

The Polished Slab

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 10 A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE

OCTOBER 2006

President's Message

Thank you to all of you who attended the October meeting. Apologies to those of you expecting to hear a talk on our local geology. Our guest speaker was a no show. I would like to extend a special thank you to Deb Altergott for taking care of the raffle table during Mary Beth's absence. Also, thanks to Sue Lofaro for the refreshment table again this month. Thank you to Wes Bryant for heading up the nominating committee again this year and preparing our slate of nominees for the election next month. It was nice see Ed and Jaen Rupprecht at the meeting. Ed's recovery has been very slow from his surgery. For you newer members who don't know Ed; he's a life member who has given years of service to our hobby, our club and our community. Show him a rock and he can usually identify it. His cabachon work is some of the best you will ever see displayed anywhere.

A Field Trip, BBQ, pot luck at the Ore Car Mine is tentatively set for Saturday Nov 11th. Overnight camping is allowed if you like.

Our program for next month will be a show and tell and sell. Bring your favorite crafts, collections, beads, rocks, extra supplies or tools. Stay well and I'll see all of you at the November 6th meeting. Come on out and vote!

Respectfully, *Jack Toogood*

INTERGEM SHOW DEC 1, 2, 3

Club Fund Raiser

A few volunteers are still needed to do this show.

Call Show Chairman Sharon Rogow if you can support our club for this event. Remember, it's at Cashman Field this year so parking will be easier.

This is your chance to help support our club.

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Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.**
POB 94744 Las Vegas, Nevada 89193

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

DECEMBER 10th

American Legion Post #40

425 Van Wagenen , Henderson

Doors open at 1PM Dinner at 1:30PM

Buffet Style Dinner and Cash Bar

Tickets \$10 per person at Nov 6th meeting

Reservation cut off date is Nov 30th

For more information call:

Pat Skeary 459-2649

Nancy Tatom 566-1698

Be sure to read this month's "SECOND TIME AROUND" on page 6. Featured is an interesting article submitted by Doris Currington from 1977.

"WE TAKE ROCK COLLECTING SERIOUSLY!"



photo courtesy of SNGMS member George Edwards

Oct. Board Meeting Minutes

The October board meeting was called to order at 6:12 PM. Officers present were; President Jack Toogood, Secretary Clare Breneman, Treasurer Pat Skeary, two year board member Tom Skeary, one year board member Frank Auerswald, and one year board member Dave Rogers. Absent were Vice President Sharon Rogow, and three year board member Larry Foutz. Workshop status: still no news. Board approved purchase of two bags of large geodes from Quartzsite this year. The subject of by-laws was brought up again and discussed extensively. The board will be reviewing them for any needed revisions. One revision needed is the membership dues amount. Discussion on changing field trip chairman from an elected position to an appointed one. Federation to be contacted for input. This subject will be continued at the next meeting in November. A field trip to Kokoweef is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th with space limited to the first 20 or 25 people who sign up. The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

submitted byClare Breneman, Secretary

mal hot springs once existed. As the hot springs dried up, layers of the silica, combined with water, were deposited into the cracks and cavities of the bedrock, forming Opal. This gemstone actually contains up to 30% water, so it must be protected from heat or harsh chemicals, both of which will cause drying and may lead to cracking and loss of iridescence. Opal must also be guarded from blows, since it is relatively soft and breaks easily. Most of the world's Opal deposits are found in Southern Australia. Other sources of this gemstone are Brazil, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and Nevada. Quality Opal is very expensive, made more so by the caution that must be exercised in cutting, polishing and setting it into jewelry. A gift of Opal is symbolic of faithfulness and confidence. And the powerful energy radiating from this fiery gemstone will surely illuminate any occasion!
from ABOUT BIRTHSTONES

OPAL
 OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE

October's birthstone treats the eye to an explosion of shimmering colors much like a rainbow following a summer rain. The Opal derives its name from the Latin word "opalus," meaning precious jewel. Prized for its unique ability to refract and reflect specific wavelengths of light, the Opal was called "Cupid Paederos" by the Romans, meaning a child beautiful as love. One legendary explanation for this gemstone's origin is that it fell from heaven in a flash of fiery lightning.

Ancient monarchs treasured Opals, both for their beauty and their protective powers. They were set into crowns and worn in necklaces to ward off evil and protect the eyesight. They were also ground and ingested for their healing properties and to ward off nightmares. The Opal dates back to prehistoric times. It is a non-crystallized silica, which is a mineral found near the earth's surface in areas where ancient geother-

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What's Happening ? UPCOMING EVENTS

NEVADA - CALIFORNIA - ARIZONA - UTAH Show Schedule

Oct 14-15 TRONA, CA Searles Lake G&M Society
"Gem-O-Rama" 13337 Main St, (760) 372-5356

Oct 21-22 WHITTIER, CA Whittier G&M Society
Whittier Community Center 7630 Washington,
(626)934-9764

Nov 4-5 LANCASTER, CA Palmdale G&M Club
"Rock n Gem Roundup" Antelope Valley Fair-
grounds, 2551 West Ave H, (661)943-1861

OTHER SHOWS MAY BE FOUND ON THE
ROCK & GEM WEBSITE

Our next meeting is Monday, November 6th. If your birthday falls in November, please don't forget to bring some goodies for the refreshment table.

JASPER OR AGATE

Which is it?

Jasper and agate are two rocks that we see a lot of in our hobby. Often there is confusion between the two. Both are made of tightly interlocked quartz crystals known as cryptocrystalline quartz. Both are members of the fine grained quartz family known as chalcedony. Chalcedony occurs throughout the world in beds, bands, nodules, geodes, botryoidal masses as a replacement mineral in fossils and wood tissue, and also as a cementing material. It is deposited from silica rich waters often carrying other material impurities. It is the presence of these impurities which stain the micro-quartz grains to produce the wide variety of color patterns, banding effect and inclusions that differentiate the basic gem forms of cryptocrystalline quartz; both jasper and agate, from ordinary drab chalcedony. The difference between the two is usually slight. In general, Agate is a transparent to translucent form of chalcedony in which the coloration takes the form of regular bands, rings, clouds and

.....continued on Page 4

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

October 14th Limited space Kokoweef
Carolyn 274-2867

November 11 (pending date) - BBQ - Ore Car Mine

JIM GROTHUESMANN
SNGMS member



JIM'S MINERALS

P.O.Box 91801, Henderson, Nevada 89009-1801



SUNSHINE REPORT

by Priscilla Messenger

Roy Beeson is now recovering at a care facility near his home.

Judy Auerswald is back at home.

Ed Rupprecht is doing better and made it to the club meeting.

Lue Bartlett is celebrating her 98th birthday this month.

Call me if anyone needs an address or phone number to send greetings to anyone. 733-6578 Priscilla



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City Mission

2214 N. Pecos Road
Las Vegas, NV 89115
(702) 384-1930

KIDS CLUB - Pebble Pups

November Kids meeting will be at my home at 3740 Moss Ridge Court. Call for directions. 702-255-1647 Mary Beth Paladino

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The **October** 2nd meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Jack Toogood. The minutes of the September meeting were read by Secretary Clare Breneman. Motion to approve minutes as read made by George Messenger, and seconded by Richard Moore. The minutes were approved as read. Pat Skeary gave the Treasurer's report. A Field Trip report was given by Carolyn Chervenak. A field trip is planned for Saturday, October 14th to Kokoweef in California. Info were sheets handed out. This trip has limited space, and only the first 25 or so who sign up will be able to go. Mary Beth was absent, so there was no kids club report. Show Report - Help will be needed, sign up sheets are here.

Shop report - no news but it is still in the works.

Priscilla Messenger gave the Sunshine report: Roy Beeson has been moved to a care facility near his home. Awards Banquet report - Tickets are available and will be handed out at the November meeting. Pat Skeary is accepting reservations. Clare still needs donations for door prizes, and the Chinese Auction.

Old business: The work party at the storage trailers was a success. The "missing" metal detector was found in the small trailer.

New business: The board is working on updating the bylaws. Nominating committee chairman, Wes Bryant reported that candidates do not have to be present to be nominated for a position. However, anyone who is elected must decline immediately if they are going to refuse the position. Wes then named all the board nominees. All current board members will run to serve again next year. There are three positions that remain open with no nominees. Nominees are still needed for a one year board, a three year board and a field trip chairman. These will be asked for at the November meeting, as well as any additional nominees who may wish to run for office.

Break at 7:55 PM for refreshments. Meeting resumed at 8:20 PM. No program; our scheduled speaker was a no show. Announcements - November 11th BBQ potluck at the Ore Car Mine, camping is permitted. Next month's program will be a show and tell and sell.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by*Clare Breneman* , Secretary



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.....continued from Page 3

wispy inclusions or distinct groups. An agate which contains concentric bands is referred to as fortification agate. Moss agate contains delicate or wispy or lacy inclusions of colored minerals - sometimes the green mineral chlorite, other times the black mineral manganese, which penetrated cracks in the silica gel matrix prior to hardening. Now they remain as fine picture-like images. Agate is often named after the geographic area where it is found, and with a descriptive adjective attached i.e., Mexican Lace Agate. Jasper on the other hand can be somewhat translucent, but is most often opaque. The coloration of jasper is usually much darker than that of agate and is totally at random with respect to distribution and pattern. Finely divided hematite gives the reddish color to jaspers, and another mineral, goethite, is responsible for the yellows and browns. Chlorite and nickel minerals contribute to the green colorations. As does agate, jasper comes in many colors and displays an infinite variety of material for cabachons, scenic "pictures" to be framed and other functional or decorative purposes. They are truly the "bread and butter" gemstones of our hobby.

.....from GEM CUTTER NEWS 9/10/92

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*** A NEW FEATURE IS COMING *
RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

Send in your favorite campout or barbeque recipe.
We will feature one each month in the newsletter.
Send to newsletter editor : SNGMS Editor
PO BOX94744
Las Vegas, NV 89193

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
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RIDESHARING PROGRAM

Anyone who would like a ride to the monthly meeting should call 222-1946 and we will try and arrange for you to be picked up. Please call about a week in advance of the meeting to allow for arrangements to be made.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mary Belcher | Paul Coroneos |
| Barrie Folsom | Martin Godinez |
| Larry Grillett | Jim Grothuesmann |
| Kenneth Johnson | Charles Kilduff |
| Paula Newman | Smitty Reeves |
| Charlotte Robinson | Jaen Rupprecht |
| Jerry Watanabe | Kelly Jackus |
| Laura Lobel | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM SNGMS !
(If yours was missed we don't have it on file)

THIS MONTH

The Orionid Meteor shower October 21st
usually about twenty meteors per hour.

The end of Daylight Savings time October 29th

HAPPY HALLOWEEN - October 31st

What's even bigger than a 13-foot high Columbian Mammoth with 10-foot long tusks?



A 48 foot long Ichthyosaur, of course.



The Nevada State Museum's natural history galleries tell the violent story of Nevada-volcanoes that is, and include minerals, gems, and paleo specimens.

The history galleries explore the human side of the shaping of Nevada.

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SECOND TIME AROUND, OUR PAST from OCT 1977 LAS VEGAS GEM CLUB - GEM TIME
Courtesy of Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek ; Our Club Historians

GEM TIME.....OCT. 1977



BITS & PIECES...

LAS VEGAS VALLEY LEOPARD FROG

At night Las Vegas lights up the sky with its brilliant neon pictorial display. By day symbols of the good life are enjoyed by 275,000 residents and millions of visitors.

One tends to forget that this largest Nevada city was settled because its springs offered a good water supply.

Emigrants were not the first settlers around the springs. The Death Valley Expedition in 1891 found a FROG, a relative of the leopard frog not found anywhere else. They called it *Rana pipiens fisheri* or the Las Vegas Valley Leopard Frog. Well acclimated to the tules and warm alkaline water, the frog appeared to be numerous.

Scientists speculated that the Las Vegas Frogs had been cut off from other leopard frog populations when Ice Age waters thousands of years ago began evaporating. Like other leopard frogs, the Las Vegas population required water to keep damp and to lay their eggs in. They could not cross the Mohave Desert.

The settlers weren't aware of the frogs. Some of the springs were capped, others bulldozed. Some went dry when ground water pumping lowered the water table. Then adding insult to injury, the settlers, perhaps homesick for the old croak and a good plate of frog legs, introduced the bullfrog, hitherto a resident east of the Rockies.

Bullfrogs, much larger, will eat tadpoles and eggs along with flies & other insects. By 1930 the Las Vegas Valley Leopard Frog was hard to find. In 1942 the last two specimens were found. Today all that remains is a mention in textbooks and a few specimens in museums.

NEVADA OUTDOORS & WILDLIFE.....submitted by Doris Currington

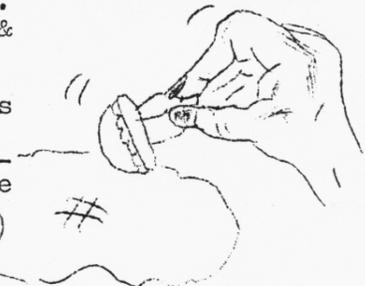
RENEW THE POLISH... by Grace Jones, from Tourm-lines & Lodi Chips

Do you have any rings with gemstones that have lost their polish due to wearing them while digging weeds in the garden, or digging geodes? If so, and you would like to restore the polish without removing the stones from the rings, here is a helpful hint I read in an old issue of Lapidary Journal.

The witer used this method to get a "mirror-finish" on hard to polish stones like jade. You'll need a small piece of chamois skin, suede or soft leather, a polishing powder"Linda A" and some water. Hold the leather in your left hand-sprinkle the Linde A in the center. Dip the stone in water and then rub on the polishing powder.

It takes a little patience and several dippings & rubbing to get the leather seasoned and moistened--but it works! I was able to restore the polish to a well worn jade, turquoise & rhodonite ring by this method.

I expect you could use "tin oxide" or other similar polishing powder, and you can do it right in the living room while watching T.V.



DID YOU KNOW...that as a member of the Las Vegas Gem Club you can get GEMS & MINERALS magazine at half price. one year...\$4.30, two years \$8.60 and three years for \$12.90. See Floyd Dickson at the Oct. 11 meeting.

DON*FORGET...THIS MONTH ONLY...MEETING IS ON TUESDAY!!! (7)

**SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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BIRTHDAYS _____ (MONTH & DAY)

INTERESTS []Mineralogy []Lapidary []Field Trips []Geology []Beads []Silversmithing []Other

NEW MEMBER ___ RENEWAL ___ ANNUAL DUES - ADULTS \$20 _____ FAMILY \$30 _____

FAVORITE PROGRAM FOR MEETINGS - silent auction - guest speaker - slide show - video - show and tell - other (please specify) _____

MAIL IN OR TURN IN AT THE MEETING

2006 Officers - Board of Directors - Committee Chairpersons

Elected Officer	Name	Phone
President	Jack Toogood	222-1946
Vice president	Sharon Rogow	656-1144
Secretary	Clare Breneman	452-0175
Treasurer	Pat Skeary	459-2649
One Year Board	Frank Auerswald	365-8306
Volunteer Chairpersons		
Parliamentarian /Sgt at Arms	Craig Edmonds	838-0012
Editor	Jack Toogood	222-1946
Webmaster	Theresa Bower	
Website Liaison	Carolyn Edmonds	838-0012
Federation Director	Carolyn Chervenak	274-2867
Show Chairman	Sharon Rogow	656-1144
Hospitality	Carolyn Chervenak	274-2867
Historian	Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek	876-3861
Financial Planner	George Messenger	733-6578
Awards Banquet	Nancy Tatom	566-1698

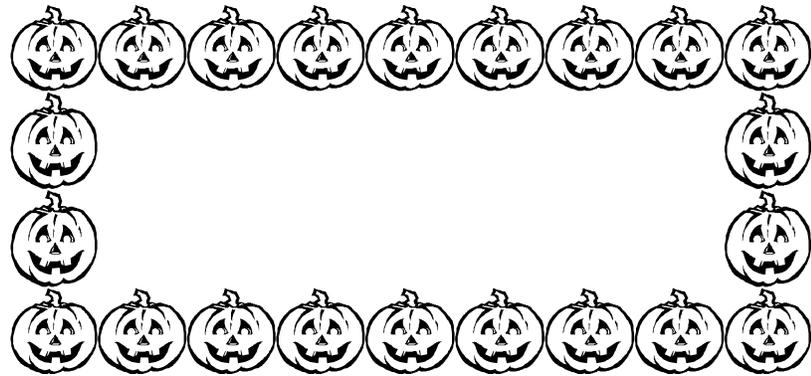
Elected Officer	Name	Phone
One Year Board	David Rogers	260-6344
Two Year Board	Tom Skeary	459-2649
Three Year Board	Larry Foutz	896-7757
Field Trip Chair	OPEN	
Volunteer Chairpersons		
Refreshments		
Door Prizes	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
Inventory		
Sunshine	Priscilla Messenger	733-6578
Publicity	Erica Hamilton	364-1400
Program Director	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
Class Coordinator	Frank Auerswald	365-8306
General Foreman	Wes Bryant	
Shop Foreman	Carl Fields	
Shop Foreman		

**Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society P.O. Box 94744 Las Vegas, NV 89193
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HAPPY HALLOWEEN

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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. We are incorporated for the purpose of promoting an interest in Geology, Gemology, the Lapidary arts and related fields. We began in Las Vegas in 1932, and became the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society in 2003 with the merger of the Las Vegas Gem Club and the Clark County Gem Collectors. The first Polished Slab was published in 1940 by Paul Mercer.

Club Gemstone:Turquoise Colors:Turquoise & Silver
 Club Logo: Faceted stone Club Motto: Rocks-R Us
 Membership is open to anyone with an interest in;
 Rocks, Gems, Geology, Lapidary, Beads, Fossils, or
 Silversmithing

Annual Dues - Individual: \$ 20.00 Family: \$ 30.00
 Club Name Badges available at \$ 10.00 each

Meetings: 7:00 PM the first Monday of the month at the
 Senior Center at 451 Bonanza just west of Las Vegas Blvd.
 Downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. 702-229-6454 for location info.

No meeting is held in December - Annual awards dinner
 Visitors are always welcome - Bring a friend or two.

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