



THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



October 2017

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 77 Issue 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 2nd - General Mtg
Nov 2nd - Board Mtg
Nov 6th - General Mtg

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Wayne Muth

To all SNGMS Members:

As things are winding down for me as your President, there are a few things that I will be finishing up in the next few months, our new saw, the Rock Swap, and the Annual Banquet.

I want to also thank the membership for approving the Budget for the Boulder City Jamboree. Though we do not have a field trip for October, we do have a possible spot for November, and we are going to try to do it early in the month so everyone can enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday.

I will also be working on some final details on the shop, to try and get all of our equipment in top working order. The GEO Saw should be fixed up soon, and a few more items. But as a whole the shop is up to all of our members to use and I encourage people to come down and use it.

So lets continue to have fun, and any ideas or suggestions will be always welcomed.

Wayne Muth

President SNGMS

October 2017

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Birthstone of the Month: **Opal** is the Birthstone for October with Tourmaline also being listed. In mythology Opal was seen as the embodiment of the beauty of all precious stones and were said to be the tears of Zeus after his victory over the Titans. **Tourmaline** symbolizes wealth, friendship and love. The stone becomes electrostatically charged when rubbed.



Field Trips

There are no scheduled field trips for October, but there is the "Rock Swap" at the shop on Saturday, October 28th., starting at 10:30 am with food from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Spring Jamboree May 5-6, 2018

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

We have started planning for the 2018 Spring Jamboree Gem and Mineral Show next May. We had an awesome turnout of volunteers for the last show activities and know that we can make it an even better one next May! Here is one of our new volunteers - I think we are going to need a bigger vest.....

Upcoming Spring Jamboree Show Planning Meetings
(subject to change):

- Thursday, October 12th, 6:00 pm
- Saturday, February 17th, 11:00 am
- Saturday, March 24th, 11:00 am
- Thursday, April 5th, 6:00 pm
- Saturday, April 21st, 11:00 am

You don't need to attend the meetings to volunteer - there will be lots of opportunities in the next 9 months to help out. Starting in the next edition of the Slab, I will have a monthly update of what is going on for the Show and how you can help. Spring Jamboree 2018 be the best show yet!

Happy Hunting - Sheri Johnson
SherisRocks89121@gmail.com
702-525-0256



SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 9/28/2017

On September 28th, 2015, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the president. The secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the September 7th, 2017 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported the account balances.

Shop Report: The Shop is not bringing in much money presently. The 16" saw that was approved will be ordered next week. New pulleys are needed for one of the trim saws.

Unfinished Business:

Sheri Johnson reported on the SNGMS Facebook page saying that it may go live as soon as Sunday evening.

There will be a rock swap on October 28th at the Shop.

New Business:

Sheri Johnson presented her budget for the Spring Jamboree. Beth Jones proposed, seconded by Frank Timbers and approved by the Board that, "the proposed budget of \$4,109 be accepted by the Board and be presented to the membership for approval at the General Meeting."

Ron Johnson proposed, seconded by Frank Timbers and approved by the Board, that "up to \$175 be spent purchasing recommended disks for the faceting class."

John Stackhouse proposed, seconded by Frank Timbers and approved by the Board, that "the Board meeting be adjourned"

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Shop Talk Almost Everything You Need to Know About... Taking care of Opals : (by Ron Fulmer,

Director of Processing and Sourcing , Gemstone Services Australia Pty Ltd. Reprinted from the Opal Express):

There seems to be much confusion about the proper way to care for and clean opals. This is a simple guide that will let you preserve your beautiful opals and keep them looking their best. To care for Opal correctly, two of the basic physical properties of this unique and beautiful gemstone must be understood. Precious Opal contains around 6%-10% water (sometimes higher). Opal has a hardness of 5.5 - 6.5 on the "Mohs" scale of hardness. First and foremost you must determine if your opal is a natural occurring solid, doublet or triplet. The care instructions for each can differ significantly.

When purchasing Opal, buy quality stones only from knowledgeable dealers or jewelers, preferably someone who is a cutter. The reason for purchasing from a cutter is, many jewelers don't understand Opal, and therefore cannot offer you the right care advice for a particular Opal. If you know precisely the type of Opal you have purchased, you will know how to care for it.

(Continued On Page 7)



Come Early!

Be sure to come early on General Meeting nights, because between 5 and 6 PM many of our talented members exhibit their works for your admiration and possible purchase.

Cabochons, beadwork, silversmithed and wire wrapped jewelry, rock slabs, unfinished stones, and more are usually available. It is a good time to chat with other members and catch up on their latest creations.



*Discounts Available with your
SNGMS membership*

All the establishments featured on page 4 offer discounts to SNGMS members. Be sure to show your membership card when making a purchase, and say that the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society sent you!

Website: discountbeadstv.com

Discount BEADS Inc.

Ernie Staley, CEO
David Cray, President

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SNGMS General meeting minutes for 10/2/2017

On October 2nd, 2017, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the president. The secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the September 11th, 2017 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported the account balances.

Nominations: Frank Timbers reported current nominations and accepted nominations from the floor. The current nominations are: President: Bob Belcher, Vice President: Beth Jones, Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse, Treasurer: Bill Moore, Parliamentarian: Scott Edwards, 3 Yr. Board: Del Walkenshaw. Additional nominations will be accepted and voting will be at the November General Meeting. Candidates must be present at this meeting to be nominated and voted upon.

The Awards Banquet will be a pot luck at the Eagles Lodge on December 10th. Members are encouraged to arrive about Noon and the meal will begin at about 1 PM. There is no charge and members may bring one non-member guest and should bring a dish to share. The club will provide turkey and ham.

Committee Reports:

Classes: There will be four wire wrapping classes this month and they will be announced via email. Faceting is going well, the initial classes were held and all students are working on synthetic sapphires. There will be a meeting October 13th at 7 PM at the Shop.

Sunshine: Scott Edwards is recovering well from his knee surgery and was at the meeting. Bill Lemmon is now at Kindred where he is expected to remain for at least a month. He would enjoy having visitors and/or calls.

Shop: Shop income is down. The approved new saw will be purchased this month and the old saw will be kept as back-up.

Membership: John Stackhouse reports 368 adult and 60 child members.

Federation and Show: Cindy Allison proposed, seconded by Jim Jones, and approved by the membership, "that the proposed budget of \$4,109, presented by Sheri Johnson, for the Spring Jamboree show be accepted."

Field Trip: A rock swap will be held at the Shop on October 28th. An additional field trip may be organized and will be announced via email.

Jr. Members and Rock Stars: Mary Beth Paladino reported on past and upcoming events. The Kids club will be assembling pewter figures on amethyst crystals to be used as donation gifts at the Springs Preserve.

Show and Sell tables will be free at the November meeting.

Cab contest results: 1st Place – Lloyd Chayette, 2nd Place – Caren Crotty. The cab for October to be voted on at the November meeting is 'a harvest colored cab.'

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

SNGMS 2017 Meetings

Jan 05 Board	Jul 10 General
09 General	Aug 03 Board
Feb 02 Board	07 General
06 General	Sep 07 Board
Mar 02 Board	11 General
06 General	28 Board
30 Board	Oct 02 General
Apr 03 General	Nov 02 Board
27 Board	06 General
May 01 General	Dec None
Jun 01 Board	Annual Awards
05 General	Banquet
Jul 06 Board	

Board Meetings at Shop, 3111 Valley View Blvd. Bldg. E. Suite 125, General Meetings at Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave.

SNGMS General Meeting

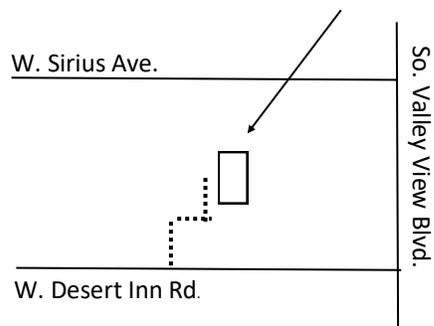
1st Monday of every month
(2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

Non-members welcome!

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

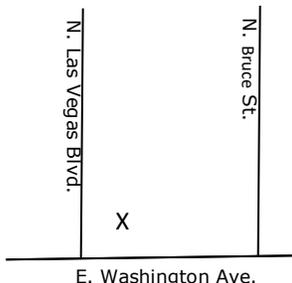
Show & Sell 5-6 PM
General Meeting 6-8 PM

**3111 So. Valley View Blvd,
Building E Shop Suite 125**



Finding the Shop Location

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past So. Valley View Blvd. into the industrial park area. Drive past the building on your right, then jog right, then left



Finding the General Meeting Location

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

KIDS CLUB / EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

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



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



(Continued from Pg 3)

Shop Talk Almost Everything You Need to Know About... Taking care of Opals :

What can I do if my stone loses its polish or becomes scratched?

This is the main reason for recommending you buy from people who cut Opal. For example, if you get an Opal from a cutter and after prolonged periods of wear and tear your Opal may need repolishing (in most cases it can be re-polished at a reasonable price). Or alternatively, if you have damaged the opal and it needs to be "reworked", then this is the person to do it for you, or at least give you the best advice. Can I put Opals in water? Yes! Solid Precious Opal should be placed in a dish of clean room temperature water for at least 10 - 15 minutes, every 12 months or so. From personal experience (gained from over 27 years of cutting, collecting and handling opals) this allows the gemstone to absorb moisture it may require therefore preventing any crazing or cracking caused by drying out (especially if the opal has been subjected to harsh or dry conditions). Basic Care Practices: Always remove rings when "Washing Up". Even solid Opals can be adversely affected if subjected to sudden temperature changes (such as being placed in very hot water). If the stone is an opal doublet or triplet, it is unwise to place it in water (particularly hot water with detergent, as in washing up) for any length of time as it may effect the cement that is used to bond the stone segments together (Doublet - 2, Triplet - 3). Don't wear OPAL when gardening. Sand or soil is abrasive and will wear the polish off the stone over time. Also there is the chance, if you are doing any sort of work that could bring the stone in contact with hard surfaces, a flick of the wrist in the wrong direction could chip it.

How do oily substances affect an opal?

It is recommended you do not place Opal near oils or oily substances, however oily hand and face creams will usually not damage Opal (except that they may "build up" around a ring and make it look unsightly).

How do I store Opals for long periods of time?

De-humidified atmospheres, (such as bank vaults and safety deposit boxes) are to be treated with caution when storing Opals for long periods, as they can extract the water content from an Opal over time, causing the Opal to crack or craze.

If Opal must be stored in these conditions, it is strongly advised to put them in a sealed plastic bag with a little water to prevent drying out. Also it is advisable to check your Opal every 6 - 12 months to ensure it has not "dried out". Otherwise, it is generally safe to store them away, as long as the area is not overheated.

Displaying Opal:

Don't store Opal for prolonged periods of time under hot lights, as this could crack the stones if the heat builds up and is magnified (as in a showcase). If Opal is to be displayed under these conditions it is strongly advised to place the Opal in or near a source of moisture (ie; a bowl of clean water or wet sponge).

Cleaning Opal:

Opal can be cleaned in soft detergent (washing up detergent) in lukewarm water using a cloth or soft brush. After cleaning, Opal should be rinsed in clean room temperature water. By following these few simple rules on basic Opal care, your Opals will last forever as a source of enjoyment and natural beauty.

Classes

Wire wrapping, led by Peggy Sue Moore or Scott Edwards , meets on most Mondays (except for the General Meeting night). Hours for the class are 5 - 8 PM. The fee is \$5.00 for the shop and \$1.00 pattern fee.

At this time there are no beading classes scheduled.

Silver Smithing meets every Tuesday at 5 PM. Still need a volunteer for this class. The class is suitable for beginners, and also for intermediate to advanced students.

Faceting classes will be changing. Upon the arrival of the new supplies, the faceting classes will be held from 10 to noon on two Saturdays a month. Please contact Peggy Sue Moore in advance to see if a machine is available. If you use club machines they are \$5 an hour, no class fee.

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

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

Wire wrapping, metal smithing, flint knapping, and silver smithing have a very modest donation of \$5.00 per session, that goes to the club. Faceting is \$5.00 an hour, the cost of faceting machine use, or a flat \$5.00 if you use your own machine. Other class donations may vary, depending on what is included in the class. All donations go to SNGMS, all instructors volunteer their time and expertise to help extend the knowledge of our members.



Sunshine Report

from Beth Jones

Please if you hear of any SNGMS member in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, death in the family or other need, call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at Punkyjones@hotmail.com

(please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)



Scott Edwards is recovering well from his knee surgery and was at the meeting.

Bill Lemmon is now at Kindred where he is expected to remain for at least a month. He would enjoy having visitors and/or calls.



SHOP INFORMATION

SNGMS Workshop Schedule

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



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse

Shop Fee

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

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



October’s Cabochon contest winners for “Free Form”:

1st Place: Lloyd Chayette

2nd Place: Caren Crotty

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



Happy Birthdays!

October

Sandy Anderson, Jerry Buckler, Aarriel Budvietas, Lloyd Chayette, Mary Chayette, Caryn Crotty, Tom Davey, Susan Dobson, Ruth Dziadon, Merle English, Lianna Fitzpatrick, Judy Flaster, Ann Harris, Kathy Hassett, Tim Heiden, A. Joe Iglesias, Deb Iglesias, Beth Jones, Gene Kandt III, William Kogen, Debbie Koladziej, Alex Lash, Michaela Lash, Carole Liccardo, Lynn Manthey, Bruce Martin, Candy Munkres, Bella Romero, Andre Schweizer, Sean Sieloff, James Sloane, Kyle Smith, Lorraine Testa, Frank Timbers, Nicole Tripp-Herring, Ralph Tryon, Elly Walkenshaw, Mike Wisniewski.

November

If you have a November birthday please bring something for the refreshment table at the November meeting.

Brian Anderson, Leonard Andrews, Ellen Adan Barnaum, Alessandra Briceno, Star Graham, Jim Grothuesmann, Nancy Huffine, Sandra Johnson, Aiden Kerr, Thomas Larson, Jennifer Lee, Alexander Leiva, Mark Martin, Stanley McCoy, Marilyn McDougal, Peggy Sue Moore, Jill Ono, Tony Peltz, Ananaka Rau, Jaen Rupprecht, Kathy Rynd, Dietmar Selzer, Osiris Smith, Phyllis Suiter, Jimmy Todacheewy, L.D. Tripp, Garrett Watson

Welcome New Members!

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

G. Gavin Boyle, Charles B. Davis, David Flegel, Diane Flegel, Melanie Hecht, Whitney Leak, Duane Matters, Bella Romero, Chris Sakmar, Gary Tuttle, Mary Ann Wagner, Cody Heiden, Noelle Heiden, Tim Heiden.

2017 Board of Directors

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are rock clubs throughout the United States and the computer is your friend in finding information about clubs and shows. Just search for the area you are interested in and rock club and you should find plenty to keep you busy, wherever you are going.

October 13th, 14th, 15th: 2nd Annual Pahrump Gold Gem & Mineral Show. For vendor information contact Jane Goodrow at 702 218-0428 or by email: pahrumpgoldgemandmineralshow@gmail.com

October 14-15: Trona, CA, Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society. Sat 7:30AM to 5PM, Sun 7:30AM to 4PM. SLG&MS Lapidary & Show Building-13337 Main St. (corner of Main & Trona Rd.) See Show Flyer for details: <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/FLYER.htm>

October 20th, 21st, 22nd: Logandale Fall Festival, Clark County Fairgrounds, Logandale, Nevada. info@logandalefallfestival.com

November 18th and 19th: 2017 Mining Supplies and Rock Shop, Hesperia, CA . For more information visit their web site: www.miningsuppliesandrockshop.com

March 7-11, 2018: A multi-day field trip to Burro Creek, Arizona, Peggy Sue Moore will be coordinating this trip.

May 5,6 2018: Boulder City Spring Jamboree

Some links that you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-
<http://www.amfed.org>
California Federation -
<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>
Rocky Mountain Federation -
<http://www.rmfmts.org>
and the Rock & Gem website -
<http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

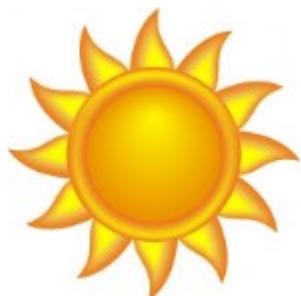
Committee Chairmen

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

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

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

Return Service Requested



ROCKS-R-US

www.snvgms.org

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

Club Mascot: Rock Wren

Club Gemstone: Turquoise

Club Logo: Rocks-R-U's

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

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

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

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

**POLISHED SLAB
 ADVERTISING RATES**

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