



March 2025

# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 85 ISSUE 03

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**April 7, 2025 - Board Mtg**  
**April 7, 2025 – General Mtg**

#### SNGMS Contacts:

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sngmspresident@gmail.com  
sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com  
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sngmstreasurer@gmail.com  
sngmsshowchair@gmail.com  
sngmspublicity@gmail.com  
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

### Spring Jamboree Email Blast Coming!

**An email blast is coming out for to recruit volunteers for the Jamboree. Please be sure to read your messages and sign up!**

**Orville Wiemers**  
**SNGMS President**

Greetings -

So, just how long has rock hounding been a thing in Southern Nevada? Funny you should ask because the SNGMS's recent publication "History of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society " (thank you Mary Savage) lists the first rock club starting in 1932, created by the folks attracted by the Hoover Dam construction activity. It disbanded when the dam was finished. The next version formed in 1940. The SNGMS formed when the Las Vegas Gem Club merged with the Clark County Gem Collectors in 2003.

A club that has been around for 85 years takes a lot of effort and work to be successful and successful we are. We are truly blessed with an award winning website, a shop (a lot of clubs do not have one) that is at such a level that folks at the RMFMS (the regional federation we belong to) go out of their way to come see when they are around. We have events such as rock swaps, bbqs, parking lot sales, rock and gem shows, weekly training sessions on the arts in the hobby, educational booths at schools and community events, a kids club, field trips and monthly meetings.

While we may believe these are normal activities for a club (which they are), they only happen, and are enhanced because of volunteers. The thing I see the most is the passion the volunteers in this club have for what they do. They do these things with no expectations beyond helping. The other thing I have seen is that life happens. People move, work and lifestyle conditions change, causing us to loose precious volunteers.

These vacant positions are listed in the Slab monthly and unfortunately, if not filled, that club service is degraded or goes away. Additionally, a lot of great ideas are brought up that cannot be acted on due to volunteer shortages. The club regularly lists volunteer opportunities in the Slab and News Flashes. Please take a minute each month and review the postings and consider a role that can help not only get you more involved in your hobby (you learn a lot more when your involved) but expand the hobby to assure success for another 85 years.

ROCK ON!!

Orville Wiemers  
SNGMS President

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**SNGMS Parking Lot Sale**  
**March 8, 2025**  
**9 am – 4 pm**  
Desert Art Supplies  
2750 N Green Valley Pkwy  
Henderson, NV 89014

**Jewelry, rocks, minerals, gems,  
lapidary slabs, and more!**



2025 Field Trips<sup>1</sup> & Events

Field Trip <sup>1</sup> /Event	Date	Location
Parking Lot Sale <sup>3</sup>	March 8, 2025, 9 am – 4 pm	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014
Diamond Pacific Field Trip – <i>minimum</i> 20 people, \$3/lb for rocks, and Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society rock yard	March 22, 2025, 9 am	2620 Main St., Barstow, CA, 92311 for Diamond Pacific; Yermo, CA for MDGMS Rock Yard
Stalactites	April 15, 2025	Kokoweef, CA
Glass Craft & Bead Expo	April 2-6, 2025	South Point Casino, 9777 S. Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89183
Boulder City Spring Jamboree	May 3- 4, 2025	Bicentennial Park, 999 Colorado St, Boulder City, NV 89005
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention	May 10 -11, 2025	Lancaster, CA
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention	September 19 – 21, 2025	Grand Junction, CO
SNGMS Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Gem & Mineral Show	November 7 – 9, 2025	Santa Fe Casino, 4949 N Rancho Dr, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89103
Awards Banquet	Dec 7, 2025	Sunset Station Casino, Las Vegas, NV

1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com)

2) 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102

3) Contact Del Walkenshaw (702-451-8040 or desertartssupply@aol.com)

Some links with information you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies – [www.amfed.org/whatsnew.htm](http://www.amfed.org/whatsnew.htm)

Rocky Mountain Federation – [www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org)

Rock & Gem Magazine website – [www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)



Left to right: Dave Ford, Chops Wenzl, and Orville Wiemers enjoy the SNGMS BBQ & Rock Swap, Feb. 2025



Wayne Muth and Friends at the SNGMS BBQ & Rock Swap, Feb. 2025



# QUARTZSITE MINERALS

SNGMS Members Receive **20%** Discount



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

Visit Our Store At Suite # 1290

**MEADOWS MALL**

[quartzsiteminerals@gmail.com](mailto:quartzsiteminerals@gmail.com)

702-344-8579

WHOLESALE / RETAILS





## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 3/3/2025

On March 3, 2025, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Eagles' Lodge at 4:05 PM by the President. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 3, 2025 , meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance of the checking account as of February 28th was \$17,433, an increase of \$794 from the previous month. The investments balance is \$128,077. Receipts from Spring Jamboree booth sales were received and Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show venue payments were made. The short term investment of extra cash on hand was discussed.

### Unfinished Business:

The proposed five year budget was accepted by the Board. There is no mention of budget practice in the By-laws. The SNGMS may want to adopt a balanced budget approach.

**SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report:** One saw is down awaiting parts. Mail collection and distribution in the Shop was discussed with the two mail keys allocated to the Shop Foreman and the Treasurer.

**Spring Jamboree Show:** Orville Wiemers reported the Jamboree indoor booths are sold out. Three outdoor booths are sold. The SNGMS is waiting on paperwork and payments from five early birds due by 3/15/2025 and five signed up vendors. Collected to date is \$7,780, including early bird deposits placed last year.

### New Business:

**Inventory:** Inventory by Ron Mazz and Mary Savage starts this week.

**Volunteer Hours:** Ron Mazz will be collecting volunteer hours information from club members.

**SNGMS Password Management and Security System Access:** Mary Savage suggested that a 'burner phone' be purchased and kept in the shop to use as the authenticating phone number for any club accounts. This would facilitate retrieval of accounts. Bob Belcher has not yet set up his access to the Shop security system so that he can monitor it.

**Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Show:** A Viva Show meeting was held on March 1, 2025 and most of the key volunteer positions are filled. Vendor applications for members will be accepted starting April 2, 2025, and for prior vendors on April 18, 2025. Other applications will be accepted starting May 6, 2025.

**Parking Lot Sale:** A parking lot sale will be held on March 8, 2025, in the Desert Arts parking lot in Henderson. All booths are sold.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

### Crystal Festival - A Rock, Mineral, Gem, & Crystal Show

Join us for the most amazing Rock and Gem Show. We will have over 50 vendors, world class minerals, agates, towers, spheres, crystals, gemstones, minerals, fossils, spheres, cabochons, jewelry, beads and more!

The Industrial  
2330 S Industrial Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89102  
**Saturday, March 15, 2025 10am - 8pm**  
**Free Admission - Free Parking - Family-Friendly**  
[www.CrystalFestival.org](http://www.CrystalFestival.org)



Over 50 Vendors! Fine & Collector - Minerals Display Fossils -  
Collector Specimens Crystal Healers - Mine Owners - Lapidary  
Artists - Jewelry Designers - Tons of Gifts!

### CEDAR CITY GEM & JEWELRY SHOW

**ROCK SHOW**

**FREE**  
to the  
**PUBLIC**

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

**MARCH 7-9**  
**Diamond Z Arena**



## SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 3/3/2025

On March 3rd, 2025 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.

New members and visitors were introduced and welcomed. Tables with show and tell items were pointed out so that attendees could enjoy them.

Thanks to David Ford and Wayne Muth for BBQ cooking and to Romy Umholz for her efforts with speaker scheduling.

The minutes of the February 3rd, 2025 meeting were approved as corrected.

### Old Business:

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance of the checking account as of February 28th was \$17,433, an increase of \$794 from the previous month. The investments balance is \$128,077. Receipts from Spring Jamboree booth sales were received and the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show venue payments were made.

**Membership:** Currently, SNGMS has 430 adult and 54 kid members.

**Kids' Club:** Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities and said thanks to everyone that helped or donated to the club. The trip to Trilobite Hill was successful. Thanks to volunteers at the school fair at Sanford Elementary School. The club will meet to work on their Rocks and Minerals Merit Badge in March. Volunteers are needed to help the Kids' Club at the Spring Jamboree and to construct the giant dino eggs. An Easter party will be held on April 10, 2025 in conjunction with the Eagles and a field trip to Pahrump is planned for April 19th.

**SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report:** Chops Wenzl reported that one saw is down. He also reminded everyone of the Awards Banquet scheduled for December 7, 2025 from 3-8 PM at Sunset Station. The tickets remain at the same price as last year, \$35 for members.

**Sunshine:** Mary Beth Paladino shared news from membership. The Sunshine report is available in the Polished Slab newsletter.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Tredwell and Amber Palecek reported on upcoming field trips. See the Polished Slab Newsletter and emails for future field trip plans.

**Cabochon Contest:** First place was won by Jonathon Tredwell, and Lloyd Chayette took second place.

**Spring Jamboree Report:** Orville Wiemers reported the Jamboree indoor booths are sold out with a waiting list. Three outdoor booths are sold. SNGMS is waiting on paperwork and payments from five early birds, due by 3/15/2025 and five signed-up vendors. Collected to date is \$7,780, including early bird deposits placed last year.

### New Business:

**Geocaching:** If you are knowledgeable or interested in helping get the SNGMS involved in geocaching, contact Orville Wiemers (sngmspresident@gmail.com or 702-743-3277). It would be a good way to publicize the club.

**Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Show Update:** Andrea Packo reported the initial Viva meeting was successful with most key positions filled. Contact her (aspako@gmail.com or 702-279-7679) and/or come to the next meeting if you want to be involved.

### Upcoming Events:

General Meeting April 7, 2025

Parking Lot Sale March 8, 2025

Spring Jamboree May 3-4, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

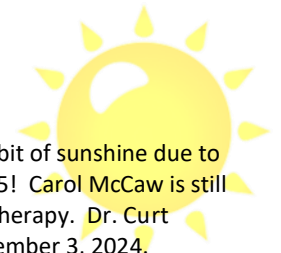




# Sunshine Report

*from Mary Beth Paladino*

If you hear of any SNGMS member with an event to celebrate (wedding, anniversary, etc.) or who is in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, etc., please contact Mary Beth Paladino at 702-255-1647. Milo Boes was born February 27, 2025! Carol McCaw is still having some health concerns. Susan Keller had a concussion, as did Linda Martin who is also undergoing chemotherapy. Dr. Curt Breneman, a chemist and the son of SNGMS Life Time Member Clare Breneman, died in Troy, New York on December 3, 2024.



## In Memorium

of

**James (Jim) Jones**

**July 2, 1949 – February 22, 2025**

*By Mary Beth Paladino*

On Saturday, February 22, 2025 Jim succumbed to Alzheimer's and dementia. His beloved wife of 58 years, Beth, was beside him. Jim was born in Tucson, Arizona and move to Openshaw Dairy Farm in Mesa, Arizona. In third grade, Beth's family also moved to Openshaw Dairy Farm. At school their teacher, Mrs. Beaucamp, asked if anyone lived at Openshaw Dairy Farm and Jim raised his hand. Mrs. Beaucamp said, "I want you to take care of Beth and make sure she gets on the right bus."

They got married when Jim was 19 and Beth was 18. At that time in Arizona, a male under the age of 21 had to have parental permission to wed. So they had to wait for his aunt who was his adopted mom to give them permission. On August 25, 1968 they married. Their daughter Candy was born in 1972. She was "his girl." He helped her with school work and worked together on her science projects. One year they made a drop down rectifier, winning first place. Their loving relationship lasted his whole life.

In 1973, Jim joined the U.S. Army. Jim's military career included three different "MOSSs" which means he has three different sets of technical training: helicopter mechanic, calibration team chief, and research and development. The Army took him to Georgia, Germany, Colorado, Italy, Korea, Arizona, White Sands Missile Range (where he was exposed to mercury and arsenic). Beth and Candy went with him on all his assignments except Korea. He retired in Las Cruces, New Mexico after working 20 years in the military including as a soldering and electronics instructor (he wrote the course), and recruiting. The family moved to El Paso, Texas and Jim got a job with a courier company. Next was Houston, Texas where he did calibration work near the airport. They lived in a hotel and the end of a runway. Jim did all kinds of mechanical and maintenance work. He also worked for Dave & Busters as the maintenance supervisor for video games and the mechanical stage show.

In 2000, Beth's mother, who lived in Las Vegas, Nevada got sick. Beth stayed with her mom until she died. The company Jim worked for had a hostile takeover and Jim decided the family should move to Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, Jim worked for 20 years as a machinist at the Review Journal, retiring in 2014 at age 65.

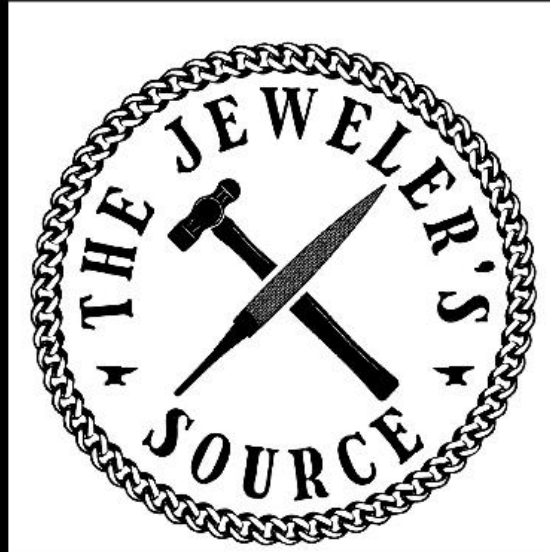
Beth found the Clark County Gem Collectors (CCGC) in 2000 when she attended their rock show at Bally's. Shortly after CCGC merged with another group to form the SNGMS, Jim and Beth jumped into rockhounding. Jim bought Beth a truck so she could safely take rock trips. Together, they worked at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop in many capacities. Jim was a supervisor and helped at the shop for 15 years. He helped or taught many of us to cut and cab our rock treasures. His favorite was freestyle. He loved working with the big saw. Carnelian and aventurine were Jim's favorite rocks.



**Jim Jones**

Although somewhat shy and quiet, he was always helpful. He loved to read and was very intelligent, especially when it came to machinery. We all have fond memories of Jim and we will all keep those close to our hearts.





Members Receive 5% Off

- **JEWELRY SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT**
- **JEWELRY FINDINGS & METALS**
- **LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**
- **JEWELRY WORKSHOPS**

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7022 West Charleston Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89117

702-745-1127

[thejewelerssource@gmail.com](mailto:thejewelerssource@gmail.com)

IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and Lapidary Shop Hours

SNGMS 2025 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting <sup>1</sup>	General Meeting <sup>2</sup>	Kids Club Meeting <sup>3</sup>
Apr 7	Apr 7	Apr 13 – Field Trip TBA
May 5	May 5	May 11 – <b>NO MEETING</b>
Jun 2	Jun 2	Jun 8
Jul 7	Jul 7	Jul 13 – Field Trip TBA
Aug 4	Aug 4	Aug 10
Sep 8	Sep 8	Sep 14
Oct 6	Oct 6	Oct 12 – Field Trip TBA
Nov 3	Nov 3	Nov 16
Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet

Due to limited staffing of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop on Sundays, shop users are asked to help keep the trash emptied and the floor mopped

- 1) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge, 4 pm, before the general meeting
- 2) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, unless there’s a holiday, open to the public. Show & Sell 5-6 pm, meeting 6-8 pm
- 3) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary Shop with exception of some field trips, membership required. Details on page 11.

Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop is located at:

3111 South Valley View Blvd,  
 Building E Shop Suite 125  
 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the SNGMS Lapidary 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 SNGMS Lapidary Shop that is not in front of any unit.

**SNGMS LAPIDARY SHOP HOURS\***  
 Sunday 10 am - 3 pm  
 Monday Closed for general use:  
 Various Classes  
 Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm  
 Wednesday 10 am – 7 pm  
 Thursday 12 - 9 pm  
 Friday 12 - 9 pm  
 Saturday 1 - 6 pm  
**SHOP EQUIPMENT FEES:**  
 All equipment is \$6/hour. Machines are metered, so you only pay for the time the equipment is actually running.  
**SHOP CLOSED:**  
 Kids Club: 3- 5 pm 2nd Sunday of the Month  
 \*Check Email and “Polished Slab” for possible date changes.

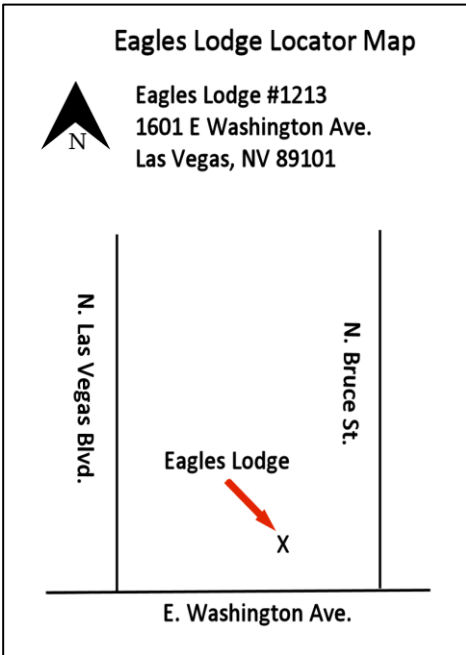


Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past South 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, Suite #125.

Location of the Eagles’ Lodge

The Eagles’ Lodge is located at:  
 1601 E Washington Ave.  
 Las Vegas, NV 89101



## Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips &amp; Tricks

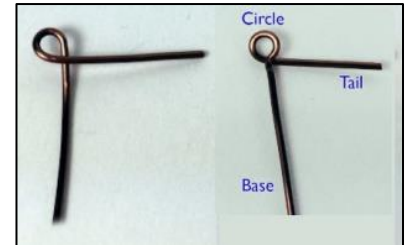
## Five Cs of Wire Wrapping: Make a Perfect Wire Wrapped Loop

Excerpted from [www.wirejewelry.com/jewelry\\_making\\_articles/The-Five-Cs-of-Wire-Wrapping-Step-5-Clean\\_15.html](http://www.wirejewelry.com/jewelry_making_articles/The-Five-Cs-of-Wire-Wrapping-Step-5-Clean_15.html)

There are two types of movement for wire wrapping: wire movements and plier movements. Every move you make should change the position of the wire or the pliers, but never both at the same time. Keep this in mind as you work, so you can troubleshoot early and avoid problems you can't undo. If you see both the wire and the pliers move at the same time, just stop and start that step again. You'll be back on track!

The Five Cs of Wire Wrapping are:

- 1) Circle
- 2) Connect
- 3) Coil
- 4) Cover then Cut
- 5) Clean

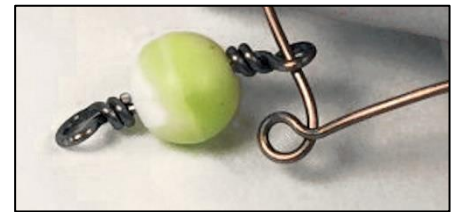


### Circle

Creating perfect wire circles for wrapping is key. For good results, wire loops are centered over the wire. Notice the difference between these photos. The circle on the left looks like a backwards P while the loop on the right is a circle centered neatly over the rest of the wire. You want loops that look like the circle on the right.

### Connect

After making a circle, it has a tail and a longer wire base as shown in the photo above. You connect wire wrapped pieces together by placing the tail into the loop of the item you are connecting to as shown in the photo on the right.

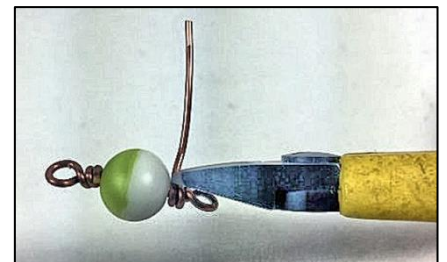


### Coil

Hold the circle you just created with chain-nose pliers. The short wire tail coming from the circle should be pointed up to the ceiling. Grab the tip of the wire tail with the tip a second pair of pliers (chain nose or round). Wrap the wire tail towards you, around the base wire for one half turn. Remember not to pivot your pliers. Open up your pliers and reposition them so your hand is parallel to the table again. This prevents the end of the wire from wrapping around your pliers. Repeat until you have 2-3 wraps. When possible, end your wrapped coil so that the wire tail is perpendicular to the circle.

### Cover then Cut

The most important part of cutting is to cup your hand over the cutter before cutting. This prevents the wire pieces from flying away and hitting you or someone else. Wearing safety glasses is a good idea. By finishing your wrapped coil with the tail perpendicular to the circle in the coil step, you minimize the risk of cutting the circle, and you get a closer cut. As you can see in the photo, our wire cutters are able to lay flat over the circle and the tips of the cutter can reach the base of the tail.



### Clean

The final step of a perfect wire wrapped loop is to clean. This means tidying up wires that could poke you while wearing the jewelry. The closer you cut cover, the less cleaning you'll have to do. A common mistake is to push the tail down by squeezing it between the plier jaws. This usually slightly unwraps the last coil. Instead, you want to pull the end down. The trick is to hold the pliers at the proper angle.

Position the pliers so that the jaws are facing the tail. For example, if your tail is wrapping clockwise (as shown in the picture) the pliers will point counterclockwise. Imagine you are trying to grab the top edge of the wire tail. Angle the plier jaws up slightly to catch just the top left-hand side edge of the wire. Now gently squeeze down so that the tail falls in line with the rest of the coil. With practice, you will get so good at cutting and covering that you will barely need to clean!





2025 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	2025 CABOCHON STYLE	Contest Winners
January	Impressionism – Monet, Degas, Renior, Cassatt	1 <sup>st</sup> – Del Walkenshaw, 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Bruce Martin, Emlyn Altman, Joel Coombs
February	Cubism – Picasso, Braque, Cezanne, Exter	1 <sup>st</sup> – James Sloan 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Lloyd Chayette, George Stewart
March	Abstract – Mondrain, Rothko, Pollick, O’Keeffe	1 <sup>st</sup> - Lloyd Chayette, 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Jonathan Tredwell
April	Sea Scapes - Friedrich, Mallord, Turner, Sorollo, Hassam	
May	Surrealism – Dali, Kahlo, Lucien Freud, Breton	
June	Architectural –Rodde, Caillebotte, Hadid, Canal	
July	Expressionism – Kandinsky, Chagall, Malfati, Macke, Frankenthaler	
August	Contemporary (any type) – Picasso, Warhol, Murakami, Kapoor, Sberald	
September	Fauvism – Matisse, Derain, Roualt, de Vlaminck, Charmy	
October	Landscapes – Carr, Homer, Theibaud, da Vinci	
November	Graffiti – Bansky, Fairey, Halring, Lady Pink	
December	No Contest	

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at our monthly meetings. Bring a cab you have cut that matches that month’s theme. Meeting attendees vote on their favorite cab, and the first and second places winners are announced at the meeting. The first place award is 2 hours of free shop time, and the second place winner gets 1 hour of free shop time. The April 2025 cabochon theme is “Sea Scapes.” **Good Luck!**



Friedrich



Turner



Sorolla



Hassam



**Geo-caching Opportunity**

Contact Orville Wiemers  
(sngmspresident@gmail.com or 702-743-3277)  
to help with geo-caching at the Boulder City Spring Jamboree  
May 3- 4, 2025

**March 2025 Cabochon Contest Winners**  
Left to right: Jonathan Tredwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Entry 9  
and  
Lloyd Chayette 1<sup>st</sup> Place Entry 4



March 2025 Cabochon Contest Entries



**BIRTHDAYS**

If you have an APRIL birthday, Please bring something for the refreshment table at APRIL'S meeting.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**



Greta Branch, Grover Britt, Harrison Brooks, Ken Bucknam, Nancy Crenshaw, Nancy Eash-Heyl, Beth Foster, Diane Hale, Michael Heyl, Brad Kroll, Beaux David Lee, Mark McNett, Michael McNett, Linda Murie, Elizabeth Nelson, Juan Posse, Corinne Silvia, Keith Waller, Richard Weibert, Victor Zamora, Shaska Zolp-Mikols



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Welcome to members who recently/rejoined SNGMS. We look forward to getting to know you better.



Visitors and new members at the SNGMS March 2025 General Meeting



Jon Thirirot shared his dad's Las Vegas Gem Club nametag at the March 2025 meeting. LVGC is an ancestor of the SNGMS.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

Welcome new members to the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society! Your passion for gemstones and minerals is a perfect fit for our community of enthusiasts. To acquaint you with our workshop and equipment, we offer orientation and training sessions at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

To reserve your spot, please email Richard Nelson (richard\_nelson89@hotmail.com). There is a \$10 fee for the orientation to help cover the cost of materials which will be provided for you.

The session will include demonstrations on the use of rock saws, flat laps, a geode saw, and other equipment. Best practices for working safely and effectively will be reviewed. Orientations are offered as listed below.

**New Member Orientation Sessions**

Orientation and Training Date	Time	Cost	Location
March 9, 2025	10 am - noon	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Shop Suite 125 Las Vegas, NV 89102 Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas NV 89102
April 13, 2025			
May 11, 2025			

**Speakers For 2025 General Meetings**

(please contact Romy Umholtz romyvision@gmail.com with speaker suggestions)

Date	Speaker	Topic	Date	Speaker	Topic
Apr. 7	Sierra R. Ramsey	Messengers from Mars: Understanding the Red Plant using Meteorites			
May 3	Dr. Nick Saines	The Great Unconformity and Frenchman Mountain/Rainbow Gardens	Jul. 7	Garrett Wake: NV Abandoned Mine Program	How to Stake a Mining Claim
Jun. 9	Nick Barnes	Highlights From My Personal Collection	Sep. 8	Josh Solberg	Something Fun and Interesting



SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club  
2025 Field Trips and Meetings<sup>1</sup>

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Mar 9	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Field Trip TBA	Apr 13	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	May 11 – <b>NO MEETING</b>	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Jun 8	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Field Trip TBA	Jul 13	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Aug 10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Sep 14	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Field Trip TBA	Oct 12	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Nov 16	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.
- 2) 3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Shop Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
- 3) Contact Wendy Dresser 702-556-2748

**Hello Rock Stars!**

Spring is here and we have lots of fun planned for this year.

Sunday, March 9th

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

We'll be at the Shop working on the Rocks & Minerals Merit Badge.

**Please wear old clothes we will be painting.**

We need used coffee grounds, multiple garbage bags filled, if anyone can help us out and gather some at a Starbucks please bring to the shop to kids club class this Sunday. We'll be using the coffee grounds on Monday to make Giant Dinosaur Eggs for the Jamboree.

Saturday, April 12th

Easter Kids Party

Noon - 2:00 pm

**Eagles Lodge**

**1601 E Washington Ave.**

**Las Vegas, NV 89101**

**RSVP REQUIRED**

Contact Wendy Dresser 702-556-2748 (before 6:00 pm Monday, April 7th if you wish to attend.)

Sunday, April 13th **No Meeting**

Saturday, April 19th

Field Trip RNG Gold Mine

More info to come via email

Thank you

Wendy Dresser

702-556-2748

**The Rock Hound's Future**

by Kimo Taylor

When some surf boarders took over the body surfing beach called Makapuu Beach, the body surfing community could not surf. The surf board is a menace to body surfers. The State of Hawaii designated that site so that surfing with a surfboard was not allowed at that beach so as to preserve body surfing for the future. There have been some recent legislative developments in the "rock" world. Our club was used in the debate and prevailed in the effort to help preserve the culture of rock hounding in American life. Here, in our smaller "rock" community, maybe, we can come to a consensus on the future of rock hounding without disagreements among rock hounds, unlike the surfing community. We should avoid the need for the state to "make a law" to preserve sites for future generations of young rock hounds.



**Kids' Club Donation Piggy Bank**  
at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop  
Bank courtesy of Dave Ford



**SNGMS 2025 VOLUNTEER STAFF**

Contact any Director to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chair to offer to help on their committee.

**SNGMS 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Orville Wiemers	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Vice-President	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Dave Ford	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	831-521-0214
Parliamentarian	Michael Kirk	vpoker81@cox.net	702-433-4146
Past President	Andrea Packo	aspacko@gmail.com	702-279-7679
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Two Year Board	Jean Chayette	jalmiz201@gmail.com	714-474-6384
One Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighter@yahoo.com	702-210-9612

**SNGMS 2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
Communication	Del Walkenshaw	sngmsnews@gmail.com	702-451-8040
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Field Trip	Jonathan Tredwell	sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com	725-377-0166
Lapidary Shop Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Sonya Edwards	worldgemart@gmail.com	
Hospitality	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Inventory	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Membership	Claudia Crouse	ccrouse295@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Mary Savage	lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com	
New Member Liaison	Amber Palecek		702-343-7150
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	romyvision@gmail.com	
Raffle	DiAnn Lawson	diannmariehayes@yahoo.com	702-577-7183
Refreshments	Richard and Elizabeth Nelson	richard_nelso89@hotmail.com	
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam	grandmadeb10@gmail.com	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Weimers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Andrea Packo	aspacko@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Webmaster	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602

**Back-Up Lapidary Shop Supervisor Volunteers Needed**

**Contact Chops Weinzl for details 702-378-2205**





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**Rock Spotlight  
Tufa vs Tuff**



**Tufa from Pyramid Lake, Nevada**  
<https://commons.m.wikimedia.org>

The words “tufa” and “tuff” are often used interchangeably, but this is incorrect. According to the Dictionary of Geological Terms<sup>1</sup>, “tufa” is a porous, sedimentary rock formed by the precipitation of calcium carbonate from water. It usually forms around springs or in lakebeds. “Tuff” is compacted volcanic ash ejected during an eruption. So tufa is a type of limestone formed by chemical deposition, while tuff is a volcanic rock formed from cooled volcanic debris. The main difference is that tufa is not volcanic, but tuff is always volcanic.

In New Mexico, the Bandelier National Monument features a great example of tuff layers. The deposit was created from the Valles Caldera super-volcano eruption, 1.14 million years ago. Ancestral Puebloan peoples settled in the Bandelier area and dug dwellings into the soft tuff. Tuff has been used as building blocks for more modern Pueblos because it’s easy to cut and transport.

Tuff stone has been used in Native American jewelry since the mid-1800s, although artisans typically call it tufa instead of tuff (confusing, right?). Tuff is used for silvercasting. Designs can be carved into the soft stone with simple metal tools. Yet it is heat resistant, which makes it a good stone for creating a casting mold. Tuff stone is fragile and will usually only hold the design shape for one casting. Some silversmiths sell the mold along with the piece of jewelry. This proves the piece of cast jewelry is unique, never to be reproduced.

Bates, Robert L.; Jackson, Julia A. Dictionary of Geological Terms, 3rd Edition, American Geological Institute. Published: Garden City, N.Y. Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1984.

**HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT**

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of cabbing supplies and equipment. They offer a 10% discount to SNGMS members, friends, and families on everything EXCEPT machines, gift cards, and repairs. The discount is applied when you enter the discount code **SNGMS** at checkout. The code must be manually entered at checkout, it is NOT an automatic discount! The Hi-Tech website is [www.hitechdiamond.com](http://www.hitechdiamond.com).



**Eroded Tuff Deposit**  
**Bandelier National Monument, NM**  
<https://www.facebook.com/BandelierNPS/photos>



## Mineral Musings

## Sand Spikes

Excerpted from [www.nytimes.com/2021/12/08/science/sand-spikes-earthquakes.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/08/science/sand-spikes-earthquakes.html)  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-27061-6>



**Sand Spike from the Collection of Anna Roberts Parks  
Probably Collected at Mount Signal in California**  
*Photo courtesy of Bruce Martin*



**Location of Mt. Signal, CA**

Sand spikes have lumpy heads and tapered tails. They are rare geological formations. The spikes form rapidly during intense ground shaking from earthquakes or asteroid impacts. Powerful seismic waves travel through sand and create the spikes in seconds. Sand spikes can be used to pinpoint the timing and location of the seismic events that created them.

The first discovery of sand spikes was in Germany about 200 years ago. The only other major finds have been at Mount Signal in California, starting in the 1930s. The German sand spikes were found in the 1820s near the Nördlinger Ries asteroid impact crater in southern Germany. The crater formed 14.8 million years ago when an asteroid struck the region. The impact triggered ground shaking equivalent to a magnitude 8.5 earthquake.



**Location of Nordlinger Ries Crater**

Geologists have collected thousands of sand spikes around the Ries crater. The largest specimens are over three feet in length. There's a pattern to how they're oriented in the ground. The heads of the sand spikes point toward the seismic source. Sand spikes found thousands of miles away in California's Imperial Valley are mostly clustered near Mount Signal. They have heads pointing east. That is directly facing the nearby San Andreas Fault, indicating the origin of the seismic shock that created the spikes. Thousands of sand spike specimens were found at the site, but nearly all of them were collected or inadvertently crushed, mostly by bulldozers in the 1950s. Today, the sand spike occurrence seems to be exhausted.

Geologists have proposed a recipe for how sand spikes form. The necessary ingredients include powerful ground shaking, loose sand, water, and calcite. The water and calcite acts like a glue.

The process starts when the fastest-moving seismic waves pass through sand and compress it. That sends most, but not all, of the moisture in the sand to the surface. The sands are basically dry but there are still a few pockets of water.

A few seconds later, slower seismic waves ripple through the sand again. These waves trigger dramatic increases in pressure, which cause the water pockets to rapidly heat and then vaporize explosively. Each explosion excavates a void that sprouts a tail pointing away from the source of the pressure. The surrounding sand rapidly flows back into the void, and calcite cements the sand grains in the spike together.

Sand spikes probably form in a matter of seconds. A lot of rocks take millions of years to form, but the spikes form in a geologic blink of an eye.

Because sand spikes are markers of intense ground shaking, it's a bad idea to build a school or a nuclear power plant where sand spikes have been found.





March 2025 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday March 10 from 5 – 8 pm	\$10 (exact change only)	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>1</sup>	
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, March 17 5 pm	\$5 (yup, \$5)	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>1</sup>	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>1</sup>	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Peggy Sue Moore	Saturdays 1 pm – class limited to 3 people NO CLASS March 8		SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>1</sup>	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations
Silversmithing	Andy Gomez	Sundays 6:30 – 9 pm	\$25	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>1</sup>	andrewquilesgomez415 @gmail.com

1) 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102

All SNGMS class fees include a modest donation to the SNGMS. SNGMS Instructors volunteer their time and expertise to help extend the knowledge of our members.

**Beginning Silversmithing Classes**

Fridays 9:30 am - 12:15pm  
AND 12:30 – 3:15 pm

**Desert Art Supplies**  
2750 N Green Valley Pkwy Suite D  
Henderson, NV 89014  
702-451-8040

Learn the basics of silversmithing. Students learn how to use a jeweler’s saw, solder, set stones, and cast silver. Supplies needed for the first project in copper are provided. Student tool kits and materials for subsequent projects are available for purchase from Desert Art Supplies.

\$40/class, class sizes are limited.  
Call 702-451-8040 for availability.

[www.instagram.com/lvsilversmithing](http://www.instagram.com/lvsilversmithing)



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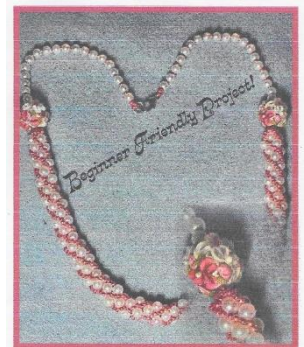
**Stringing Class Projects**  
*Photos courtesy Amber Palecek*



**Student’s Silver Charm**  
*Photo courtesy Bella Romero*



**Stringing Class Participants**  
*Photo courtesy Amber Palecek*



**March 2025 Beading Project  
Beginner Friendly**  
*Photo courtesy Theresa Brooks*



**Beading Project**  
*Photo courtesy Gary Webb*



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.

SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren  
 SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise  
 SNGMS Motto: Rocks-R-Us  
 SNGMS Web Site: [www.snvgs.org](http://www.snvgs.org)  
 Membership is open to anyone with an interest in:  
 Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing  
 Annual Dues: Individual - \$25; Family - \$35  
 Meetings start 6 pm on the first Monday of the month at:  
 Eagles Lodge #1213  
 1601 E Washington  
 Las Vegas, NV 89101  
 (702) 642-1213  
 No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.

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