



March 2024

THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940



VOLUME 84 ISSUE 3

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 28, 2024 - Board Mtg
April 1, 2024 – Genl Mtg

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Many thanks to Sue Dobson for providing back issues of the Polished Slab from the 2010s for SNGMS archives. See page 4 for issues we are still missing

Inside This Issue

Field Trips & Events	2
Board Meeting Minutes	3
General Meeting Minutes	4
Sunshine Rpt & Rock Spotlight	5
Corporate Sponsors	6, 13
Meeting Dates, Shop Hours, & Maps	7
Studio Tips & Tricks	8
Cabochon Contests, UNLV Steffire Collection	9
Birthdays, New Members Welcome, Digging Thru Time, Speakers	10
Kids Club Activities	11
SNGMS Volunteer Staff	12
Mineral Musings	14
Class Schedules, UNLV Message	15
Polished Slab Advertising Rates	16

Hi Everyone,

I hope all of you are enjoying this fantastic weather. It makes me want to play hooky and just go looking for rocks every day.

Our last meeting had a fantastic presentation from Eric Cefani on taking rough rocks to finished jewelry. He and his partners had many techniques and success secrets to share.

I also presented our lease renewal options for the lapidary shop. The landlord asked for a 50% increase and we briefly considered whether closing the shop might be an option. It was quickly decided NOT to close it. The members voted to let Orville Wiemers (SNGMS Vice President), David Ford (SNGMS Treasurer), and I try to get the best rate for the club. Negotiations are ongoing and we'll let you know the results.

The parking lot sale was again a good time. We hope you were able to attend.

If you may be interested in volunteering for either the Jamboree or the Viva shows, please contact me, since I'll be coordinating the volunteers. Booths for the Jamboree are sold out. Booths for the Viva show will be available shortly. Watch your email.

See you on the rocks!!

Andrea Packo
SNGMS President



Nick Barnes
at the Parking Lot Sale



Left to right:
Sara and Jonathan Tredwell,
Ken Bucknam, Claudia Crouse
at the Parking Lot Sale



2024 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Silent Auction and Inventory Shop	March 18, 2024, 10 am – 2 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Stalactite/Stalagmite Calcite	March 16-17, 2024	Kokoweef, CA
SNGMS Rock Swap and BBQ	April 14, 2024, noon – 3 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Chrysocolla	April, 2024	Goodsprings, NV
Fluorite Pay to Dig, \$200 for 150 lb	May 25 – 27, 2024	Austin, NV ³
Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies Show	October 2024	Oklahoma City, OK
Marine Fossils Pay to Dig	To Be Scheduled	Ernst Quarry, Kern County, CA

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (jbtredwell@gmail.com)
- 2) Please bring a side dish to share. Burgers provided.
- 3) Email Jonathan Tredwell to reserve your spot and your preferred days (jbtredwell@gmail.com)

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



Bitter Spring, Nevada Field Trip
 February, 2024
 Happy Hounds,
 left to right:
 Sara and Jonathan Tredwell,
 Amber and Steve Palecek
 Photos courtesy of
 Stella Andrecheck

**SOUTHERN NEVADA
 GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

**GEM AND
 MINERAL
 SHOW** First Weekend
 in May
 BOULDER CITY, NV

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 9am - 4pm

Rock and Mineral Displays
 Gems, Jewelry & Crafts Sale
 Great Activities For Kids
 Dinosaur Pics & Sellies
 Geode Cutting

First Weekend in May





900 Arizona Street, Boulder City, NV
 Inside the Parks & Recreation Gymnasium
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

 **Joshua Tree
 GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

Gemstones
Equipment
WEDS. - SAT. 9 to 5

Slabs
Cabochons
SUNDAY 9 to 4

Crystals

JOSHUA TREE LAKE RV & CAMPGROUND
 2601 SUNFAIR ROAD, JOSHUA TREE

Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed

Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 2/26/2024

On February 29th 2024, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Shop at 4:00 PM by the President. All Board members except the 3 Year Board were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

Treasurers Report: Balance of checking account is \$27,257 and is staying stable, The investments balance is \$124,152.

Shop Report: All equipment is up and running. Back storage room has been cleared and restocked thanks to volunteers.

Unfinished Business: Wayne Muth reports that he is coordinating with “Chops” Wenzl and Del Walkenshaw on new lease and details (including access) of the Brinks alarm system.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 1st 2024 meeting were approved as read.

New Business: The Tulip City club of Holland City, Michigan has proposed that our club members join with them and other clubs to swap rocks from our own areas.

SNGMS will have a Rock Swap on Sunday, April 14th at the Shop. Wayne Muth proposed, seconded by Orville Wiemers, and approved by the Board that, “up to \$200 be spent for the Rock Swap food budget.”

Del Walkenshaw showed one of the new banners that were purchased for shows. He reported that the parking lot sale spots are all taken. The Spring Jamboree Uhaul contract is being finalized.

President Andrea Packo, Vice-President Orville Wiemers, and One-Year Board Member Del Walkenshaw presented their research and summarized meetings with the lapidary shop landlord about the lease of our shop facilities. The lease expires at the end of March. The Board discussed all identified actions and were in agreement on their recommendation for the Membership. Del Walkenshaw proposed, seconded by Orville Wiemers, and passed by the Boar, that “The Board recommends a 5 year lease at the current location, securing as good a deal as possible with the landlord.” This will be presented at the General Meeting.

Orville Wiemers proposed, seconded by Bruce Martin, and approved by the Board, that “the possibility of purchasing or building our own shop property be investigated.”

Debbie Bucknam, Scholarship Chair, reported that the applicant list will be available after April 15th and the scholarship recipients will be presented at the June General Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.

Address Updates, Please

SNGMS sends new membership cards to the address we have on file. Recently a large number of membership cards, sent to addresses on file, have been returned. This adds postage costs and personnel time.

Please update your address if you move. An email to ccrouse295@gmail.com will take care of it. Thanks!

Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed

Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 3/4/2024

On March 4th, 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 February 5, 2024 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: The checking balance as of end of Feb was \$27,257. The Brokerage account balance was \$124,145. There was essentially no change from January. SNGMS received a \$1,000 grant from an anonymous donor. Four volunteers are needed to conduct an internal audit this month.

Membership: Claudia Crouse reports that the membership is 452 adults and 65 kids.

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities, thanking all who attended the trilobite field trip. The next meeting will feature a talk and display by Cliff Jackson on his specialty, fluorescent minerals. The kids will make their own fluorescent crystals. In conjunction with the Eagles, the Kid's Club will have an egg hunt. We appreciate any donations of small items for the egg hunt or the Spring Jamboree prize wheel.

Show Report: The Spring Jamboree vendor slots are all taken. The Viva Las Vegas Show planning continues. The venue was evaluated and will be configured for more booths this year.

Shop Report: "Chops" Wenzl reported that all equipment is up and running. Chops thanked everyone who participated in the Shop closet clean out. Donation of items for the Awards Banquet Auction are needed.

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

Cabochon Contest: The cabochon contest theme was Spring Flowers. First place was Joel Coombs. Second place was Lloyd Chayette. The April 2024 theme will be Storm Clouds.

New Business: President Andrea Packo, Vice-President Orville Wiemers, and One-Year Board Member Del Walkenshaw presented their research and meeting summaries with the lapidary shop building landlord about the lease of our shop facilities. The lease expires at the end of March. The Board recommends a 5 year lease at the current location, securing as good a deal as possible with the landlord. After discussion, Bruce Martin, seconded by Wendy Dresser, and approved by the Membership, proposed that, "The Board secure a 5 year lease of Shop facilities at the current location, securing as good a deal as possible."

Jonathan Tredwell discussed upcoming Field Trips. See the Slab and emails for details. Classes were discussed, see emails and Slab for details.

A Rock Swap and BBQ is scheduled for April 14th at the lapidary shop.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

BACK ISSUES OF THE POLISHED SLAB WANTED (hard copy or digital)

The SNGMS archives are missing some back issues of the Polished Slab newsletter. If you have copies you are willing to donate to SNGMS or that you can loan to be scanned, please contact Mary Savage (lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com). The missing time frames are:

October 2021	2008 - 2009	1989-2000	1984-1968	Pre 1967
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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.

Donald Dresser has been ill. David Jenkins is having cancer treatments. Glenn Hale is ill. Ann Harris has some broken bones. The Bergerons are both ill. Gail Wisniewski hurt her arm. Surgery is scheduled for Amber Palecek's mom. School graduation season is coming ...

Rock Spotlight: Rhyolite

Excerpted from

www.alexstrekeisen.it/english/vulc/rhyolite.php

<https://geology.com/rocks/rhyolite.shtml>



Rhyolite Sample

<https://geology.com/rocks/rhyolite.shtml>

Rhyolite is a type of rock that was named in 1860 by Baron von Richthofen, the grandfather of a famous WWI German aviator. It's based on the Greek word for "stream of lava." Rhyolite is a volcanic rock with a high silica content. It's usually gray or pink with grains so small they're hard to see without a magnifying glass. Tuff and pumice are forms of rhyolite. Rhyolite is created when magma from a volcano comes up to the surface on land. It doesn't usually form during eruptions in the ocean.

Rhyolites are responsible for violent volcanic eruptions. When rhyolite volcanoes erupt, they can be pretty explosive. The magma is so thick and sticky that it doesn't flow like a river of lava. Instead, it explodes out of the volcano. Rhyolite eruptions have happened all over the world, but there have only been a few since the 1900s:

the St. Andrew Strait volcano in Papua New Guinea (1953-1957), the Novarupta volcano in Alaska (1912), and Chaitén in Chile (2008). Active volcanoes in Iceland, Yellowstone in the United States, and Tambora in Indonesia are capable of producing rhyolite. There is a lot of rhyolite in the Newberry Mountains in Clark County, Nevada.



**Rhyolite from Seho Mountain
Fallon, Nevada**

www.mindat.org/min-48451.html

Gasses trapped in the lava that forms rhyolite often cause small, empty cavities (vugs). Later, when groundwater flows through the cavities, minerals can be deposited in the vugs. The vugs can become lined with crystals or opal. Some of the world's best deposits of red beryl, topaz, agate, jasper, and opal formed in rhyolite. Gem hunters are always on the lookout for vuggy rhyolite!



Train Depot, Rhyolite, Nevada

www.wikipedia.com

Rhyolite isn't the best for construction or making things because it has a lot of cracks and can vary in quality, but it can be used for crushed stone if there aren't better local options. People have used rhyolite to make stone tools and arrowheads, probably because it was available, and not because it was the best material.

There's a ghost town in Nye County, Nevada named Rhyolite. It's about 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas, near the eastern boundary of Death Valley National Park. The town was named for the area's unique volcanic rock. Established in 1904 during a gold mining boom, it was briefly the third largest city in Nevada. Today, it's one of the most popular and most photographed ghost towns in Nevada.

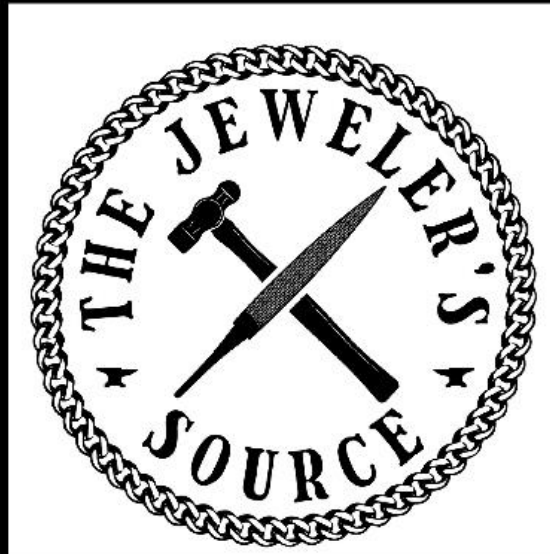
SNGMS members are invited to the **UNLV GeoSymposium** to share recent research in geology and environmental sciences.

Dates: April 26-27, 2024 (Friday and Saturday) **Time:** 8:30 am to 6:00 pm **Location:** UNLV Science & Engineering Building

A description of the event and registration (on the left side of the page) information is available at

<https://geoscience.unlv.edu/geosymposium>





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
Mar. 28	Apr. 1	See page 11 Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)
May 2	May 6	
May 30	Jun. 3	
Jun. 27	Jul. 1	
Aug. 1	Aug. 5	
Sep. 5	Sep. 9	
Oct. 3	Oct. 7	
Oct. 31	Nov. 4	
Dec. 5	Dec. – no general mtg, Awards Banquet	

- 1) Location and time announced via email
- 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.*



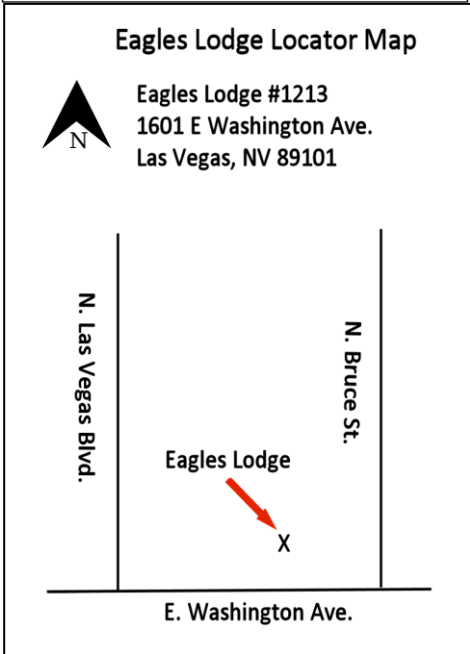
Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

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

Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed
 Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)



Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks

Backing Cabochons

Excerpted from www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnAB3GbN8lg
www.instructables.com/How-to-Back-Turquoise-for-Jewelry

Why add a backing to a cabochon? The backing strengthens the piece for grinding, it helps level uneven cabs, and it raises thin cabs so they sit higher in a jewelry setting. Plus, backing acts as a shock absorber if you accidentally bang the stone on something. For transparent stones, a backing can add color.

When a stone is backed, it's called a doublet. Opal doublets are very common. Occasionally a clear top of quartz is added to protect or finish off the cabochon. When a top is added, it's called a triplet.

Lots of materials can be used to back a stone, including:

- black chalcedony or basanite
- Plastic, or vinyl records
- Two-part epoxy.

This article focuses on creating a backing with two-part epoxy. Many kinds of epoxy are appropriate including JB Weld, Apoxie Sculpt, Devcon Plastic Steel, Devcon Liquid Bronze, etc. Work in a well-ventilated area.

Equipment and Supplies for the Backing:

- Aluminum foil
- Disposable plastic knife or a wooden popsicle stick
- Small disposable paper plate
- Two part epoxy (JB Weld is popular and available at hardware stores)
- Masking tape, optional, see Step 5
- Disposable nitrile gloves to keep the epoxy off your hands

To back a stone, follow these steps:

- 1) Pre-form your slab OR cut and polish your cabochon. For a cabochon, do not polish the bottom; finish the bottom with a 400 grit wheel or sandpaper to help the epoxy b stick to the stone. Wash and dry the stone to clean it.
- 2) Place a sheet of aluminum foil on your workbench.
- 3) Put on the nitrile gloves
- 4) Check the epoxy instructions for how much of each part to use (usually a 1:1 ratio). Put the correct amounts of each epoxy part on the foil, and mix them, using the knife or popsicle stick to stir.
- 5) **OPTION A:** Gently press the pre-formed slab or cabochon onto the epoxy blob, and move the stone around a little to make sure you have a good seal on the bottom.



Cabochon Sitting on a Blob of Epoxy
(Option A)



Cabochon Wrapped with Masking Tape
(Option B)

OPTION B – IF YOU ARE WORKING WITH A CABOCHON - Wrap a strip of masking tape around the edge of the cabochon. The tape height above the BACK of the stone should be as deep as you want the backing. Don't worry about the height of the tape above the FRONT of the stone. Use the knife or popsicle stick to cover the BACK of the stone with the mixed epoxy, and smooth the epoxy even with the lip of the tape. Gently place on a sheet of foil.

- 6) Let the epoxy dry at least overnight.
- 7) Remove the foil/tape. Some of the foil may stick to the epoxy, but you will grind it off in the next step.
- 8) Sand or grind the epoxy on the bottom of the stone so the stone sits level. Grind the epoxy off the edges of the stone, or use a utility knife to CAREFULLY cut away excess epoxy.

Congratulations, you have backed your cabochon!



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	
May	Blue Skies	
June	Sunset	
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 April 2024 cabochon theme is “Storm Clouds.” **Good Luck!**

Mojave Desert Storm Clouds



www.nps.gov/moja/planyo/urvisit/weather.htm

<https://uniquelyjoshuatree.blogspot.com/2013/09/storm-clouds-on-mojave-desert.html>



Photo by Marli Miller

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rain_Falling_over_Desert_at_Sunset.jpg

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CABOCHON CONTEST YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF PAID SHOP TIME FOR THE PRIOR MONTH



SNGMS April 2024 Cabochon Contest Winners
Left to right: Lloyd Chayette, 2nd place, entry 3
Joel Coombs, 1st place, entry 2



April 2024 Cabochon Contest Entries

UNLV’s Steffire Collection Identification

UNLV contacted SNGMS for help identifying and pricing the Steffire Family’s donation of rocks and minerals, including many fluorescent specimens. SNGMS member Cliff Jackson went with UNLV staff to the Steffire’s home and advised on how to package the rocks so they could be moved to UNLV. He told them how important it was not to lose the labels!

Once the rocks made it to UNLV, Cliff got to work examining the fluorescent specimens with his UV lamp. He spent two days identifying and valuing 469 items, meticulously recording each one by hand. He spent another day entering all the information into a spreadsheet. Cliff estimates the value of the fluorescent specimens to be around \$29,500.

UNLV needs the identification and value information so the donor gets a tax deduction and for insurance purposes. UNLV plans to make a display of some of the fluorescent rocks, to use some of them in the classroom, and to sell some.

Other SNGMS members are evaluating the non-fluorescent part of the collection.



BIRTHDAYS

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Tina Bates, Brian Berube, Harrison Brooks, Ken Bucknam, Nancy Crenshaw, Sally Davis, Michelle Dembinski, Nancy Eash-Heyl, Edyth Fitzpatrick, Bill Halacoglu, Diane Hale, Michael Heyl, Darian Hickey, Danny Johnson, Brad Kroll, Dempsey Lauderdale, Beaux David Lee, Modesto Lopez, Tiana Mamaradlo, Raymond Mamaradlo, James Martinek, Dee Mckinney, Cheryl Milne, Linda Murie, Elizabeth Nelson, Elana Paladino, Linda Pruter, Jenna Sablan, Janie Sherwood, Corinne Silvia, Michele Slater, Adele Solomon, Rochelle Surette, Arthur Tamayo, Holly Thiry, Lauren Vickery, Keith Waller, Greg Wandtke, Richard Weibert, Lisa Wunsche

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to members who recently/rejoined SNGMS. We look forward to getting to know you better.

Amina Mahmood

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, March 17, 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, April 7, 2024			
Sunday, April 21, 2024			
Sunday, May 19, 2024			

Digging Through Time

People who came to Boulder City to work on Hoover Dam created a round hound group named The Prospector’s Club in 1932. Anita and Don Scott joined the Club. They owned the Boulder City Appliance store and displayed quartz crystals, petrified wood, and fossils in the store windows. The Prospector’s Club disbanded because many members moved away when the dam was finished in 1936.

In 1939, Paul Mercer, a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation employee, came to town. He noticed the rocks and fossils in the Appliance store window, and Anita noticed Paul looking! Anita and Don taught Paul how to rock hound. Then the Scotts moved away. Paul wanted rock hounding company, so he advertised a meeting. *(The digging continues next month!)*

Speakers For 2024 General Meetings

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

Date	Speaker	Topic
Apr. 1	Michele Slater, Jeweler	The 4 C's and Brief Introduction to Faceting
May 6	Sherrri Grotheer, Protectors of Tule Springs	Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument
June 3	Susan Hindmarsh, Stephanie Foote & Joy Ginsberg	Las Vegas Bead Society
July 8	Jim Boone, birdandhike.com	Hiking, Camping and Birding in Gold Butte
Aug. 5	Desire Schultz, Protectors of Tule Springs	Horsemanship Program at Tule Springs
Sep. 9	Lorri Dee Dukes & Connor Murphy, BLM	How Mining is Established and Conducted on Federally Owned Public Lands
Oct. 7	James Sloan, SNGMS Member	Opal Formation and Its Relationship to Chalcedony
Nov.	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec.	Holiday Party, no meeting	



SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club
2024 Field Trips and Meetings¹

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Easter Egg Hunt ³	March 23, 2025 noon – 2 pm	Eagles’ Lodge 1601 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101
Field Trip	April 13, 2024	TBD
Boulder City Spring Jamboree	May 3 – 5, 2024	Boulder City, Nevada
NO MEETING – MOTHER’S DAY	May 12, 2024	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Earth in Space Merit Badge	June 9, 2024, 3- 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Field Trip - Planetarium	July 14, 2024	More info coming
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Special Effects Merit Badge	August 11, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Lapidary Arts Merit Badge	September 8, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	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 Saturday March 17, 2024. Text names of everyone in your party, kids and adults, to 702-556-2748 (no emails please). Lunch provided.

Saturday, March 23, 2024 we're having an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt from noon -2:00 pm at the Eagles Lodge ,1601 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV. Bring your Easter baskets/buckets. The Eagles will provide lunch for everyone and we will have games and crafts. **RSVP IS REQUIRED NO LATER THAN MARCH 17, 2024.** To RSVP please call or text (NO EMAIL PLEASE) Wendy Dresser at: 702-556-2748

In April we will go on a field trip. The details will be announced as they are finalized.

Friday- Sunday, May 3- 5, 2024 is our annual Jamboree in Boulder City. I would like some volunteers to help us run the Kids Corner. We need adults and children to help us work the booth. This is a great opportunity to talk to other kids your age (young and old) while also making money for Kid's Club. I know everyone would like to have the opportunity to walk around and have some fun so I'm only requesting you work one hour at our booth helping us to promote our club. One hour goes by fast. If you would be able to attend and volunteer call or text WENDY DRESSER at: 702-556-2748.

Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed

Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)



Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed

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SNGMS at Gene Ward Elementary School Science, Literacy, & Math Night
March 2024

Photo courtesy of Jean Chayette



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	jbtredwell@gmail.com	725-274-3003
Shop Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Open		
Hospitality	Elizabeth and Richard Nelson		
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	702-366-5854
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsshowchair@gmail.com	702-366-5854

Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed

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SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS



 The logo for Desert Art Supplies features the words "DESERT ART SUPPLIES" in a stylized font. To the right of the text is an illustration of an artist's desk with various art supplies like brushes, a palette, and a lamp.

"Southern Nevada's Complete Art Store"
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Toll Free 1-888-725-4666 • www.desertartsupplies.com
desertartsupply@aol.com

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**

 The logo for World Class Facility Services features a stylized globe with the letters "W" and "C" overlaid.

World Class Facility Services
 6230 Greyhound Ave
 Suite H
 Las Vegas, NV 89122
 702-875-4642

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.



Did You Know?

SNGMS members Nick Barnes, Heather Perkins, Eric Cifani, Del Walkenshaw, and Julie Cooley are featured in the February 2024 edition of *Desert Companion Magazine* (pages 36-39) in an article titled "Turn to Stone."



Mineral Musings

Nevada's Ice Age Fossils State Park

The Ice Age Fossils Park, Nevada's newest state park, is now open on weekends. The 315 acre park features part of the upper Las Vegas wash that is filled with fossils. During the Pleistocene, also known as the Ice Age, wetlands covered the Las Vegas valley. Herds of megafauna, like bison, camels, ground sloths, and Columbian mammoths lived there.



Mammoth Tusk Found at Ice Age Park

www.reviewjournal.com/local-las-vegas/ice-age-fossil-beds-at-tule-springs-could-get-national-monument-designation

The land changed over time. Desert plant and animal communities replaced the Pleistocene marshes as the climate dried up.

The modern history of the park began in 1903, when the U.S. Geological Survey made the first fossil discoveries. Researchers visited the site for decades to study its geology, paleontology, and archaeology. Continuing discoveries led the Nevada State Parks Commission (now Nevada Division of State Parks) to buy a 315-acre parcel of land, which is now the park, in 1958.

The Tule Springs Expedition, also known as the Big Dig, took place from 1962 – 1963. This was a multidisciplinary study with the goal of finding evidence of the earliest human inhabitants in North America. During the four-month long study, heavy equipment and cutting-edge technology, including the new technique of radiocarbon dating, were used to study the site. The findings of the Big Dig were inconclusive, and interest in the area faded.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s researchers returned to describe the fossil history and geology. Hundreds of fossil sites were found around Tule Springs. Jill Stefano, a retired school teacher who lived in the area, organized a group of citizens who worked for eight years to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the

site. In 2017, Nevada Governor Sandoval designated the property as Ice Age Fossils State Park.



Ice Age Park Visitor Center

<https://haleysharpe.com/project/ice-age-fossils-state-park/>

The park includes a visitor center and hiking trails. The visitor center has natural history exhibits, restrooms, water, and a gift shop. The Megafauna Trail is 0.3 miles long and is lined with life-sized sculptures of the megafauna that once roamed the valley. The Big Dig Trail is a 1.2 mile long loop. You can get to the Big Dig trailhead from the Megafauna Trail via a 0.5 mile long connector trail. Check the weather before hiking to the Big Dig trenches.



Megafauna Trail

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/january-opening-announced-for-southern-nevadas-ice-age-fossils-state-park>

The hours, entrance fees, and location of Nevada's Ice Age Fossils State Park are:

Hours: Weekends from 8:00am - 4:30 pm. Effective March 6th, the park will also be open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Entrance Fees: \$3.00 (children 12 and under are free)

Location:

Ice Age Fossils State Park
8660 N Decatur Blvd
North Las Vegas, NV 89085



Big Dig Trail

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/january-opening-announced-for-southern-nevadas-ice-age-fossils-state-park>



March/April 2024 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Gary Webb and Sue Dobson	Monday, March 11, 10 am – 2pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday, April 8, 1 - 4 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, March 23, 1-3 pm	\$10	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014	
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, March 25, 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 NO CLASS MARCH 9	\$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	\$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.

Message to SNGMS from UNLV

I wanted to thank everyone who came out...for our first round of evaluating the collection gifted to the UNLV Department of Geoscience. I really enjoyed learning about individual pieces and hearing the expertise in the room as you [SNGMS members] recognized and identified nearly 300 specimens! I hope you all enjoyed the work as much as we did.

You may be interested to hear the total estimated value of the pieces you reviewed last week was \$17,028 (not including the portion that Cliff evaluated...)*

Thanks again, and we look forward to wrapping up the project ...!

Best,
Kara Peterson
Director of Development
College of Sciences
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

* Cliff Jackson evaluated fluorescent specimens collected by the Steffire family to UNLV



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
	<i>Full Page</i>	\$150	\$275

