



# THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



September 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 83 ISSUE 9

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mineral Group Mtg Sep 14, 2023, 6:30 pm  
September 28, 2023 - Board Mtg  
October 2, 2023 - Genl Mtg 6 pm

### SNGMS Contacts:

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Hi Everyone!

As I sit in a hospital waiting room in Delta, UT, awaiting news on one of our members, I am reminded that all of us must be especially careful when in the field. He'll just need stitches and will be OK but it could have been worse. Please take care of yourself when rock hounding.

In other news, it was voted on to let the Board and Wells Fargo set up a ladder investment program for our \$100,000. This will allow us to earn good rates of return yet have the money be accessible if needed. We will review after 1 year with the membership, and adjust as advised.

We need a nomination chairman for next year's elections ASAP. Please let any Board member know if you can help organize the volunteers who may want to run for office.

Calling ALL MEMBERS: please consider running for office and volunteering. Terms are 1 year for most positions. Some of our current leaders will be stepping back and we need replacements. In particular, a Shop Manager and Jamboree Show Chairperson are needed. More positions will be added soon.

Viva Las Vegas Rocks vendor booths are nearly sold out! It's going to be a great show! Please make plans to attend and bring friends. Dale Bright says share our show notices on Facebook please.

Last chance for the December 3, 2023 Annual Awards Banquet tickets is at the next General Meeting or from Chops Wenzl at the shop on Wednesday mornings. Get your soon!!

See you in the rocks!

Andrea Packo  
SNGMS President

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## 2023 Field Trips<sup>1</sup> & Events

Field Trip <sup>1</sup> /Event	Date	Location
SNGMS Mineral Group Meeting	September 14, 2023, 6:30 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Mingus Gem & Mineral Club Clarkdale Rocks Gem & Mineral Show <sup>3</sup>	September 22 – 24, 2023	Clark Memorial Clubhouse Auditorium, 19 <sup>th</sup> N. 9 <sup>th</sup> St., Clarkdale, AZ 86324
SNGMS Rock Sale and Swap <sup>4</sup>	September 30, 2023, 11:30 am	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Joshua Tree Gem & Mineral Show, Free Admission <sup>5</sup>	Sept 28, 2023 – Oct 1, 2023 Mon thru Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Joshua Tree Lake RV & Campground, 2601 Sunfair Rd, Joshua Tree , CA 92252
Variscite/Turquoise Pay to Dig <sup>1</sup>	October 22-23, 2023	Tonopah, NV or Kokoweef, CA
Viva Las Vegas Rock & Gem Show & Sale <sup>6</sup>	November 3-5, 2023	Santa Fe Station Casino, 4949 N Rancho Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89130
Desert Art Supplies Parking Lot Sale <sup>7</sup>	November 11, 2023	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014
Purple Agate Trip <sup>1</sup>	TBD	Burro Creek, AZ

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Joel Coombs [joel.coombs@bldr.com](mailto:joel.coombs@bldr.com)
- 2) Contact Dale Bright [dalebright1@hotmail.com](mailto:dalebright1@hotmail.com)
- 3) Vendor booths available, contact Bill Hedglin at 928-634-0269
- 4) Wayne Muth is organizing this event
- 5) Vendor booths available, contact Bill Sherwood, 760-218-6137 or [socaldesert@yahoo.com](mailto:socaldesert@yahoo.com)
- 6) Vendor booths available, contact Diane Burgess, [burgess@cox.net](mailto:burgess@cox.net) or 702-575-2762
- 7) Vendor booths available, contact Del Walkenshaw [desertartsupply@aol.com](mailto:desertartsupply@aol.com) 702-451-8040

**SNGMS presents**  
**Viva Las Vegas Rocks!**  
**Rock and Gem Show and Sale**  
**at**  
**Santa Fe Station Casino**  
**in**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**  
**Show dates are Nov. 3-5, 2023**  
**Vendor booths are**  
**available. Contact**  
**Diane Burgess**  
**[burgess@cox.net](mailto:burgess@cox.net)**  
**or**  
**702-575-2762**

### Viva Las Vegas Rocks Update

We can use more door prizes and auction items. Here's how to donate:

- 1) Bring your items to the silent auction organizing party on Sep. 23, 2023, 10 am – 3 pm at the SNGM lapidary shop
- 2) bring your items to the October 2, 2023 meeting at the Eagles Lodge at 6 pm
- 3) drop items off at the SNGMS lapidary shop
- 4) we can arrange a pickup (email Dale Bright at [dalebright1@hotmail.com](mailto:dalebright1@hotmail.com))

To volunteer a couple of hours of your time, contact Orville Wiemers ([sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com) or 702-366-5854).

The Kids Club is selling tickets for putting together three fantastic baskets valued at \$150 each. The money raised will be used to support our Kids Club. If you have items to contribute to their baskets, contact Wendy Dresser ([wndresser@gmail.com](mailto:wndresser@gmail.com) or 702-556-2748).

Presale tickets for the show are available. Show admission for kids 17 and under is free with a paid adult ticket. All presale tickets come with three door prize tickets (a \$5 value) and can be purchased online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/viva-las-vegas-rocks-tickets-673924074047>

SNGMS is active on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. If you are on any of these platforms, please like and share our posts.



## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 9/7/2023

On September 7, 2023, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at Desert Art Supply in Henderson at 4:12 pm by the President. All Board members except the Past President were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the August 3rd 2023 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported account balances with a checking balance of \$26,098.93

**Shop Report:** The Shop Open House and New Member Orientation was a success with good attendance and participation. Andrea Kincannon stated that she will have to step back from being Shop Manager due to family obligations.

**Unfinished Business:** The board reviewed information gathered about the club investments and after discussion it was unanimously decided to propose to the general membership that 1) the current bond be sold and proceeds rolled into the investment funds. 2) the \$100,000 be invested incrementally in CDs with staggered maturation dates so that there will be more liquidity should it be needed. Peggy Sue Moore so motioned, seconded by Del Walkenshaw, and approved by the Board. Dale Bright provided updates on progress with the Viva Las Vegas Show announcing that we have 46 paid vendors and advertisement of the show is progressing well.

**New Business:** Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Bob Belcher, and approved by the Board, that "T-shirts be reordered for sale at the Viva Las Vegas Show"

Wayne Muth asked for a date for the next Rock Swap to be held at the Shop. September 30th was selected and Wayne will organize it.

Andrea Packo nominated Del Walkenshaw for Lifetime membership. The Board approved of presentation of the nomination to the membership. Life membership is a distinguished and privileged title extended to an adult member with a minimum of 10 years membership in the SNGMS, who have held a Board position or committee chair; whose nomination has been presented by a SNGMS member to the Board of Directors, in a written statement of qualifications and attributes, and presented to the membership and approved by a majority vote.

A new Spring Jamboree Chair and a Nomination/Election Committee Chair are needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.



# CONGRATULATIONS DEL WALKENSHAW LIFETIME MEMBER OF



## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

### Thank you, Del, for all you do, including:

- keeping SNGMS lapidary shop equipment running
- leading rock-hounding trips
- offering free meeting space at your business, donating both the space and your time.
- actively participating in SNGMS committees
- serving on the SNGMS Board of Directors
- helping newcomers and those more experienced.
- always having a big smile and being an outspoken ambassador for SNGMS!



**SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 9/11/2023**

On September 11th, 2023, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the August 7th 2023 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported account balances: Checking account: \$2,789.19 as of end of August and \$28,951.95 as of meeting date. There is \$124,252.86 in the bond/money market account.

**Membership Report:** There are 567 adult and 123 child members.

**Kids Club Report:** Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities. She thanked members for their continuing support, and special thanks to Mary Beth Paladino for her continuing help with the club. The kids will continue working on their Gem Lore & Legends badge. They have tickets available for gift baskets at the Viva Las Vegas Show.

**Shop Report:** Andrea Kinkannon reported that all equipment is up and running. The Open House had good participation and engagement. There will be a Rock Swap at the end of the month. The donated Genie cab machine will be auctioned this month. Shop volunteers are needed to supervise, teach a class, clean, etc.

Sheri Johnson, current RMFMS President, and SNGMS member discussed the Rocky Mountain and American Federation shows she attended this year, and future show locations. She presented plaques to Lorrilee Stackhouse, SNGMS Webmaster, for first place in the Rocky Mountain and American Federation website contests.

**Presentation:** Ary Udry discussed Martian Meteorites, showing us examples and discussing how they are identified and what information they hold about Mars.

**Sunshine Report:** Sadly our Sunshine Chair, Beth Jones, was absent as she and her family have COVID.

**Unfinished Business:** Dale Bright discussed the Viva Las Vegas Show progress. Advertisement is going well.

**Cabochon Contest:** The Cab Contest theme was Coral. First place was Lloyd Chayette, second place Ron Mazz. Next month's subject will be Shark.

**SNGMS Financial Investments:** Orville Weimers, Vice-President, presented the Board's recommendation: 1) the current bond be sold and proceeds rolled into the investment funds. 2) the \$100,000 be invested incrementally in CDs with staggered maturation dates so that there will be more liquidity should it be needed. Wayne Muth asked that the decision for incremental investment be reviewed periodically. Wendy Dresser proposed, seconded by Romy Umholtz, and approved by the membership that the presented plan be followed.

**New Business:** Andrea Packo nominated Del Walkenshaw for Lifetime Membership starting in October, when he is eligible. Lloyn Chayette proposed, seconded by Wendy Dresser, and enthusiastically approved by the Membership that Del be granted Lifetime Membership. Wayne Muth proposed, seconded by Wendy Dresser, and approved by the membership, that "\$1,527.80 be used to purchase additional T-shirts for sale by the club." SNGMS elections are approaching. Let a Board member know if you are interested in being on the Election Committee or if you are interested in running for a Board position. Also needed are a Shop Manager and a Spring Jamboree chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.



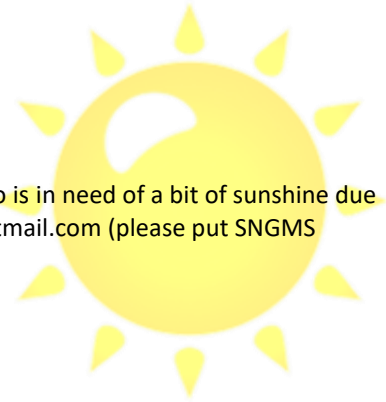


# Sunshine Report

from Beth Jones

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 call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at punkyjones@hotmail.com (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject).

Allen Kate's brother died. Beth Jones has COVID.



## SNGMS Lapidary Shop Open House, August 26, 2023

Here are some photos from the SNGMS Lapidary Shop open house, in case you missed it!



Rock Saws



SNGMS Open House Guests



Trim Saws



SNGMS Shop Manager, Andrea Kincannon

**Clarkdale Rocks**  
Gem & Mineral Show  
51<sup>st</sup> Show

**Show & Sale**

**September 22-24, 2023**  
Clark Memorial Clubhouse Auditorium  
19th N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, AZ 86324  
FRI & SAT 9am-5pm, SUN 9am-4pm  
**Free Admission**  
Mingus Gem & Mineral Club  
www.mingusgem.club

**Joshua Tree**  
GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Rocks  
Fossils  
Gemstones  
Slabs  
Equipment  
Cabochons  
Crystals  
Spheres  
Geodes  
Jewelry

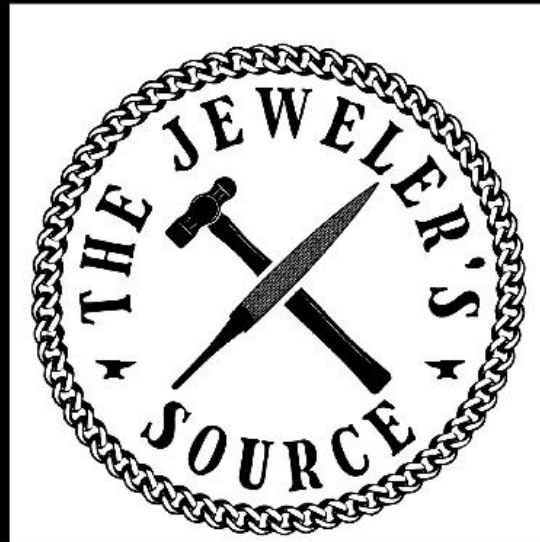
**IN OUR NEW LOCATION**  
JOSHUA TREE LAKE RV & CAMPGROUND  
2601 SUNFAIR ROAD, JOSHUA TREE

**SEPT 28 - OCT 1**  
THURS. - SAT. 9 to 5  
SUNDAY 9 to 4

LOTS OF VENDORS  
SELLING ITEMS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.  
COME ONE & ALL FOR A DAY OR WEEKEND  
DISCOVERING THE EARTH'S AMAZING  
WONDERS!

FOR MORE INFO - WE'RE ON FACEBOOK





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 2023 Meeting Schedule			
Board Meeting <sup>1</sup>	General Meeting <sup>2</sup>	Mineral Group Meeting <sup>3</sup>	Kids Club Meeting <sup>4</sup>
Sep 28	Monday, Oct 2, 6 pm	Thursday, Sep 14, 6:30 pm	2nd Sunday of every month (unless it falls on a holiday) from 3pm - 5pm
		Thursday, Oct 12, 6:30 pm	
Nov 2	Monday, Nov 6, 6 pm		
Nov 30	none		
<b>Awards Banquet</b> Sunday, Dec 3, 2023 from 3-8 pm at Sunset Station Casino, 1301 W Sunset Rd, Henderson, NV 89014. \$30 for members and \$60 for non-members.			

- 1) Location and time announced via email
- 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, membership required
- 4) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary Shop with exception of some field trips, membership required

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  
 Board Mtg: Various Thurs 6 - 7 pm

**\*Check Email and "Polished Slab" for possible date changes.**

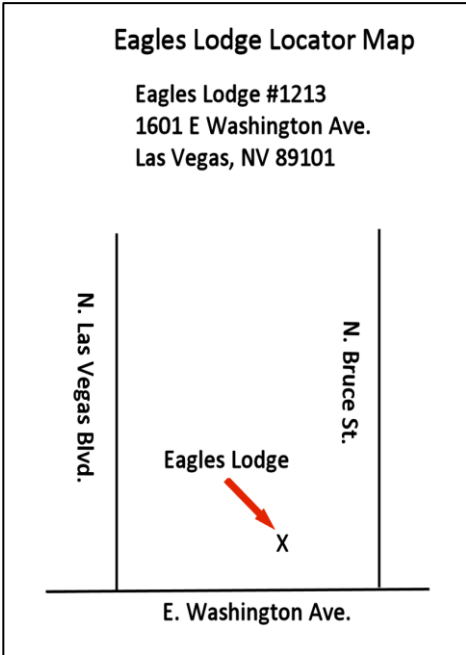


Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

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







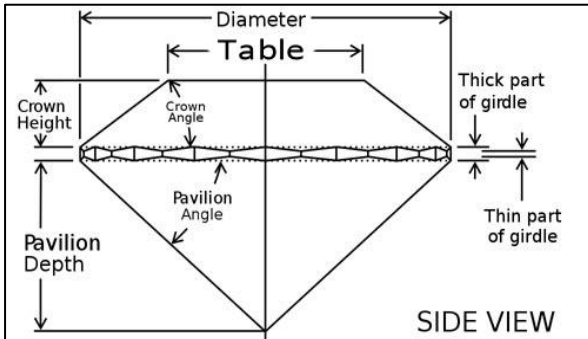
Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks  
Faceting Diagram Basics

Excerpted from [www.crystalsgems.com/basic-process-of-gemstone-faceting-and-commonly-used-terms](http://www.crystalsgems.com/basic-process-of-gemstone-faceting-and-commonly-used-terms)

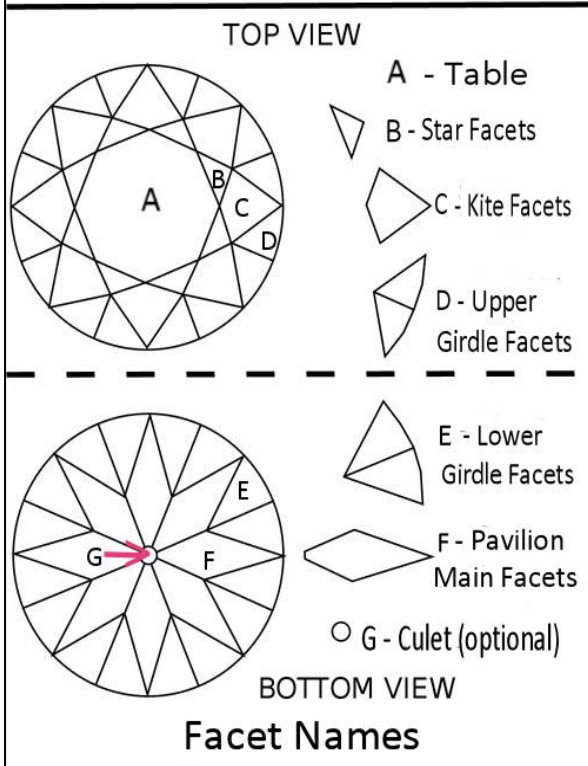
What is Faceting?



Rough Stone with Faceted Product



Gem Proportions



Faceting Diagram

Faceting is the process of creating small flat, polished surfaces on a gemstone to enhance its sparkle. A rough stone is converted into a shining gem. The SNGMS offers faceting classes on Saturday mornings (see page 15 for details).

What is a Faceting Diagram?

One of the first steps in faceting is to prepare a diagram for cutting the stone, including the angle for each cut. Diagrams are blueprints of gemstone designs. They tell you where and at what angles to cut a rough stone. However, a diagram does not show how much stone to cut off. The individual faceter must decide how much to cut off.

There is a vocabulary used to describe the facets. The vocabulary is important because it clearly describes how the stone is to be cut. A list of common terms, and a sample diagram of gem proportions with facet names is shown in the diagram to the left.

- Crown:** The top section of the stone, just above the girdle.
- Pavilion:** The bottom section of the stone, just below the girdle.
- Girdle:** A line that divides the stone into a top and bottom section.
- Table:** A large area on the crown section of the stone.
- Culet:** The flat bottom section of the stone.
- Star:** The area around the edge of the table.

Faceting diagrams are available online. Faceting diagram sites include:

- <https://usfacetersguild.org/faceting-diagrams>
- [www.facetdiagrams.org/database](http://www.facetdiagrams.org/database)
- <https://oregonsunstoneguide.com/faceting-diagrams.html>
- [www.gemologyproject.com/wiki/index.php?title=Faceting\\_Designs](http://www.gemologyproject.com/wiki/index.php?title=Faceting_Designs)

Once your faceting diagram is final, you can kick off the cutting process!

**SNGMS Awards Banquet tickets are available now.** You can buy them at:

- Desert Art Supplies, 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D, Henderson NV 89014, Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 4pm.  
**Make sure you have your membership card.**
- SNGMS Lapidary Shop on Wednesday 10 am - 12 pm from Chops Wenzl
- During the October 2, 2023 or Nov 6, 2023 General Meeting at the Eagles Lodge

The banquet is Sunday, Dec 3, 2023 from 3-8 pm at Sunset Station Casino, 1301 W Sunset Rd, Henderson, NV 89014. Cost is \$30 for members and \$60 for non-members. Ticket sales will end at the conclusion of our November 6, 2023 General Meeting. This is necessary due to providing the casino with payment and attendee numbers.





2023 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	CONTEST WINNER
January	Rainbow Trout	Lloyd Chayette & Bruce Martin tied
February	Lion Fish	Lloyd Chayette 1 <sup>st</sup> George Stewart 2 <sup>nd</sup>
March	Clown Fish	Lloyd Chayette 1 <sup>st</sup> Bruce Martin 2 <sup>nd</sup>
April	Jellyfish	Ron Mazz 1 <sup>st</sup> Bruce Martin 2 <sup>nd</sup>
May	Lobster	Lloyd Chayette 1 <sup>st</sup> Joel Coombs 2 <sup>nd</sup>
June	Starfish	Lloyd Chayette 1 <sup>st</sup> , Ron Mazz 2 <sup>nd</sup>
July	Octopus	Bruce Martin 1 <sup>st</sup> , George Stewart 2 <sup>nd</sup>
August	Seahorse	George Stewart & Bruce Martin tied
September	Coral	Ron Mazz 1 <sup>st</sup> , Lloyd Chayette 2 <sup>nd</sup>
October	Shark	
November	Whales	
December	No Contest	

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at each of 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 October 2023 cabochon theme is "Shark." **Good Luck!**



Caribbean Sharks

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CABOCHON CONTEST YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 1 HOUR OF PAID SHOP TIME FOR THE PRIOR MONTH.**

September 2023 Cabochon Contest Winners



Left to right: Ron Mazz and Lloyd Chayette



September 2023 Cabochon Contest Entries

Ron Mazz took first place with entry #2, and Lloyd Chayette took second place with entry #3.

2024 Cabochon Contests

The theme for the 2024 cabochon contests is "Nature's Colors." Topics for each month are listed below.

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	MONTH	CABOCHON THEME
January	Snow	May	Blue Skies	September	Ocean Blues
February	Forest Colors	June	Sunset	October	Fall Leaf Colors
March	Spring Flowers	July	Mountains	November	Landscapes
April	Storm Clouds	August	Tropical	December	No Contest



## BIRTHDAYS

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



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



*Harvey Bergeron, Scott Bolshazy, Michael Bonvino, Karen Bowlin, Colleen Carroll, Jeana Cascino, Ed Dent, Anthony Diacente, Billie Fecher, Briana Furukawa, Kris Gill, Jeffery M. Goldsberry, Hayes Griffith, Lawrence Halle, Erica Hamilton, Samuel Hays, Anthony Henson, Pat Hill, Michael Holes, Jenelle Hopkins, Shane Huber, Bill A. Hudson, Frances B. Hudson, Jerry Hughes, Allen Kates, Maryse Keeley, Susan Keller, David Landry, Jessica Lash, Barry Lawson, Sue LoFaro, Phillip Luchetta, Richard McKinney, Gina McKown, Cara Meagher, Chris Meagher, Tami Mohr, Rimma Muth, Diane Mutz, Penny Nicoll, Michael Paladino, Jason Pattison, Amber Penick, Lusbel Penuela, Mark Pruter, Sr., Judith Ross, Tara Rubin, Sara Schiller, Lee Schmidt, Pamela Smith, (Arthur) Mick Sprott, Richard Sprowl, John Stackhouse, Katharine Stoker, Jonathan Tooth, Tyra Tripp, Sharon Webb, Barbara Wysocki*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

*Brandy Adams, Eduardo Esquivel, Domico Esquivel, Dee Dee Esquivel, Ariel Esquivel, Angel Esquivel, Teri Esquivel, Jim Glynn, Jessica Hobbs, Cooper Hobbs, Nate Hobbs, Roy L. Mobley, Michael Smith, Talia Smith*

## 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\_nelso89@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. The Orientation schedule is shown below.

### New Member Orientation Sessions

Orientation and Training Date	Time	Cost	Location
Sunday, September 17, 2023	10 a.m.	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop 3111 S. Valley View Blvd Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas NV 89102
Sunday, October 1, 2023	10 a.m.	\$10	
Sunday, October 15, 2023	10 a.m.	\$10	
Sunday, November 12, 2023	10 a.m.	\$10	
Sunday, December 3, 2023	10 a.m.	\$10	



**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club  
2023 Field Trips and Meetings<sup>1</sup>**

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Rock Stars Kid's Club Meeting, Gemstone Lore & Legend Merit Badge 13.2	October 8, 2023	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Rock Stars Kid's Club Meeting, Gemstone Lore & Legend Merit Badge 13.3	November 12, 2023	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
<b>No Meeting – Holiday Party</b>	December 10, 2023	

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.
- 2) RSVP no later than 6 pm, Friday, September 8th to Wendy Dresser, 702-556-2748 or wndresser@gmail.com

Hello Rock Stars!!!

It's been a busy summer working on Merit Badges and you all did a fantastic job making Pet Rocks to sell for the Viva Las Vegas Show in November. There is NO September Rock Stars meeting. We will be back in the SNGMS Lapidary Shop on Sunday, October 8th from 3-5 pm. We will:

- finish the Gem Lore and Legends Merit Badge
- make Grab Bags for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show in November
- finish planning our 2024 calendar so think of where you want to go for Field Trips
- make Mummy Rocks for Halloween.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns you may contact me anytime.

I want to thank the following people for their donations and assistance:

- Dale Bright and Charlene Furukawa for assisting with letters for donations
- Peggy Sue Moore for donating beads
- Kim and "Chops" Wenzl for the sandwiches at our August meeting
- Mark Fernandes for donating rock tumblers
- Cliff Jackson who spoke with the kids about his trip to Mountain Springs and Hillside Mines in Arizona and donated pyrite and schist specimens for each Rock Star
- Dan Toney who donated rhyolite and magnesite specimens for each Rock Star
- The Rock Stars for working hard making Pet Rocks for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show in November
- Jerome Browning for playing our snake bite and heat stroke victim for the last segment of our mock First Aid. He was quite the actor!!!



**Wire Projects at the SNGMS Shop**

I want to give a special thank you to a wonderful woman who is dedicated to our kids and families, for her generosity over the years, and the time she has put in not just for our kids but for children throughout the community. You all know Mary Beth Paladino. She has been the best part of Kid's Club over the years. She has helped me since I took over in March to make the transition of leadership go smoothly. Over the summer she helped me clean out the U-Haul storage unit, and she comes to all of our meetings and events. She continues to dedicate her time and knowledge to us. She'll be visiting some more schools this fall to help promote our club and the Viva Las Vegas Rock Show in November. So again A BIG

**THANK YOU TO MARY BETH PALADINO OUR ROCK STAR!!!**

Wendy Dresser  
Kid's Club Leader  
702-556-2748  
wndresser@gmail.com



**Wetlands Park Field Trip, Sept 23, 2023**



**SNMGMS 2023 VOLUNTEER STAFF**

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

**SNMGMS 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**SNMGMS 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
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Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Sheri Johnson		
Alt Federation	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Facebook Master	Dale Bright	dalebright1@hotmail.com	
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Sunshine	Beth Jones	punkyjones@hotmail.com	702-505-5819
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**Did You Know?**

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop sells a limited selection of tools, rocks, and specimens at very reasonable prices




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**Speakers For 2023 General Meetings**

Date	Speaker	Topic
2-Oct-23	Open	
6-Nov-23	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec-23	No general meeting	

**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).



## Mineral Musings

### Epidote: A Closer Look



Epidosite from Colorado

Epidote (pronounced ep-peh-dote) is an outstanding display mineral. The most desirable form is elongated crystals that are usually shiny green, and often interconnected. Epidote is a rock-forming mineral. Two rock types that contain epidote are epidosite and unakite. The word "epidote" comes from the Greek word "epidosis" which means "addition" because one side of the ideal crystal is longer than the other (sort of a convoluted reason for the name, right?).

#### What is Epidote?

Epidote is a mineral containing calcium, aluminum, and iron silicate.\* It forms as crystals in several shades of green, yellow, brown, and black.

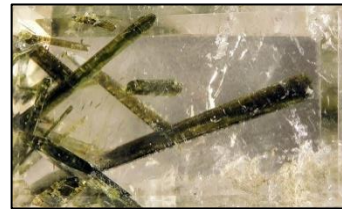


Unakite Cabochon

#### How Does Epidote Form?

Epidote forms in metamorphic and igneous rocks, and where igneous and sedimentary rock containing calcium carbonate come into contact. The crystal faces are often striped, and they are often twinned.

Epidosite is a metamorphic rock containing mainly epidote, with small amounts of quartz. Unakite is a metamorphic rock that is altered granite containing pink orthoclase feldspar, green epidote, and generally colorless quartz.



Quartz with Epidote  
Inclusions  
[www.barlowsgems.net](http://www.barlowsgems.net)



Epidote from Hawthorne,  
Nevada  
[kristalle.com/product/epidote-12](http://kristalle.com/product/epidote-12)

#### Where is Epidote Found?

The most important place in the United States for epidote crystals is Green Monster Mountain on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Colorado, New Jersey, and Vermont have some epidote. Epidote is also found in Calaveras County, California and Death Valley. In Nevada, epidote crystals are mined from the Hawthorne and Julie claims in Mineral County. Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America are all sources of epidote.

#### Epidote Characteristics

Transparent forms of epidote can be strongly pleochroic, with a greenish color on one angle and brownish color on the other angle. It has a hardness of 6 – 7 on the Mohs scale. Epidote is sensitive to heat and acid. The amount of iron in the mineral controls the color.

#### Uses of Epidote

Epidote has no use as an industrial mineral. Epidote is occasionally faceted as a gemstone, but it is usually collected as a mineral specimen.

\* The chemical formula is  $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Al,Fe})_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3(\text{OH})$



Faceted Epidote



## September 2023 Class Schedule

**(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)**

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, September 25 5 pm	\$11	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations
Silver Smithing*	Bella Romero & Mary Savage	Fridays 12:30-3:30 pm	\$35	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014	Text 702-425-0149 no later than noon on Thursday before class for reservation

\* Sponsored by Desert Art Supplies

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



**Silver Casting with Tufa Stone**  
*Photo courtesy Bella Romero*



**Wire Wrapped Pendants**  
*Photo courtesy Charlene Furukawa*

### Sapphire, the September Birthstone



The September birthstone is sapphire. Sapphire is usually the blue variety of corundum (ruby is the red variety), but it comes in other colors. Violet, green, yellow, orange, pink, and purple colors are known as “fancy sapphires.” Iron and titanium are responsible for the blue color, and the more iron present, the darker the blue color of a sapphire. Yellow and orange sapphires get their color from iron and chromium, while pink sapphires are a result of high amounts of chromium. A purple color is a combination of all three trace elements.

Sapphire typically occurs with ruby deposits, but in much smaller quantities than its red counterpart. Kashmir, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka are three historically important sources for sapphires. Montana is a source of sapphires in the U.S. Sapphires are relatively hard, ranking 9 on the Mohs scale. They have excellent toughness and no cleavage, which is a tendency to break when struck. This makes it a great choice for rings and other mountings subject to daily wear. Sapphires are often heat treated to improve their color or clarity, and the results are permanent, so this is a generally accepted practice in the jewelry business.



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

SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren  
 SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise  
 SNGMS Motto: Rocks-R-Us  
 SNGMS Web Site: [www.snvms.org](http://www.snvms.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:  
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 No meeting is held in December. Instead we have  
 our annual awards dinner.

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