



THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



February 2018

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 78 Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 1st - Board Mtg
Feb 5th - General Mtg
Mar 1st - Board Mtg
Mar 5th - General Mtg

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

SNGMS Contact :
702 561-3086

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Bob Belcher

To all SNGMS Members:

February is here and we have two field trips scheduled for this month. Saturday, Feb 17th, a trip to Bitter Springs Trail to collect agate and stromatolite. February 25th, Sunday, a field trip to Eagle Mountain, CA for agate.

In March, 7th to the 12th, we have the field trip to Burro Creek, AZ . See Peggy Sue to sign up and also let her know what you plan on bringing to Saturday's pot luck at the camp out.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many members as possible participating in these trips. Everyone has worked very hard to set up these field trips so give them a big **Thank You**.

We have a lot of good events coming up this year so read your emails and the Polished Slab to stay up to date.

The shop is looking great after clean up. Thanks to all those who helped out.

Everyone is working hard to see that the Jamboree will be the best. The Jamboree display case now have Led lights installed thanks to Chops and his friend.

More good things are coming and this will be a great year.

Bob Belcher
President SNGMS
February 2018

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Field Trips

A series of field trips are planned for the next few months. A flash message with the current trip details was sent out to the membership on January 19th. Try to plan your time, they should be a lot of fun.

February 17th, 2018, Saturday: Bitter Springs Trail, NV, (Agate & Stromatolite)

February 25th, 2018, Sunday: Eagle Mountain, CA, (Agate)

March 7th to March 12th, 2018, Wednesday to Monday: Burro Creek, Arizona, (Jasper and Agate)

March 14th through March 19th: Valley of Fire State Park, is the annual Atlatl competition, for those of you who enjoy pre-history events. You can try your hand at throwing an Atlatl.

It's time to start planning for the 2018 Spring Jamboree Gem & Mineral Show in Boulder City, May 5th and 6th.

To get ready for the show, we will be getting together at the shop on the following dates / times to prepare:

- Thursday, February 15th, 6:00 pm
- Saturday, March 24th, 1:00 pm
- Thursday, April 5th, 6:00 pm
- Saturday, April 21st, 1:00 pm

This will be our best year yet! We have added a few new items (like Ed, the 7.5 Tyrannosaurus Rex and a Plinko Board). It should be fun!

See you there!

Sheri Johnson

Birthstone for the Month of February is Amethyst: Amethyst occurs in primary hues from a light pinkish violet to a deep purple and it may exhibit one or both secondary hues, red and blue. The best varieties of amethyst can be found in Siberia, Sri Lanka, Brazil and the far East. The ideal grade is called "Deep Siberian". Amethyst was used as a gemstone by the ancient Egyptians and was largely employed in antiquity for intaglio engraved gems. The Greeks believed amethyst gems could prevent intoxication, while medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle in the belief that amethysts heal people and keep them cool-headed.



SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 2/01/18

On February 1st, 2018, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:06 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the January 4th, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported the account balances and that the income for January was positive.

Membership chair reported 267 adults and 22 children as of the last update.

Shop Report: The need for a shop supervisor meeting, shop equipment training, and institution of shop certification cards was noted. Wayne Muth proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw, and approved by the Board that, "wheels for Cab Kings be purchased, up to \$1,000.00."

Unfinished Business:

The terms of the new shop lease were discussed. Beth Jones proposed, seconded by John Stackhouse, and approved by the Board that, "Option 1 for the shop lease be approved." This was the three year option.

Sheri Johnson discussed the upcoming show and reports that there are few paid vendors at this time. Beth Jones proposed, seconded by Wayne Muth, and approved by the Board that, "the Show Chair be added to the membership list distribution."

New Business:

Scott Edwards proposed, seconded by John Stackhouse, that "Communications Chair be authorized to forward club related information to the membership without board authorization."

Barbara Belcher has volunteered to be a new member liason and make sure visitors and new members receive paper name tags and are greeted and welcomed to SNGMS meetings.

Possible Kid's Club field trips and cab making event were discussed. Information on field trip will be presented at the March Board Meeting.

The SNGMS sign in front of the shop needs to be replaced. Wayne Muth volunteered to co-ordinate.

John Stackhouse proposed, seconded by Bill Moore and approved by the Board, that "the Board meeting be adjourned"

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Shop Talk: *Rock Tumbling* by Michael Kirk (Part 1 of 2)

Hello fellow Rock hounds! I am an avid Rock Tumbler! I often get asked: "Why don't my rocks have a shine on them when I am done? Well, there are 2 Reasons:

1. You rushed the steps.

2. Grit contamination (meaning some grit from the previous steps was left in there from the previous steps.

The first thing to remember when tumbling is to tumble the correct stones. Stones with pits and grooves will hold grits into the next stages and ruin that stage. The worst kind of stone to tumble is **DRUZY Quartz**. Don't do this! The best kind of stone is pretty close to round. Also take into consideration the "MOHS" scale of hardness. Obsidian and Agate do not mix. The best shines come from the hardest stones. Agate and Jasper are 2 of my favorites.

Tumbling Grit is available in a wide range of grades (sizes) and each grade is designated by a number 60/90/220/400/600/etc.

(Continued On Page 7)



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

Website: discountbeadsh.com

Discount BEADS Inc.

Ernie Staley, CEO
David Cray, President

Open 7 Days, 10 to 6
702-360-4266

4266 S. Durango Dr. Suite G | Las Vegas, NV 89147 | Email: Discountbeads@aol.com

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Gold Rush Prospecting and Adventure Tours

1311 Nevada Hwy. Ste. C
Boulder City NV 89005
702-982-7000
www.goldrushpros.com

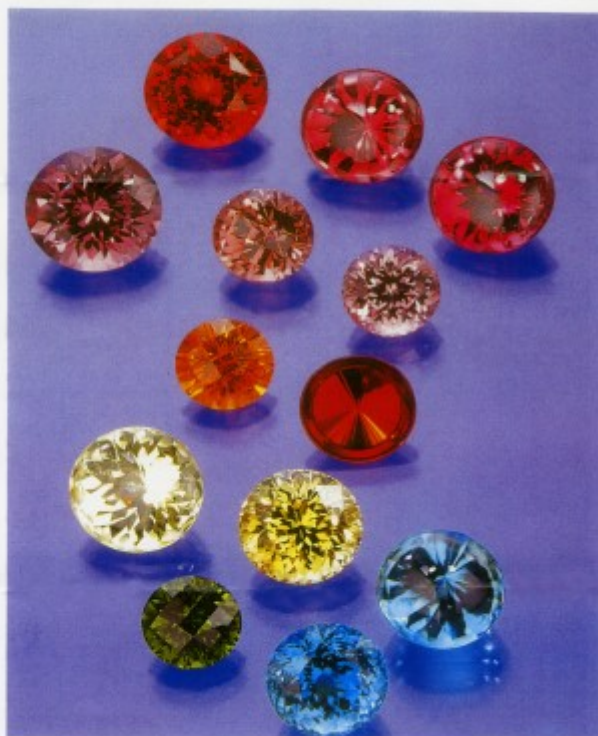
Just A Hobby

Jewelry Gemstones
App Only
Henderson
727-542-3144

GEMSTONES FOR SALE

RICHARD (727)542-3144

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



17,000 Carats

SNGMS General meeting minutes for 2/05/18

On February 5th, 2018, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:05 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the January 8th, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported the account balances with a positive income for January.

Committee Reports:

Classes: Wire wrapping classes will be announced via email. The silver & metal smithing continues on Tuesdays, and Jim Callaway is expected to teach inlay/channeling and intarsia classes.

Communications: There is a problem with sending emails from the club to members with AOL addresses. If you are experiencing this, please email Del Walkenshaw and your emails will be sent individually.

Sunshine: A celebration of life for Bill Lemon will be held at the Eagles Lodge, time and date to be determined. Lynn Manthey is attending our meeting, with good health news. Frank Timbers is recovering at home after hospitalization. Bill Hogan is doing well after his second hip replacement. Michael Kirk is doing well after his surgery. Ron Johnson's family is down with the flu. Jim Jones' brother is having health problems. Rita Bergeron broke her knee cap.

Shop: We are ordering some Cab King replacement wheels. Certification cards and required equipment training are being put into use. Peggy Sue organized a shop clean-up that went great.

Membership: John Stackhouse reports 287 adult and 25 child members.

Federation and Show: The Rocky Mountain Federation meeting will be in Rapid City, South Dakota in July 2018. Preparations for our show are going forward with additional dinosaur costumes. We will have a lot of activities needing many volunteers. Next meeting we'll be organizing stamped canvas bags to be used at the show. We are taking names for members who want to use a display case. Contact Sheri to rent a vendor space.

Jr. Members and Rock Stars: The kids made crystals on roses at the January meeting. A field trip to Valley of Fire is anticipated for March 14th.

Field Trip: The Burro Creek campout will be March 7th.

Old Business:

The shop lease for three years was approved by the Board. Costs are increasing a bit. The club will no longer supply paper towels in the shop. Please bring your own or donate some.

Cab contest winners: 1st place – Bruce Martin; 2nd place – Tina Bates

Bill Moore proposed, seconded by Wayne Muth "that the meeting be adjourned." Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

SNGMS 2018 Meetings

Jan 04 Board	Jul 05 Board
08 General	09 General
Feb 01 Board	Aug 02 Board
05 General	06 General
Mar 01 Board	Sep 06 Board
05 General	10 General
Apr 05 Board	Oct 04 Board
09 General	08 General
May 03 Board	Nov 01 Board
07 General	05 General
31 Board	Dec None
Jun 04 General	Annual Awards Banquet

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

SNGMS General Meeting

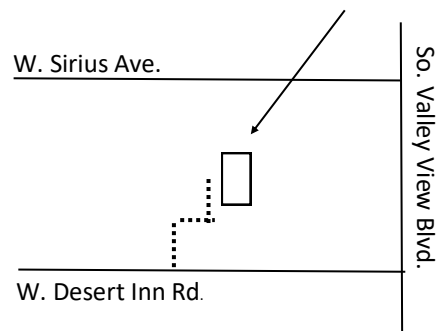
1st Monday of every month
(2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

Non-members welcome!

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

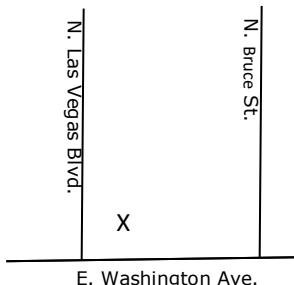
Show & Sell 5-6 PM
General Meeting 6-8 PM

**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



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



Published monthly by:
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3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125
Las Vegas, NV 89102



Shop Talk:(Part 1 of *Rock Tumbling* Continued from Pg 3)

Polishing Agents are oxides of metal as reflected in their names: tin oxide, cerium oxide, aluminum oxide, etc. Some polish stones better than others, and if we were running a single type of gem material through our tumblers, we would be wise to select the oxide that works best for it. For my use, I use tin oxide. This works best on Agate and Jasper. Tin Oxide produces a bit higher polish.

****A point to consider before selecting a tumbler is what are you going to do with the gemstone? A 12 lb. barrel will hold about 1,000 stones, if all you want is to make up a little jewelry, a 2-3 lb. barrel should do the trick.****

THE FIRST GRIND Fill barrel 2/3 full with stones, add 60/90 grit as directed (depending on your barrel size). ADD 1 tbsp of 20 Mule Team Borax (available @ Walmart laundry soap section) this cushions the water and makes the stones glide over on another easier. I know it sounds crazy, but it works!! Next, add 3-4 TUMS to the barrel. (gas BUILDS UP IN THE TUMBLER And this keeps the gas down, NO joke!!), then add water up to the ¾ line, put the lid on, and give it a shake, and put the tumbler on the rollers. When the stones are tumbling correctly you will hear them stumbling over each other not sliding, the stones should be checked daily. The purpose of the first grind is to remove all the rough surfaces, crevices, blemishes, etc. A normal run in coarse grit is 4-5 days, if not enough material was grinded off, the process starts again. When the stones are at the desired shape, it is time to do the next step.

*******WARNING*** DO NOT DUMP THE SLURRY AND ROCKS INTO THE SINK TO BE WASHED!!! YOUR PIPES WILL TURN TO CEMENT!** Get a colander and bucket from Home Depot and wash them into the bucket.

GOOD LUCK! I will do my best to answer your questions.

Michael Kirk

(Part 2 of *Rock Tumbling* will be in the Polished Slab's March issue)

I Found A Rock, What is it? (By Bruce Martin)

According to somebody I know there are 3 kinds of rocks. There are (UR) Ugly Rocks, aka leaverite, then there are those that are quite collectable (PR) Pretty Rocks and (BR) Beautiful Rocks. Most lapidary people focus on BRs.

When I pick up a rock I usually look at the color, pattern, texture or density. But how do you determine what that rock is?

There are well over 2,000 different minerals and add rocks to the mix, that's a lot to figure out.

Certain minerals are easy to identify such as Quartz, Agate, Jasper and more. Rock such as Granite, Obsidian and Sandstone are also easy. Most are not easy. There are many different tools to help you in this quest. Books are a tremendous help. I use several such as National Audubon Society's "Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals" and "DK Handbook to Rocks and Minerals" to name a few.

These books list many tests to aid you in the identification process. Some tests are easy, such as Hardness (what can scratch it), Color, Luster and Streak. Others are more complicated and some should be used with caution, such as Flame, Acid and Specific Gravity. I would never suggest you taste as some minerals are toxic.

Another huge help is other club members. We have some very experienced folks and most love to talk about the subject of rocks.

In conclusion, the best way to determine what you have found is to read and ask questions.

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.

Metal and Silver Smithing, Scott Edwards has 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 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. **The faceting class dates for February are: February 10th and 24th.**

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

(please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)

Frank Timbers has been hospitalized & released. He is doing well but still has more testing.

Ron Johnson's entire family has had the flu.

The service for **Bill Lemmon** was very nice except the Honor Guard did not show. Mistake on schedule. We will be having a Celebration of Bill's Life and will let everyone know the date and time.

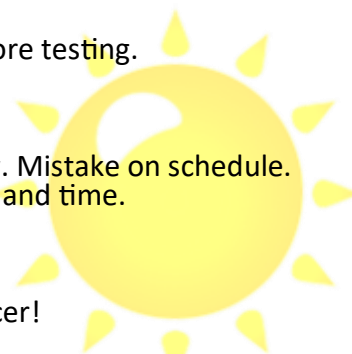
Jim Jones's brother is not doing well and we had to take a trip to Oklahoma.

Oh Happy Days! **Lynn Manthey** is here And finished with therapy. Clear of Cancer!

Bill Kogan had the second hip replaced. He is at home. He had a scary trip from doctor's. While traveling in medical van, they had a blow out at 78 miles per hour. He told Wayne that they were bouncing all over the road.

Rita Bergeron fell and broke her knee cap. Ouch!

Michael Kirk has finished his surgery and both implants are working well. No more pain!



SHOP INFORMATION

“New” SNGMS Workshop Schedule

SHOP HOURS

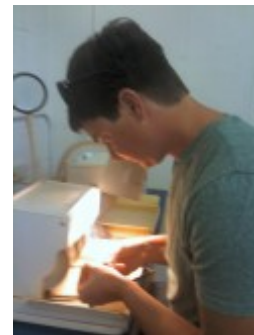
- Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm
- Monday Closed
- Tuesday 1 pm to 4:30 pm
- Wednesday 12 pm to 9 pm
- Thursday 12 pm to 9 pm
- Friday 12 pm to 9 pm
- Saturday 12 pm to 6 pm

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 dates.



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse



2018 Monthly Cabochon Contest:

February	Romance
March	Green
April	Easter
May	Flower
June	Desert
July	Patriotic
August	Sea Scape
September	The Cosmos
October	Halloween
November	Holiday
December	None Awards Dinner

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

January’s “Romance” Winners are:

1st Place : Bruce Martin



2nd Place: Tina Bates

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!

February

Betsy Armatys, Laura Bancroft, Jen Barton, Paizley Bresgi, Marco Briceno, F.J.(Mike) Coache, Joel Combs, Chris Devin, Alex Di-Domenico, Kristin Hasting, Martin Hause, Melanie Hecht, Cheryl Howdyshell, Anabelle Hymer, Cliff Jackson, Richard Johnson, Jerrett Justice, Frank Koot, Curt Krohn, Carol Kuykendall, Kerin Landry, Whitney Leak, Arysso Leiva, Sara Jean McCulley, Adam Q. Miller, Dave Munkres, Amanda Murphy, Cheryl Murphy, Judy O'Bannon, Rosa Pascual, Benita Persaud, Margie Rawlins, Jennifer Richins, Jennifer Roundy, Joshua Runion, Patricia Rzesnowiecky, Chris Sakmar, Locksley Sinclair, Khole Smith, H. Allen Stratton, Holly Strother, James Walkenshaw, Kerry Wenzl, Ryan Young.

March

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

Charles Adams, Marie Antonett Arient, Tina Bates, Elizabeth Brooks, Robert Brown, Ken Bucknam, Allison Chayette, David Fiegel, Diane Hale, Daune Hashimoto, Cozette Hymer, Joy Justice, Andrew Kerr, Debra Kerr, Lee Klassy, Cheryl Milne, Linda Murie, Virginia Navarro, Elana Paladino, Terri Phillips, Corinne Silvia, Gary Tuttle.

Welcome New Members!

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

Lisa Boka, Tim Boka, Rick Brown, Richard Craven, Terry Donbhoff, Rhonda Eggimann, Hopkins Fitzpatrick, Lianna Fitzpatrick, Amanda Haas, Kim Haas, Denise Hall, Martin Hause, Robert Johnson, Paul Kapsar, Krystal Kaztle, James Mahan, Amber Penick, Terri Phillips, Ted Poston, Gary Powell, Mark Pruter, Margie Rawlins, Michael Rawlins, Mike Rurlas, Todd Sanford.

2018 Board of Directors

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

Vice-President: Beth Jones punkyjones@hotmail.com

Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse 702 239-0437

Treasurer: Bill Moore kn1ndn@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Scott Edwards 702 561-3086

One Year Board Remaining: John Stackhouse

Two Year Board Remaining: Jason Fabbi
jjnevada@outlook.com

Three Year Board: Del Walkenshaw
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-February 2018: Quartzsite

www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html
[Quartzsite, Arizona - Rock and Gem Show Events Calendar ...](#) www.desertusa.com

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

March 24th, Saturday, 2018: Desert Art Supplies' 3rd Annual Gem-Boree, Henderson, NV, 10 am to 4 pm.

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/?](http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL)

[ShowState=ALL](#)

Committee Chairmen

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej
desertartsupply@aol.com

ByLaws.....Scott Edwards 702 561-3086

Communications.....Del Walkenshaw sngmsnews@gmail.com

Education.....Mary Beth Paladino

Federation.....Sheri Johnson

Alt. Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore

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

Financial Manager.....Open

Shop Foreman Ron Johnson

Historian.....Jack Toogood

Hospitality.....Deb Bucknam grandmadeb10@gmail.com

Inventory.....Frank Timbers ftimbers@centurylink.net

Librarian..... Open

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

New Member Liaison... Barbara Belcher

Program.....Cindy Allison

Publicity.....Scott Edwards

Raffle.....Mary Skaarup & Kerry Wenzl

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

Refreshments.....Ruth Dziadon

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

Show Chairperson.....Sheri Johnson

Sunshine.....Beth Jones punkyjones@hotmail.com
702-505-5819

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

SNGMS Contact: 702 560-3086

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