



THE POLISHED SLAB



A Publication of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society

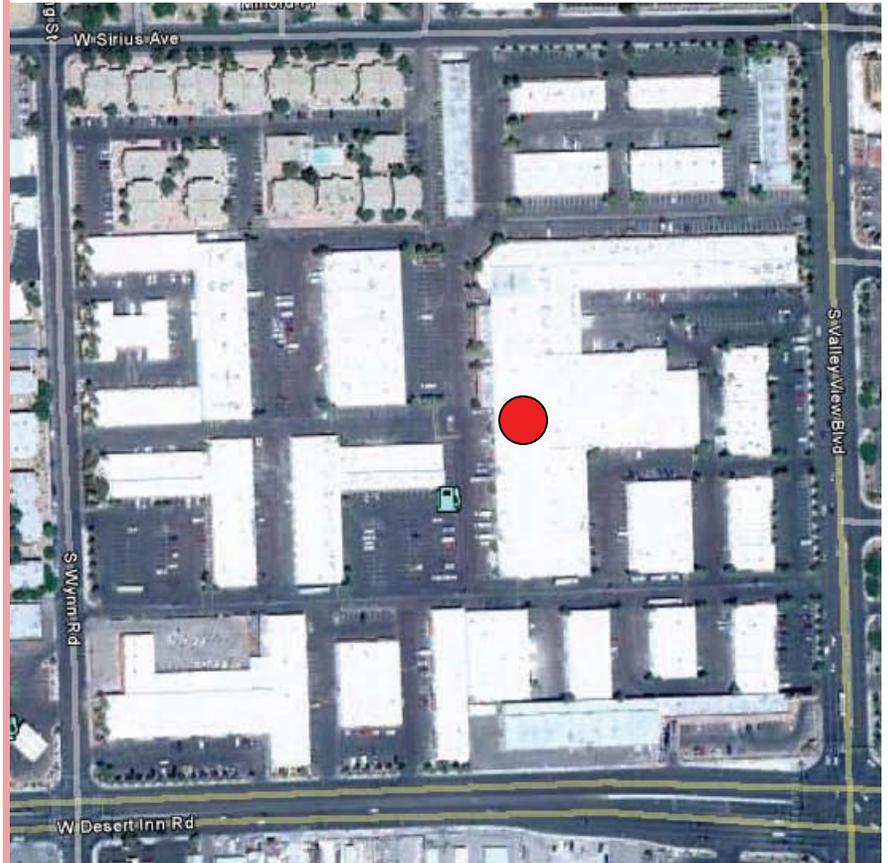
September 2010

Volume 70 Issue 7

Announcing the location
of the long awaited
Shop!!!

3111 Valley
View Blvd.,
Building E,
Unit 125

Details to follow, check
your e-mail, SNGMS
Website or call
Sheri Johnson
at 702-525-0256



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 26** Potluck at Ore Car Mine
Lunch served at Noon
- September 30** Board of Directors Meeting
- October 4** General Meeting
- October 28** Board of Directors Meeting



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P.O. Box 94744
Las Vegas, NV 89193



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George Messenger

Committee Chairpersons

Chairpersons Needed:

The following committees are currently in need of chairpersons. These committees are necessary for the club to fully function so if you are interested in serving, or just have questions about a committee's purpose, please contact Sheri Johnson as soon as possible. We're grateful for your time and we'll be happy to help you get started!

Editor

Education

Historian

Hospitality

Library

Programs

Shop

Show

Sunshine

Upcoming Shows

September 24, 25, 26 2010, San Bernardino, CA - Orange Belt Mineralogical Society, Little League Baseball Park, 6707 Little League Dr., Hours: 9:00 a.m. to Dusk

October 16-17 2010, Whittier, CA—Whittier Gem & Mineral Society, Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington, Hours: 10-5 both days

Acting President's Message

from Sheri Johnson

Hello Fellow Rockhounds. It is with a heavy sigh that I have become the Acting President. Many of you know that John Zimmerman has accepted a promotion at work and as a result, cannot dedicate as much time to the club as President and Shop Foreman. Please join me in wishing him well. I am hoping that he will still find a little time to join us on a rock trip or two and maybe help at the shop once and awhile.

Speaking of the Shop, We have one! Many thanks to Bill Moore and his team. They spent many hours driving around the city to find the perfect spot for the Workshop. The location is centrally located, has room to grow and plenty of parking. **So here is where you come in** – We need help to off-load the truck and to get the shop set up. We would like to be up and running as soon as next week! But the only way that will happen is if you volunteer. We start unloading at 9:00 am, Tuesday, September 21 (location on pages 1 and 11). If you work on the weekdays, then volunteer to be a shop supervisor. Second, we need a Shop Foreman! If you want to help unload, just show up on Tuesday. If you want to volunteer to help with the shop once it is running, please call me @702.525.0256 or e-mail at sngms@yahoo.com.

Happy Rockhounding!

Sheri Johnson

SNGMS General Meeting Minutes, September 13, 2010

Called to order by Sheri Johnson and Pledge of Allegiance followed. Club advised that board had accepted the resignation of John Zimmerman dated September 6, 2010. Reading of August 2010 general meeting minutes by Patrick Leary - Minutes approved as read.

Officer Reports: *Treasurer* - Pat Skeary: Taxes for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 have been filed.

Field Trips - Bill Lemon: There have been no field trips for the last two months. **September trip:** Returning to the Dixie Apex Mine Sunday, September 19, Orientation at 6:45, leaving at 7:00 am meeting at the Valley of Fire Exit on the west side of the gas station.

Membership - Peggy Sue Moore: We have 374 members in the club. Monday night wire wrapping class – Location to be announced

Rock Stars Mary Beth Paladino: Boy Scout program was a huge success! 4250 rocks were given to 425 boy scouts. Thanks to Bill Lemmon and Doris Currington for the assistance. The October program will be on fluorescent rocks.

Federation News - Sharon Rogow: Sharon recommended that every member visit www.cfmsinc.org for information on the CA Federation of which SNGMS is a member

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on the workshop: Separate presentations were given by Sharon Rogow and Bill Moore. The club was then presented with the three proposals listed below and asked to vote on their preference for the shop.

Option 1.) One year lease and purchase a building within the one year time frame.

Option 2.) Keep shop closed until a suitable building is purchased.

Option 3.) Go into a lease for three or five years with early term penalty

SNGMS General Meeting Minutes, September 13, 2010 (Cont.)

The Membership votes were: Option 1 - 26 votes; Option 2 - 2votes; Option 3 - 47 votes
Option 3 was selected. The board will pursue a location at Valley View and Desert Inn.

NOTE: The club members need to patronize the shop once up for it to be a success.

Updated Bylaws : Clare Breneman: Move the Bylaws be accepted as presented subject to future amendments and corrections. Motion passed by majority vote.

Club Bar-B-Que/Potluck Picnic :Club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Sunday September 26 at Ore Car Mine at Lake Mead, we start eating at 12:00 Noon – however we will start setting up around 10:30 am.

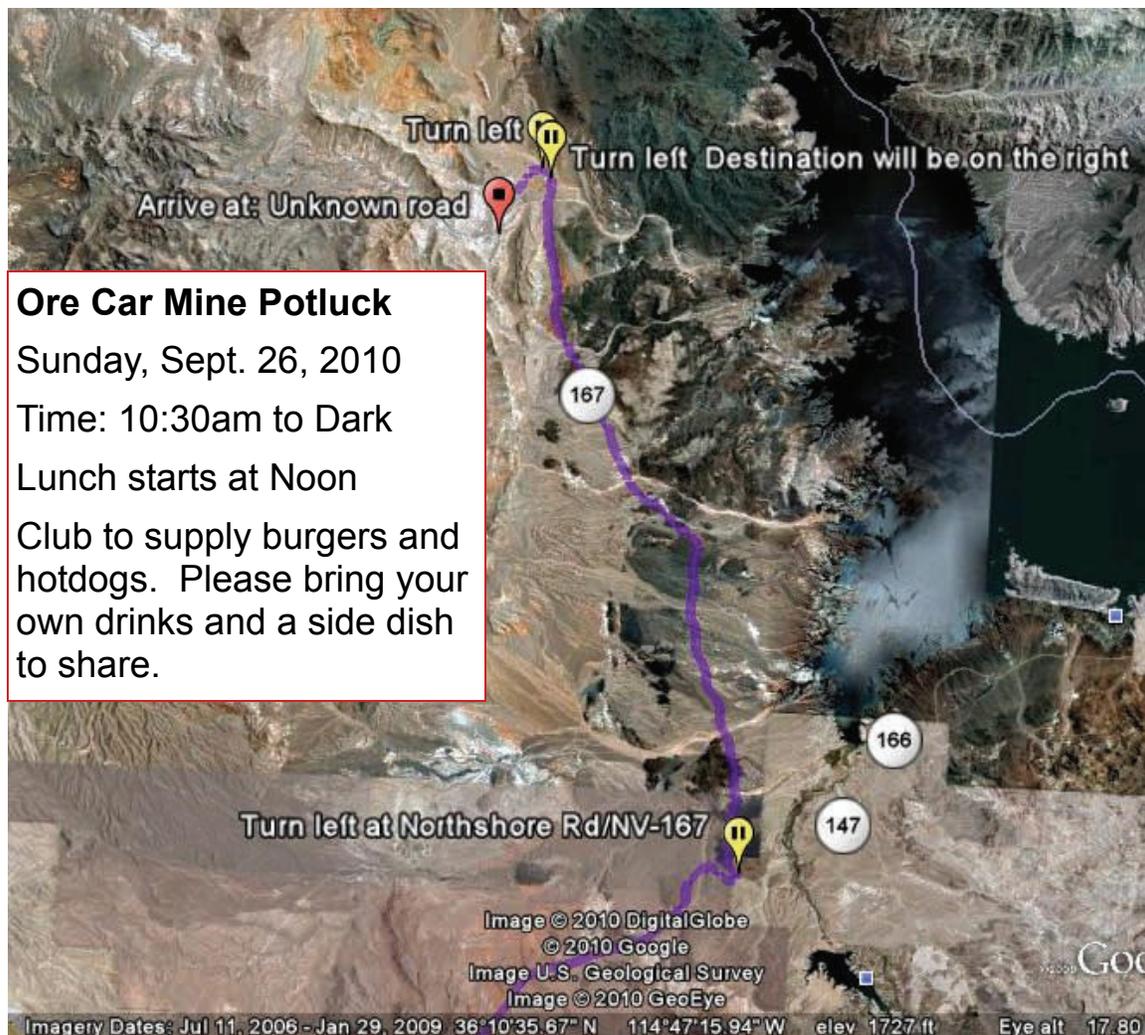
NEW BUSINESS

December meeting and Party: Motion made to accept the Las Vegas Hilton for our December meeting and party Sunday December 12, 2010 at a cost of \$30.00 per person half to be paid by the club. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Silver Smith Class: Frank Auerswald will lead the silver smithing class at the Senior Center on Tuesday September 14, 2010. Please speak to Frank for additional information.

Program by Doris Currington: Ice Age Fossils found in Las Vegas was presented.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.



Ore Car Mine Potluck

Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010

Time: 10:30am to Dark

Lunch starts at Noon

Club to supply burgers and hotdogs. Please bring your own drinks and a side dish to share.

Directions to:

Ore Car Mine

Take E. Lake Mead Drive/NV-564 East into the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Turn Left onto Northshore Dr. and proceed to mile marker 16.

Turn left onto the dirt road (Callville Wash Rd) and follow till you see the sign designating the SNGMS claim.



A Couple of Canadian Rockhounds in the USA



PART TWO: The June Trip

Star Garnets at Emerald Creek, Idaho

On June 1st Edita & I finished packing, hooked up our tent trailer, and headed south. Eight hours later we crossed the border into the U.S. at Okanagan near Osoyoos, B.C. (our favorite crossing). Into Washington State we got some sleep at a roadside RV park, then started fresh the next morning after coffee, on our way toward Spokane. It wasn't long before those typical Washington rains were upon us, and we knew it would be a wet trip the whole way.

In brief, our path went like this: I90 to Coeur D'Alene > Idaho State Highway 95 south to Plummer > Idaho Highway 5 to St. Maries > Idaho Highway 3 southeast towards Clarkia. A few miles before Clarkia, watch for the turn-off for Emerald Creek Campground on the right hand side of the highway - the turn is well marked. Please note the road is gravel but it's in good shape and suitable for smaller cars.

The campground is in St. Joe's National Forest- both convenient and economical. There are no hook ups for RVs but there are nice pit toilets, and firewood is available. Not bad for \$6 a night. Two miles up the road from there is the Emerald Creek Garnet Dig site, known for its



Almandine Star Garnets. This site is managed by the U.S. National Forest Service, and is one of only two sites in the world that reliably produces Star Garnets. The stones you'll find have potential for four or six rays. The rutile (the "needles" of titanium oxide - ed.) in the garnet refracts the light entering the garnet and produces the asterism in these unique gemstones. The cost to dig is \$10 a day for up to 5 lbs of rough garnet, children under 12 yrs. cost \$5. You can buy another

permit if you exceed the 5 lbs permit limit but nobody exceeded the 5 lbs limit while we were there.

Once at the campsite we set up our tent trailer and walked the two miles in the rain to the parking lot of the dig site, but lo and behold, we still had two days to wait. The site is closed Wednesdays and Thursdays. The creek was swollen and the rain never slowed but we picked up some nice pieces of quartz to use as tumbling rough and walked back to the camp. The actual dig site is another half-mile up the road from the parking site. Note: For the handicapped/disabled, the employees will unlock the gate and you can drive your vehicle up to the site. Just ask one of the helpful forestry service employees.

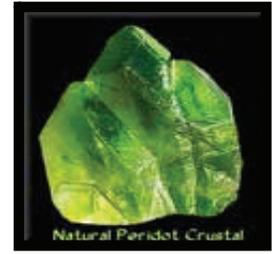
Thursday afternoon our friend Justin (remember him from Part 1?) arrived from Pocatello, Idaho. He was as excited as we were for the dig and set up his tent for a good night's sleep. But more rain came during the night and he was soaked when he joined us the next morning in the dry tent trailer. He dried off as best he could while we all waited for the rain to end. As luck would have it, the clock struck 9 a.m., the digs opened, and the rain ceased.

Happily, we showed up at the digs in ponchos and rubber boots. Who should meet us were the forestry employees from last year, Craig and Alan. They took our fees, issued the permits and provided us with shovels, buckets, screens and a nice sluice for washing the sifted concentrates. (Note: If you bring your own shaker box and screens, they don't mind.)

Continued on Pg. 7



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!



September Birth Flower: Aster

September Birthstone: Peridot

Meaning of Flower: Love, Faith, Wisdom

Zodiac Sign: Virgo—Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Orderly, Modest, Diligent, Analytical and Self-sufficient

September People: Please bring a HEALTHY SNACK to the Sept. 13th meeting to share!

Carol Anger

William Keith Gates

Miranda Johnson

Rimma Muth

James M. Barnett

Theresa Graziano

Virginia Johnson

Amber Paladino

Harvey Bergeron

Micha Grillette

Jerry Kisker

Michael Palandino

Chiung Fang Chang

Ruth Hardison

Marty Lange

Roland Parsons

Mary Dapprich

Michael Heenan

Sue Lafaro

Clyde Rathbone

Georgia Dewhurst

Rita Hefty

Ben Lucero

Mick Sprott

Sharon Diamandis

George Hegie

Gail Mayes

John Stackhouse

Claudia Fetcho

Bob Ingold

Thomas Mayes

Bill Stinger

Belinda Freeman

Steve Ireland

Tamela Mohr

Robert Stodola

Paul Thomas

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!!

Jerry Hesch, MHS, PT
The Hesch Method Bodywork

YouTube: [jerryhesch](https://www.youtube.com/jerryhesch)
www.heschmanualtherapy.com
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A Couple of Canadian Rockhounds in the U.S.A. (continued from pg. 5)

Of course the site was extremely muddy, and that particular dirt/mud is very high in iron so wearing our old clothes was a great idea.

Because of water quality concerns, we weren't allowed to dig in the streams ourselves, however the forestry service dredges the streams for promising ore - a large pile of it was on higher ground at the site. We could grab a bucket or two, fill with ore and bring them to the sifting area. The critical step is to screen that soil out of the ore so you can wash and see your garnets easier.

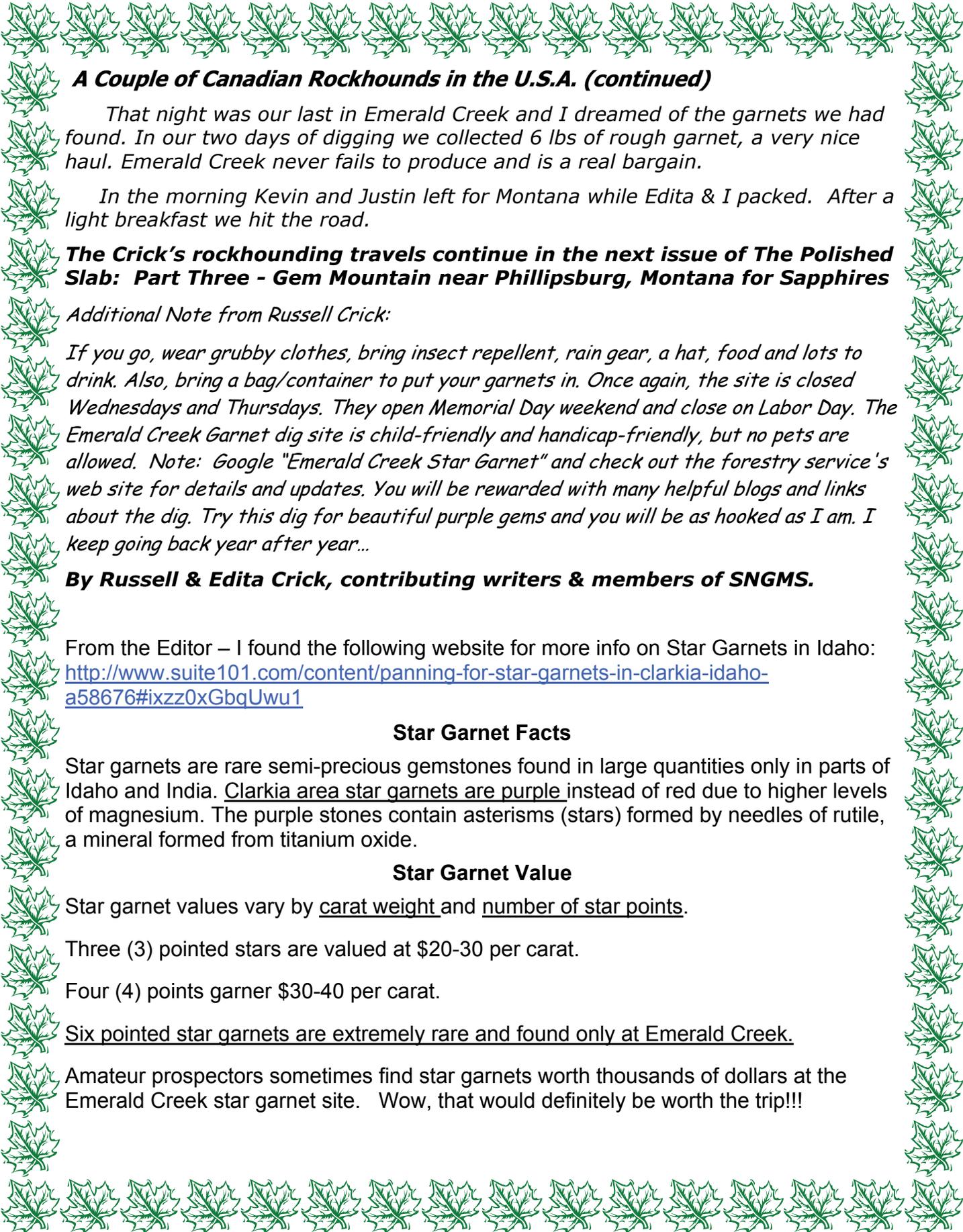


We put the screened concentrate in an empty bucket and it to the sluice washing in the sluice screens provided. After seeing a few of the rough purple Almandine Star Garnets, we couldn't mistake them for anything else. But the muddy conditions made screening the ore a real challenge. The more I shook the screen, the more the mud stuck together in bigger and bigger balls. I had to press them through the ¼- inch screen. Even with Justin's nice shaker box it was hard work. By the end of the day my wife and myself were filthy and exhausted, but we had collected about 3 lbs of rough garnet! We all agreed that a shower and hot meal were in order so we headed back into St. Maries, which was about a 40-minute drive from there.

It costs just \$9.00 to use a room for showering at the Pine Motel in St. Maries, so Justin, Edita and I split the cost three ways. Once fresh and clean, we went to the Country Corner Restaurant for that hot meal we talked about. The Country Corner is a humble little family restaurant that serves good home-cooked meals at reasonable prices - one of the best deals we found near the garnet digs. Over supper we discussed how hard it was to screen the mud. Then Justin had a brainstorm. He suggested that we forgo the ¼-inch screen, we should use the ½-inch screen. If we lost a few smaller chips of garnet, that would be okay. We wanted larger cutting rough for star cabs anyway.

Justin stayed in our spare bunk that night to keep dry, and we headed out together the next morning with our new plan. The idea worked wonderfully and we processed much more material, ending up with some nice big rough by the end of the day. In the parking lot we visited with some fellow rockhounds and compared treasures. Kevin (a retired long haul truck driver from Kentucky) had wonderful treasures with him, including some from two other localities we wanted to visit. As he was on his own, we invited him to share our evening meal. After dinner we discussed possible plans for digging in Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Kevin was so informative we adjusted our itinerary to take advantage of it. He suggested that on the way to the planned sunstone digs near Plush, OR, we should stop in Virgin Valley, NV, and dig for opal. He also informed us that there's free camping and a free hot spring there. So, we scrubbed our plans for a Washington petrified wood dig, which had been flooded by heavy rains anyway, and decided on the Nevada opal dig plus a trip to Gem Mountain near Phillipsburg, Montana for sapphires. Kevin and Justin would meet us there.

Continued on Pg. 8



A Couple of Canadian Rockhounds in the U.S.A. (continued)

That night was our last in Emerald Creek and I dreamed of the garnets we had found. In our two days of digging we collected 6 lbs of rough garnet, a very nice haul. Emerald Creek never fails to produce and is a real bargain.

In the morning Kevin and Justin left for Montana while Edita & I packed. After a light breakfast we hit the road.

The Crick's rockhounding travels continue in the next issue of The Polished Slab: Part Three - Gem Mountain near Phillipsburg, Montana for Sapphires

Additional Note from Russell Crick:

If you go, wear grubby clothes, bring insect repellent, rain gear, a hat, food and lots to drink. Also, bring a bag/container to put your garnets in. Once again, the site is closed Wednesdays and Thursdays. They open Memorial Day weekend and close on Labor Day. The Emerald Creek Garnet dig site is child-friendly and handicap-friendly, but no pets are allowed. Note: Google "Emerald Creek Star Garnet" and check out the forestry service's web site for details and updates. You will be rewarded with many helpful blogs and links about the dig. Try this dig for beautiful purple gems and you will be as hooked as I am. I keep going back year after year...

By Russell & Edita Crick, contributing writers & members of SNGMS.

From the Editor – I found the following website for more info on Star Garnets in Idaho:
<http://www.suite101.com/content/panning-for-star-garnets-in-clarkia-idaho-a58676#ixzz0xGbqUwu1>

Star Garnet Facts

Star garnets are rare semi-precious gemstones found in large quantities only in parts of Idaho and India. Clarkia area star garnets are purple instead of red due to higher levels of magnesium. The purple stones contain asterisms (stars) formed by needles of rutile, a mineral formed from titanium oxide.

Star Garnet Value

Star garnet values vary by carat weight and number of star points.

Three (3) pointed stars are valued at \$20-30 per carat.

Four (4) points garner \$30-40 per carat.

Six pointed star garnets are extremely rare and found only at Emerald Creek.

Amateur prospectors sometimes find star garnets worth thousands of dollars at the Emerald Creek star garnet site. Wow, that would definitely be worth the trip!!!

Jenna Plein is no longer teaching Silversmith classes at the center. Jenna enjoyed her years with her class and students. She is always available and is teaching Silversmithing classes in her Studio.



Photos by
Dhyanne
Swanson



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes, September 9, 2010

Attendees: Sheri Johnson, Patrick Leary, Pat Skeary, Bob Lofaro, Bill Moore, Clare Breneman, Bill Lemmon

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Sheri Johnson, acting President, and it was determined that a quorum is present at this meeting. August 2010 board meeting minutes were read - Motion approved with corrections.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Computer purchase for Polished Slab editor: Bob Lafaro is still looking. Purchase should be made by end of the month. **Bylaws update:** General membership has had the Bylaws for thirty days. Discussion will happen at September meeting. Expectation is club membership will review and vote on it. **December meeting plans:** Decision made by the board for the December meeting to be held at the Hilton at a cost of \$30 per person and the Club would pay half.

New shop: Sharon Rogow and Jan Fitzgerald presented the option of purchasing a location. Bill Moore presented the option for leasing a property. Location at DI and Valley View is the best opportunity. It has public transportation access. It is 1550 square feet, \$935 plus utilities. Total cost with insurance should be about \$1300.00 per month. Five year lease with escalating rent yearly. One month rent free each year. They pay water and garbage. They have security 5pm to 4am. It was determined by the Board that the Membership should decide if they want to buy or lease. Sharon and Bill to present options at the General Meeting

NEW BUSINESS

John Zimmerman resignation as president dated September 6, 2010. Move to accept John Zimmerman's resignation. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Secretary will draft a letter to John indicating board accepted his resignation.

Club general meeting notes: Doris Currington will do presentation on Ice Age fossils in Las Vegas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

SNGMS Bulletin Board

Selling a Genie or saw? Got a suggestions about shop procedure? Or maybe an idea for a great field trip? This is your new bulletin board to post all things SNGMS! Send in your questions or ideas to me, Cathy Baca @ sngms_editor@yahoo.com each month by the 20th—but please forgive if space is short. It may be placed in the following month's issue. Here we go.....

From the Editor.....

Far sooner than I expected, my stint as your editor has come to an end. The kids are grown and gone, and we put our home up for sale "just to see...". The good news is, it sold in 10 days. The bad news is, we hadn't figured out our next move yet. Except that we wanted to go back home, back to Southern California, we didn't know where. But some searching brought up a house in the country side of Murrieta, CA and now we're in escrow with just a few weeks to go before we ride off to our next adventure.

Ron & I will remain members of SNGMS, of course, and once settled, we'll check our area for any interesting sites and see if we can organize a field trip over our way. Thank you, SNGMS, for the fun and the friendships (you know who you are!), and for opening our eyes to a whole new hobby. God bless you all.

Cathy Baca

Sunshine Report

Bill Lemmon's mother passed away in August. Our greatest sympathy for Bill.

Dhyanne Swanson is recovering from surgery and we wish her a speedy recovery.

SHOW AND SELL

Brag a little, Sell a little, show us what you've got! Bring your creations to our August meeting and put them on display between 5-6 p.m. Don't forget your Turquoise! Just \$5.00 to sell your wares. No charge to for "display only"! Our General Meeting starts at 7 p.m. See you there!!

SNGMS Workshop
3111 Valley View Blvd, Building E, Unit 125

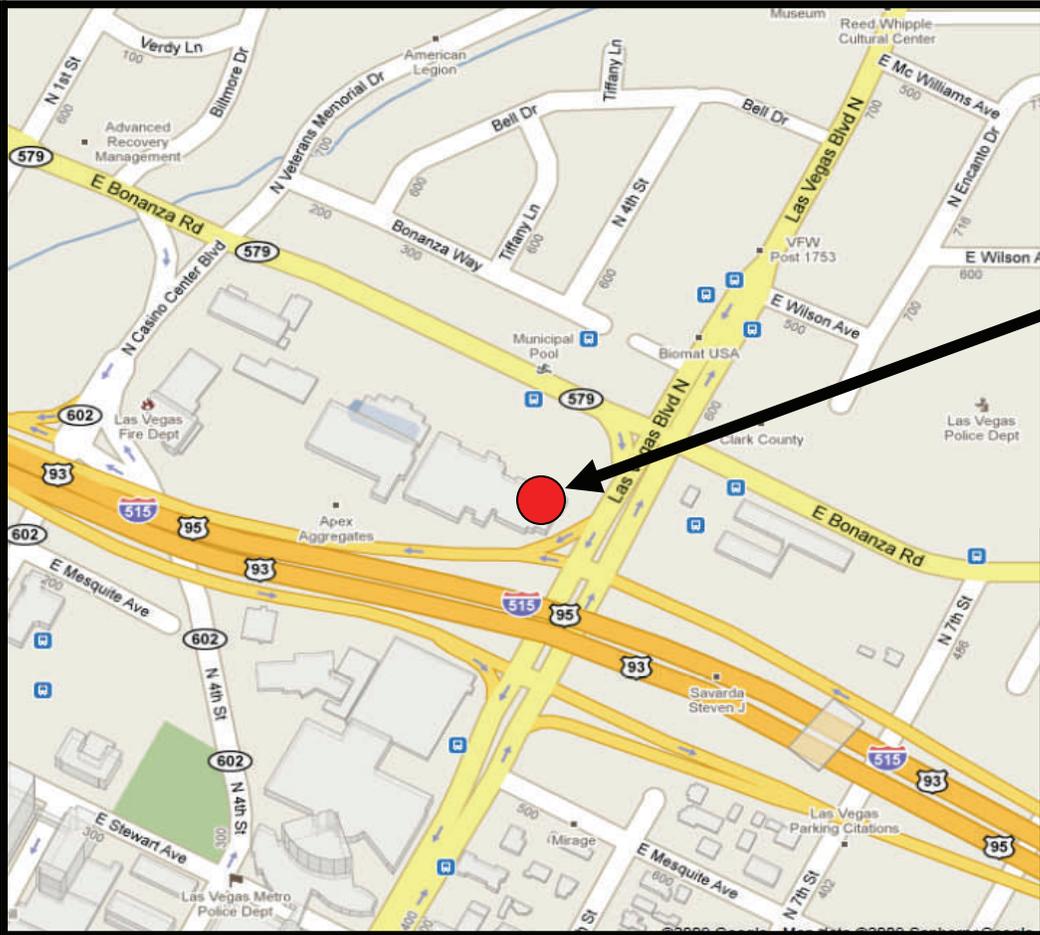
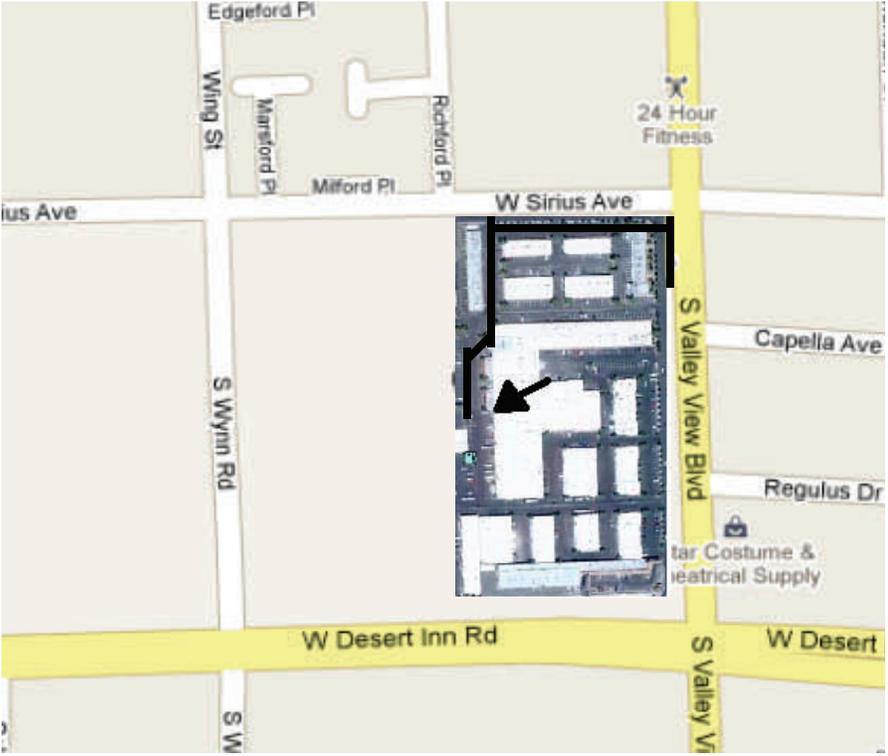
Opening Soon!!

**Volunteers
 Needed!!**

**Tuesday, Sept. 21,
 2010**

**Truck will be at shop
 at 9:00 a.m.**

**We need your help to unload
 and set up the new shop.**



SNGMS General Meetings

*First Monday
 of Every Month!!*

Non-members welcome

**451 East Bonanza Road
 Las Vegas, NV
 (702) 229-6454**

**Show and Sell 5 - 6 P.M.
 General Meeting 6 - 8 P.M.**



Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 94744
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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>Club Mascot: Rock Wren</p> <p>Club Gemstone: Turquoise</p> <p>Club Logo: Rocks-R-Us</p> <p>Membership is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing</p> <p>Annual Dues: Individual - \$20; Family - \$30</p> <p>Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at the Senior Center at 451 Bonanza Road, on the southwest corner of Bonanza Road and Las Vegas Blvd. No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.</p> <p>Visitors are always welcome and bring a friend or two.</p>	Polished Slab Advertising Rates		
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	Half Page	\$90	\$170
	Full Page	\$150	\$275
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