



THE POLISHED SLAB



Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

August 2020

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 80 Issue 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 3rd - General Mtg
 Sep 10th - Board Mtg
 Sep 14th - General Mtg
 Oct 1st - Board Mtg
 Oct 5th - General Mtg

See page 8 for details on
 scheduled classes and
 instructor contact information
 SNGMS Contact :
 sngms2013@gmail.com
 www.sngms.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AUGUST 2020

To all SNGMS Members:

Greetings, my fellow Rockhounds and lapidary artists:

Sadly, we see another month arrive without a general meeting for our membership. We discussed the fact that we may not be able to have any general meetings for a while, and the problems that may arise because of the Covid-19 restrictions. First, if we are still on limited attendance restrictions when it becomes time for nominations and elections for our 2021 Officers, what will we do? The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies has an item in their ByLaws that covers this problem. In the event they cannot meet for the reelection of officers, the existing officers and Board members agree to keep working in their positions until we can have a General Membership meeting to hold such reelections. Obviously, we don't have this item in our ByLaws, however we cannot add this without a general membership meeting and vote. So, after some discussion, everyone on the Board will continue to act in their respective capacities until we can hold our normal nominations and elections. 2020 has made us all adjust our thinking on how to get things done and this is how we decided to handle it.

Meanwhile, down at the shop, we are business as usual, wearing masks and disinfecting everything.

We have another item up for silent auction in August. John Cox donated a miter saw and it will be on display for auction on August 29th. That is the last Saturday of the month. The opening bid by the shop is \$50.00 and we go from there. I have one and use it to cut up my 3-inch blocks for gluing rocks and cutting on the slab saw. We also use it for normal carpentry jobs around the house. I am also putting together some slabs for additional silent auction items for that same day. If it isn't overly hot on the last Saturday of August, I would like us to Barbeque and pot-luck at the shop in addition to closing this latest silent auction.

Let's all thank Bob Belcher and his minions for starting the metal/silver smithing classes again. He had great attendance on his first class and expect to have even more fun at his next class on Monday, August 24th.

In conclusion, we can keep ourselves active with new and interesting projects, lots of shop usage and more frequent field trips.

Peggy Sue Moore, President, SNGMS, August 2020

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Field Trips & Events

Cancelled: Goldfield, NV: Goldfield Days, Aug 1-4

Kokoweef, CA, Aug 8th & 9th

Cancelled: Pahrump Winery: Sat, Aug 22nd

Delta, UT: Sep 25th-28th

2020 Outings Being Considered (Dates to Be Finalized):

Tule Springs, NV: Sat, Oct 10th
Parking Lot Sale: Sat, Nov 7th

Wickenburg, AZ: Feb 2021
Hinkley, CA: Sep 2021

Oatman, AZ: Feb 2022
McDermitt, NV: July 2022



Some Photos of our Holt Canyon, UT Field Trip:



SNGMS Board Meeting minutes for July 30, 2020

On July 30, 2020, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 4:43PM by the Vice President. All board members were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting read by Secretary were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Account Balances were reported.

Shop report:

All equipment is up and running well. Need to order 2 saw blades motion to approve order was made by Del Walkenshaw seconded by Bruce Martin motion was carried. Also needed are new wheels for the cab machines motion by Bruce Martin to approve order seconded by Gary Webb motion carried.

Unfinished business: There will be no general meeting for August. The Eagles Lodge is still closed and under the current guidelines of the state's reopening plan we can not have over 50 people in attendance. We are hoping to be able to meet in September with the possibility of having the meeting outdoors, if necessary.

Del Walkenshaw was nominated to be Rockhound of the year by Mary Beth.

New Business:

Sheri Johnson will hold a meeting for the 2021 show on August 6th at 6:00pm at Desert Art Supplies.

Currently serving board members were asked if they would continue to serve until such time as elections can be held as an contingency due to the current situation in the state.

There will be a compound miter saw auctioned off on August 29th at the shop. Also possibly a raffle such as is held during meetings.

The new silversmith class was a success and we are hoping to start a leather working class.

An email will be sent out asking for volunteers for various committees.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheri Johnson seconded by Bruce Martin the meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm



General Meeting scheduled for August 3rd was cancelled.

Field trip to the Kokoweef Mine: (Photos courtesy of Sonya Edwards)



Birthstones for the Month of August are Spinel and Peridot: **Spinel** (MgAl_2O_4) crystallizes in the isometric system; common crystal forms are octahedra, usually twinned. It's hardness is 8. It is transparent to opaque with a vitreous to dull luster. It may be colorless, but is usually various shades of pink, rose, red, blue, green, yellow, brown, black. Some spinels are among the most famous gemstones; among them are the Black Prince's Ruby and the "Timur ruby" in the British Crown Jewels, and the "Côte de Bretagne", formerly from the French Crown jewels. The Samarian Spinel is the largest known spinel in the world, weighing 500 carats (100 g). Spinel symbolizes purposefulness and has a calming effect on all kinds of inflammations. **Peridot** is gem-quality olivine, which is a silicate mineral with the formula of $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$. As peridot is the magnesium-rich variety of olivine the formula approaches Mg_2SiO_4 . Peridot is one of the few gemstones that occur in only one color: an olive-green. Peridot (Olivine) symbolizes cheerfulness and promotes friendship.





Ask not what you can do for your Rock Club.....

One of the big questions at the recent RMFMS Annual show in Big Piney was: What can the RMFMS / AFMS do for its member societies?

Let me back up a bit. RMFMS stands for the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies and AFMS is the acronym for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The AFMS is composed of seven regional Federations, of which the RMFMS is one.

There is a common misperception that the RMFMS and AFMA only provides club liability insurance (which it does), but there is so much more. Some of the activities that the AFMS / RMFMS provide include:

College scholarships for Geology Students

ACROY (AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year) – An award for a outstanding volunteer from each member society as nominated by the club)

Junior ACROY – An award for an outstanding Junior club member

All American Club Award Program - established to encourage clubs to share their activities and expertise with other clubs within their respective regions and with the clubs of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Bulletin Editor's Award – Recognition for bulleting editors / writers in multiple areas

Newsletters – Interesting rockhounding articles on all topics

ALAA (American Lands Access Association) – They are the national voice for Rockhounds to keep our public lands open for collecting!

And so much more..... check out <http://www.amfed.org/index.html> and <http://rmfms.org/>

But back to the question – what can the RMFMS / AFMS do for you? I would like to hear from you in the coming months for ideas. Send me a text at 702-525-0256 or email at SNGMSRockhounds@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sheri Johnson

SNGMS 2020 Meetings

Jan 02 Board	Jul 02 Board
06 General	Jul 06 General
30 Board	30 Board
Feb 03 General	Aug 03 General
27 Board	Sep 10 Board
Mar 02 General	14 General
Apr 02 Board	Oct 01 Board
06 General	05 General
30 Board	29 Board
May 04 General	Nov 02 General
28 Board	Dec 03 Board
Jun 01 General	Dec 13th (Annual Awards Banquet)

Board Meetings (site to be announced)
 General Meetings at
 Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave.

SNGMS General Meeting

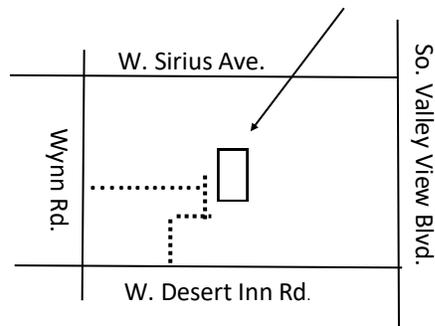
1st Monday of every month
 (2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

Non-members welcome!

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

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

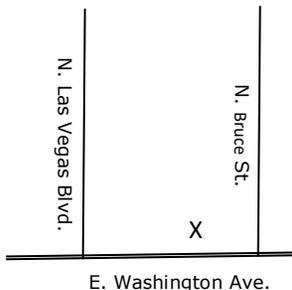
**3111 So. Valley View Blvd,
 Building E Shop Suite 125**



Finding the Shop Location

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past So. Valley View Blvd. into the industrial park area. Drive past the building on your right, then jog right, then left and you will be in front of Building E. Another option is to enter off of Wynn Rd. Go west on Desert Inn Rd. to Wynn Rd., turn right onto Wynn Rd. and go to the first entrance on the right (past the BIG white Commercial building sign) turn right and straight in front of you is Building E #125.

SNGMS Contact:
sngms2013@gmail.com
www.sngms.org



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

This months program will be about fossils. The kids will get to make their own fossil imprints, fossil beds using clay, Plaster-Of-Paris, water, sand and an assortment of fossils.

It was a great time!



Shop Talk : Brad's Bench Tips

STRAIGHTENING WIRE:

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga. Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.



DO BEZELS SHRINK:

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or Howlite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone.

Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.

Classes

Wire wrapping, led by Peggy Sue Moore meets on most Mondays (except for the General Meeting night). Hours for the class are 5 - 8 PM. The fee is \$7.00 for the shop and \$1.00 pattern fee.

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

Silver Smithing: Bob Belcher will be teaching the silversmithing classes. They are scheduled for the forth Monday of the month at 5 pm.

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.

Wire wrapping, metal smithing, flint knapping, and silver smithing have a very modest donation of \$7.00 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)

Debra Daly, from Boulder City, had surgery and is doing okay.

Scott Edwards has just had another surgery on his hip and will be in UMC for at least another 6 weeks. He said to call or text him at [702-281-0121](tel:702-281-0121).

Beth Jones' knee replacement surgery is finally scheduled for Aug. 17th.

Peggy Sue is doing better. She is out of the neck brace but has lifting restrictions of 10 lbs.

Harvey is doing well. He even went to the shop to visit Saturday!

Frank Auerswald Sr. lost his daughter, Donna, 3 weeks ago. Then one week later his son, Frank Jr. passed away. His daughter from Texas is coming in to help him.



SHOP INFORMATION

"New" SNGMS Workshop Schedule

SHOP HOURS

Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

Monday Closed for general use: Various Classes

Tuesday 10 am to 7 pm

Wednesday 10 am to 7 pm

Thursday 12 pm to 9 pm

Friday 12 pm to 9 pm

Saturday 1 pm to 6 pm

SHOP CLOSED :

2nd Sunday of every Month For Kids Club

Board Meeting: Various Thursday Nights 6 pm to

Approx 7 pm

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



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse



2020 Monthly Cabochon Contest:

(Birds)

- Sep Ring-Neck Pheasant
- Oct Raven
- Nov Peacock
- Dec (None)

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CABOCHON CONTEST YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF SHOP TIME. THE WINNERS RECEIVE FREE SHOP TIME. A "Ring-Neck Pheasant" cabochon will be the contest entry to be judged at September's general meeting. *Good Luck!*

1st Place:

2nd Place :

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the Shop). The owners of the units come in at odd hours and need access to their parking spaces. There is ample parking across from the Shop that is not in front of any unit.



Happy Birthdays!

August

Linda Ball, David Barker, Richard Baugh, Kline Black, Richard Coffman, Ivan Erwin, Adam Q. Fink, Kathleen Greene, Jeff Greenwood, Melanie Guzman, Jana Hassett, Steve Hopkins, Tracy Howard, Fred Hugues, Russell Hungate, Alyssa Jarred, Micah Karella, Krystal Kaztle, Michele Logan, Yanping Ma, Jacson Manina, Sarah Marks, Marla Martinez, Priscilla Messenger, Michelle Muniz, Mary Savage, Patrick Shaffer, Joann Sprott, Timothy Sullivan, Phyllis Syzdek, Paul Troves, Jennings Welsh, Joyce Wertz, William Wertz, Mark Zangger.

September

If you have a September birthday please bring something for the refreshment table at the September's meeting.

Laura Backus, Harvey Bergeron, Amelia Cole, Becky Cole, Joshua Contois, Linda Davey, Terry Davis, Diana Deck, Maria Demeo, Craig Fougner, Francisco Garcia-Mendez, Jeffery M. Goldsberry, Lawrence Halle, Helen Hanib-Orendort, Samuel Hays, Jonny Helmuth, Olivia Hernquist, Jenelle Hopkins, Jerry Hughes, Mary Hugues, Alexis Kane, Jerry Kuykendall, David Landry, Jessica Lash, Barry Lawson, Sue Lofaro, Lanny Love, Philip Luchetta, Tami Mohr, Sofia Munson, Rimma Muth, Suzanna Pearson, Scott Pelka, Amber Penick, Mark Pruter, Judith Ross, Roberta Rubinstein, Deanna Smith, Renee Sorich, Mick Sprott, John Stackhouse, Barbara Stevens, Jonathan Tooth, Tyra Tripp, Sharon Webb, Webster Welsh, Barbara Wysocki.

Welcome New Members!

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

Luke Allen, Tim Boka, Amanda Burley, Bifford Burley, LaDawn Burley, Scott Burley, Mike Eastman, Jo Gabriel, Luis Lopez, Anthony Rivas, Annabella Stewart, Bennett Stewart, Brandon Stewart, Luci Stewart, Olivia Stewart, Delbert Strand, James Wendel.

SNGMS 2020 Board of Directors

President: Peggy Sue Moore moorepeggysue@gmail.com 702 348-9600
 Vice-President: Sheri Johnson sherisrocks89121@gmail.com 702 525-0256
 Secretary: Debbie Bucknam grandmadeb10@gmail.com 805 415-1870
 Treasurer: Gary Webb SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com 702 876-2592
 Parliamentarian: Ananaka Rau arau3@yahoo.com 775 400-6511
 One Year Board Remaining: Del Walkenshaw desertartsupply@aol.com 702 451-8040
 Two Year Board Remaining: Bruce Martin brucemartinlv@yahoo.com 725 400-1472
 Three Year Board: Kerry "Choppers" Wenzl 702 378-2205 Kheffner@levi.com
 Past President: Bob Belcher f35fighterman@yahoo.com 702 210-9612

Contact any Board member to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chairman to offer to help on their committee.

Committee Chairperson

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej
desertartsupply@aol.com
 Communications.....Del Walkenshaw sngmsnews@gmail.com
 Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore
 Alt. Federation.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256
 Field Trip.....SNGMS Board
 Shop Foreman Kerry "Choppers" Wenzl
 Historian.....Jack Toogood
 Hospitality.....Open
 Inventory.....Frank Timbers ftimbers@centurylink.net
 Librarian..... Mario Luchetta
 Membership..... John Stackhouse 702-239-0437
 New Member Liaison... Joann Sprott
 Program..... Cindy Allison
 Publicity.....Open
 Raffle.....Steve Chavez
 50-50 Raffle.....Orville and Lisa Wiemers
 Refreshments..... Fran & Allen Stratton
 Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647
 Show Chairperson.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256
 Sunshine.....Beth Jones punkyjones@hotmail.com
 702-505-5819
 Webmaster.....Lorrilee Stackhouse lorrilee@cox.net

SNGMS Contact:

sngms2013@gmail.com
www.sngms.org

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.

Payson Rimstones Rock Club Gem and Mineral Show -
09/18/2020

<https://rimstonesrockclub.org/>



Some links that you may find helpful:



<https://www.rockandmineralshows.com/>

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-

<http://www.amfed.org>

Rocky Mountain Federation -

<http://www.rmfmfms.org>

and the Rock & Gem website -

<http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?>

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

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