

THE POLISHED SLAB



Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

January 2019

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 79 Issue 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 3rd - Board Mtg
Jan 7th - General Mtg
Jan 31st - Board Mtg
Feb 4th - General Mtg
Feb 28th - Board Mtg

See page 8 for details on scheduled classes and instructor contact information

SNGMS Contact : 702 561-3086

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all SNGMS Members:

Here it is a new year and I want to thank all our members for a great 2018. I really look forward to working with our Board, Committee Chairpersons and members in forging plans for 2019 and beyond. Just to mention a few things, we will have a new 18' slab saw in a couple of weeks, blades for the water saw and discs for the new flat lap and we'll be cleaning up Slab Saw "B" for auction. We're also working on schedules for field trips and gearing up for the Spring Jamboree show in May. We'll be looking for volunteers. Mary Beth has to be out for a couple of months and Caity Stackhouse is generously stepping in temporarily to host the Kids Club. Thank You Caity! Kerry "Choppers" Wenzl is our new Shop Forman. I know he has some great plans for the shop and will be looking for some help.

As you know, a bunch of the club members are heading down to Quartzsite, AZ to peek at a couple of rocks or two. Barbara and I won't be able to make the trip this year due to Barbara's knee surgery. It went well and she's on the road to recovery. We'll sure miss the trip but we're hoping everyone has a great time and good stories to tell when they get back.

Thanks and travel safely.

Bob Belcher, President, SNGMS, January 2019

SNGMS 2019 Board of Directors

President: Bob Belcher bbeccher75@gmail.com 702 210-961

Vice-President: Sheri Johnson sherisrocks89121@gmail.com 702 525-

0256

Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse lorrilee@cox.net

Treasurer: Bill Moore SNGMStreasurer@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Ananaka Rau aarau3@yahoo.com

One Year Board Remaining: Jason Fabbi jhfstones@yahoo.com

Two Year Board Remaining: Del Walkenshaw desertartsupply@aol.com

Three Year Board: Bruce Martin <u>brucemartinlv@yahoo.com</u>

One year Board: Peggy Sue Moore moorepeggysue@gmail.com

Field Trips & Events

Quartzsite, AZ: Quartzsite Gem and Mineral, January 2019

March 6-11, 2019: Burro Creek, AZ Field Trip. Camp grounds being reserved.

May 4th- 5th: Boulder City Spring Jamboree

October 2019, Fallon, NV area for agates, jaspers and wonderstone.

Bench Tips: Working With Ethiopian Opals - Rock & Gem Magazine (By Brad Rush)

In the past few years, Ethiopian Opal has become one of the most available and worked types of opal. It has brilliant colors, minimal fractures and produces much fewer problems trying to orient the patterns and colors. The colors and their patterns are generally prevalent throughout the piece, so it isn't difficult to orient these colors and shape the cab to retain the best pattern. The figure shows an early process involving grinding the perimeter until the stone is round.

Make the Most of Rough Material Selection

I decided to make a <u>Brazilian agate</u> piece with a center stone of rose quartz and three accent stones made with Ethiopian opal. Though the center stone was made from a piece of asteriated rose quartz from Auburn, California, the slice that I had wasn't thick enough to make a sphere that I could utilize in determining where the star was oriented.

Previously I have worked with Ethiopian opal to make cabs for rings. Typically, the material has some fractures, so selecting a fracture-free rough piece with a general dome shape can take some time. By being very selective in choosing the rough piece for color, shape, and defects you can get the best yield. Also, most of the rough has a coating of sandstone and some sandstone inclusions, so you need a strong backlight to highlight the amount of penetration of the sandstone. The light will also clearly reveal the depth and location of any fractures within the rough. Most dealers have a strong light you can use to evaluate the rough.

The next step was to grind the perimeter until the stone was round. I frequently checked the shape with a template. After it was rounded, I shaped the top to a dome shape.

Next came the changes. One of the characteristics of this opal is that it exhibits a condition called <u>hydro-phane</u>. In the distant past, the hydrophane effect meant that when the opal dried out the color disappeared, thus it must always be kept in water to see the colors. In the case of Ethiopian opal, the hydrophane effect has the opposite results. As it gets wet while being worked, the color slowly starts fading until the stone approaches near clarity.

This can be frightening if you are not aware of the opal losing its color. The color does restore itself after a few hours of being dry. Sellers of this opal always keep it dry where sellers of most other opals usually keep the rough wet so the colors show better.

Retaining Original Color

While working my stones, I had varying experiences with the colors. The stone that started with the brightest color had the least color loss while working it. The next brightest had a total loss of color. The final stone had a completely different change. It started out with only a green flash of color and it turned white during the cabbing process. I hadn't experienced this effect before. In comparing them together on the dop stick, these differences became evident.



(Continued on page 3)

SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 01/03/19

On January 3rd, 2019, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the November 29th, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported balances, that he will do ordering of equipment, and that the state filing has been done.

Membership reports that in December we had 481 adult and 56 child members, after purging members who had not renewed we have 246 adult and 22 child members.

Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Bruce Martin, and approved by the Board, that "we purchase needed parts to fashion a multi-stage filter and re-circulation system for one of the slab saws." This will be a test of the system and more will be added if it is satisfactory.

Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Bruce Martin, and approved by the Board, that "Del Walkenshaw be reimbursed for his purchase of a Pro Flow water cooling system to try on the small Flat Lap."

Calendar changes for holiday and Spring Jamboree conflicts were discussed and appropriate modifications will be made.

Sheri Johnson proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw, and approved by the Board, that "Up to \$700 be allowed for travel expenses for a SNGMS representative to attend the American Federation Show to advocate for bylaw revisions for out of bounds clubs."

Chair positions were discussed and confirmed for 2019.

Bruce Martin proposed, seconded by Sheri Johnson, and approved by the Board, that "up to \$300 be allowed for purchase of raffle table items at Quartzsite."

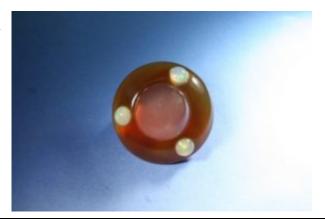
More tri-folds and business cards need to be ordered, and the internal audit needs to be scheduled by March.

Bruce Martin proposed, seconded by Ananaka Rau, and approved by the Board, that "the meeting be adjourned."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Bench Tips: Working With Ethiopian Opals: (By Brad Rush) (Continued from page 2)

Fortunately, all of the stones returned to their initial colors, though the green flash stone took considerably longer – about 36 hours - to get to that restored condition. With the restored colors the mounted stones look quite attractive.



Discounts Available with your SNGMS membership





All the establishments featured on page 4 offer discounts to SNGMS members. Be sure to show your membership card when making a purchase, and say that the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society sent you!



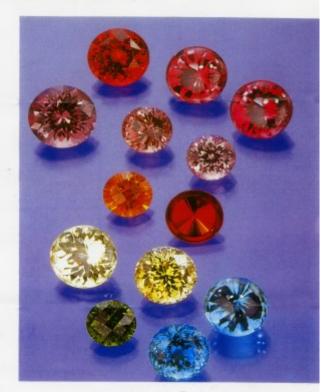
Just A Hobby

Jewelry Gemstones
App Only
Henderson
727-542-3144

GEMSTONES FOR SALE

RICHARD (727)542-3144

- TANZANITE
- SPESSARTINE
- . SPINEL
- AMETHYST
- GARNETS
- AMETRINE
- EMERALDS
- SAPPHIRES
- · RUBY
- CITRINE
- ----
- KUNZITE
- LAZURITE
- MOONSTONE
- ONYX
- SUNSTONE
- RHODOLITE
- TOPAZ
- ZIRCON
- . AND MANY MORE AVAILABLE......



17,000 Carats

SNGMS General meeting minutes for 1/7/2019

On January 7th, 2019, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the November 5th, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported account balances.

Committee Reports:

Membership: John Stackhouse reports 246 adult and 22 child members.

New Business:

Debbie Bucknam proposed, seconded by Ann Harris, and approved by the membership, that "up to \$370 be spent for 3,000 color trifolds."

Mario Luchetta proposed, seconded by Ann Harris, and approved by the membership, that "up to \$4,000 be spent for an 18" Highland Park slab saw to replace slab saw B."

Cliff Jackson proposed, seconded by Chops, and approved by the membership, that "up to \$1,380 be spent for four barrels of oil with shipping."

Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Cindy Allison, and approved by the membership, that "the Board discuss the 2019 club budget in the Board Meeting, and that the budget be published in the Polished Slab."

Cab contest winners: 1st place – Debbie Bucknam 2nd place – Bruce Martin

Pat Skeary will be taking over refreshments.

Barbara Belcher proposed, seconded by Chops, and approved by the membership, "that the meeting be adjourned." Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

<u>Birthstone for the Month of January is Garnet:</u> The word *garnet* comes from the 14th century word *gernet*, meaning 'dark red'. It is derived from the <u>Latin</u> *granatus*, from *granum* ('grain, seed'). This is possibly a reference the pomeranate, a plant whose fruits contain abundant and vivid red seed covers,

which are similar in shape, size, and color to some garnet crystals. For its magical properties, Garnet symbolizes constructiveness. Mystics believe it brightens dark souls and brings hope. Garnet is particularly good for Aries and Scorpio. Garnet species are found in many colors including red, orange, yellow, green, purple, brown, blue, black, pink, and colorless, with reddish shades most common. All species of garnets possess similar physical properties and crystal forms, but differ in chemical composition. The different species are pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular (varieties of which are hessonite or cinnamon-stone and tsavorite), uvarovite and andradite. The garnets make up two solid solution series: pyrope-almandine-spessartine and uvarovite-grossular-andradite.





SNGMS 2019 Meetings

Jan 03 Board Jul 01 General 07 General Aug 01 Board Jan 31 Board 05 General Feb 04 General Sep 05 Board 28 Board 09 General Mar 04 General Oct 03 Board 28 Board 07 General Apr 01 General 24 Board 25 Board Nov 04 General May 06 General 21 Board 30 Board Dec (Annual Jun 03 General Awards Banquet) 27 Board

Board Meetings at Shop, 3111 Valley View Blvd. Bldg. E. Suite 125, General Meetings at Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave.

SNGMS General Meeting

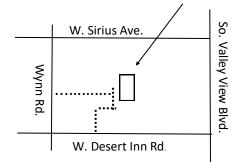
1st Monday of every month (2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

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: 702 561-3086

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

Photos of the Kids Club Painted Rocks & Christmas Party





Shop Talk: Brad's Bench Tips

STIFFENING EARRING POSTS

Soldering an earring post will always soften the wire a bit. The easiest way I've found to harden it is to grip it with pliers and twist it a couple half turns. This work hardens the wire and also tests your soldered joint.

SOLVENT DISPENSER

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like the bottle of an alcohol lamp or a nail polish bottle

that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes aren't too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents most frequently used. The bottles have a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip I don't spill a drop.

A Google search will turn up many suppliers. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at www.carolina.com The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 mL US\$ 5. They have several sizes and other bottles labeled for specific solvents.



Bench Tips for Jewelry http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06
More Bench Tips http://amzn.to/2KCygh4
Broom Casting http://amzn.to/1Z6hYws
Making Design Stamps http://amzn.to/2fvf58T
Accessories for Foredom http://amzn.to/2fwxuaT

Discover New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith



Classes

<u>Wire wrapping</u>, led by Peggy Sue Moore or Scott Edwards and Ananaka Rau, 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.

<u>Metal and Silver Smithing</u>, Scott Edwards and Ananaka Rau have changed the Metal & Silver smithing class from Saturday mornings to Tuesday evenings from 5 pm to 8 pm. The class is suitable for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. The shop is now opened Tuesdays from 1 pm to 5 pm for regular shop usage.

<u>Faceting classes.</u> Saturdays 9 am to 12 pm. Please contact Peggy Sue Moore <u>moorepeggysue@gmail.com</u>) 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)

Barbara Belcher just had knee surgery and we wish her a speedy recovery

Peggy Sue Moore is recovering from being under the weather.

Beth Jones is now fighting the bug that's going around.

Julie Hall will be having knee surgery this month.

We're very sad to hear Debbie Bucknam's sister just passed away.

SHOP INFORMATION

"New" SNGMS Workshop Schedule

SHOP HOURS

Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm **Monday Closed** Tuesday 1 pm to 4:30 pm Wednesday 12 pm to 9 pm Thursday 12 pm to 9 pm Friday 12 pm to 9 pm Saturday 12 pm to 6 pm



SHOP CLOSED:

- 2nd Sunday of every Month For Kids Club 2 pm to 5 pm
- Board Meeting: Various Thursday Nights 6 pm to Approx 7 pm
- Check Email and "Polished Slab" for possible date changes.



2019 Monthly Cabochon Contest: (National & State Parks)

Jan Denali

Feb Petrified Forest

Mar Fossil Butte

Apr Everglades

May Great Smokey Mountains

Red Rock Canyon Jun **National Mall** July

Grand Canyon Aug

Sep Yellowstone

Oct Redwoods

Nov Channel Islands

Dec (None - Awards Banquet)

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

Good Luck. Winners of the "Denali" Cabochon

1st Place: Debbie Bucknam



2nd Place: **Bruce Martin**







Shop Time

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!

January

Keith Allen, Rita Bergeron, Brian Blount, Nicholas Brooks, Simy Bryant, Anat Burda, Diane Burgess, Dana Coleman, John Crumpley, Lesley DeFalco, Kevin Donovan, Ali Ess-Haghabadi, Calvin Foos, Tiffani Foster-Carter, Brain Hagstrom, Patricia Hashimoto, Aston Herrera, Jon Herring, Dustin Hines, Kennedy Hymer, Dylan Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Qwynn Johnson, Leesa Kidwell, Bob Lofaro, Mario Luchetta, Ken McLeroy, Roy Mobley, Bill Moore, Andrea Packo, Samuel Pletcher, Kylee Rand, Linda Rusk, Susan Seely, Patricia Skeary, Inday Timbers, Jack Toogood, Alexa Tripp-Herring, Gary Tucker, Joann Whitley, Lisa Wiemers, Lucinda Wilson.

February

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

F.J. (Mike) Coache, Joel Combs, Thomas Farley, Reid Hernquist, Annabelle Jackson, Richard Johnson, Carol Kuykendall, Kerin Landry, Iain McGaw, Adam Q. Miller, Amanda Murphy, Melvin Nishiuchi, Beau Reyes, Kathleen Stenberg, H. Allen Stratton, James Walkenshaw, Kerry Wenzl, Ryan Young

Welcome New Members!

A hearty welcome to members who joined or rejoined SNGMS.

We look forward to getting to know you better

Laura Backus, Edie Fitzpatrick, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Olivia Hernquist, Reid Henquist, Rob Hernquist, Norm Keister, Johnny Law, Jordan Madley, Ruben Perales, Sharon Perales, Janelle Price, Kathleen Stenberg.

2019 Board of Directors

President: Bob Belcher 702 210-9612

bbeccher75@gmail.com

Vice-President: Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256

sherisrocks89121@gamil.com

Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse <u>lorrilee@cox.net</u>
Treasurer: Bill Moore <u>SNGMSTeasurer@gmail.com</u>

Parliamentarian: Ananaka Rau aarau3@yahoo.com

One Year Board Remaining: Jason Fabbi

jhfstones@yahoo.com

Two Year Board Remaining: Del Walkenshaw

desertartsupply@aol.com

Three Year Board: Bruce Martin

brucemartinlv@yahoow.com

One Year Board: Peggy Sue Moore

moorepeggysue@gmail.com

Committee Chairperson

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej

desertartsupply@aol.com

Communications......Del Walkenshaw sngmsnews@gmail.com

Federation.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256

Alt. Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore

Field Trip.....Peggy Sue Moore & Bill Wertz

Shop Foreman Kerry Wenzl

Historian.....Jack Toogood

Hospitality.....Deb Bucknam grandmadeb10@gmail.com

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 film4christ@gmail.com

Raffle.....Barbara Belcher & Kerry Wenzl

50-50 Raffle.....Orville and Lisa Wiemers

Refreshments..... Pat Skeary

Rock Stars......Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647

Show Chairperson......Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256

Sunshine.....Beth Jones <u>punkyjones@hotmail.com</u>

702-505-5819

Webmaster.....Sonya Edwards

SNGMS Contact: 702 561-3086

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

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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.

January 2019 Quartzsite, AZ Show

2019 Anthem Gem & Mineral Show: March 16th

-17th, Anthem, Az

May 4th—5th Boulder City Spring Jamboree

Some links that you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-

http://www.amfed.org

California Federation -

http://www.cfmsinc.org/

Rocky Mountain Federation -

http://www.rmfms.org

and the Rock & Gem website -

http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?

ShowState=ALL

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 \	Mron
CIUD	iviastut.	DOLK 1	/ / ! -

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

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