



# THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



May 2017

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 77 Issue 5

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun 1st - Board Mtg
- Jun 5th - General Mtg
- Jun 29th - Board Mtg

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*From Wayne Muth*

To all SNMGM Members:

Thank you for your participation in the Boulder City Jamboree, it was a success. We signed up new members, and we are getting more. It was a fun event, and as always, the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce was great in helping us out. Cliff Jackson will be hosting a field trip on June 3rd for Fluorescent Rocks, and there is an email out with the information.

Going into the Summer months, we will be trying to host our events in cooler venues, and we are working on some of this now.

As always my plea, I need volunteers. With Beth being injured in an accident, and healing well, she has not been able to help me in the shop, and that is taking much of my time. Also, Ron Johnson is busy working, and I am also trying to keep up with this. I am also going to help Frank Timbers with the accounting. He is overwhelmed with the amount of work that needs to be done, and like us all has a personal life to take care of. I could use someone to help Frank with the accounting, and help him keep organized. I could use someone to help Frank with the accounting, and help him keep organized so I can concentrate on other items.

I need a volunteer to handle field trips, I can do the one at UTE, but the balance of the year I will need coordinators for these trips. Obviously I do not want to not have field trips, but I cannot handle them all, but it could happen if we do not have volunteers to head these.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

I need more shop supervisors to help Ron. This summer with people going on vacation and needing personal time for themselves, we will need to fill some dates. If we have to, we will have to cut hours at the shop, or close an additional day until these vacancies are filled.

Sometimes a little help takes off the edge with these responsibilities for the people that are volunteering for the shop, and Ron who is not only on the Board, but is Shop Foreman could cut out a few shifts.

As always I want to thank those that do volunteer, and to let them know how much is appreciated of their services.

Wayne Muth

May 2017

## Field Trips

**Saturday May 20th** for a field trip to UTE Nevada for petrified wood. We will meet at the Indian Reservation Gas Station at 8:00 am and leave from there at 8:30 am. We should be at the site by 9:15 am. You will need a high profile 4 Wheel drive vehicle. There are rocky parts, and then soft sand. Provide you own water, sodas, and lunch.

**February 2018:** Peggy Sue Moore will be coordinating a multi-day trip to Burro Creek, Az in concert with Jodi Brewster, the President of the Gila County Gem And Mineral Society and the newly elected Arizona/ Nevada Director for RMFMS.



## SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 4/27/2017

On April 27th, 2017, 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.

There were no minutes for the March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting as it was cancelled.

The treasurer reported that no reports were available due to computer problems, but that they would be available at the General Meeting.

**Shop Report:** The replacement 18" saw blade arrived, but it was a 30" blade that will have to be exchanged.

John Stackhouse proposed, seconded by Frank Timbers, and approved by the Board that "a DVD be purchased on making cabs, not to exceed \$25.00, and shop patrons be required to watch it." Training for patrons on use of the equipment and use of qualification cards were discussed.

Scott Edwards proposed, seconded by John Stackhouse, and approved by the Board, that "new wheels be purchased for the Cab Kings, not to exceed \$1,000.00."

Need for a new blade for the turquoise/opal saw was discussed.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The faceting machine was received back from Graves.

### **New Business:**

Restrictions on using gift cards or cash by non-profit groups was discussed.

An updated first aid kit needs to be purchased

Frank Timbers proposed, seconded by Ron Johnson, and approved by the Board, that "the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.



# Come Early!

Be sure to come early on General Meeting nights, because between 5 and 6 PM many of our talented members exhibit their works for your admiration and possible purchase. Cabochons, beadwork, silversmithed and wire wrapped jewelry, rock slabs, unfinished stones, and more are usually available. It is a good time to chat with other members and catch up on their latest creations.



*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!

Website: [discountbeadslv.com](http://discountbeadslv.com)

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## SNGMS General Meeting minutes for 5/1/2017

On May 1st, 2017, 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 April 3rd, 2017 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer gave his report: The net income for April was positive.

### Committee Reports:

Sunshine: Bill Lemon's surgery is scheduled, Beth Jones was doing better and was at the meeting, and Roy Mobley was in the hospital but was also at the meeting. Mary Chayette passed away and there will be a memory celebration later in the summer.

Shop: We are purchasing a video on cab making that shop patrons will be required to watch. Certification cards will be reinstated to document training on equipment.

Beth Jones proposed, seconded by Ananaka Rau that, "up to \$1,500.00 be spent purchasing replacement wheels and other needed supplies for the shop."

Membership: There are 338 adult and 50 child members.

Federation and Show: May 6-7 is the SNGMS show in Boulder City. The shop will be closed on these days. Cindy Allison discussed the Jamboree schedule. Thanks to Del Walkenshaw for donating a gift certificate to Desert Art Supply as the prize for the member with the most volunteer hours supporting the Jamboree event.

Field Trip: A field trip to Ute led by Wayne Muth is planned for May 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Unfinished Business:

### New Business:

The best cab contest winner was Johnny Miller. Second place was Bruce Martin.

Bill Moore proposed, seconded by Ann Harris, and approved by the membership that, "the meeting be adjourned."

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

## Shop Talk (Waterglass (Sodium Silicate) ( part 2)

(Del Walkenshaw, 702 451-8040 ext4, desertartsupply@aol.com)

With the Boulder City Spring Jamboree and business activities I haven't had a chance to experiment any further with the Waterglass technique. But Kell Hymer kindly emailed me the following link,

<https://www.mindat.org/article.php/1129/Methods+to+Stabilize+Material+for+Cutting>, ( Methods to Stabilize Material for Cutting,: By Jamey Swisher ). I've extacted the portion on Waterglass and is repeated on page 7. ***Of course use extreme caution when using any Chemicals***

**SNGMS 2017 Meetings**

Jan 05 Board	Jul 03 General
09 General	Aug 03 Board
Feb 02 Board	07 General
06 General	Sep 07 Board
Mar 02 Board	11 General
06 General	28 Board
30 Board	Oct 02 General
Apr 03 General	Nov 02 Board
27 Board	06 General
May 01 General	Dec None
Jun 01 Board	Annual Awards
05 General	Banquet
29 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**

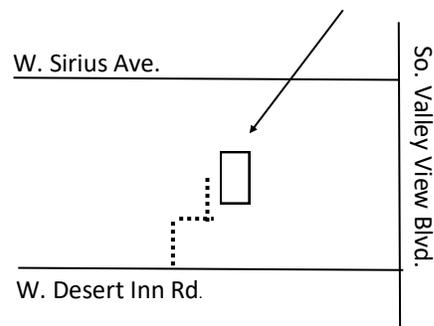
1st Monday of every month  
(2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

**Non-members welcome!**

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

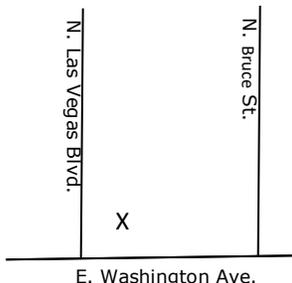
Show & Sell 5-6 PM  
General Meeting 6-8 PM

**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



**Finding the General Meeting Location**

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

**KIDS CLUB / EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

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



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3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125  
Las Vegas, NV 89102



(continued from Pg 5)

## Shop Talk (*Waterglass (Sodium Silicate)*) ( part 2)

Extracted from an Article by Jamey Swisher: **Methods to Stabilize Material for Cutting**

The other method would be to use Water Glass. I do not remember where I got this method and have not tried it yet, but it was highly recommended. If I can find the source I will add in proper credit for this.

Here's the general procedure that seems to be working now. It's not as involved as it may seem at first glance, and gets easier with practice.

1) Clean slabs (or rough less than 1" thick) in a solution of hot water and trisodium phosphate (available in most paint departments for wall cleaning) prepared in the concentration specified for grease removal. I let them soak overnight. This may cause some slight color change - deeper blues and greens on chrysocolla and turquoise. Rinse slabs thoroughly and allow to air-dry.

2) For this step, you need a shallow, lidded stainless steel (not iron or aluminum) pot or pan and a means of holding temperature at around 180 F, substantially below boiling. I found a thrift store electric buffet warming plate which worked nicely. The stabilizing formula is based on sodium silicate solution with a weight ratio of around 3.2 (available at [http://www.chemistrystore.com/sodium\\_silicate.htm](http://www.chemistrystore.com/sodium_silicate.htm) and other similar sources). Read the MSDS! This solution is caustic, and you should wear eye and skin protection to handle it. Spray the pot lid edge with PAM or other cooking spray to keep it from adhering to the pot. Clean up drips and used utensils immediately with warm water. If the solution gets on fabric, rinse and wash it before the silicate dries.

3) Now, this is where things get a little weird... it takes a combination of very low activity organic acid and alkali mineral salts (carbonates, phosphates and sulfates of calcium, potassium, etc.) to get the silicate to polymerize in a non-water-soluble form, e.g. as agate. Though this can be done with very concentrated mineral water (about 1 gallon boiled down to 1 cup) and aspirin or citric acid, I found the easiest and cheapest way to do this was with Emer-Gen-C Lite mineral supplement packets. \*\*\*It's important to get the Lite sugar-free version --- sugar or fructose will oxidize and may discolor the stones.\*\*\* Dissolve one packet of Emer-gen-C in 1 cup (approx. 250 ml) of water and allow the fizzing to disperse. Add this solution to 8 oz. of sodium silicate in the stainless steel pot and stir to mix. For stones with very fine porosities or hairline cracks, add about 1 teaspoon of liquid dish soap to reduce the viscosity of the solution.

4) Submerge the slabs in silicate solution in a single layer. Stacked slabs may stick together. Cover and let stand on the heat source for at least 24 hours. Longer cooking won't hurt... I've left some material in for up to 4 days. [For very thick material, a pressure cooker has been suggested, but the risks of silicate splash clogging the vent mechanism are too great for my peace of mind.] Remove the slabs and set them on a spray-greased baking rack over newspaper. Allow the slabs to drip dry. The dried slabs are safe to handle bare-handed, and can be gently pried off the rack if they stick. A word of caution --- dried silicate can be as sharp as glass!

5) Place the dry slabs on a cookie sheet and set in a cold oven. Turn the oven to "warm" and leave it on overnight. Turn the oven off and allow the stones to cool to room temperature with the door closed. The slabs should look shiny and any deep cracks will be partially filled. Porous stones should feel noticeably heavier after this treatment. At this point, you can re-clean the stone and "paint" silicate formula to fill larger cracks and voids. Repeat the drying and baking processes to set the added silicate.

The whole cleaning, soaking, drying and baking process can be repeated as many times as you feel necessary. There may be some brownish surface discoloration on the stone, but this comes off with polishing.

Silicate solution can be reused multiple times, adding a little water to replenish the volume. The solution may have some precipitated white silica gel and will turn tea-colored. When a thick layer of silica gel has precipitated and the solution seems thin, treat it by pouring out on about a pound of scoopable cat litter, allowing the litter to dry, then discarding it in regular trash. Don't pour it down the sink.

I've tried to explain in as much detail as I've gleaned from a half dozen or so different trials. So far, it's worked on slabs and rough of many different jaspers, chrysocolla, turquoise, Laguna, Botswana, plume and moss agates, Koroit opal, petrified woods and fossil coral.

Hope this helps.

## Classes

Wire wrapping, led by Peggy Sue Moore or Scott Edwards , 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.

**Monday, May 15th: Classic Cabochon**, 30mm x 40 mm Cabochon, 21 ga square wire, 21 ga half-round wire, Optional: Beads for the top.

**Monday, May 22nd: Bow Tie Bracelet**, 4mm bicones or beads MAKE SURE THEY FIT ONTO 21 Gauge Wire, 21 ga square wire. 21 or 18 ga half-round wire.

At this time there are no beading classes scheduled.

Silver Smithing meets every Tuesday at 5 PM, with Sunny Green leading the class. This class is suitable for beginners, and also for intermediate to advanced students. .

Faceting classes are continuing on Sunday morning from 8 - Noon and are open to new students at this time. Please contact Sue Moore in advance to see if a machine is available. If you use club machines they are \$5 an hour, no class fee.

Scott Edwards is teaching Metalsmithing and Miscellaneous Lapidary Arts every Saturday from 8-10 .

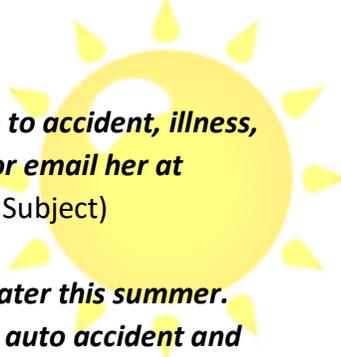
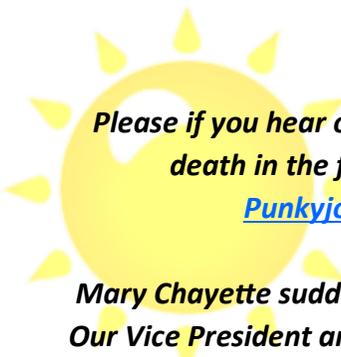
Another knapping session will be organized. Watch for the announcement. The contact is Michael Kisner, (702) 285-2032.

***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 is \$5.00 an hour, the cost of faceting machine use, or a flat \$5.00 if you use your own machine. 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](mailto:Punkyjones@hotmail.com) (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)***

***Mary Chayette suddenly passed away, a memory celebration will be held later this summer. Our Vice President and Sunshine Chair, Beth Jones, is doing better after the auto accident and was able to attend this month's General Meeting and also visit the Boulder City's Spring Jamboree. Bill Lemmon is scheduled for heart surgery and will be facing a lengthy recovery. Our heart felt wishes also go out to Lynn Mathey who is home recovering from a stroke. Roy Mobley was also in the hospital but attended the monthly meeting.***

# SHOP INFORMATION

## SNGMS Workshop Schedule

Sunday	12 noon –5 PM
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12 noon - 9 PM
Thursday	12 noon –9 PM
Friday	12 noon - 9 PM
Saturday	10 am – 6 PM



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse

### Shop Fee

All equipment is now metered and charge will be: \$0.50 per 1/10 hour actual use.

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



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!

## May

Wes Bryant, Pat Bunting, Karl Camp, Katrina Chayette, Carol Corden, David Cummings, Brittany Dean, Kevin Dude, Linda Erwin, Charlie Flowers, Anthony Gelish, Michayle Hales, Keil Hymer, Jeffery A. Justice, Micheal Kisner, Scott Klepzig, Clayton Lewis, Maria Lewis, Ron Liccardo, Blake Mackie, Barb Maz, Ron Mazz, Ardis Melklicjohn, Beverlee Newcomb, Nelson Nishida, Dave Oscarson, Marina Pitina, George Poltronieri, Gualberto Rodriguez, Chrystal Schmuck, David Seidner, Mary Skaarup, Rachel Smith, Carol Wilhems, Karl Workman, Linda Wright.

## June

***If you have a May birthday please bring something for the refreshment table at the June meeting.***

Frank Auerswald, Sr., Bonnie Brown, Roberto Calvera, John Cox, Claudia Crouse, Virginia Hales, Bill Hildebrandt, Holly Jaacks, Margaret Johnson, Sheri Johnson, Jeffery J. Justice, Michael Kirk, Bill Lemmon, Mark Leppert, Margaret Mahler, Chase Martin, Linda Martin, Livyana Muniz, Morgana Muniz, Monte Murphy, Wayne Muth, Craig Norman, Naomi Nozoe, Mary Beth Paladino, Jacob Rand, Keenan Rayford, John Sauer, Gail Seidner, Chad Smith, Jaine Soto, Jayda Sumner, Jim Switalla, Gail Wisniewski, Vincent Zebrowski.

# Welcome New Members!

***A hearty welcome to members who joined or rejoined SNGMS .  
We look forward to getting to know you better***

Ellen Adan Barnbaum, Chanelle Carson-Selman, Jeffery A, Cuneo, Chris Devin, Donald Evans, Edie Fitzpatrick, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Thomas Gergits, Lee Klassy, Sadie Laub, Patricia Martin, Mark Martin, Esean Morris, Julian Smith, Khloie Smith, Barbara Thomas.

## **2017 Board of Directors**

President: Wayne Muth [rimwayno@outlook.com](mailto:rimwayno@outlook.com)  
 Vice-President: Beth Jones [punkyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:punkyjones@hotmail.com)  
 Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse 702-631-5291  
 Treasurer: Frank Timbers 702-228-0889  
[ftimbers@centurylink.net](mailto:ftimbers@centurylink.net)  
 One year Board: Ron Johnson  
 Parliamentarian: Scott Edwards  
 One Year Board Remaining: Steve Wilson  
 Two Year Board Remaining: John Stackhouse  
 Three Year Board: Jason Fabbi  
[jjnevada@outlook.com](mailto:jjnevada@outlook.com)  
 Past President/One Year Board: Peggy Sue Moore

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

## **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.*

## **Committee Chairmen**

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej  
[desertartsupply@aol.com](mailto:desertartsupply@aol.com)  
 ByLaws.....Scott Edwards  
 Communications.....Toni Blackwell [sngmsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sngmsnews@gmail.com)  
 Education.....Mary Beth Paladino  
 Federation.....Sheri Johnson  
 Alt. Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore  
 Field Trip.....open  
 Financial Manager.....George Messenger  
 Shop Foreman .....Ron Johnson  
 Historian.....Jack Toogood  
 Hospitality.....Corinne Silvia  
 Inventory.....Frank Timbers  
 Librarian.....Caity Stackhouse  
[mynameiscaity@gmail.com](mailto:mynameiscaity@gmail.com)  
 Membership.....John Stackhouse 702-239-0437  
 New Member Liaison... Open  
 Program.....Cindy Allison  
 Publicity.....Scott Edwards  
 Raffle.....Rimma Muth  
 50-50 Raffle.....Orville and Lisa Weimers  
 Refreshments.....Rita Bergeron  
 Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647  
 Rock Hounds  
 Show Chairperson.....Sheri Johnson  
 Sunshine.....Beth Jones  
 Webmaster.....Jack Toogood.....702-642-4788

At the last General Meeting, we set up the Date of **Saturday May 20th** for a field trip to UTE Nevada. We will meet at the Indian Reservation Gas Station at 8:00 am and leave from there at 8:30 am. We should be at the site by 9:15 am. You will need a high profile 4 Wheel drive vehicle. There are rocky parts, and then soft sand. Provide you own water, sodas, and lunch.

Also I have added on **Saturday May 13th**, a Rock Swap Meeting at the Shop. We will start at 11 am to 1 pm. You can come early and we will be cooking Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. Side dishes will be appreciated. This is for members and their families, and it is to look at rocks, swap and and if you have not been to the shop, a great time to browse around.

More information will be forth coming.

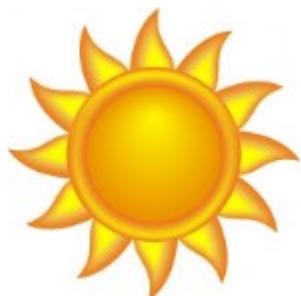
***Some links that you may find helpful are:***

**California Federation -**  
<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>  
**Rocky Mountain Federation -**  
<http://www.rmfmts.org>

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

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

**Return Service Requested**



**ROCKS-R-US**

[www.snvgms.org](http://www.snvgms.org)

The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit corporation, organized to educate ourselves and the community in the science and arts related to rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and nature in general. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the physical world, we can use it and protect it for future generations.

**Club Mascot:** Rock Wren

**Club Gemstone:** Turquoise

**Club Logo:** Rocks-R-U's

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

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

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

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

**POLISHED SLAB  
 ADVERTISING RATES**

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