



# The Polished Slab

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



January 2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUDS SINCE 1940

Volume 72 Issue 1

## Upcoming Events

- Feb 2 - Board Meeting
- Feb 4 - Kid's Club 9-10 AM at the SNGMS Shop
- Feb 6 - General Meeting
- Wire Wrapping - each Monday except General Meeting night, 3 & 6 PM at the Shop. Jan wire wrapping is 23rd and 30th.
- Silversmithing - each Tuesday, 5 PM at the Shop
- Beading - Every other Thursday, 6 PM at the Shop. Jan beading is 12th and 26th.
- See page 8 for more class information

## Inside this issue:

Board Meeting Minutes	2
General Meeting Minutes	2
Shop Photos	4
2011 Awards Banquet Photos	5
SNGMS Meeting dates & Directions to Shop and Meeting Location	7
Classes	8
Shop Report	9
Birthday, New Members and Sunshine	10
Upcoming Shows & Vendor Opportunities	11

## President's Message

*from Sheri Johnson*

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

I thought I would use this first "official" message as an introduction to me. I have been interested in rocks since I was 5 years old, my parents were rockhounds too. I grew up in a small town in Nebraska that was flat and geologically boring, which made the pursuit of the hobby a bit challenging. Twice a year, my parents would load up the homemade, pop-up tent camper and we would go elsewhere to look for rocks with the local rock club. In its heyday, the local club membership reached 40 members!

Even after I moved out, my parents continued to go on rock trips and shows looking for another slab, agate, specimen, etc. When it was too cold to collect, my father was in the basement making cabochons, silversmithing, or just generally tinkering. My father was an Electrical Engineer that liked to build things, like a pop-up tent camping trailer, rock cutting, grinding and polishing equipment. In case you're wondering about the bracelet that I always wear is a Stainless Steel bracelet that my father made.

## Dues are due by January 31st



At one time, my parents asked if there was anything that I would like to inherit. Well, the answer was easy – the rock collection. Many years later, my father passed away and after too many winters alone, my mother decided to sell the house. I went back to "collect" my inheritance. I rented a 16 foot moving truck and loaded it up with equipment and rocks and drove it back to Las Vegas. The truck was overweight, REALLY overweight.

My inheritance included a 20 inch gravity saw made out of an old washing machine, trim saws mounted on a bedframe, grinders bolted to tables and tons (literally) of prairie agate, petrified wood, slabs, fossils and many rocks that I cannot identify. I truly believe that you can never have too many rocks, as evidenced by my garage, house, backyard and storage area.

So that is my story in a nutshell. I look forward to the next year, spending time with an amazing group of people who understand the excitement of finding the perfect specimen, making an impressive cabochon or beading a beautiful bracelet.

Happy New Year Everyone!

## Board Meeting Summary - January 5th 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 P.M., and the pledge of allegiance followed.

The minutes of the board meeting held December first 2011 were read and approved without correction.

Pat Skeary gave a treasurer's report for the month of December, 2011, showing a loss.

**Unfinished Business:** More contacts and phone calls will be made concerning the repair of some faceting machines, Peggy Sue Moore will follow up with the county about the club's business license, and Sheri Johnson is working on a 2012 budget.

**New Business:** The list of committee members was reviewed and updated, with some openings noted.

The genie nova wheels were observed to need replacement, and a suggested contact to Covington regarding this issue was noted. John Stackhouse made a motion to purchase a new hand cart for the club's oxy/acetylene tanks. The motion was seconded by Pat Skeary, and the board approved. John Stackhouse also made a motion to purchase a new barrel of cutting oil, seconded by Peggy Sue Moore, and approved by board.

A need to clean out some items from the shop storage room was noted, and a time and date to be set pending volunteers. A list of new shop hours was reviewed, and will be presented to general membership for approval.

Ernie Parrish made a motion, seconded by John Stackhouse, to discontinue show and sell activities at the shop, and the board approved.

The possibility of creating a SNGMS facebook page was discussed, and may be presented to general membership for approval in the future.

A need to research more options and locations for club field trips was noted. John Stackhouse made a motion, seconded by Frank Auerswald, to allow for the purchase of \$300 worth of items from Quartzsite for the club raffle table, and the board approved.

Peggy Sue Moore agreed to make an informative presentation of the Quartzsite location and event at the next general meeting program.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

## General Meeting Summary - January 9th 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M., and the pledge of allegiance was made.

The minutes of the general meeting held November 7 2011 were read and approved without correction.

### **Committee Reports:**

Pat Skeary gave a treasurer's report for the month of December, 2011, showing a loss.

Mary Brandt reports we currently have 505 members, and reminds everyone to promptly renew their membership, as the old membership list will be completely updated and purged.

John Stackhouse reports there are three people certified to use the faceting machines, and the shop now has new hours, Sat.10-5, Sun.12-4, and Tue.12-5. (*normal hours of 12-9 on Wed., Thurs, and Fri. remain in effect*)

Federation director Jason Fabbi reported on his adventurous meeting in Visalia, CA, and urges members to

## General Meeting Minutes - con't.

visit the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website for more information.

Mary Beth Paladino reports Harvey Ader will hold a scrimshaw class for the Rockstars on February 4 at the shop, 9-10 A.M.

Dottie Fusch reports numerous members continue to recover from previous surgeries, and remembers the passing of longtime member Clare Breneman.

### Unfinished Business:

The board of directors has nominated Ernie Parrish to carry out the remainder of Clare Breneman's board term. This was presented to the general membership, and a majority vote approved.

Awards were distributed to members who were unable to attend the awards banquet in December.

Guests in attendance were acknowledged, as well as those with birthdays in the month of January. January's birthstone is garnet, and is thought to keep the wearer safe during travel.

### New Business:

After the break, new business was discussed. There is still a need for some committee chairs, in the refreshments and audit departments. Lori Green and Wayne Muth have volunteered for the audit committee.

The general membership was informed of both the need and importance of volunteers, for the instruction and assistance of new and young members alike, as well as for the various crafting classes held at the shop.

Longtime member Doris Currington requests volunteers to assist with her paleontology displays, and Mary Beth Paladino requests volunteers for the kid's club Rockstars and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts activities. Also, the board is always open to new field trip suggestions within reasonable driving parameters.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M., followed by raffles and Peggy Sue Moore's program presentation of Quartzsite.

## Dues To Be Paid Before February 1st

The last date to renew your membership, is January 31st. A renewal after the end of January will result in an interruption in your membership. You must never allow your membership to lapse if you want to maintain continuous (uninterrupted) membership.

Reasons to keep an uninterrupted membership:

- 1 - You must have a minimum of two uninterrupted years of membership in order to run for any elected office.
- 2 - You must have a minimum of one uninterrupted year of membership in order to chair a committee.
- 3 - You must have 10 uninterrupted years of membership to become a life member.
- 4 - If you fail to renew by January 31st, you may renew and be reinstated for an additional \$5.00 fee.



# The SNGMS Shop



**Some  
younger  
members  
creating  
cabochons**



**Check out this  
cab I just made**



# Having Fun!



Photos courtesy of Danny Fesler



# 2011 Awards Banquet

# Come Early!

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



## Discounts Available

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

**Desert Outfitters**  
[www.desertoutfitters.com](http://www.desertoutfitters.com)  
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**(702) 875-1968**  
 fax (702) 875-1913  
 BLOG: [www.cactusjoeslasvegas.com](http://www.cactusjoeslasvegas.com)

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**SNGMS 2012 Meetings**

Jan 05 Board	Jun 04 General
09 General	28 Board
Feb 02 Board	Jul 02 General
06 General	Aug 02 Board
Mar 01 Board	06 General
05 General	Sep 06 Board
29 Board	10 General
Apr 02 General	27 Board
May 03 Board	Oct 01 General
07 General	Nov 01 Board
31 Board	05 General

All Meetings at 3111 S. Valley View Blvd. Bldg. E. Board Meetings at Shop, Suite 125, General Meetings at Suite 122.

**SNGMS General Meeting**

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

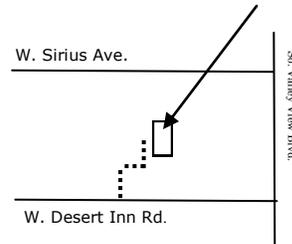
***Non-members welcome!***

3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-122  
Las Vegas, NV

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

**3111 So. Valley View Blvd, Building E**

**Meeting Location  
Suite 122  
Shop Suite 125**



**Finding the Shop and General Meeting Location**

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past So. Valley View Blvd. into the industrial park area. Drive past the building on your right, then jog right, then left and you will be in front of Building E.

# Bulletin Board

**For Sale:** RayTech 8" Gem Maker Cab Machine: Excellent condition, almost new, comes with 100 and 600 grit diamond wheels, two 3" expandable drums, one faceplate with leather pad, original operating instructions and parts list. This is a nice machine for which parts are still available. Asking \$800.00. Contact Dan Bell at 702-450-3220.

**Free to Good Home:** Covey Run wine rack in the shape of a quail . It holds 36 bottles of wine. Black metal. Call me if you want it. You will need to pick up from my house. Peggy Sue Moore: 348-9600

**Free to Good Home:** There are a number of tiles, mostly 12"x12" in the shop that were donations and are not needed. If you can use these please come in and get them. There are enough to tile a small bathroom or just pick up a couple to use as a work surface for your crafts.

# Classes, Classes, Classes!

Wire wrapping, led by Sue Moore and Sheila Tremmel, meets on Mondays (except for the General Meeting night) at 3 PM and again at 6 PM. The January wire wrapping classes will be the last two Mondays in January. On Jan 23rd the class will make a beaded heart, and on Jan 30th we will have a 'surprise' as Peggy Sue will try to find a unique item to wire wrap in Quartzsite. Sign up with Sue Moore at 702-434-6072, or email her, to get on the email list to receive wire wrapping class information.

The beading project in January is a free-form peyote stitch bracelet. Class was held on Jan 12 and will also be on the 26th. This is a fun project, can use up leftover odds and ends of beads, and the 26th is not too late to join in. In February Jaen Rupprecht will teach us to make a chain maille and crystal bracelet. Class starts at 6 PM. Contact Pat Skeary at 702-459-2649 to sign up for beading or for more information.

Silversmithing meets every Tuesday at 5 PM. Bill Lemmon is leading the class. He is doing some project classes, or will help you, as needed, as you complete your own individual projects. No experience or equipment is required to come to the class. Come in and Bill will help you get started.

Faceting classes are now decreased in cost to only \$5.00 an hour. Contact Peggy Sue Moore 434-6072, Frank Auerswald 365-8306, or John Stackhouse 631-5291 to arrange a time when one of them can help you with faceting. They just had three people complete the class and are ready to start some new faceting students.

Tom Skeary taught a clock making class in November. Contact him to arrange to take his next class.

Chuck Huebler is offering a drop-in shop maintenance class on Saturday mornings. Come in at 10 AM and he will teach you about maintaining your lapidary equipment.

A wax carving and lost wax casting class is being formed. Get on the sign up sheet if you are interested.

Wire wrapping, beading, and silversmithing classes have a very modest donation of \$5.00 per session, that goes to the club. Other class donations may vary, depending on what is included in the class.



## URGENT!

We have an urgent need for a Refreshment Chairman. It is only once a month, on meeting nights, you can recruit committee members to help, and the duties are:

1. Arrive on the day of the General Meeting by 4:00pm to start coffee.
2. Arrange for 20 pounds of ice.
3. Set up 2 long tables and 1 short table for refreshments
4. Layout food donations
5. Break down at end of evening
6. Coordinate with Treasurer to order Refreshment Supplies.

Please, if you can chair the committee, or just help for a month or two, let any member of the Board know.

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the Shop). The owners of the units comes in at odd hours and needs access to their parking spaces. There is ample parking across from the Shop that is not in front of any unit.



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**Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society**

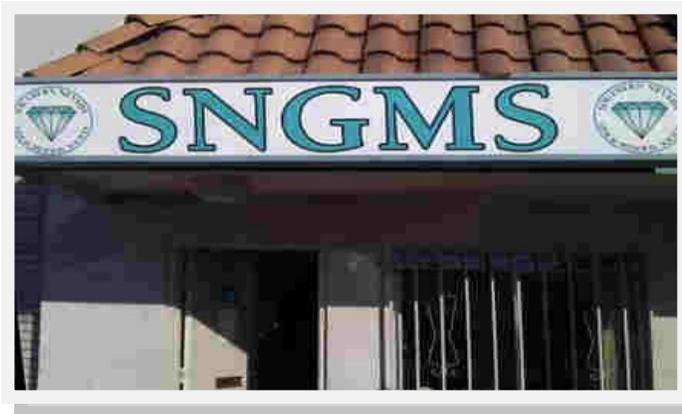
3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125

Las Vegas, NV 89102



# Shop Report

Photo courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse



## SNGMS Workshop Schedule

Sunday	12 noon - 4 PM
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	12 noon - 5 PM
Wednesday	12 noon - 9 PM
Thursday*	12 noon - 9 PM
Friday	12 noon - 9 PM
Saturday	10 AM - 5 PM

## Shop Talk

*from Chuck Huebler and John Stackhouse*

The SNGMS Shop is going to be open more days for your convenience. Take a look at our new schedule and come in and use the equipment, learn something new, or just come down and visit with your club members.

We would like to maintain the increased hours, but we need your participation to make that happen. If you don't have any rocks to cut and polish we can fix that - rocks are available in the shop for a modest \$2 a pound, and for your first cab the slab is free.

Supervisors will be glad to help anyone who is unfamiliar with the equipment to learn, and to get certified.

\*Closed after 6 PM on the Thursday of the Board Meeting, and closed after 6 PM to saw usage on Beading Class Thursdays

Supervisors will close the shop if no one comes in after two hours. The next shift supervisor will then re-open the shop.

You need to wear eye protection and a mask and/or hearing protection, depending on your activity. Goggles, hearing protection, and masks are available at the shop. Wearing old clothes is recommended

### Fees

Trim Saw \$3.00 per hour, all other equipment is \$5.00 per hour, after the first hour charges

Be mindful of what you are doing in the shop, as equipment (and You) can be damaged. If you don't know, or aren't sure of the equipment operation, ask for assistance. The supervisors are there to help you.

If none of the listed times are convenient for you, contact John at 702-239-0437 or Chuck at 702-686-4186 and they will try to accommodate your schedule if possible.

Come in and look at our rocks! You show us yours, and we'll show you ours.

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**Birthstone: Amethyst**  
**Flower - Violet**

## Happy February Birthday

***If you have a February birthday please bring something for the refreshment table at the February meeting; and if you had a December birthday then February is a great month for you to bring a snack to share!***

Stephen Baeckeroot, Lane Barker, Maranda E Brandt, F.J. Coache, Juan Decastro, Christian Diamandis, Deborah A. Evans, Bonnie Evelyn, Tim Hamewka, Bruce Hayes, Cliff Jackson, Ada Joffrion, Rick Johnson, Kerin Landry, Steven Liguori, Makayla Lyons, Terry McLain, Adam Q. Miller, David Parkes, John Parkes, Leon Pruet

## Welcome New Members



***A hearty welcome to members who joined or rejoined SNGMS during late December and January. We look forward to getting to know you better!***

Erin Ashley, Caelum Baeckeroot, Tristen Baeckeroot, Angelo Cervantes, Larry Clay, Jennifer Cook, Bryan Forgione, Drew Forgione, Dylan Forgione, Piper Forgione, Chris Garvey, Tom Garvey, Joel Gregson, Tim Hamewka, William Hildebrant, Altha Husband, Jeff Husband, William Kogan, Miki Low, Trevor Low, Mary Luna, Bruce Martin, Linda Martin, Nicol McNee, Mike Miller, Pat Miller, Morgana Muniz, Jan Nieman, Amber Penick, Anthony Penick, Jesse Penick, Monica Penick, Eric Pretz, Oceanna Pretz, Mabel Quinto, Landy Sanderson, Joyceann Vintar

## Sunshine Report *from Dottie Fusch*



*Please if you hear of any SNGMS member in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, death in the family or other need, call me—Dottie Fusch at 648-5886 (recorder on). Cards will be sent to let the member know that we care and wish them well.*

We are happy to report that while several members continue to recover from their surgeries, most of our membership is doing well at present. Dan Bell was recently hospitalized for pneumonia and a mild heart attack, but is recovering well. Let's hope 2012 is a healthy and productive year for all of us!

## 2012 Board of Directors

President.....Sheri Johnson.....702-434-6072  
*sngms@yahoo.com*  
 Vice-President.....Jack Toogood.....702-642-4788  
*sngms@yahoo.com*  
 Secretary.....Tony Fetcho.....*sngms\_sec@yahoo.com*  
 Treasurer.....Pat Skeary.....702-459-2649  
*sngms\_treasurer@yahoo.com*  
 Parliamentarian.....Frank Auerswald  
 Three Year Board...John Stackhouse  
 Two Year Board.....Tom Skeary  
 One Year Board.....Peggy Sue Moore  
 Ernie Parrish

## Committee Chairmen

Bulletin.....Lorrilee Stackhouse.....702-631-5291  
*sngms\_editor@yahoo.com*  
 ByLaws.....Peggy Sue Moore  
 Education.....Mary Beth Paladino  
 Federation.....Jason Fabbi  
 Alt. Federation.....Sheri Johnson  
*sngms\_federation@yahoo.com*  
 Field Trip.....Board of Directors  
*sngms\_fieldtrip@yahoo.com*  
 Financial Manager..George Messenger  
 General Shop .....Chuck Huebler.....702-686-4186  
 Foremen John Stackhouse.....702-239-0437  
 Historian.....Jack Toogood  
 Hospitality.....Bob and Sue Lofaro  
 Inventory.....Ronald Fetcho  
 Librarian.....Danny Fesler and Kevin Ware  
 Membership.....Mary Brandt  
*sngmsmembership@yahoo.com*  
 Program.....Board of Directors  
 Publicity.....Sandy Cunningham  
 Raffle.....Tom Skeary  
 50-50 Raffle.....JoAnne Sprott  
 Refreshments.....*Vacant*  
 Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647  
*sngms\_rockstars@yahoo.com*  
 Sargent at Arms....Craig Tremmel  
 Show Chairperson..Board of Directors  
 Sunshine.....Dottie Fusch.....702-648-5886  
 Webmaster.....Jack Toogood.....702-642-4788  
*sngms\_webmaster@yahoo.com*

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

## Upcoming Shows

**Jan 21 - 22 - Exeter, CA,** Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia, Exeter Veteran's Memorial Building, Highway 65, 324 N Kaweah Avenue, Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

**Jan 20 - 22 - Globe, AZ,** Annual show, Gila County Gem & Mineral Society, Gila County Fair Grounds, 3 mi. north of Globe on US 60-70; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4

**Jan 27 - 28 - Redlands, CA,** Mineralogical Society of Southern California/Micro-Mineralogists, Pacific Micromount Conference, San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Drive, Hours: Fri. 4 - 10; Sat. 8 - 10

**Feb 9 - 12 - Tucson, AZ,** Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave Tucson AZ 85701

**Feb 17 - 26 - Indio, CA,** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg #1, Arabia Street, Hours: 10 -10 daily

These are only a sampling of shows that are fairly close to the Las Vegas area. There are rock clubs throughout the United States and the computer is your friend in finding information about clubs and shows. Just search for the area you are interested in and rock club and you should find plenty to keep you busy, wherever you are going.

Some links that you may find helpful are:  
 California Federation - <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>,  
 Rocky Mountain Federation -  
[http://www.rmfmms.org/rock\\_shows\\_by\\_date.htm](http://www.rmfmms.org/rock_shows_by_date.htm),  
 and the Rock & Gem website -  
<http://rockngem.com/showdates/>

If you know of any shows or vendor opportunities that would be of interest to our readers please let the editor know!

## Vendor Opportunities

**Mar 16 -18 - Henderson, NV,** St. Patrick's Day Festival. Spaces are available in the Henderson Convention Center and the Henderson Events Plaza. See <http://snsoe.com/index.html> for more information.

**Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society**

**3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125**

**Las Vegas, NV 89102**

**Return Service Requested**

**Rocks-R-Us**

[www.sngms.com](http://www.sngms.com)



**Don't forget to pay your 2012 Dues!**

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><b>Club Mascot:</b> Rock Wren</p> <p><b>Club Gemstone:</b> Turquoise</p> <p><b>Club Logo:</b> Rocks-R-Us</p> <p><b>Membership</b> is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing</p> <p><b>Annual Dues:</b> Individual - \$20; Family - \$30</p> <p><b>Meetings</b> are held the first Monday of the month at 3111 So. Valley View Blvd, E-122. No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.</p> <p><b>Visitors</b> are always welcome and bring a friend or two.</p>	Polished Slab Advertising Rates		
	Ad Size	Six Months	Yearly
	Business Card	\$18	\$30
	Quarter Page	\$48	\$90
	Half Page	\$90	\$170
Full Page	\$150	\$275	
<p>SNGMS Web Page Ads and Links to your Web Page are available for additional fees.</p> <p>First month is free to club members. Ads must be paid in full prior to publication. Make checks payable to Southern Nevada Gem &amp; Mineral Society. Mail to : SNGMS/Attn: Editor, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125 Las Vegas, NV 89102</p>			