



# THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



December 2018

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 78 Issue 12

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 16th - Awards Banquet
- Jan 3rd - Board Mtg
- Jan 7th - General Mtg
- Jan 31st - Board Mtg
- Feb 4th - General Mtg

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

SNGMS Contact :  
702 561-3086

Be Safe and have a very

**Happy Holiday Season**

To all SNGMS Members:

We are approaching the end of the Year, we have our Banquet on the 16th , then it will be time to get ready for the Holidays! The new 2019 Board has been formed and will meet on January 3rd at the shop. The General Meeting is on January 7th at the Eagles Lodge. I want to welcome the new board members and sincerely thank those who have served our club so well.

Looking back the club has had a great year, our membership has grown and we are looking forward to seeing it take a Big jump this coming year. Remember, we never have too many Rock Friends. We had some great field trips and campouts in 2018. Our Club members got some fantastic minerals on our trips. We will be working on some even better trips for 2019. Our first outing will be Quartzsite Arizona, Jan 16 thru the 20th.

Come early to our Pow Wow if you can, we will be camped at Dome Rock Road, 11 mile marker on south side of Interstate 20, take the side road East to Cattle Guard then at the first dirt road turn right and follow it around curve then east across a wash, we will be uphill from there. Please remember to get some phone numbers in case of an emergency. Then we have Burro Creek Arizona, March 6th thru 11. We will be at Burro Creek Campground off US 93 after passing Wikiup, it will be on right side of road. When checking in please tell them you are with SNGMS. We would like to get in as many day fieldtrips and outings as possible this coming year. Watch the Newsletters and Emails to get dates. Don't forget our Jamboree this Spring in BOULDER CITY. Make plans to attend these events if possible.

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### SNGMS 2019 Board of Directors

President: Bob Belcher [bbeccher75@gmail.com](mailto:bbeccher75@gmail.com) 702 210-961  
 Vice-President: Sheri Johnson [sherisrocks89121@gmail.com](mailto:sherisrocks89121@gmail.com) 702 525-0256  
 Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse [lorrilee@cox.net](mailto:lorrilee@cox.net)  
 Treasurer: Bill Moore [SNGMStreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:SNGMStreasurer@gmail.com)  
 Parliamentarian: Ananaka Rau [aarau3@yahoo.com](mailto:aarau3@yahoo.com)  
 One Year Board Remaining: Jason Fabbi [jhfstones@yahoo.com](mailto:jhfstones@yahoo.com)  
 Two Year Board Remaining: Del Walkenshaw [desertartsupply@aol.com](mailto:desertartsupply@aol.com)  
 Three Year Board: Bruce Martin [brucemartinlv@yahoo.com](mailto:brucemartinlv@yahoo.com)

*From Bob Belcher, President, SNGMS, December 2018*

## Field Trips & Events

**SNGMS' Awards Banquette:** Sunday, December 16th at the Eagles Lodge

**Quartzsite, AZ:** Quartzsite Gem and Mineral, January 2019

**March 6-11, 2019:** Burro Creek, AZ Field Trip. Camp grounds being reserved.

**May 4th- 5th:** Boulder City Spring Jamboree

**October 2019,** Fallon, NV area for agates, jaspers and wonderstone.

### 2018 Awards Banquet



**Birthstone for the Month of December is Turquoise:** Turquoise is an opaque, blue-to-green mineral that is a hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum, with the chemical formula  $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . It is rare and valuable in finer grades and has been prized as a gemstone and ornamental stone for thousands of years owing to its unique hue. Turquoise has long been considered a holy stone by our Native Americans. The gemstone has been known by many names. Pliny the Elder referred to the mineral as *callais* (from Ancient Greek κάλαϊς) and the Aztecs knew it as *chalchihuitl*. The word *turquoise* dates to the 17th century and is derived from the French *turquois* for "Turkish" because the mineral was first brought to Europe through Turkey, from mines in the historical Khorasan Province of Persia.

Turquoise symbolizes beauty. In the middle ages it was believed that it made women virtuous and loyal.



## **SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 11/29/18**

On November 29th, 2018, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

In attendance were both the current Board members and the newly elected 2019 members.

The minutes of the November 1st, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported balances and that RMFMS dues will be paid this month.

Shop Report: Wayne Muth reported that saw blades (geode saw and 10" saw) and additional wheels will be ordered. The small flat lap is being repaired and if the repair is not sufficient a new machine may be ordered.

Wayne Muth reported that there are 91 reservations for the Awards Banquet and everything is on track for it.

The SNGMS website has a new webmaster, Sonya Edwards.

Del Walkenshaw proposed, seconded by Bill Moore, and approved by the Board, that "the meeting be adjourned."

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM

## **SNGMS 2019 Board of Directors**



*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!

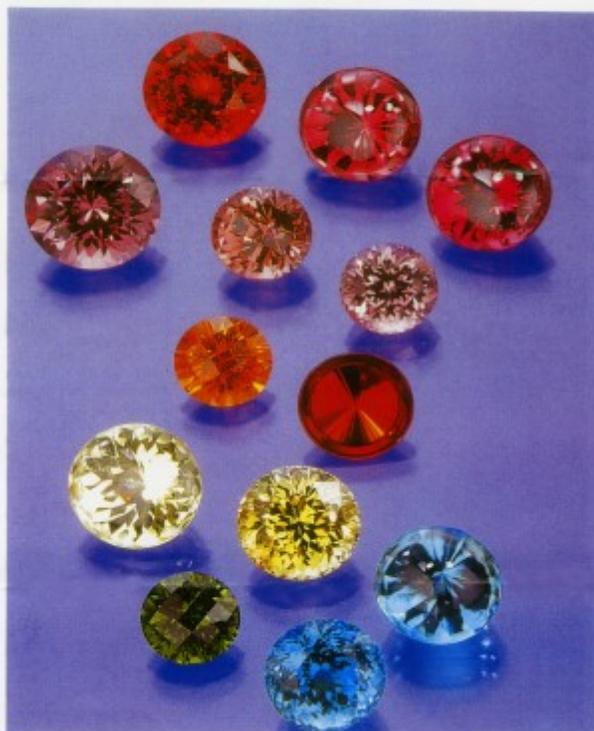


**Just A Hobby**  
 Jewelry Gemstones  
 App Only  
 Henderson  
 727-542-3144

**GEMSTONES FOR SALE**

RICHARD (727)542-3144

- TANZANITE
- SPESSARTINE
- SPINELL
- AMETHYST
- GARNETS
- AMETRINE
- EMERALDS
- SAPPHIRES
- RUBYS
- CITRINE
- OPALS
- KUNZITE
- LAZURITE
- MOONSTONE
- ONYX
- SUNSTONE
- RHODOLITE
- TOPAZ
- ZIRCON
- AND MANY MORE AVAILABLE.....



17,000 Carats

**Subject: Congratulations to the Members of SNGMS:****(An Email from visitors from Florida)**

In November, Patricia and I had the opportunity to visit the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society workshop on two different days.

My numbers may be a bit off, but I think that I saw six slab saws, six cabbing machines, seven faceting machines, an assortment of various sized trim saws and flat laps as well as silver smith stations and supplies and other related equipment, tools and supplies. You have a large common area to work on projects and conduct classes and seminars.

We have visited many other club workshops from Northwest Washington to Central Florida. There may be others, but I have only seen one other that come close to being as "good" as yours.

We were also very happy to find a group of outgoing and knowledgeable rock hounds that we could share stories with (mostly true, I think).

Your club is, as I was told, made up of over 450 people with diverse backgrounds and similar interests. Many with extensive knowledge and expertise and willing and anxious to share with those with different or less knowledge. We assume that YOU are taking advantage of these assets.

I am sure that all of this has not come easily for the club.

I am a past president of Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society In Volusia County Florida and also a cabbing, intarsia and inlay instructor and have served as workshop "chairperson". Patricia is a past treasurer and is the silver smith instructor. Along with other club members we strive to have a functioning workshop and club that presents programs and opportunities to our members. It is not easy!

Florida is a state that is mostly sand- few rocks and minerals. Tampa Bay Coral is pretty much the extent of it and that is illegal to collect unless you go to the state park that charges a fee. You are fortunate to be located in the center of one of the best lapidary areas in the world. We envy you.

I am hopeful that the members of SNGMS will read this and realize how fortunate they are. You should not assume that the club will be fine without your involvement. A well equipped workshop and a basic core of members are not enough. YOU are needed.

If you have not visited your workshop, you should. If you do not have lines of members waiting to use the equipment and supplies, you should. If you do not have members crowding in to take classes, you should. If your meetings are not interesting and crowded with members, they should be.

The bottom line: YOU have everything available to you that can be imagined. I hope that YOU are involved and enjoying the benefits of membership in SNGMS. If not, WHY NOT? Make it a point to schedule a visit to the shop and get involved in an activity of interest to you.

Our best wishes for continued success and growth.

Jim and Patricia  
Tomoka Gem and Mineral society  
Volusia County, Florida

**SNGMS 2019 Meetings**

Jan 03 Board	Jul 01 General
07 General	Aug 01 Board
Jan 31 Board	05 General
Feb 04 General	29 Board
28 Board	Sep 02 General
Mar 04 General	Oct 03 Board
28 Board	07 General
Apr 01 General	31 Board
May 02 Board	Nov 04 General
06 General	28 Board
30 Board	Dec (Annual
Jun 03 General	Awards Banquet)
27 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**

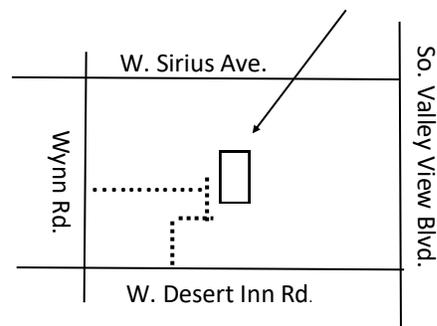
1st Monday of every month  
(2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

**Non-members welcome!**

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

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

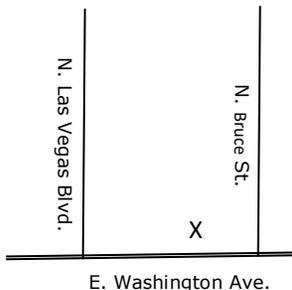
**3111 So. Valley View Blvd,  
Building E Shop Suite 125**



**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 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 #125.



**SNGMS Contact: 702 561-3086**

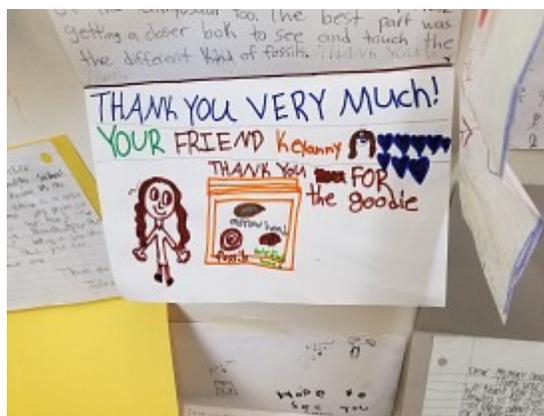
**Finding the General Meeting Location**

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*

**Thank You Letters** from Rachel Jacobson's, Greater Las Vegas Academy, K-1st Class



## Shop Talk : Brad's Bench Tips

### TAKE A BETTER PHOTO

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion, and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the colors will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask how to do this, but it's really worth it.

That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

- Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.
  - Turn the camera's flash off.
  - Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the frame.
  - Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface.
  - Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle, or white background paper.
  - Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.
  - Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.
  - Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.
  - Set the lens opening to the highest number to get the maximum depth of field.
  - Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, light bulb, fluorescent, etc.).
  - Set the timer for delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to adjust lighting or reduce any final reflections.
  - Set the image size to the maximum resolution. You can size it down later, but you can never increase it.
- Take the shot.

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With the holidays coming up soon, what better gift for a friend than a book chock full of skills and ways to solve common problems. Here's a few to look at:

Bench Tips for Jewelry <http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>  
 More Bench Tips <http://amzn.to/2KCygh4>  
 Broom Casting <http://amzn.to/1Z6hYws>  
 Making Design Stamps <http://amzn.to/2fvf58T>  
 Accessories for Foredom <http://amzn.to/2fwxuaT>

Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books  
<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



## Classes

**Wire wrapping**, led by Peggy Sue Moore or Scott Edwards and Ananaka Rau, 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.

**Beading:** Gary Webb and Sue Dobson will be hosting the beading class. Classes will be the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

**Metal and Silver Smithing**, Scott Edwards and Ananaka Rau have changed the Metal & Silver smithing class from Saturday mornings to Tuesday evenings from 5 pm to 8 pm. The class is suitable for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. The shop is now opened Tuesdays from 1 pm to 5 pm for regular shop usage.

**Faceting classes.** Saturdays 9 am to 12 pm. Please contact Peggy Sue Moore [moorepeggysue@gmail.com](mailto:moorepeggysue@gmail.com)) in advance to see if a machine is available. Class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor, Tom Kidwell.

*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 class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor. 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](mailto:Punkyjones@hotmail.com)*

*(please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)*

Every one is well at this time!!!!



# SHOP INFORMATION

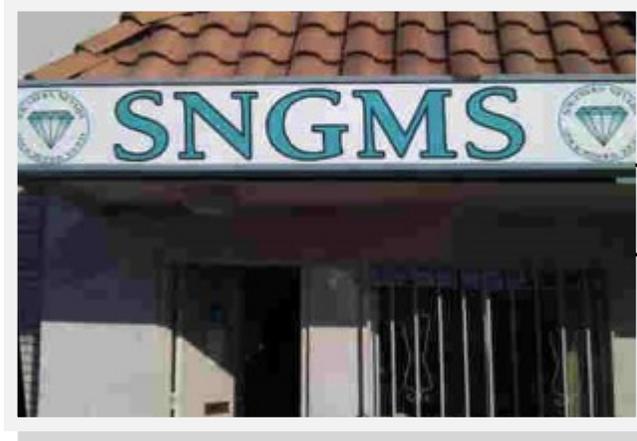
## “New” SNGMS Workshop Schedule

### SHOP HOURS

- Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm
- Monday Closed
- Tuesday 1 pm to 4:30 pm
- Wednesday 12 pm to 9 pm
- Thursday 12 pm to 9 pm
- Friday 12 pm to 9 pm
- Saturday 12 pm to 6 pm

### SHOP CLOSED :

- 2nd Sunday of every Month For Kids Club 2 pm to 5 pm
- Board Meeting: Various Thursday Nights 6 pm to Approx 7 pm
- Check Email and “Polished Slab” for possible date changes.



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse



### 2019 Monthly Cabochon Contest: (National & State Parks)

- Jan Denali
- Feb Petrified Forest
- Mar Fossil Butte
- Apr Everglades
- May Great Smokey Mountains
- Jun Red Rock Canyon
- July National Mall
- Aug Grand Canyon
- Sep Yellowstone
- Oct Redwoods
- Nov Channel Islands
- Dec Flaming Gorge

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

**Good Luck.**

**1st Place:**

**2nd Place:**

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!

## December

Debra Altergott, Steven Altergott, Bob Belcher, Scott Blair, Drew Borst, G. Gavin Boyle, Patti Chess, James Davis, Jean-Louis De Biasi, Joel Drew, Tony Duran, Todd Esque, Donald Evans, Mark Fernandez, Shannon Funk, Shane Hayes, Rochelle Hines, Mona Howell, Randy Huffine, Thomas Kidwell, Nicholas Lash, Paula Lawlor, Caroline Leone, Patty Leppert, Robert Madow, Simon Meiklejohn, John Miller, Kathryn Mundine, Anatalia Muniz, Natalee Nounna-Monk, Paul O'Bannon, Ernie Parrish, Holly Pelka, Frances Persaud, Ted Poston, Danny Prince, Rhett Richins, Sharon Rogow, Mike Rurlas, Gerri Salton, Kay Scheel, Bart Solomon, Doug Storseth, Frances Stratton, James Testa, Dan B. Toney Jr., Del Walkenshaw, Gary Webb, Peter Welty, Kimberly White, C.T. Yu.

## January

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

Keith Allen, Rita Bergeron, Brian Blount, Nicholas Bryant, Anat Burds, Diane Burgess, Dana Coleman, John Crumpley, Lesley DeFalco, Kevin Donovan, Ali Ess-Haghabadi, Calvin Foos, Tiffani Foster-Carter, Brain Hagstrom, Patricia Hashimoto, Aston Herrera, Jon Herring, Dustin Hines, Kennedy Hymer, Dylan Johnson, Qwynn Johnson, Lessa Kidwell, Bob Lofaro, Mario Luchetta, Ken McLeroy, Roy Mobley, Bill Moore, Andrea Packo, Samuel Pletcher, Kylee Rand, Linda Rusk, Susan Seely, *Patricia Skeary, Inday Timbers, Jack Toogood, Alexa Tripp-Herring, Gary Tucker, Joann Whitley, Lisa Wiemers, Lucinda Wilson.*

# Welcome New Members!

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

Hubert Goodrich, Carol Gray, Jack Gray, Nicholas McCord, Susan Seely, Bart Solomon, Gary Tucker, Gary Tucker Jr., Onalee Tucker, Lee Weddle, Lori Weddle.

## 2018 Board of Directors

President: Bob Belcher [bbeccer75@gmail.com](mailto:bbeccher75@gmail.com)  
702 210-9612

Vice-President: Beth Jones [punkyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:punkyjones@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse 702 239-0437

Treasurer: Bill Moore [SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com)

Parliamentarian: Scott Edwards 702 561-3086

One Year Board Remaining: John Stackhouse

Two Year Board Remaining: Jason Fabbi  
[jhfstones@yahoo.com](mailto:jhfstones@yahoo.com)

Three Year Board: Del Walkenshaw  
[desertartsupply@aol.com](mailto:desertartsupply@aol.com)

Past President/One Year Board: Wayne Muth

*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.*

### January 2019 Quartzsite, AZ Show

**2019 Anthem Gem & Mineral Show: March 16th -17th, Anthem, Az**

### May 4th—5th 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 Chairperson

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej  
[desertartsupply@aol.com](mailto:desertartsupply@aol.com)

By Laws.....Scott Edwards 702 561-3086

Communications.....Del Walkenshaw [sngmsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sngmsnews@gmail.com)

Education.....Mary Beth Paladino

Federation.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256

Alt. Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore

Field Trip.....Peggy Sue Moore & Bill Wertz

Financial Manager..... Dennis A. Costarakis (Wells Fargo)

Shop Foreman ..... Bob Belcher

Historian.....Jack Toogood

Hospitality.....Deb Bucknam [grandmadeb10@gmail.com](mailto:grandmadeb10@gmail.com)

Inventory.....Frank Timbers [ftimbers@centurylink.net](mailto:ftimbers@centurylink.net)

Librarian..... Mario Luchetta

Membership..... John Stackhouse 702-239-0437

New Member Liaison... Barbara Belcher

Program..... Cindy Allison

Publicity.....Scott Edwards

Raffle.....Barbara Belcher & Kerry Wenzl

50-50 Raffle.....Orville and Lisa Weimers

Refreshments.....Ruth Dziadon

Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino..... 702-255-1647

Show Chairperson.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256

Sunshine.....Beth Jones [punkyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:punkyjones@hotmail.com)  
702-505-5819

Webmaster.....Jack Toogood.....702-642-4788

*SNGMS Contact: 702 561-3086*

*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**



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-Us

**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>	<b>\$18</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<i>Quarter Page</i>	<b>\$48</b>	<b>\$90</b>
<i>Half Page</i>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$170</b>
<i>Full Page</i>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$275</b>