



# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



June 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 83 ISSUE 6

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 6, 2023 - Board Mtg  
July 10, 2023 - Genl Mtg at 5:30 pm

#### SNMGMS Contacts:

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking input about their efforts to better manage the Mojave Trails National Monument. BLM is trying to define what activities are, and are not, acceptable in the Monument. Some roads are expected to be closed and some, if not all, rockhounding could be prohibited. Some of the places where we collect could be affected such as South Cadys, Ludlow, and Lavic.

The BLM wants substantive input to assist in this planning effort. The comment period will end on June 20, 2023. The type of input that will assist BLM are comments that accomplish the following:

1. Identify planning issues.
2. Help develop management alternatives which could meet the BLM's purpose and need.
3. Provide data and information to inform the planning process.
4. Identify issues for analysis. An issue will be analyzed if:
  - a. Analysis of the issue is necessary to choose among alternatives; or
  - b. The issue may have a potentially significant environmental impact.
5. Provide information that would be of use in analyzing environmental effects of the action.
6. Provide alternative means by which the BLM could meet its purpose & need for the proposal.

Sheri Johnson gave an excellent presentation on this topic at our June 2023 meeting. We all need to submit a letter to the BLM either by email or snail mail. Letters must arrive at BLM before June 20, 2023 when the comment deadline closes. Each letter needs to be different because this could affect each of us differently. Some topics you might mention in your letter include:

1. Who we are and what we do – we collect rocks for educational purposes
2. Our finds are for personal use and display only
3. We are stewards of the land and strive to leave the land as we found it
4. We train our families to guide future generations about land use and to minimize impact
5. We provide scholarship opportunities through the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies for geologic sciences
6. Time in the desert provides mental health benefits and a more active lifestyle
7. We enjoy the flowers and the wildlife in the Mojave Trails areas
8. If you know them, mention which roads are important to leave open

For more information, watch for Sheri Johnson's email discussing this issue further. There are groups discussing these issues on Facebook, including Explorers of the Mojave Desert, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, and the Mojave Desert Group.

**See page 3 of this newsletter for additional help on writing to the BLM.**

The snail mail address for comments is:

Attn: Mojave Trails National Monument Planning  
c/o Needles Field Office,  
1303 South U.S. Hwy 95  
Needles CA 92363

Comments can also be emailed to:

[BLM\\_CA\\_NFO\\_MTNM\\_PLANNING@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_NFO_MTNM_PLANNING@blm.gov) OR [BLM\\_CA\\_NFO\\_MTNM\\_PLAN@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_NFO_MTNM_PLAN@blm.gov)

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
Agate and Jasper Trip <sup>2</sup>	June 10-11, 2023	South Cadys, CA
Rocky Mountain Federation Of Mineralogical Societies <sup>3</sup>	July 13 – 16, 2023	Ramkota Hotel, 800 N Poplar, Casper, WY
Agates and Jaspers <sup>4</sup>	July 15-17, 2023	Lund, NV
South Cadys Lavic Jasper, maybe some thulite <sup>4</sup>	June 17, 2023	Chevron gas station on south side of I-40 in Ludlow, CA
Agate and Jasper Trip <sup>2</sup>	August 12-13, 2023	Utah – Holt Canyon &/or Milford
Tonopah Rock and Bottle Show <sup>5</sup>	August 4 – 6, 2023	Tonopah, NV
JOGS Tucson Gem & Jewelry Show	August 31 – September 3, 2023	Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E Irvington Rd, Tucson, AZ 85714
Purple Agate Trip <sup>2</sup>	September 23 - 24, 2023	Burro Creek, AZ
Variscite/Turquoise Pay to Dig <sup>2</sup>	October, 2023 – exact date TBD	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

- 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 Del Walkenshaw 702 451-8040 ext 4 | 702 279-2298 Cell cell active only during the trip)
- 3) Contact Mac Goss [macogre13@gmail.com](mailto:macogre13@gmail.com)
- 4) Contact Del Walkenshaw
- 5) Classes and vendor booths available, contact Chrissy Pope, 775-277-0840 [chrissy.townoftonopah@gmail.com](mailto:chrissy.townoftonopah@gmail.com)
- 6) Vendor booths available. Contact Diane Burgess, [burgess@cox.net](mailto:burgess@cox.net) 702-575-2762

### Some links with information you may find helpful:

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

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies – [www.rmfmfs.org](http://www.rmfmfs.org)

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

### SPRING JAMBOREE BOULDER CITY, NV May 6 -7, 2023

The Spring Jamboree was a success. SNGMS made a profit of \$6720 as reported by Amber Palecek at the June 2023 General Meeting.



On the right, Jodi Brewster, Vice President  
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
at the Jamboree

Photo Courtesy of Peggy Sue Moore



Left to right: Chops Wenzl, Barb Maz, Ron Mazz  
at the Jamboree

Photo Courtesy of Barb Maz



### SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 6/1/2023

On June 1, 2023, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the SNGMS Shop at 6 p.m. by the President. All Board members except the Parliamentarian, who is recovering from surgery, were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the April 27th, 2023 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported account balances with a checking balance of \$10,104.60.

**Shop Report:** Cleaning has been done and organizing is in progress. D saw is down and efforts to fabricate the part needed are in progress. Lloyd Chayette proposed, seconded by Bob Belcher and approved by the Board, that “up to \$600 be spent to purchase wheels for the Cab Kings.” Peggy Sue Moore will order shop supplies for delivery from Costco.

#### Unfinished Business:

Fourteen vendors have paid for booths at the Viva Las Vegas Show.

#### New Business

Only paid attendees will be allowed to participate in the Silent Auction at the Awards Banquet. Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Lorraine Stackhouse and approved by the Board, that “the 2024 Cab Contest theme be Nature's Colors and the submitted list for the months be used. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

### Writing to the BLM About Rockhounding in Mojave Trails National Monument with AI Assistance

Exciting news! We now have an artificial intelligence (AI session) at our disposal, tailored to help draft emails concerning the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and rockhounding in the Mojave Trails National Monument. This interactive tool provides invaluable guidance and suggestions to help compose effective emails. The drafts emails are a starting point. Feel free to infuse the emails with anecdotes, nuance, and your unique insights.

Access the draft email generator by visiting <https://bit.ly/BLM-Emails> (if the link doesn't work, please try <https://chat.openai.com/share/d06628e4-4593-4f22-b0e2-ffd769161e09>). You will be taken to the Mojave National Preserve Information page and invited to "continue this conversation." Sign-up and you will be able to generate multiple email responses for free. Use the arrow on the right to scroll down to the prompt.

What is a prompt?

PROMPT example: "...Create an email that discusses how the proposed changes will affect the education of scouts, citizen scientists and rockhounds...include a thread on stewardship and a tenet from the AFMS Code..."

**Quick Tips and Note:** *If you sign-up keep in mind that the session is public, please do not add personal information*

Limit questions/emails to the BLM proposed changes- create a new session for personal use. In some instances, you may need to educate the AI on a topic. Feel free to provide accurate concise information.



**SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 6/5/2023**

On June 5th, 2023, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 5:30 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the May 1st, 2022 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported the following account balances: Brokerage account: \$109, 252.10; Sweep Account: \$11,526.95; Checking account: \$10,104.60. Treasurer asked for a motion to approve consolidation of required lapidary shop insurance into one policy to save funds. Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Debbie Bucknam and approved by the membership that "Policies be combined into one policy for less expense."

**Membership:** There are 507 members.

**Kids Club:** Twelve kids got their Gold Prospecting American Federation Future Rockhound Badge and the group will be working on earning their Field Trip badges over the summer.

**Shop Report:** Andrea Kinkannon thanked members for shop improvements. An instructor for a Silversmithing 101 course is needed. If you would like to volunteer to teach this, or have an idea for any other class contact Andrea.

**Presentation:** Harrison Brooks showed drone footage from field trips to the Tonopah, Nevada area. He answered many members' questions on drone usage.

**Mojave Trails National Monument BLM Management Plan:** Sheri Johnson, Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies President, talked about the urgency to send comments before June 20, 2023 to the Bureau of Land Management to let them know what access to the area means for rock hounds. There will be an email with guidance for comments.

**Sunshine:** Rita and Harvey Bergeron had COVID but are recovered and attended the June 2023 general meeting. Gail Wisniewski's brother passed away. Jack Toogood had foot surgery and is recovering at home. Jim Jones has had improvements in his clarity. Lorri Syddall has been ill.

**Unfinished Business:** Amber Palecek reported that the Spring Jamboree profit was \$6, 719.27. Diane Burgess reported that 23 vendor booths are committed for the Viva Las Vegas Show. The Cabochon Contest was Starfish. first place went to Lloyd Chayette and second place to Ron Mazz.

**New Business:** A donated workbench is up for auction at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. Auction will close at noon June 24, 2023, you must be present to win.

John Stackhouse proposed, seconded by Wendy Dresser, and approved by the membership, that "the meeting be adjourned." The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

**VIVA LAS VEGAS ROCKS!**

**Rock and Gem Show and Sale**

NOVEMBER 3rd-5th  
Friday the 3rd from 1 pm to 7 pm  
Saturday the 4th from 9 am to 5pm  
Sunday the 5th from 9 am to 4pm

At the

Jewelry, Lapidary Arts, Mineral Specimens, Home Decor, Gifts for the Holidays

**SANTA FE STATION**  
HOTEL-CASINO

Presented by

**Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society**

For more information  
[www.snvgnms.org](http://www.snvgnms.org)



# 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](mailto:punkyjones@hotmail.com) (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject).

Lorrilee and John Stackhouse both feel better. Rita and Harvey Bergeron recovered from COVID. Jim Jones is responding to speech therapy. Gail Wisniewski's brother died. Jack Toogood had foot surgery. Lorri Syddall is ill.

## Pearl, the June Birthstone

Pearls are organic gems that grow inside living saltwater or freshwater oysters and mussels (mollusks). Pearls form when the mollusk secretes nacre around an irritant like a piece of sand inside its shell.

In the past, only a few pearls were available. They would be accidentally found by divers foraging for food. In 1893, the Japanese innovator Kokichi Mikimoto figured out how to grow pearls in oysters. These cultured pearls were sold at a reasonable price and demand skyrocketed. Today, there are saltwater and freshwater pearl farms where the oysters are cleaned, protected from predators, and eventually harvested. Thousands of years of pearl fishing have decimated natural oyster beds, so cultured pearls are now the majority of pearl sales.

Cultured pearls come in a dazzling array of sizes, colors and shapes (image from [www.karennamarajcollection.com](http://www.karennamarajcollection.com)).



## Puzzle: Letter Scramble

How many words, with 3 or more letters, can you make from "ICHTHYOSAUR"? Use each letter only once. Answers on page 15.

Ichthyosaurs are extinct reptiles with fish-shaped bodies and enormous eyeballs. The Nevada state fossil is an ichthyosaur (image from [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com)).



**SNGMS Meeting Schedules and Lapidary Shop Hours**

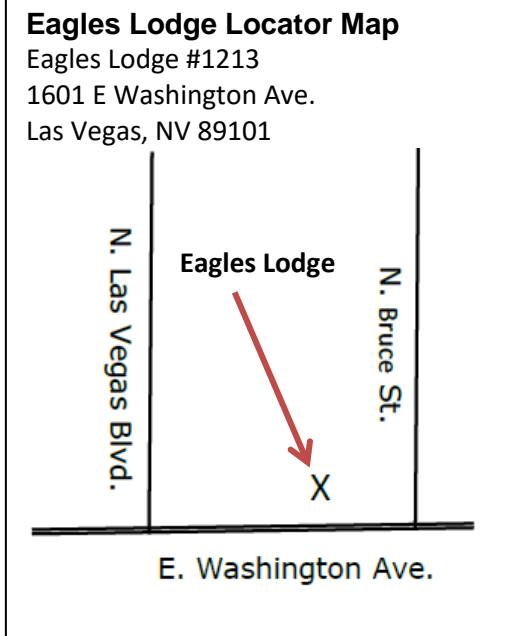
SNGMS 2023 Meeting Schedule	
Board Mtg	General Mtg
6-Jul	10-Jul
3-Aug	7-Aug
7-Sep	11-Sep
28-Sep	2-Oct
2-Nov	6-Nov
30-Nov	none
<b>Awards Banquet</b> Dec-03	

**SNGMS General Meeting**  
*Non-members welcome!*

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

We meet at:  
Eagles Lodge  
1601 E Washington Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Show & Sell 5-5:30 PM  
General Meeting 5:30-7:30 PM



**Rock Stars Kids Club** meets the 2nd Sunday of every month (unless it falls on a holiday) from 3pm - 5pm at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

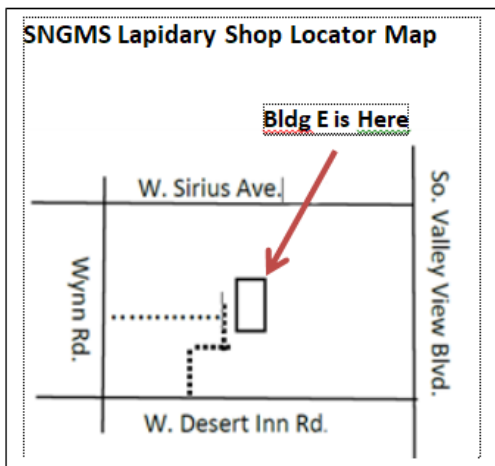
**Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop**

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 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.

**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.



**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 Meeting: Various Thursday Nights 6 - Approx 7 pm

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



### Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks: Drilling Holes in Stones

Excerpted from *Gemstone Tumbling, Cutting, Drilling & Cabochon Making, A Simple Guide to Finishing Rough Stones*  
By Jim Magnuson and Val Carver

There are two techniques to manually drill a hole in a stone: 1) Face drilling a hole all the way through the stone so it can be hung from a chain, cord, or jump ring. 2) Top drilling a hole about 1/4 inch into the stone so a jewelry post can be glued into the hole. A post in the girdle of the stone can be used to suspend the final piece of jewelry, or as a decorative element. Equipment and supplies for drilling holes are discussed below.

**Safety Glasses.** Safety glasses are essential to protect your eyes from flying rock chips during drilling.

**Rough Stone.** Don't drill polished cabochons. Fully polished stones make it hard to get the hole started, and you won't be able to polish away imperfections caused by drilling.

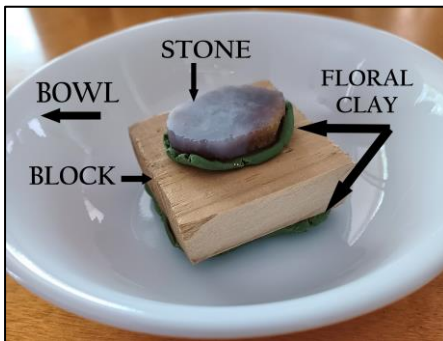
**Drill.** The SNGMS Lapidary Shop has a standard drill press you can use to drill holes. You can also use a flex shaft or a Dremel tool. When using a Dremel, don't let any part of the tool except the bit get wet to avoid a nasty shock. This is not a problem when using a drill press or a flex shaft because the power supply is isolated from the drill bit.

**Drill Bits.** Use diamond-tipped hollow-core drill bits. They last the longest and make the most precise holes. Hollow bits allow water to flow inside the bit as you drill, helping to cool the bit and remove rock debris. Holes on the side of the bit can be used to remove stuck debris with a pin. Use 1 - 2.5 mm diameter bits, with a maximum diameter of 4 mm. The stone should be at least twice as wide as the diameter of the hole you plan to drill.

**Small Wood Board In A Tray.** The board is a piece of scrap wood that is bigger than the stone. It is placed inside the tray with the stone on top as shown in the picture below. When the drill bit hits the board, stop drilling so you don't drill into the tray. The board should fit comfortably inside the tray. The tray should be deep enough so that the board and stone are completely covered by water when the tray is filled. You can attach the board to the tray with floral clay to minimize movement during drilling. If you use floral clay, it may work better with a wood, ceramic, or glass tray rather than plastic. Test it! You can also attach the stone to the board with floral clay. Or you can just hold them together with your hand.



**Diamond-Tipped  
Hollow-Core Drill Bit**



**Cooling Fluid.** Lapidary suppliers sell lubricant/coolant mixes especially designed for diamond drill bits. You don't have to use them, but the mixes reduce heat buildup during drilling and help your drill bits last longer.

#### How To Drill Holes

1. Roughly shape and mark the stone. Decide where the hole will be and how big it will be. Mark the hole location on both sides of the unfinished stone with a magic marker. You can eyeball the stone to ensure the marks match, or use calipers if you are compulsive.
2. Layer the board and stone inside the tray as shown. Fill the tray with enough water (or cooling fluid) to cover the top of the stone.
3. Load the diamond-tipped hollow-core drill bit into the drill chuck. Place the tray below the bit, and position the mark on the stone directly below the drill bit. WITHOUT turning on the drill, gently lower the bit until it just touches the stone to make sure it is lined up with the mark, then raise the bit.
4. Use a press-and-release technique to drill the hole. DRILL SLOWLY. Press the bit down a little, pull back, and repeat. This prevents debris buildup and lets water flush the drill hole and cool the bit. Use one-second intervals: one second pressing the drill down into the stone, and one second up. Count out loud - press down on the odd numbers, and lift up on the even numbers. For hard stones like agate and jasper, it takes about 100 presses to get all the way through the stone.
5. Don't drill all the way through stones thicker than 1/8", especially hard stones like agate or quartz. Drill partway through from each side to avoid breaking out the back side of the stone as the drill bit comes through.
6. Ease up on the pressure as you drill deeper into the stone. If you are drilling all the way through a stone, easing the pressure minimizes breakout on the reverse side of the stone. Flipping the stone to finish the hole over gives a consistent, smooth hole on both sides of the stone.



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	
August	Seahorse	
September	Coral	
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 July 2023 cabochon theme is "Octopus."



Octopus

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

June 2023 Cabochon Contest Winners



Left to right: Ron Mazz and Lloyd Chayette  
Lloyd Chayette took first place, and Ron Mazz won second place.

Speakers For 2023 General Meetings

Date	Speaker	Topic
10-Jul-23	Dr. Simon Jowitt	Lithium Mining
7-Aug-23	Michelle S. French	Flood Control – Clark County Regional Flood Control District
11-Sep-23	Ary Udry	Martian Meteorites
2-Oct-23	Open	
6-Nov-23	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec-23	No general meeting	





**BIRTHDAYS**

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

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**



*Rhona Alter, Linda Arnold, Frank Auerswald, Sr., Anallyn Braza, Helen Carlson, Glenn Carlson, John Cox, Claudia Crouse, Jill Davidson, Juliann Deason-Poupard, Robert Derringer, Teri Duffy, S. Bruce Furukawa, Gulbeden Rose Hale, Tracy Hassett, Sheri Johnson, Michael Kirk, Phillip Krogstad, Sean Larkin, Wendy Larsen, Linda Loucks, Margaret Mahler, Linda Martin, Ryan McCarthy, Alexis McCaw, Robert Meagher, Victoria Meraz, Livyana Muniz, Morgana Muniz, Wayne Muth, Destrly Myers, Jeff Norris, Mary Beth Paladino, Shannon William Park, Jack Pattison, Jordan Ransome, Collin Reinke, Robert Renkiewicz, Robert Riemer, Gail Seidner, Jon Thiriot, Jill Usry, Wayne Walker, Randy Wallace, Rebecca Williams, Gail Wisniewski, Craig Woodard, Vincent Zebrowski*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

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

*Anthony Almaraz, Beatriz Almaraz, Izabelle Almaraz, Luis Almaraz, John Brooks, Mary Brooks, Mason Brooks, Toby Brooks, Michael Carroll, Jeana Cascino, Ed Dent, S. Bruce Furukawa, Jeffery M. Goldsberry, Lisa Johnson, Linda Loucks, Arther Meagher, Breanna Meagher, Cara Meagher, Chris Meagher, Pamela Smith, Bettie Speck, Tara Speck, Donna Wheeler*

**SNGMS LAPIDARY SHOP CLEANUP**

Thanks to our corporate sponsors, World Class Facility Services, for their donation of power-cleaning the SNGMS Lapidary shop floor, rollup door, and upholstery! Not only did they make the shop shine, several of their associates joined SNGMS!



World Class Facility Services emptied the SNGMS saw room prior to cleaning



Thanks to DiAnn and Barry Lawson for arranging World Class Facility Services' support of SNGMS



World Class Facility Services supervisor working on the SNGMS Shop floor



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

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Rock Stars Kid's Club Meeting, Field Trips Merit Badge 8.6 Wild Card First Aid & Safety Class	July 9, 2023, 3 – 5 pm	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 13.5	August 13, 2023 3- 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Geocaching for Gems, Gemstone Lore & Legend Merit Badge 13.6	September 9, 2023 8 am – 12 pm	Wetlands Park, 7050 Wetlands Park Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89122
<b>No Meeting</b>	September 10, 2023	
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 – Date for Holiday Party TBD</b>	December 10, 2023	

1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.

### KIDS' NEWSLETTER

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) is starting a newsletter for kids by kids. There are two contests, one for the newsletter name and another for the newsletter mascot. Kids can enter their ideas by following the instructions for the 2023 Juniors Newsletter Contest at: [www.juniors.amfed.org/awards-contests-scholarships](http://www.juniors.amfed.org/awards-contests-scholarships). There are two categories for each contest: Ages under 12, and ages 12-17. The prizes are:

- grand prize - rock, mineral, or fossil worth \$100
- 1st place - rock, mineral, or fossil worth \$75
- 2nd place - rock, mineral, or fossil worth \$50
- 3rd place - rock, mineral, or fossil worth \$25

**The deadline for entries is June 30, 2023.** Kids are encouraged to submit articles, photos, artwork, etc. for publication in the newsletter. Follow the Instructions under Calling All Junior Journalists, Writers, Poets, Photographers, and Artists at: [www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter](http://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter). For questions about the contests, email [youth@amfed.org](mailto:youth@amfed.org).

### SNGMS ROCK STAR KIDS' CLUB

THANKS to all Volunteers helping at the Jamboree to raise money for our Kids' Club. Our field trip to the Ore Car Mine was lots of fun. 12 Rock Stars completed and earned the Gold Panning and Prospecting Merit Badge! Many Rock Stars are off to a great start on the Field Trip Merit Badge. We threw a wild card into our curriculum and are teaching Safety and First Aid. We started with snake bites, and made Field Bags for each Rock Star for them to maintain and bring on field trips. This way, they can carry their own necessities (water, snacks, first aid kit, etc.). Parents are not pack mules!

This summer we will beat the heat by meeting at the shop. At our June 11, 2023 meeting we will have a mock first aid to see how much the kids remember from their instruction at the Ore Car Mine. Chay Beaston, Assistant Youth Leader, will be our victim. Dave Ford and Mary Beth Paladino will speak about stromatolites. Sheri Johnson will talk about the Mojave Trails National Monument writing campaign and how the kids can help. We have a fun rock art project, and Dale Bright is donating PIZZAS. So we have a great meeting planned.

Thank You to the following members who have graciously donated their time, money, knowledge, Metal Detectors, UV Lights, rocks, beads, Coins, food, etc. : Dave Ford, Mary Beth Paladino, Barbara Wysocki, JoAnn Sprott, Kim Wenzl, Amber & Steve Palecek, Sherri Johnson, Sandra Vigliano, Kimo Taylor, Song Hagerman, Harvey & Rita Bergeron, Dale Bright, Dave Barker, Mary Savage, Karly Beaston, Elana Paladino, Heather Waller and our Rock Stars, Chay Beaston, Michaela Lash and Gavin Waller. Thank you to Peggy Sue Moore who helped Mary Beth and me clean up and reorganize the Kids' Club storage unit. THANK YOU, to our club members at the June 2023 General Meeting who identified specimens. Most of specimens are unlabeled and we want to identify and label them before the Viva Las Vegas Rock Show. I apologize if I missed anyone.

You can drop off Kid's Club donations at the Shop, or contact me at 702-556-2748. Please write your name, what you are donating, and mark it "Kids' Club". If we don't have that info sometimes it sits in the shop and people aren't sure who it is for.

Wendy Dresser



**SNGMS 2023 VOLUNTEER STAFF**

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

**SNGMS 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Vice-President	Orville Wiemers	sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com	702-366-5854
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**SNGMS 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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Communication	Del Walkenshaw	sngmsnews@gmail.com	702-451-8040
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Sheri Johnson		
Alt Federation	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Facebook Master	Dale Bright	dalebright1@hotmail.com	
Field Trip	Joel Coombs & Bill Kogan	sngmsnews@gmail.com	
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New Member Liaison	Joann Sprott		
Program (Speakers)	Open		
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Raffle/Lottery	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Refreshments	Fran & Allen Stratton		
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam		
Spring Jamboree Show	Sara Schiller	sngmsjam@gmail.com	
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HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of capping 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 Amazing Agate

The amazing colors and patterns of agate have won the hearts of rockhounds everywhere. Agate has been used in jewelry for thousands of years. Today, it is cut into cabochons, beads, small sculptures, paperweights, and bookends. Industrial uses of agate include manufacture of leather burnishing tools, weighing scales, clock pendulums, and mortars and pestles.

#### What is Agate?

Agate is a variety of chalcedony, a microcrystalline form of quartz, with a wide variety of colors and a hardness of about 7 on the Mohs scale. The natural colors of agate come from traces of oxides of iron, manganese, titanium, chromium, nickel, and other elements. Iron produces a red or purple color, titanium creates blue, nickel or chromium leads to green, and manganese gives pink crystals. Agate is porous and is easy to dye. Most stones sold commercially are dyed.

Although often found within igneous rocks, agate can form in other rock types. Agate formation starts when groundwater containing silica (sand or quartz) seeps into a rock crack or cavity and dries up, leaving behind a layer of minerals.

As the process repeats, multiple layers of minerals build up in the rock following the outline of the crack or cavity. Different layers or bands of color form as water containing different chemicals seeps into the crack or cavity. The banding gives agate the colors and patterns that make it a popular gemstone.

Once the space is full, the layers crystalize. Quartz crystals often grow in any unfilled cavity spaces to form geodes.



Agate Geode with Quartz Crystals\*

#### Where Are Agates Found?

Agates are found throughout the world. One of the earliest commercial centers for agate mining and cutting was the Idar-Oberstein district in southwest Germany (the mines played out over a 400 year period). Globally, most agates are now supplied by Brazil and Uruguay. In the United States, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana are the main commercial sources of agates. Locally, you can find agate at the SNGMS Ore Car Mining Claim in the Lake Mead Recreation Area. The claim is located at Mile Marker 16 off of North Shore Road.



Ore Car Mine Agate

#### Types of Agate

Agates are classified by their color patterns. The colors can occur in concentric layers, or as plant-shaped inclusions.

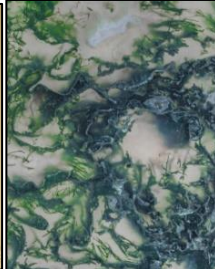
Banded agates have layers of color. Moss, plume, and dendritic agates have inclusions rather than bands of color. They are sometimes mistaken for fossils. Fire agates are iridescent due to limonite inclusions. Shell agates have silicified shells embedded in them. Turritella agate is a type of shell agate. Agate can replace organic components of fossilized trees to form petrified wood.



Banded Agate\*



Dendritic Agate\*



Moss Agate\*



Fire Agate\*



Turritella Agate\*

\* <https://commons.wikimedia.org>



## June 2023 Class Schedule

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Gary Webb & Sue Dobson	Monday, June 12 at 5 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Trees I – <b>RESERVATION REQUIRED</b>	Dave Ford and Song Hagerman	Sunday, June 18, 2023, 3-6 pm	\$40	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	dvdfrd193@gmail.com
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, June 19, 2023, 5 pm	\$10 including a free pattern this month	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Cabochon Making	Beth Jones	Saturday, June 24, 2023, 3-6 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	punkyjones@hotmail.com 702-505-5819
Trees II – <b>RESERVATION REQUIRED</b>	Dave Ford and Song Hagerman	Sunday, June 25, 2023, 3-6 pm	-	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	dvdfrd193@gmail.com
Trees III– <b>RESERVATION REQUIRED</b>	Dave Ford and Song Hagerman	Monday, June 26, 2023, 3-6 pm	-	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	dvdfrd193@gmail.com
Mineral & Gem Specimen Exploratory Group		June 27, 2023 at 6 PM	Free	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
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

**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.**



**Beaded Dragon Bracelet**  
Photo Courtesy Charlene Furukawa



### Opportunities to Lead Workshops or Teach Classes

The SNGMS is looking for volunteers to teach classes at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. If you have experience working with specific materials such as inlay or other lapidary skills, and are willing to teach these techniques, please let us know. We would love to offer a demo or workshop to SNGMS members.

The Society is looking for someone or a team to teach Basic Silversmithing (Silversmithing 101). If you are interested or know of someone, please contact Andrea Kincannon [andrea.kincannon@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.kincannon@gmail.com).

Some SNGMS members are interested in learning how to work with opals. If you have experience with opals and are willing to share tips and techniques please contact Andrea Kincannon [andrea.kincannon@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.kincannon@gmail.com).

### Call for Workshop Ideas for Fall 2023 through Summer 2024

The current wish list for demonstrations or workshops includes, but is not limited to, how to :

- make knife handles
- create stone boxes and vases
- working with obsidian or labradorite
- best practices for collecting and showcasing mineral and gem specimens

### Auction

There is a Harbor Freight workbench up for auction this month. The last bid will be at noon on Sunday, June 24t, 2023 at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. You must be present to win.



Harbor Freight Workbench for Auction

### Puzzle Answers (puzzle on page 5)

achy	cat	cay	chit	haircut	hurt	rictus	saucy	starch	trashy
acuity	cats	cays	chits	hart	hurts	roach	scary	starchy	yacht
ahoy	chorus	chai	choir	harts	hut	roast	scat	stay	yachts
arc	citrus	chair	choirs	has	huts	rot	scry	stir	you
arch	city	chairs	crash	has	itch	rots	scyth	such	youth
arcs	coach	chaos	crush	hasty	itchy	roust	short	tach	youths
art	coast	char	crust	hat	oat	rout	shorty	tar	
arts	coats	chariot	crusty	hats	oats	routs	shot	tars	
arty	coats	charity	curio	hay	ostrich	rust	shut	thy	
ashy	cosy	chars	curios	his	ouch	rustic	shy	tic	
ashy	cot	chart	curt	history	outcry	rusty	sir	tics	
author	cots	charts	curtsy	host	racy	rut	sit	torch	
authors	court	chary	cushy	hot	rat	ruts	soar	touch	
car	courts	chat	cut	hots	ratio	sac	sort	touchy	
cars	couth	chats	cuts	hour	rats	sat	sot	trash	
cash	coy	chia	cyst	hours	rich	satyr	star		



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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