



May 2025

# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 85 ISSUE 05



### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**May 29, 2025 - Board Mtg**

**June 2, 2025 – Genl Mtg**

#### SNMGMS Contacts:

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sngmspresident@gmail.com

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#### SNMGMS Lapidary Shop

**Will close from 3:45 - 6 pm**

**On Thursday, May 29, 2025**

**for a**

**Board Meeting**

Greetings –

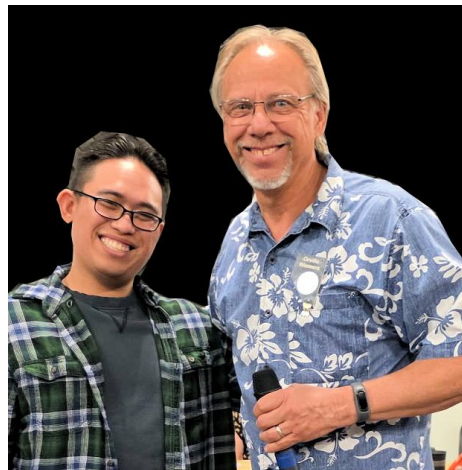
Let me start this month's note with a word of caution. We have been having ongoing instances of emails to members of the club from folks representing themselves as myself or members of the SNGMS Board. These people ask for money or assistance in processing gift cards, etc.

**IF YOU RECEIVE ANYTHING from anyone via email of this nature, IT IS A SCAM!!!!** You will never be contacted for anything like this by a SNGMS Official. If in doubt, make a phone call. There's a special place in hell for these kinds of people and I want to see them go there poor.

There, now that I have that out of my system.....This year we have included in the meetings what I call "Show and Tell". Members have been asked to bring in material they have either dug up on their own, at a club outing, made or recently acquired to share and show at the meeting before, during break and after the meeting. It has been generating a lot of discussion, interaction and enthusiasm in the meetings. I encourage more of it. One thing I have noticed starting to happen is that folks are bringing in items that they got and don't really know what it is, hoping to have it identified. Great idea people!!!! We have a lot of knowledge in the room and between the geologists and the seasoned rock hounds we can usually figure out what it is. It will help you out and also expand your knowledge as you grow in the hobby.

ROCK ON!!

Orville Wiemers, President



Left to right: Nate Valentine, UNLV recipient of the 2025 SGNMS Geosciences Scholarship with Orville Wiemers, SGNMS President

*Photo courtesy of Deb Bucknam*

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

Field Trip <sup>1</sup> /Event	Date	Location
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention	May 10 -11, 2025	Lancaster, CA
Agate Field Trip	<b>CANCELED</b>	Bitter Spring, NV
Fluorite Field Trip <sup>1</sup> , \$200 cash only	May 24 – 25, 2025	Austin, NV
Ely Rock and Bottle Show	June 27 – 28, 2025	Ely, NV
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention	September 19 – 21, 2025	Grand Junction, CO
SNGMS Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Gem and Mineral Show	November 7-9, 2025	Santa Fe Station Hotel & Casino
Awards Banquet	December 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)



Left to right: Orville Wiemers, Chops Wenzl  
at Boulder City Spring Jamboree



Bruce Martin at Boulder City Spring Jamboree



Vendors at Boulder City Spring Jamboree

2)



# QUARTZSITE MINERALS

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quartzsiteminerals@gmail.com  
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**WHOLESALE / RETAILS**





SNGMS Auction Team at Boulder City Spring Jamboree.  
Left to right: Barry Lawson, DiAnn Lawson, Frank Timbers, Wayne Herr

## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 5/5/2025

On May 5th, 2025, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Eagles' Lodge at by the President. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

**Minutes:** The secretary was absent, so no minutes were read.

**Treasurers Report:** Balance of the checking account as of April 30th was \$17,929, an increase of \$1,290 from the previous month. The investments balance is \$131,493. Orville Wiemers proposed, seconded by Ron Mazz, and approved by the Board that, "long-term CD expiring in June be renewed for a 12-month term." Ron Mazz proposed, seconded by Bob Belcher, and approved by the Board that, "short-term CD expiring in June be renewed for between one-and four month term, at the discretion of the Treasurer."

### Unfinished Business:

The SNGMS verified that there is liability coverage for Board of Director officers.

The President reminded Board Members to email volunteer hours to Ron Mazz (zman8229@gmail.com).

Liability forms are being maintained by the Membership Chair and are being sent to President for now.

Bob Belcher needs to get a working password from the security company so he can monitor the shop security.

Explore Reno club's use 32Auctions.com for auctioning of club items.

David Ford will get inventory number of club vests with size/price.

**Show Update:** Orville Wiemers reported on the Boulder City Spring Jamboree Show. After current expenses to date the show profit is plus \$7,134.

### New Business:

Next Board Meeting will be at the Shop on May 29th at 4 PM.



Vendor Display at the Boulder City Jamboree





## SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 5/5/2025

On May 5th, 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 new members Scott and Cathy Shaw, and Lan Kuang who volunteered at the Jamboree.

The minutes of the April 7th, 2025 meeting were approved as read.

### Old Business:



**Treasurers Report:** Balance of the checking account as of April 30th was \$17,929, an increase of \$1,290 from the previous month. The investments balance is \$131,493.

**Kids Club:** Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities and said thanks to everyone that helped or donated to the club. The kids provided publicity for the Jamboree by wearing dino costumes and dancing. They will be working on "A World in Miniature" badge and donations of abaggies of beach sand labeled with its origin and left at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop, marked for the Kids Club, would be very helpful. The geo-caches are not yet active. SNGMS will be notified when they are in operation.

**SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report:** Orville Wiemers reported that one saw is down awaiting parts. The oil shortage is being alleviated, and oil sales will restart soon.

**Cabochon Contest:** First place – Ralph Voelker, Second Place, tied, Joel Coombs and Lloyd Chayette.

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

**Gem and Mineral Shows:** Orville Wiemers reported on the Boulder City Spring Jamboree. There were over 2,200 visitors on Saturday, and about half that on Sunday, due to stormy weather. Vendors were very happy with their show results. Twelve new memberships were started. Elizabeth Nelson reported on the 2025 Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show – 17 tables have been sold out of 61 total. SNGMS members will receive free admission to this year's show.

**Volunteer Hours:** Please send your volunteer hours for April 2025 to Vice-President, Ron Mazz (

### Upcoming Events:

The next SNGMS Board Meeting will be on May 29, 2025 at 4 p.m. at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 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.

**PLEASE!**  
Sunshine Report Volunteer Needed

Contact Orville Wiemers for details

sngmspresident@gmail.com  
or

702-743-3277

## Jim Jones Memorial

You are invited to attend Jim Jones memorial on  
**May 19, 2025 from 3 – 6 pm** at:

Lakeside Wedding and Events Center  
2620 Regatta Dr., Suite 114  
Las Vegas, NV 89128











**Please RSVP to [candy.munkres@gmail.com](mailto:candy.munkres@gmail.com).** If you have **photos of Jim to share**, please email them to [candy.munkres@gmail.com](mailto:candy.munkres@gmail.com) for inclusion in a slide show.

## Rock Spotlight

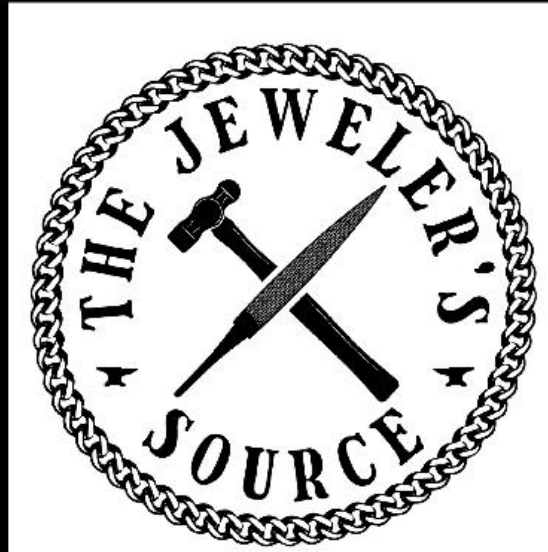
### Mohs Hardness Scale

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/mohs-hardness-scale.htm>

The Mohs Hardness Scale helps identify minerals. A mineral's hardness is a measure of its resistance to scratching. Resistance is measured by scratching the mineral against something of known hardness on the Mohs Hardness Scale. This graphic below lists some minerals and common objects that can be used to determine a mineral's hardness. This method is especially useful for identifying minerals in the field because you can test for hardness with common objects (e.g., fingernail, penny, nail). The scale is named for its creator, the German geologist and mineralogist Friedrich Mohs.

Mohs Hardness Scale			
	Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
Increasing Hardness ↑	 Diamond	10	
	 Corundum	9	 Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
	Topaz	8	
	 Quartz	7	 Steel Nail (6.5)
	Orthoclase	6	
	Apatite	5	 Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
	 Fluorite	4	 Copper Penny (3.5)
	Calcite	3	
	Gypsum	2	 Fingernail (2.5)
	 Talc	1	





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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>
May 29 at SNGMS Lapidary Shop	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:

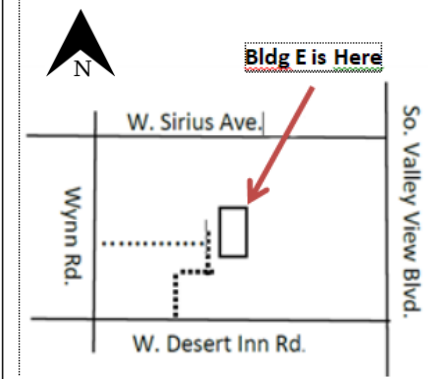
All equipment is \$6/hour. Machines are metered, so you only pay for the time the equipment is actually running.

#### SHOP CLOSED:

Kids Club: 3- 5 pm 2nd Sunday of the Month

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

### SNGMS Lapidary Shop Locator Map



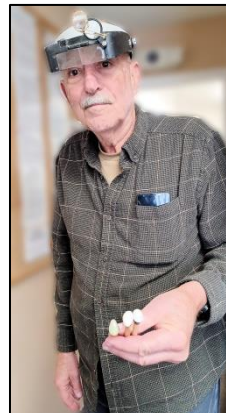
### Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

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

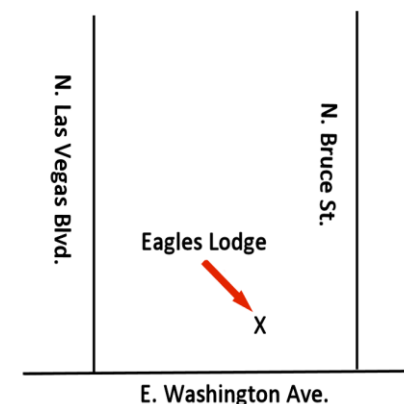
The Eagles' Lodge is located at:  
1601 E Washington Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

**Barry Karant Polishing Opals  
at the  
SNGMS Lapidary Shop**



### Eagles Lodge Locator Map

Eagles Lodge #1213  
1601 E Washington Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89101





### Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks Lapidary Adhesives

Adhesives are sometimes used to mend cracked stones, create inlays, and attach stones to other materials such as metal, wood, and leather. They can also be used to stabilize stones. Two common types of adhesives are super glues and two-part epoxies.

#### What is Super Glue?

Super glue is also called cyanoacrylate or CA glue. Ethyl cyanoacrylate and methyl methacrylate are the major players in super glue. The ethyl cyanoacrylate makes the glue bond quickly and creates a strong hold. The methyl methacrylate makes the glue resistant to shear, peel, and impact stresses. Combining these chemicals produces a strong glue.

You can buy super glue as a liquid, gel, or spray. The liquids are very thin and usually dry within 2 minutes. Gels are thicker, and take longer (30 minutes or more) to dry. You can use gels for vertical or overhead surfaces. Spray super glues dry in 1 – 3 minutes and can be used over fairly large areas, but sprays are not recommended for detailed work like jewelry.



Starbond CA Glue

Paleobond and Starbond are CA glues that are often used to repair cracked stones or to stabilize them. Paleobond is specifically formulated for stones and fossils, but it is more expensive than Starbond. Both types of adhesives come in different viscosities ranging from thin to thick. The thick version can be used to fill gaps, while the thin version can be dripped on a stone and allowed to penetrate and stabilize the stone.

#### What is Epoxy Adhesive?

Two-part epoxy adhesive is made of a resin and a hardener. Resin is a type of chemical called polyepoxide. When a hardener is mixed with the resin, the hardener triggers creation of molecular chains. The chains are strong and they last a long time. Epoxy can tolerate exposure to solvents, and it resists sunlight and high temperatures.

Epoxy can take 30 minutes to 24 hours to cure. Temperature and humidity affect the cure time. The working time (pot life) is the time you have to work with the mixed epoxy before it thickens and become difficult to use. As the epoxy cures, it goes through four stages:

- 1) Liquid Stage - immediately after mixing, the epoxy is a liquid, ready to be applied
- 2) Gel Stage - as epoxy hardens, it becomes gel-like, sticky, and thicker
- 3) Initial Cure - the epoxy starts to harden, and you can handle it
- 4) Full Cure - the epoxy reaches its maximum strength, typically within 3-7 days



Two Part Epoxy

Epoxy can be used to attach stones to metal or wood. You can glue stones and pearls into settings, or attach them to earring posts with epoxy. Epoxy can be used to fix broken jewelry pieces, such as cementing broken stones back into place.

#### Tips for Working with Acrylic Glue and Epoxy

- 1) Careful surface preparation increases bond strength by 20–50% and the bond lasts longer. Remove oils or dust from surfaces before gluing by wiping them with rubbing alcohol. Surface sanding improves bond strength for metal.
- 2) Gently mix resin and hardeners to avoid creating bubbles which weaken bonds. Spread the glue evenly over the parts to be attached. Apply enough glue to fill gaps.
- 3) Check the adhesive's curing instructions carefully. Allow the glue to dry properly so it comes to full strength. Avoid cold or humid environments (usually not a problem in Las Vegas).





## 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	1st - Lloyd Chayette, 2nd - Jonathan Tredwell
April	Sea Scapes - Friedrich, Mallord, Turner, Sorollo, Hassam	1 <sup>st</sup> – Ralph Voelker 2 <sup>nd</sup> – George Stewart
May	Surrealism – Dali, Kahlo, Lucien Freud, Breton	1st – Ralph Voelker 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Lloyd Chayette, Joel Coombs
June	Architectural – Rodde, Caillebotte, Hadid, Canal	
July	Expressionism – Kandinsky, Chagall, Malfati, Macke, Frankenthaler	
August	Contemporary (any type) – Picasso, Warhol, Murakami, Kapoor, Sherald	
September	Fauvism – Matisse, Derain, Roualt, de Vlaminck, Charmy	
October	Landscapes – Carr, Homer, Theibaud, da Vinci	
November	Graffiti – Banksy, 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 June 2025 cabochon theme is “Architectural.” **Good Luck!**

**Architectural Examples**

Left to right: Lloyd Chayette, 2<sup>nd</sup> place tie; Ralph Voelker, 1<sup>st</sup> place; Joel Coombs 2<sup>nd</sup> place tie in the May 2025 Cabochon Contest  
Photo courtesy of Deb Bucknam

**Q: Where do rocks like to sleep?**  
**A: In bedrocks**



May 2025 SNGMS Cabochon Contest Entries  
Photo courtesy of Deb Bucknam

**Congratulations Nate Valentine!**

Nate Valentine, a UNLV Geosciences student, is the 2025 recipient of the SNGMS Geosciences Scholarship. Nate is interested in paleontology. See photo on page 1!



**BIRTHDAYS**

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

**MAY BIRTHDAYS****WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

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

**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
June 8, 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

**Speakers For 2025 General Meetings**

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

Date	Speaker	Topic	Date	Speaker	Topic
Jun. 9	Nick Barnes	Highlights From My Personal Collection	Aug. 4	TBD	SNGMS Strategic Planning
Jul. 7	Garrett Wake: NV Abandoned Mine Program	How to Stake a Mining Claim	Sep. 8	Josh Solberg	Something Fun and Interesting

**Q: How did the rock feel about going to jail?**

**A: He was petrified**

**Q: What do you call a rock that never goes to school?**

**A: A skipping stone**



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

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
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>
	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

**Kids' Club Booth at the Boulder City Jamboree**

*Photos courtesy of Dan Toney*



Hello Rock Stars!

We had a great time at the Jamboree and raised money to run our Kid's Club. I want to thank our awesome Rock Stars who dedicated their weekend to help make our booth sales so successful, Including: Gavin Waller, Hope & Faith McCaw, Michaela Lash, Noelle Blanco, and Laila Boes. Their hard work not only made money for Kid's Club, they also fulfilled a requirement for the Communications Badge we'll be working on this fall!

A special thank you to all of our adult volunteers! Without them our success in sales would not have been possible, including: Dave Ford, Song Hageman, Thomas Boes, Dan Toney, Norm Rosensteel, Melanie Ochs, Ravyn Blackwell, Elana Paladino, Carla Blair, Richard Nelson, Alexis McCaw, Keith and Heather Waller, Cathi Britz, and Quinn Dresser.



**World in Miniature Badge**

**There is NO KID'S CLUB MEETING on Sunday, May 11, 2025.** We wish all of our Mom's a Happy Mother's Day! Sunday, June 8th we will be back at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm working on a new badge, "World in Miniature." If anyone is visiting a beach over the summer, please scoop up a sandwich size Ziploc bag full of sand for the Kid's Club to study under the microscope. If it contains shells, fossils, or pebbles, that's even better. More for us to study! Please write on the bag your name, the name of the beach, city, state and date you collected the sample and please drop it off at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop, or give to me at the next meeting.

Have a great summer but please remember safety first when collecting rocks. Now that the weather is warming up the snakes will be out. So remember what we taught you and stay safe!!! If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact me via text at 702-556-2748.

See you all in June

**Wendy Dresser**





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
Three Year Board	Harvey Bergeron	harveyrita@gmail.com	
Two Year Board	Jean Chayette	jalmiz201@gmail.com	714-474-6384
One Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighterman@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	Lisa Wiemers		
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



## SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS



**Tom Kidwell**  
SNGMS Faceting Instructor

Tom Kidwell commutes from Dolan Springs to Las Vegas every Saturday to teach faceting classes at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. He has done this for twelve years. Tom became a member of the SNGMS via a gem show where his wife sold jewelry. Peggy Sue Moore recruited him to teach faceting!

Tom grew up in Dayton, Ohio and learned to cab at age 12 when his dad bought a cab machine. He taught himself how to facet on a machine his mother bought for him.

Tom became a lawyer, and practiced in California where he met some miners. He says that's how he wound up with ten acres of Joshua trees in Dolan Springs – it was part of a settlement after a gold mining adventure!

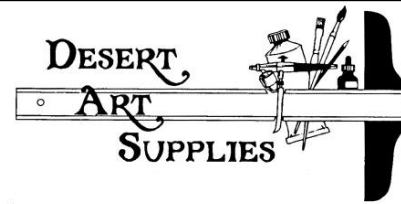
There are three rules in faceting class:

- 1) No political discussions
- 2) No religious discussions
- 3) It's always the machine's fault

Faceting classes are from 9 am – 12:30 pm every Saturday, no experience needed or math skills needed. The cost is \$20/class, with room for a total of seven students. Students should bring an optivisor and a black magic marker. Everything else is provided, including rocks if needed, or bring your own. Contact Peggy Sue Moore to sign up (moorepeggysue@gmail.com).



Left to right:  
Tom Kidwell and a  
Faceting Student



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**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).



**Gary Webb, Beading Expert at  
the Boulder City Jamboree,  
May 2025**

*Photo courtesy of Dan Toney*

**Mineral Musings**  
**Simplot Silica Sand Mine In Overton, Nevada**

J.R. Simplot Company is a privately-held company, incorporated in Nevada, with its corporate office in Boise, Idaho. John Richard "Jack" Simplot began his career when he quit school in the eighth grade, at age 14, leaving home to strike out on his own in 1923 to work on a farm near Delco, Idaho.



**Simplot Dehydrated Onion Package**  
from WWII

He founded the Simplot Company 1929 at age 20. In the early 1940s, Simplot began providing the military with dehydrated onions and potatoes to support the war effort. Starting in the 1950s, billions of dollars flowed into Simplot from a frozen French fries process developed by one of its scientists. The company became the primary supplier of French fries to McDonald's. Simplot also produces fertilizers for agriculture. A documentary about how Jack Simplot built a billion-dollar company is available online at [www.pbs.org/video/jr-simplot-qk7vik/](http://www.pbs.org/video/jr-simplot-qk7vik/).



The company's diversification strategy involves expanding into markets beyond its core business of potato processing and frozen foods. This includes agriculture, phosphate production, livestock operations, and products like fertilizers and silica sand. The company has a global presence with operations in Australia, Canada, Mexico, and China.

Simplot's silica sand mine in Overton, Nevada produces high-quality silica sand made up of more than 99% pure silica dioxide. Silica is an ingredient in solar panels and circuit boards. Growth in the solar panel industry is expected to increase demand for silica sand. It's also used to make glass, grout, cement, and insulation. All of the windows in Simplot's corporate headquarters are made from silica sand mined in Overton! Corona beer bottles and automotive glass in Tesla car windows are also made with Overton sand.



**Simplot Silica Sand Mine Overton, NV**  
[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

Silica sand is only mined in one location in Nevada, at the Simplex Silica Sand Mine in Overton. The Overton mine has been in operation since 1927. The sand is washed with water to remove fine materials and clay, and to separate the sand into specific size ranges. The facility produces four grades of sand based on coarseness.

There have been some operating problems at the Overton mine. In February 2004, J.R. Simplot Company agreed to pay a \$525,000 fine and to install \$2 million worth of air pollution control equipment because of violations of the Clean Air Act. The violations occurred in 1988 when the company removed equipment required to control emissions of air pollutants.

On June 23, 2006, a former Simplot employee crashed through a security gate at the Simplot mine in Overton. He destroyed equipment, started fires, and caused millions of dollars in damage. Firefighters and the Nevada Highway Patrol responded. The suspect attacked a fire truck, and a Highway Patrolman killed him.

The company sponsors community events. An example is the Simplot Games, a high school indoor track and field event. The Games are held annually at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho. They are considered one of the nation's premier indoor track and field meets. The Simplot Games are an open meet, meaning athletes don't need to meet specific qualifying times or distances to compete.





## May 2025 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday May 12 from 5 – 8 pm	\$10 ( <b>exact change only</b> )	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>1</sup>	seraphynat@hotmail.com 702-234-0438
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, May 19 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 – <b>class limited to 3 people</b>		SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>1</sup>	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations
Silversmithing	Andy Gomez	Sundays from 3:00 – 7:30 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 Silver Smithing Classes**

Fridays 9:30 am - 12:15pm

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

Learn the basics of silver smithing. 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](https://www.instagram.com/lvsilversmithing)



**SNGMS members receive  
 first class free with this ad & proof of  
 membership**  
*Paid Advertisement*



Left to right: Louis Iamele and  
 Sue Dobson, beading expert, at the  
 Boulder City Jamboree, May 2025



**Sterling Silver Boot Charm with  
 Cabochon, Sand Cast in a  
 Silver Smithing Class**  
*Photo courtesy of Mary Skaarup*



**Vendor at Boulder City Jamboree  
 May 2025**

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society  
3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

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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.

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