swam in the warm shallow seas that covered Nevada during the Triassic period, 252-201 million years ago. The Nevada state fossil is an ichthyosaur. Check out the article for some great photos, a good discussion of ichthyosaur fossils in Nevada, and a description of an upcoming 2026 ichthyosaur exhibit at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. The exhibit is *Deep Time: Sea Dragons of Nevada*. It is scheduled to run from September 7, 2024 – January 11, 2026. For more information, see www.nevadaart.org/art/exhibitions/deep-time-sea-dragons-of-nevada.



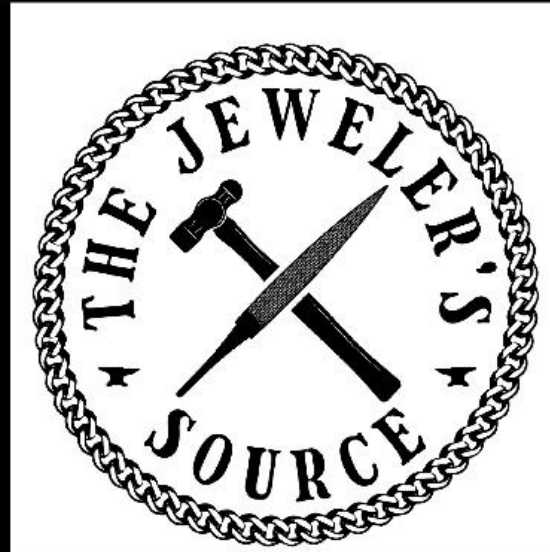
World Gem Art Gallery



Sonya Edwards
World Gem Art Gallery

Sonya Edwards, longtime SNGMS member, has opened World Gem Art Gallery! The gallery sells finished cabochons, faceted stones, lapidary slabs, crystals, and raw rock with a focus on stones from Africa. Finished jewelry, paintings, sculptures, textiles, and other objects d’art are also available. Check out the store, located at 3100 W. Sahara Ave, Suite 207, Las Vegas, NV 89128 (725-502-7237, www.worldgemart.com).





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 ³
Sep. 9	Sep. 9	August 11, 2024, 3 – 5 pm
Oct. 7	Oct. 7	September 7, 2024 FIELD TRIP
Nov. 4	Nov. 4	October 13, 2024, 3- 5 pm
Dec. 5	Dec. 8 – no general mtg, Awards Banquet	November 10, 2024, 3 – 5 pm

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

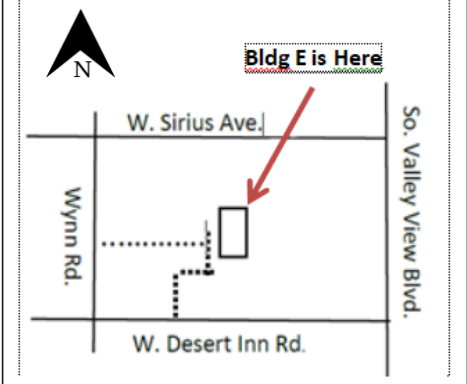
The SNGMS Lapidary Shop is located at:
 3111 South Valley View Blvd,
 Building E Shop Suite 125
 Las Vegas, NV 89102

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



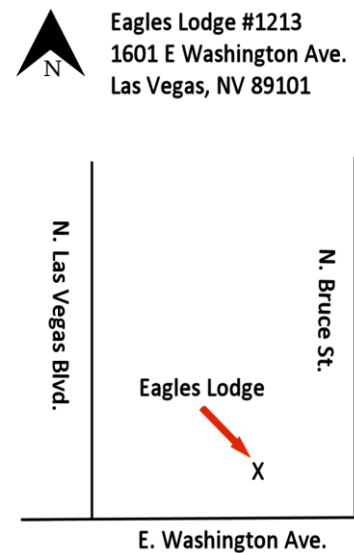
Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

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.

Location of the Eagles’ Lodge

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

Eagles Lodge Locator Map



**Back-Up Lapidary Shop Supervisor
 Volunteers Needed**
 Contact Chops Wenzl for details 702-378-2205



Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks

Gem and Mineral Display Cases

Adapted from <https://wheretofindrocks.com/best-practices-guide-to-gem-show-display-case-design/>

Creating a display for your local rock or gem show is a fun and creative way to share your love of fossils, rocks, crystals, and minerals with others. Anyone can throw some rocks in a case, but that doesn't make it worth looking at. So to begin, ask yourself why you want to put together a display case and your purpose for sharing your collection. The answer to these questions helps you create a visually appealing display.

The SNGMS is hosting displays at the *Viva Las Vegas Rocks!* show to be held at the Santa Fe Station Casino, November 1 – 3, 2024. SNGMS has cases members can use to create displays. You can download a pdf display case reservation form here:



<https://www.snvms.org/vivalasvegasrocks>



Fossiles Plus Display Case
2023 Tucson Gem Show

The **INSIDE** dimensions of the cases are: 45"W X 22"H X 22"D. They are LED lit. A limited number of cases are available. No personal locks will be required; all cases will be secured by SNGMS. The building will be secured and locked nightly and monitored by Santa Fe Casino security; however neither SNGMS nor their affiliates assume any responsibility for loss or damage.

The best displays use all 3 dimensions of a case; length, width, and height. To take advantage of the entire volume of a display case, risers, pedestals, and other display accessories are used. This helps give all items in a display equal visual importance, especially when the items are small or if there are a lot of them.

You can buy stands and risers or you can make your own from styrofoam, foam core, or cardboard. Purchased risers and pedestals are often clear, white or black, but DIY risers can be painted or covered with fabric to create a custom effect.



Display Case With Hexagonal Risers

Creative materials and mounts make your display stand out from other cases.

If you are displaying a case of white or clear specimens, a dark colored background material provides visual contrast. Generally, neutral or natural colors are preferred for backgrounds, stands, and other non-specimen display items. Creative use of color can enhance your display in some instances, but remember, "less is more."

Place large items in the back or on the sides of the display and alternate the spacing between rows to optimize viewing of each specimen. Well thought out placement within a display case gives a sense of balance.

Here's a display setup checklist:

- Double check the spelling and grammar on all labels and signs.
- Make sure dirt, dust, stains, or hair is removed from all fabric.
- Make sure all mounts are held firmly in place
- Do a practice set-up of your display case and see if all your items are clearly visible.
- Take a photo of your practice display to use as a reference for real display day.



<https://wildcat.arizona.edu/113021/arts/enthusiasm-and-larger-crowds-marked-the-2023-tucson-gem-mineral-show/>

Bring all tools and supplies you may need to set up your display case!



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	
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 September 2024 cabochon theme is “Ocean Blues.” **Good Luck!**

Ocean Blues Theme



<https://yonderconsulting.com/3-examples-blue-ocean-strategy/>



<https://www.color-meanings.com/why-is-the-ocean-blue/>



<https://www.pexels.com/search/blue%20ocean/>



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=58802943>



Left to right: Ron Mazz, 2nd place, entry 4; Bruce Martin, 2nd place, entry 3; Lloyd Chayette, 1st place, entry 5

Digging Through Time

The Clark County Gem Collectors (CCGC) is an ancestor of the SNGMS. The CCGC held their first gem and mineral show in 1949. It was opened by Nevada governor Vail Pittman and Las Vegas Mayor Ernie Cragin. About 4500 visitors attended.

The CCGC officially incorporated in 1950. Membership in the CCGC was not automatic. Potential members attended two meetings and two field trips, and submitted a membership application, which was approved by the existing members in order to join the CCGC. This arrangement died out over time, and anyone who could pay the dues was welcome to join 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.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



LINDA BALL, DAVID BARKER, RICHARD BAUGH, WILLIAM BOWER JR. , THERESA BROOKS, AVA CURLEY-WEEDA, KRISTINA DEPPE, QUINN DRESSER, MARCY EZELL, ADAM FLINK, KATHLEEN GREENE, JEFF GREENWOOD, JANA HASSETT, CHRIS HAYDEN, STEVE HOPKINS, CHRISTINE KRAWTZ, LOUIS LAFFIN, PAMELA LAUBY, GAIL LEHTINEN, NATASHA MATKIA-HAYES, THOMAS MCBRIDE, STEVEN MCCAOW, PATRICK MCLAREN, ROBERT A. MCLAUGHLIN, PRISCILLA MESSENGER, GEORGE MONREAL, MICHELLE MUNIZ, CATHERINE O'ROURKE, AARON POKORNEY, ANDRIA REICHEL, JASON RICHLIN, KRISTIN RILEY, JASON ROSSI, MARY SAVAGE, NICK SHARRER, SUSAN SHARRER, AARON RAY SIMPSON, JOANN SPROTT, PHYLLIS SYZDEK, PAUL TOVES, SOCORRO WALKER, GEORGE WALLACE, DEBBRA WEIBERT, GARET WIMMER, JAMIE YOSHIDA

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_nelson89@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, September 8, 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, October 13, 2024			
Sunday, November 10, 2024			

Speakers For 2024 General Meetings

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

Date	Speaker	Topic
Sep. 9, 2024	Mary Savage, SNGMS Member	SNGMS History: Rock Hound Tales and Colorful Characters
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
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 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.***



Lloyd Chayette and friends at the SNGMS lapidary shop



Kids Club at the College of Southern Nevada Planetarium July 2024

When you're part of the kids club, every joke is a gem 💎

Q: What do you call a rock that never goes to school?
A: A skipping stone.

Don't expect perfection from rockhounds. They all have their faults.

Q: Why did the miner stop digging?
A: She was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Q: What kind of rocks are sour?
A: Limestone.

Q: What did the rock say when it got to the bottom of the hill?
A: That's how I roll.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Shale.
Shale who?
Shale we have lunch?



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	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

Back-Up Lapidary Shop Supervisor Volunteers Needed

Contact Chops Wenzl for details 702-378-2205



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Lorrilee Chrestenson Stackhouse
Life Time Member

Lorrilee grew up in Bakersfield, California. She met her future husband, John Stackhouse when both of them were teenagers. John was in the Navy and the Stackhouses moved frequently. They lived all over the U.S., as well as Spain and Guam. Lorrilee attended University of Maryland's University College in Rota, Spain and earned a B.S. in Business Management .

While living in White Sands, Lorrilee took computer classes at New Mexico State University and discovered she loved programming. She was often the only woman in the class. Unusually for a Navy wife at the time, Lorrilee had a career. On Guam she worked for the Public Works Department managing inventory databases. In San Diego, she did more database work at Children's Hospital. With the exception of Children's Hospital, the pay for women was always less than for men. Lorrilee's favorite posting was New Mexico even though she found scorpions in her daughter's closet, and lots of snakes.

The Stackhouses retired to Las Vegas. They took a wood carving class at a senior center and met SNGMS members including Sue Dobson, and Mick and Joann Sprott. Lorrilee and John also joined SNGMS.

Lorrilee has served the SNGMS for many years, wearing several different hats. She edited The Polished Slab newsletter from 2010 to 2016; was the Membership chair from 2013 to 2014; taught polymer clay classes from 2012 to 2015; served as secretary on the SNGMS board of directors from 2012 to 2019, and again from 2022 to present (2024); and she was the SNGMS webmaster in 2017 and 2019, and again from 2020 to present (2024). Lorrilee has won many awards for the SNGMS web site.

She enjoys beading and wire wrapping. Her favorite beading technique is kumihimo to make braids and cords.



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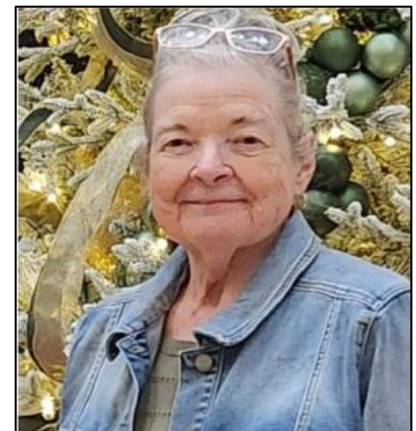
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HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT

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.





Lorrilee Stackhouse



Mineral Musings Seven Magic Mountains

Internationally famous artist Ugo Rondinone's Seven Magic Mountains is a large-scale art installation near Jean Dry Lake and Interstate 15, about ten miles south of Las Vegas, Nevada. It is seven towers of colorful, stacked boulders. Seven Magic Mountains is one of the largest land-based art installations in the United States completed in the last forty years.

The sculptures are each about 30 tall. They are inspired by hoodoos. The 33 boulders used in the sculptures were mined from the Apex Quarry (owned by Las Vegas Paving Corporation) northeast of Las Vegas. Each boulder weighs between 20,000 – 50,000 pounds. Las Vegas Paving employees used diamond saws to smooth and flatten the tops and bottoms of the stones. The shaped boulders are stacked on top of each other and are held together by 4-inch diameter steel rods. They are covered in two layers of Day-Glo paint. Day-Glo paint contains organic dyes diluted in resin. Fluorescence occurs when sunlight is absorbed by the dye, making the sculptures pop against the Mojave Desert background.

The project cost \$3.5 million and was sponsored by Aria Resort and Casino and International Game Technology. The exhibition opened May 11, 2016, and was originally scheduled to be on view for two years. Due to the incredible success of Seven Magic Mountains since its opening, the Bureau of Land Management granted a "site" type right-of-way permit for thirty years, so the sculpture should be on display for a long time.



Seven Magic Mountains Sculpture

Seven Magic Mountains is open. No reservations are necessary. To drive to Seven Magic Mountains from Las Vegas, follow I-15 south to Sloan Road (exit 25). Turn left (east) to Las Vegas Boulevard. Drive approximately 7 miles south on Las Vegas Boulevard, and the artwork will appear on your left (east). Seven Magic Mountains is hot during the summer months when temperatures are often above 100 degrees. Take plenty of water and snacks, along with sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. And of course, don't destroy the artwork by climbing on it, attempting to move it, or defacing it (it's a crime to do so!) Remember to Leave No Trace — pack it in, pack it out!



August 2024 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday August 12 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 August 19 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
Clock Class	Amber & Steve Palecek	August 24 – 25, 4 pm class limited to 8 people, reservation required	\$35 everything provided	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	702-343-7150
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.



Faceting Class



Beading Project for August 2024
Photo courtesy of Theresa Brooks



Left to right: Andy Gomez and Amber Palecek at silver smithing class



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.snvgs.org</p> <p>Membership is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing</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		
	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
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