



THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



November 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 83 ISSUE 11

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 30, 2023 - Board Mtg
December 2023 – No Genl Mtg

SNGMS Contacts:

www.snvgs.org
sngmsnews@gmail.com
sngmspresident@gmail.com
sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com
sngmssecretary@gmail.com
sngmstreasurer@gmail.com
sngmsshowchair@gmail.com
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sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

Hi Everyone!

The BIG news is the elections! The Board stayed essentially the same except we have a new Treasurer David Ford (who will have Peggy Sue as his assistant), Jean Cheyette will be our 3 year Board member, and Bruce Martin will be a one year board member.

Chops Weinzell volunteered to be the SNGMS Lapidary Shop Manager and we thank him for stepping up. We are looking for a Jamboree Chairperson and Refreshments Host/Hosts immediately. Please consider filling these roles.

The trip to Tonopah to visit the Otteson turquoise mines was fun and members posted a lot of pictures and videos on social media. Several nice turquoise pieces, as well as variscite, were found making everyone smile.

Sydney Davis and Tony Pelz are offering a trip on the weekend of November 18, 2023 to the Austin area for fluorite at their claim. Contact them for details (702-373-4356).

The Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show was a giant success. The vendors, customers, and volunteers were all smiling and happy. Many vendors have committed to return if we decide to do another one next year. As planned, the SNGMS profit is well over \$7,000 and is still being calculated. The final numbers will be out soon.

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held at Sunset Station on December 3 from 3-8 pm. Please bring your donations for the Banquet's auction to the SNGMS Lapidary Shop marked with your name so your donation can be acknowledged.

Also remember to bring your centerpiece contest entries to the Banquet. Your entry must have at least one skill learned in our shop.

See you in the Rocks!

Andrea Packo, President

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2024 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Rocky Mtn Fed. of Mineral. Societies Mtg.	October 25-27, 2024	Oklahoma City, OK

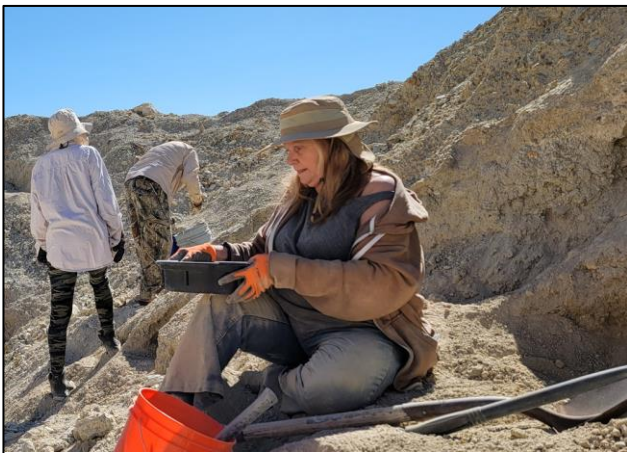
- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Joel Coombs joel.coombs@bldr.com
- 2) Vendor booths available, contact Del Walkenshaw desertartsupply@aol.com 702-451-8040

Some links with information you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies – www.amfed.org/whatsnew.htm
 Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies – www.rmfmts.org
 Rock & Gem Magazine website – www.rockngem.com



Joel Coombs haul from the Broken Arrow Mine, Tonopah, NV during the October 22-23, 2023 field trip



Andrea Packo at the October 2023 field trip to Tonopah, NV

SNGMS Awards Banquet Auction

December 3, 2023
 Sunset Station Casino

It's time to gather donations for this year's Auction at the Awards Banquet. We are looking for hand crafted items and art and anything else you want to donate to the cause. We have had everything from tools, books, cabochons, slabs, art work, needle craft, beaded items, wire work, etc.

There is a spot in the SNGMS Lapidary Shop to gather the donations. Please put your name on them so we can give credit as the auction items are announced.

How the Auction works:

- Buy Tickets at the dinner: 6 for \$5.00 etc.
- Go down the tables and drop tickets in the corresponding bags that you are interested in
- We draw the winners at the end of the event
- You must be an attendee to enter

For more information, contact Peggy Sue Moore (moorepeggysue@gmail.com)

Awards Banquet Centerpiece Contest

There will be a centerpiece competition during the SNGMS Awards Banquet, on December 3, 2023 , at the Sunset Station Casino.

Centerpiece Competition Rules:

1. Diameter of centerpiece not to exceed 18 inches
2. Theme may be any subject from holiday, abstract art, mining, rock hounding or anything else
3. There must be element of the skills taught at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop such as beading, lapidary arts, wire, polymer clay etc., included in the entry.
4. Entry must be hand crafted, although you may use some commercial products in your assembly

Entry Fee of \$5.00 will be collected at the banquet, when you place your centerpiece on the competition table. There will be a voting bag next to each entry. The entry with the most votes wins the entry pot plus a container of special lapidary slabs.



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 11/2/2023

On November 2, 2023, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at Desert Art Supply at 4:05 pm by the President. All Board members except Three Year Board, Bob Belcher, were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the September 28th 2023 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Most membership renewals have yet to be received. The checking balance after today's deposit is approximately \$15,500. An investment meeting will be held on November 9, 2023.

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report: There are some problems to resolve with Saw 'D'.

Unfinished Business: Andrea Packo updated the Board on the Viva Las Vegas show progress. Harvey Bergeron's saw attachment creation was discussed and issues to be addressed before general use in the shop can be authorized were discussed.

New Business: Del Walkenshaw asked for clarification on club policy for cutting stones for non-members. Agreement was that the standard answer should be 'Join the club and we'll teach you to do it yourself.' There are 115 tickets sold for the 2023 Awards Banquet. The last sales will be at the November 2023 General Meeting. The Nomination/Election Procedures were reviewed in preparation for the General Meeting.

A need for backup and transitioning of the Treasurer's responsibilities was discussed. Jack Toogood proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw and approved by the Board, that "there be a past-treasurer position for continuity, training and backup. This will not be a Board position."

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.



Desert Art Supplies Parking Lot Sale

November 11, 2023

Henderson, Nevada



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 11/6/2023

On November 6th, 2023, 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 October 2nd, 2023 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: The checking balance as of October 31st was \$13, 526.38. The brokerage account balance is \$124, 030.

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities. She thanked members for their continuing support. The Kids will be working on their Stone Age Tools Badge. They will enjoy a joint holiday party with the Eagles Lodge including an Award Ceremony where they will be presented with the badges they earned this year. Wendy will be meeting with approximately 50 homeschoolers at the Ore Car Mine for a home school field trip activity.

Membership: There are 601 adult and 129 child members. Membership Chair, Claudia Crouse, explained the club policy for renewal of membership. A normal renewal must be received before January 1, 2024. Between January 1-31, 2024 you can renew, and for an additional \$5 retain your original join date. After January 31, a renewal will reset your join date to the renewal date.

SNGMS Lapidary S

hop Report: Del Walkenshaw reported that 'D' Saw is down but being fixed.

Nominations & Voting: Nomination Chair, Mike Kirk, presented the nominations list and asked for addition nominations. Bruce Martin proposed, seconded by Lloyd Chayette, and approved by the membership, that "the nominations be closed." Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted. The results were: President: Andrea Packo, Vice-President: Orville Wiemers, Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse, Treasurer: David Ford, Parliamentarian: Jack Toogood, Three Year Board: Jean Chayette, One Year Board: Bruce Martin.

Viva Las Vegas Show: Andrea Packo reported the show was a huge success and the profit exceeded the \$7,000 goal. The exact numbers will be reported within 30 days as required by SNGMS by-laws. The event resulted in a number of new members joining SNGMS and was an excellent opportunity to reach out to the larger community.

National Gem & Mineral Society Topics: Sherri Johnson updated members on upcoming shows. The American Federation Show in conjunction with the California Federation Show will be in Ventura, California, March 2-3, 2024. The location is convenient to us, and it will definitely be a Show worth attending. The Rocky Mountain Federation Show will be in Oklahoma City on Oct 25-27, the week before Halloween. The Bureau of Land Management received an overwhelming response from rockhounds seeking to keep the Mojave Trails area in California open for collecting. There will be a second comment period, probably in March or April of 2024.

Sunshine Report: Sydney Davis has joined the armed services and that Sherri Johnson got married. Romy Umholtz has COVID. John Stackhouse is recovering from an illness.

Cabochon Contest: The November 2023 theme was "whale." Joel Coombs won first place and Lloyd Chayette won second place. The January 2024 cabochon contest theme is "snow."

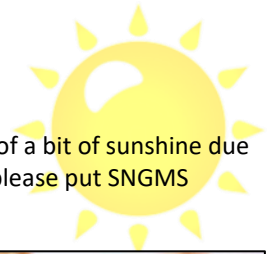
New Business: For upcoming events, refer to the SNGMS calendar and emails. Volunteers are needed for the Spring Jamboree Chair, Viva Las Vegas Show Chair, Field Trip Chair, Facebook/Media/Publicity Chair, and a Hospitality/Refreshment Chair. Please contact a Board Member to volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.



Sunshine Report

from Beth Jones



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 call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at punkyjones@hotmail.com (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject).

Topaz, the November Birthstone



Faceted Topaz
<https://jupitergem.com>

Topaz is the October birthstone. It has a hardness of eight on the Mohs scale which makes it a durable gemstone. The perfect cleavage of topaz means it has to be cut carefully to prevent chipping and cracking. Common topaz is colorless, but the presence of chromium causes pink, red, and violet tones. Yellow and brown topaz colors are caused by

imperfections in the crystal structures. Blue topaz is created by treating colorless topaz with radiation or heat. Blue is the most popular topaz color, and it is the top-selling jewelry stone in the United States. Topaz is Utah's state gemstone, and blue topaz is the state gemstone of Texas.



Raw Topaz
www.gatsbyjewellery.co.uk

VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
 48th Annual
 Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate
 Victorville, California
 Friday—Sunday
 March 8-10, 2024 from 9-5 Daily

FREE Event! FREE Vendor Spaces
 Dry Camping Restrooms
 Silent Auction Grab Bags
 Spin the Wheel and more...

Donations gladly accepted to help with expenses!

Visit us for Handcrafted and Faceted Jewelry, Slabs and Cabs, Findings and Equipment, Minerals and Fossils, TONS of Rough Material and LOT S of surprises.

Saturday FAMILY Field Trip: 9 -1 for Tri-color marble! Verde Antiques is less than 1 mile from area!!

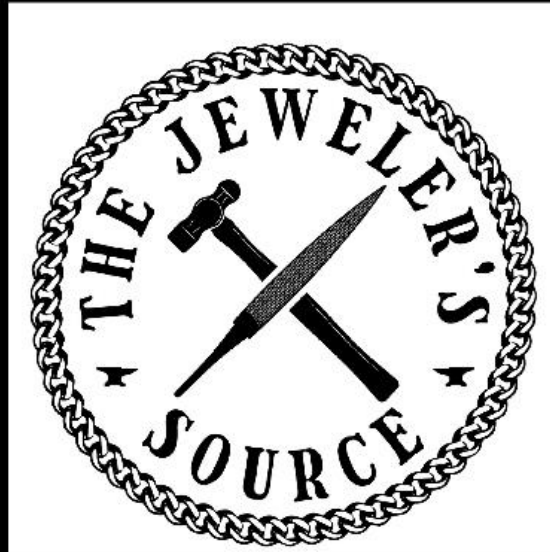
For more info visit our website at vvgms.org
 Or call 760-243-2330 and leave a message

Directions
 From I-15 N towards Barstow: Hwy 15 N THRU Victorville. EXIT Rt. at 2nd Stoddard Wells at Bell Mtn, Exit 157. Turn left/east at ramp Stop sign. Stay on Stoddard Wells Rd 4 mi until next Stop sign at Dale Evans Pkwy. "Tailgate" signs high on NW corner power pole. **Check odometer here!** Continue straight on Stoddard Wells Rd 7 mi to "Tailgate." Road becomes graded dirt about 0.4 mi from the Dale Evans Pkwy intersection. Proceed East/NE past Grange fork to "Tailgate" site. Cars & RVs can make it w/ease & care. "Tailgate" signs along route.



Sample of the beadwork offered by SNGMS member Sue Dobson at the Viva Las Vegas Show Nov. 3-5, 2023





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Las Vegas, NV 89117

702-745-1127

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IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and Lapidary Shop Hours

SNGMS 2023 Meeting Schedule			
Board Meeting ¹	General Meeting ²	Mineral Group Meeting ³	Kids Club Meeting ⁴
November 30	None in December		2nd Sunday of every month (unless it falls on a holiday) from 3pm - 5pm
Awards Banquet December 3			

- 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
- 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

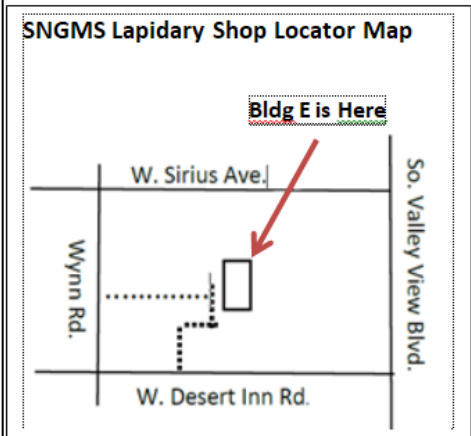
SHOP EQUIPMENT FEES:

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.**

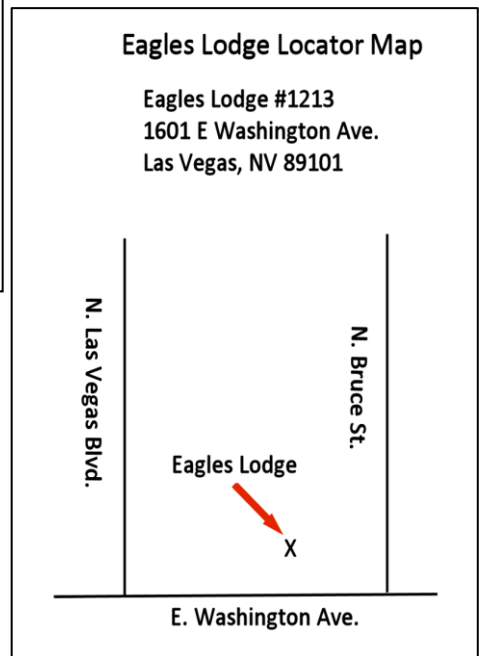


Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past South Valley View. 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

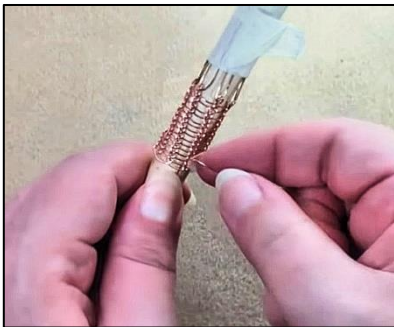
The Eagles' Lodge is located at:
1601 E Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101



Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks
Viking Knit

Viking Knit or, circular knitting, in an art form used to create flexible chains from thin wires. The Vikings began using the technique in the eighth century when they figured out how to make long wires. The knitting technique involves looping wire around a dowel rod, pencil, or a specialty tool like the Lazee Daizee to create a tube of loops. As the tube grows, it is pushed off the top of the rod. When you are finished knitting, the tube is removed from the rod and it is pulled through a plastic or wood (not metal!) drawplate to smooth and lengthen the chain.

The Lazee Daizee tool is fairly expensive (about \$22 without a drawplate, or about \$45 with a drawplate). Of course, a dowel rod is much less expensive, and you can buy a plastic* or wood drawplate, or make your own by drilling holes into a piece of scrap wood or plastic.



Viking Knit On A Dowel



Several online tutorials about how to do Viking knit are available. A short Lazee Daizee video tutorial is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lr7tds7DDmc



Lazee Daizee Tool



A video tutorial on how to Viking knit with a dowel rod, pencil, etc. is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNNk0jVXqb4

and for a tutorial with still photos check here: <https://thecraftygeek.livejournal.com/4215.html>



Viking Knit Earrings
www.empiresofthesun.com.au

Here are some tips for making Viking knit:

- 1) Use dead-soft wire because it is the most flexible
- 2) Push pins, T-pins, or the tip of a very thin awl can be used to lift up wire loops that are too tight for the lead wire to slide through.
- 3) To maintain consistent tension in the loops, put your thumb firmly over each loop as you finish it, holding it in place while you make the next loop.
- 4) You can put seed beads on alternating loops as you knit to add interest to the piece. Choose larger drawplate holes to smooth the chain so you don't damage the beads or the plate!
- 5) Use coils, cones, or bead caps to finish the ends of the chain

* Currently available for about \$5 from www temu.com



Viking Knit Necklace

<https://wire-wrap-tutorials.com/viking-knit-jewelry>



Viking Knit With Seed Beads
 Fox Bones Jewelry



2023 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	CONTEST WINNER
January	Rainbow Trout	Lloyd Chayette & Bruce Martin tied
February	Lion Fish	Lloyd Chayette 1 st George Stewart 2 nd
March	Clown Fish	Lloyd Chayette 1 st Bruce Martin 2 nd
April	Jellyfish	Ron Mazz 1 st Bruce Martin 2 nd
May	Lobster	Lloyd Chayette 1 st Joel Coombs 2 nd
June	Starfish	Lloyd Chayette 1 st , Ron Mazz 2 nd
July	Octopus	Bruce Martin 1 st , George Stewart 2 nd
August	Seahorse	George Stewart & Bruce Martin tied
September	Coral	Ron Mazz 1 st , Lloyd Chayette 2 nd
October	Shark	Joel Coombs 1 st , Lloyd Chayette & Ron Mazz tied for 2 nd
November	Whales	Joel Coombs 1 st Lloyd Chayette 2 nd
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 2024 themes are listed below. **Good Luck!**

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



Left to right: Lloyd Chayette took 2nd place (entry 2) and Joel Coombs took 1st place (entry 1) in the November 2023 SNGMS Cabochon contest



November 2023 SNGMS Cabochon Contest Entries

2024 Cabochon Contests

The theme for the 2024 cabochon contests is "Nature's Colors." Topics for each month are listed below.

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	MONTH	CABOCHON THEME
January	Snow	July	Mountains
February	Forest Colors	August	Tropical
March	Spring Flowers	September	Ocean Blues
April	Storm Clouds	October	Fall Leaf Colors
May	Blue Skies	November	Landscapes
June	Sunset	December	No Contest



BIRTHDAYS

If you have a DECEMBER OR JANUARY birthday, Please bring something for the refreshment table at JANUARY's meeting.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Beatriz Almaraz, Gloria Anderson, Kirsten Ashley, Shelley Britt, Sharique Brown, Debbie Bucknam, Jim Carrabis, Lisa Crispin, Tammy Davis, Charles B. Davis, Sonya Edwards, David Ford, Courtney Francis, Jim Glynn, George Graham, Alexandria Hall, Abigale Hennings, Nate Hobbs, Nancy Huffine, Reggie Jose, Barry Karant, Joan Kettleon, Marissa Lochman, Claudia Lorenz-Fernandes, Karen Maupin, Faith McCaw, Bernadette McDonald, Marilyn McDougal, Peggy Sue Moore, Sherrie Norris, Jill Ono, Tom Papageorge, Liz Paola Rendich, Edith Ricketts, Ricky Ruff, Dietmar Selzer, Terri Siebel, Robert Szymanski, Caleb Tharp, Jonathan Tredwell, L.D. Tripp, Romy Umholtz, Dennis Walker, Andrew Waller, Andrew Wong

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

Stella C. Andrecheck, Marisa Bars, Jessica Casero, Janelle Cook, Sally Davis, Terry Dehn, Heidi Dietrich, Joanna Emmett, Justine Frederick, Cody Hargis, David C. Jones, Reggie Jose, Krystal LaHaye, John Lauby, Pamela Lauby, Luwana Masteller, Karen Maupin, Osra O'Neal, Angie Owens, Maurice Owens, Aaron Pokorney, Tina Pokorney, Aaron Posey, Donald E. Ricketts, Edith Ricketts, Angelina Rossi, Elon Rossi, Evelyn Rossi, Genevieve Rossi, Jason Rossi, Vivian Rossi, Janie Sherwood, Aaron Ray Simpson, Nancy Simpson, Rochelle Surette, Caleb Tharp, Holly Thiry, Emily Volk, Charla Vrchota, T.J. Vrchota, Anthony Wakefield, Ronnie Wakefield, Dennis Walker, Socorro Walker, Debbra Weibert, Richard Weibert, Lee Wittenberg

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.

You know you're a rockhound if a sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock", and you pull over to wait.



**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club
2023 Field Trips and Meetings¹**

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
No Meeting – Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony²	December 16, 2023 12:00 - 2:00 pm	Fraternal Order of Eagles 1601 E. Washington Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101

1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.

2) **RSVP REQUIRED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH 6:00 PM NO EXCEPTION. RSVP WENDY DRESSER CALL OR TEXT 702-556-2748 (NO EMAIL PLEASE)**

Hello Rock Stars,

We had a great Viva Show over the weekend. I want to thank all of our volunteers who made it possible. I'd also like to thank everyone who donated sandwiches and snacks for our October meeting, and helped out with the Halloween Party at the Eagle's Lodge. Mary Beth Paladino, Chops and Kim Wenzl, Dave Ford, Song Hageman, Rita Bergeron, Harvey Bergeron, Dale Bright, Del Walkenshaw, Michaela Lash, Allie Lewis, Heather and Gavin Waller, Michael Kirk, Amber Palecek, Alexis, Hope and Faith McCaw, Orville and Lisa Wiemers, and Adam Keller (A.K.A. Santa). Saturday morning I was surprised when the Kid's Booth received a larger space to work with and 2 extra tables. I don't know the names of everyone who put that together Saturday morning but thank you!

I recently met a group of home schooled students at the SNGMS Ore Car mining claim to talk about the history of the mine and give them a safety briefing before they collected rocks. The kids were pre-K to 2nd grade. Thank you Peggy Sue Moore for leaving rocks at the mine for the kids to collect. They had a blast finding them. We had approximately 25 students and their parents, and many have showed interest in joining the SNGMS.

We will meet Sunday, November 12, 2023 at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop from 3-5pm. We will begin work on the Stone Age Tools Merit Badge. For a craft we will make Fishing Penguins.

Our Holiday Party with the Eagle's Kid's Club will be at the Eagles Lodge from 12 to 2pm on Saturday, December 16th, 2023. We will also have an Awards Ceremony to give out patches to the Rock Stars who earned them this year. Santa Claus will be there!!! RSVP IS REQUIRED by Dec 10, 2023. **TO RSVP CALL OR TEXT WENDY DRESSER AT 702-556-2748 (no email please)**

Thank you again to everyone who donated and or volunteered to Kid's Club this past month. It's wonderful, generous people like you that make Kid's Club a success.

Thank you,

Wendy Dresser
SNGMS Kid's Club Leader
702-556-2748



SNGMS Kids Club Halloween Party
Photos courtesy of Wendy Dresser

Speakers For 2024 General Meetings

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



SNGMS 2023 VOLUNTEER STAFF

Contact any Director to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chair to offer to help on their committee.

SNGMS 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Andrea Packo	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Vice-President	Orville Wiemers	sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com	702-366-5854
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Peggy Sue Moore	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	702-434-6072
Parliamentarian	Jack Toogood	vegasmw@hotmail.com	702-510-4192
One Year Board	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Two Year Board	Del Walkenshaw	desertartsupply@aol.com	702-451-8040
Three Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighterman@yahoo.com	702-210-9612
Past President	Lloyd Chayette	chayette.lloyd@yahoo.com	714-474-6384

SNGMS 2023 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
Facebook Master	Dale Bright	dalebright1@hotmail.com	
Field Trip	Joel Coombs & Bill Kogan	sngmsnews@gmail.com	
Shop Manager	Andrea Kincannon	andrea.kincannon@gmail.com	
General Meeting Greeter	Dave Ford		
Historian	Dale Bright	dalebright1@hotmail.com	
Hospitality	Open		
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	
Publicity	Andrea Packo	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Raffle/Lottery	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Refreshments	Fran & Allen Stratton		
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam		
Spring Jamboree Show	open	sngmsjam@gmail.com	
Sunshine	Beth Jones	punkyjones@hotmail.com	702-505-5819
Webmaster	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@cox.net	



SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS



**DESERT
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Fine Arts Supplies – Custom Framing

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2750 N. Green Valley Pkwy Henderson, NV 89014
(702) 451-8040 • Fax 451-8339

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

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 capping supplies and equipment. They offer a 10% discount to SNGMS members, friends, and families on everything EXCEPT machines, gift cards, and repairs. The discount is applied when you enter the discount code **SNGMS** at checkout. The code must be manually entered at checkout, it is NOT an automatic discount! The Hi-Tech website is www.hitechdiamond.com.



Mineral Musings

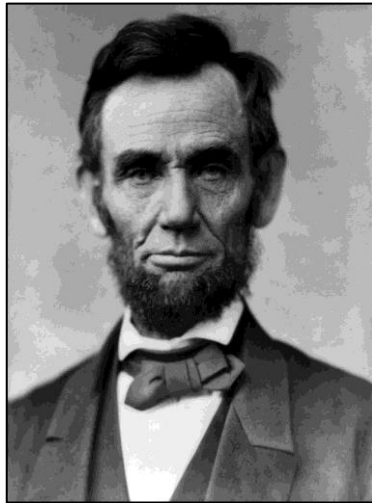
The Comstock Lode



The Comstock Lode, a significant silver ore deposit, was unearthed in Northern Nevada in 1859. Originally, miners were looking for gold, but to their surprise, they stumbled upon vast silver reserves.* This remarkable discovery sparked a silver rush similar to the earlier California Gold Rush, drawing thousands of prospectors to the region, all hoping to strike it rich.



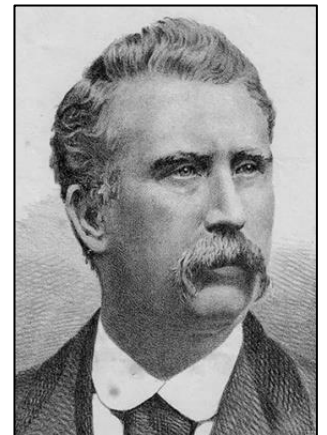
Silver Ore from the Comstock Lode
www.mindat.org/photo-628930.html



Abraham Lincoln, 1863
Library of Congress

During the active years of the Comstock Lode, the United States was in the middle of the Civil War. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln played a pivotal role in ensuring Nevada's statehood. Lincoln recognized Nevada's potential as a valuable asset to the Union, since it would provide crucial financial support for the war effort and provide electoral votes for his reelection. Nevada's state motto is "Battle Born," in honor of it joining the Union during the Civil War.

In 1865, a miner named John W. MacKay formed a partnership with three fellow Irishmen. The partnership became known as the Bonanza Kings. They acquired a stake in the Comstock Lode and began mining operations. Under MacKay's leadership, their mines yielded immense quantities of silver ore.



John W. MacKay
www.smithsonianmag.com

The wealth generated by the Comstock Lode had a big impact on Nevada's economy. Mining companies were established, and towns began to form. Virginia City became the main hub for silver processing. Virginia City grew quickly, attracting a population from various backgrounds and nationalities. However, as the mines' output dwindled after 1878, the population also declined. Today, Virginia City is a tourist attraction, preserving the remnants of its illustrious past.



Virginia City, Nevada
wikipedia.org

The legacy of the Comstock Lode continues to shape Nevada's economy and identity to this day. The Comstock mining industry laid the foundation for the state as a major producer of precious metals. Additionally, the influx of people and wealth brought about by the silver rush led to the development of towns and infrastructure that still stand. Nevada owes much of its growth and prosperity to the transformative impact of the Comstock Lode.

* The Comstock Lode is named after Henry Comstock, who didn't actually discover the lode.



November 2023 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Gary Webb & Sue Dobson	Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 5 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations
Silver Smithing*	Bella Romero & Mary Savage	Fridays 12:30-3:30 pm NO CLASS NOV. 24	\$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

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.



Silver smithing student's first project in copper
Photo courtesy of Bella Romero



November 2023 Beading Class Project
Photo courtesy of Gary Webb



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

Return Service Requested



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

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

POLISHED SLAB ADVERTISING RATES		
AD SIZE	SIX MONTHS RATE	12 MONTHS RATE
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<i>Half Page</i>	\$90	\$170
<i>Full Page</i>	\$150	\$275

