



THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



February 2020

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUDS SINCE 1940

Volume 80 Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 3rd - General Mtg
Feb 27th - Board Mtg
Mar 2nd - General Mtg
Apr 2nd - Board Mtg

See page 8 for details on scheduled classes and instructor contact information
SNGMS Contact :
sngms2013@gmail.com
702 561-3086
www.snvngms.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all SNGMS Members:

February swept into town with cold temperatures for us here in Southern Nevada. My thermometer said 30 degrees, feels like 24 degrees. A little nippy but the bright sun has brought us into the 50's and that is great rockhounding weather.

Bruce Martin will guide our club to the China Ranch Date Farm in Tecopa, CA, on Saturday, February, 8th and then on to the quest for fire opal just west of the town of Tecopa. I hope the weather holds for a fine time of pick and shovel rockhounding.

Let's all give a hand to Steve Chavez for stepping up to handle the club raffle. He is doing a great job but he has a request to our members. If you have interesting rocks, slabs, used or unused equipment that you can donate, he needs those items for the monthly raffle. We will set up a box at the shop for contributions for the raffle. If you have something that you can donate, bring it to the shop and mark it for the monthly raffle. Our supervisors will put it into a box in the back room for Steve to pick up. Everything is appreciated.

We had some interesting walking sticks show up for the competition at the February meeting. Thank you to all who participated...it gave us all some great ideas for the future.

For the March meeting, I would like for everyone to look around their collections and projects and bring one item to the meeting that is lapidary related (silver-smithing, wire wrapping, beading, sphere making, etc.) and put it on display. I would like the membership to be able to look at these items, then vote on the one that pique's their interest the most. Sometimes we get into a rut in our hobby it is a chance to get those creative juices flowing. First place will receive 2 hours in the shop and 2nd will receive 1 hour in the shop. Remember, you can enter a competition case in the Federation show in Big Piney Wyoming this June. I will re-send out the show information to the membership so you can get the details on how to enter. If you want to enter a case but are not comfortable with how to do it, let me know and I will be happy to go over the requirements with you.

So little time...so many rocks to collect.

Peggy Sue Moore, President, SNGMS, February 2020

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Field Trips & Events

China Ranch Date Farm, CA Tour: Sat, Feb 8th

Lincoln Mine, Sat, Mar 7th

Beatty, NV, Sat, Mar 14th, (Night Trip-
Fluorescents)

Parking Lot Sale, Sat, Mar 21st

Spring Jamboree, Sat-Sun, May 2nd-3rd, Boulder City, NV



2020 Outings Being Considered (Dates to Be Finalized):

US 95 (Mercury)-Travertine (Red Onyx), Sat, April 18th

Silver Park/Caliente, NV, Sat-Sun, May 16th-17th

Tonopah, NV: Sat-Sun, June 13th-14th

Holt Canyon, UT, Sunday, July 12th

Goldfield, NV: Goldfield Days, Aug 1-4

Pahrump Winery: Sat, Aug 22nd

Delta, Ut: Sep 18th-19th

Geocaching (Local): Sat, Sep 26th

Tule Springs, NV: Sat, Oct 10th

Parking Lot Sale: Sat, Nov 7th

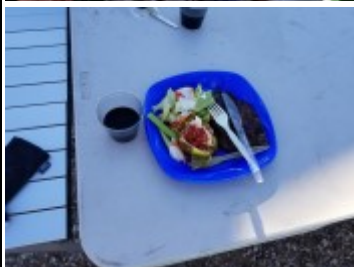
Wickenburg, AZ: Feb 2021

Hinkley, CA: Sep 2021

Oatman, AZ: Feb 2022

McDermitt, NV: July 2022

Photos from the Quartzsite, AZ trip, January 2020:



SNGMS Board meeting minutes for January 30th, 2020

On January 30th, 2020, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the Secretary. The following board members were present.

Board Members Present: (check all in attendance)

President: Peggy Sue Moore (absent)	Vice President: Sheri Johnson (absent)
Secretary: Debbie Bucknam	Treasurer: Gary Webb
Parliamentarian: Ananaka Rau	Director: 1yr – Del Walkenshaw
Director: 2yr – Bruce Martin	Director: 3yr – Kerry Wenzl
Past President – Bob Belcher	

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: Saw A is down but parts are going to be ordered.

The shop lightning project is in the works with PDQ Electric performing the work.

Unfinished business: Ongoing show report: none at this time.

New Business: None at this time

Committees confirmed:

Bulletin: Del Walkenshaw and Deb Koladziej	Webmaster: Lorrilee Stackhouse
Program: Cindy Allison	Hospitality: Open
Sunshine: Beth Jones	Historian: Jack Toogood
Publicity: Scott Edwards	Raffle: Steve Chavez
Refreshments: Fran and Allen Stratton	Inventory: Treasurer and Frank Timbers
General Shop Foreman: Management: Chops Wenzl and Beth Jones	
Equipment and repairs: Del Walkenshaw and Mel Nishiuchi	
Membership: John Stackhouse	
Federation Director: Sheree Johnson	
Field Trips: Board of Directors	
Show Chairperson: Sheree Johnson	
Junior Members/Rock Stars: Mary Beth Paladino	
New Member Liaison: Joann Sprott	

February Field Trips: China Ranch Date Farm/Tecopa Saturday February 8th, 2020

February Cabochon Contest: American Robin

March Cabochon Contest: Wood Duck

February Walking Stick Competition: To be held during the general meeting on February 3rd, 2020 Any-one can enter, volunteer or not.

Any Further New Business: Over harvesting of rocks will be addressed in the slab reminding members that we need to be good custodians and insure the future of the hobby.

Adjournment: Bruce Martin proposed seconded by Gary Webb and approved by the board that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.



SNGMS General Meeting minutes for February 3, 2020

On February 3rd, 2020, 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.

The minutes of the January 6th, 2020 meeting were approved as read.

The Treasurer Gary Webb reported on account balances.

Reports:

Show report everything is on track for the 2020 Spring Jamboree. The next meeting will be held the 6th of February 2020, at 6:00 PM at Desert Art Supplies on Sunset & Green Valley Pkwy. The first meeting for the 2022 RMF convention will be held on the 20th of February 2020, at 6:00 PM also at Desert Art Supplies. Field Trips in February: China Ranch Date Farm on February 8th, 2020 with Bruce Martin leading, will meet at 8:30 am at the junction of Tecopa Springs Rd. and Highway 160. Depart at 9: am.

Classes:

- Metal Smithing Tuesdays 5:00 PM - 8:00PM
- Beading class on February 10, 2020 will be a bracelet supply list already emailed.
- Wire Classes for February will be held on the 17th and 24th. The 17th class will be basic wire wrapping and the 24th class will be crystal wrapping. Supply lists will be emailed prior to date of classes. All classes are held at the shop.

▪ [Faceting Class will be at 9:00 AM every Saturday at the shop.](#)

- Mel Nishiuchi will be conducting a demonstration on anodizing metal date to be decided.

o Shop report: Chops

- All equipment is running and good. The lighting project will be started on the 10th of February. Membership: there are 257 adult members and 29 junior members.

Contests:

Cabochon contest Robin – 1st place was Ron Mazz with 2 hours shop time, 2nd place was a tie between Bruce Martin and Del Walkenshaw with 1 hour shop time each.

Walking Stick competition: 1st place was Rimma Muth with 2 hours shop time, 2nd place was a tie between Wayne Muth and Rita Bergeron with 1 hour of shop time each.

For the **March** meeting the Cabochon contest will be a **Wood Duck**.

There will also be a competition for Independent Lapidary related projects.

Kids club meeting will be held on February 9th, 2020, 3:00PM - 5:00PM. They will be cutting and polishing geodes.

Unfinished Business: the lighting project is underway the cost is approx.: \$1300.00. We will not be using the Nevada Energy rebate program.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM

Wire Wrapping Class: Half Moon Cabochons



Beading Class: Bracelet



Top 10 Gemstone Special Effects: (Part 3) (Courtesy of Beth Jones)

By [Andrew Alden, ThoughtCo, Sep 5, 2019, https://www.thoughtco.com/top-gemstone-special-effects-1440586](https://www.thoughtco.com/top-gemstone-special-effects-1440586)

(8) Aventurescence

benedek/Getty Images



Aventurine

Inclusions in a gemstone are usually considered flaws. But in the right kind and size, inclusions create internal sparkles, particularly in quartz (aventurine) where the special effect is called aventurescence. Thousands of tiny flakes of mica or hematite can turn plain quartz into a glittering rarity or feldspar into sunstone.

(10) Chatoyance

Benedek/Getty Images



Tiger-Eye

When impurity minerals occur in fibers, they give gemstones a silky appearance. When the fibers line up along one of the crystalline axes, a stone can be cut to display a bright reflective line a special effect called cat's-eye. "Chatoyance" is French for cat's-eye. The most common cat's-eye gemstone is quartz, with traces of fibrous mineral crocidolite (as seen in tiger iron). The version in chrysoberyl is the most precious and is called simply cats-eye.

(10) Asterism

SunChan/Getty Images



Ring with mounted star sapphire

When fibrous inclusions align on all of the crystal axes, the cats-eye effect can appear in two or three directions at once. Such a stone, cut properly in a high dome, displays the effect called asterism. Star sapphire (corundum) is the best-known Gemstone with asterism, but other minerals occasionally show it, too.

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



SNGMS 2020 Meetings

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

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

SNGMS General Meeting

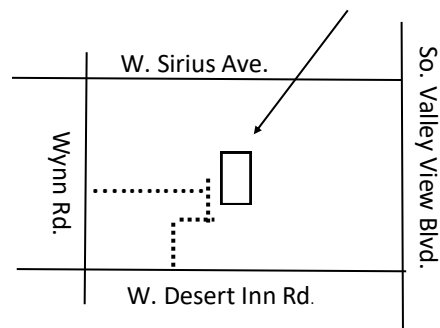
1st Monday of every month
 (2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

Non-members welcome!

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

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

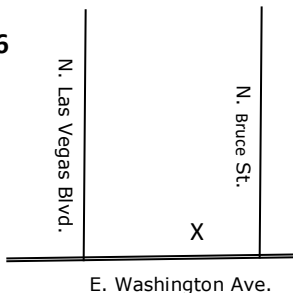
**3111 So. Valley View Blvd,
 Building E Shop Suite 125**



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: 702 561-3086
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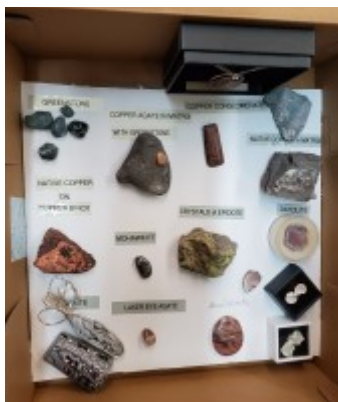
Finding the General Meeting Location

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

At the Kid's Club Meeting on January 12th , Mike & Gail Wisniewski gave a presentation on Michigan Rocks



The Kids Club meeting will be on **February 9th** will be a fun filled afternoon cutting **Geodes**.



Shop Talk : Brad's Bench Tips

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough.

You can set the depth either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling to the correct depth, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level. Note that a little extra tape left free on the end will blow away debris from the drilling.

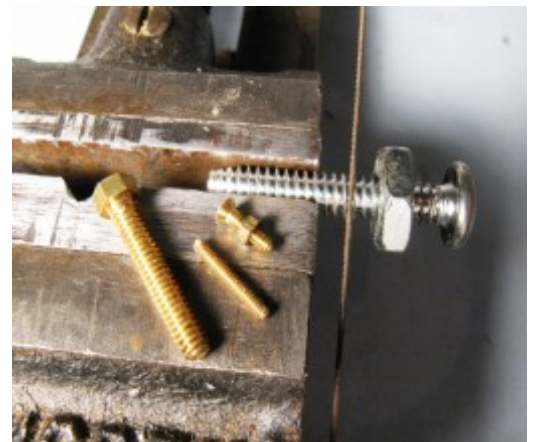


CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it.

First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off. Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt.

Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing did to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away.



Solve Your Jewelry Making Problems With Brad's "How To" Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Classes

Wire wrapping, led by Peggy Sue Moore or Scott Edwards and Ananaka Rau, meets on most Mondays (except for the General Meeting night). Hours for the class are 5 - 8 PM. The fee is \$5.00 for the shop and \$1.00 pattern fee.

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

Metal and Silver Smithing, Scott Edwards and Ananaka Rau have changed the Metal & Silver smithing class from Saturday mornings to Tuesday evenings from 5 pm to 8 pm. The class is suitable for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. The shop is now opened Tuesdays from 1 pm to 5 pm for regular shop usage.

Faceting classes. Saturdays 9 am to 12 pm. Please contact Peggy Sue Moore moorepeggysue@gmail.com in advance to see if a machine is available. Class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor, Tom Kidwell.

Wire wrapping, metal smithing, flint knapping, and silver smithing have a very modest donation of \$5.00 per session, that goes to the club. Faceting class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor. Other class donations may vary, depending on what is included in the class. All donations go to SNGMS, all instructors volunteer their time and expertise to help extend the knowledge of our members.



Sunshine Report

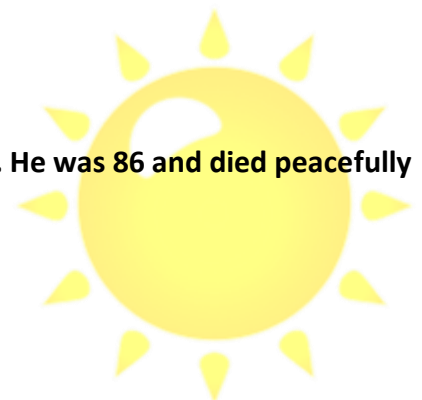
from Beth Jones

Please if you hear of any SNGMS member in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, death in the family or other need, call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at Punkyjones@hotmail.com (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)

Sadly we just learned of Francis "Mike" Joseph Coache's, passing away. He was 86 and died peacefully on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. Services were held January 18th.

Carol Kuykendall is in the Southern Hills hospital.

Jaen Ruprecht is still recovering from post surgery issues.



SHOP INFORMATION

“New” SNGMS Workshop Schedule

SHOP HOURS

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

- Mar Wood Duck
- Apr Mountain Blue Bird
- May American Gold Finch
- Jun Cardinal
- Jul Bald Eagle
- Aug Road Runner
- 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 “Wood Duck” cabochon will be the contest entry to be judged at the March’s general meeting.

Good Luck!

1st Place: Ron Mazz

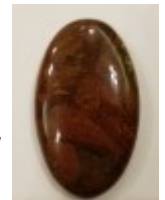


2nd Place (Tie):

Bruce Martin



Del Walkenshaw



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



Happy Birthdays!

February

Russ Drenning, David Dziadon, Thomas Farley, Cliff Jackson, Jack James, Richard Johnson, Carol Kuykendall, Kerin Landry, Sara Jean McCulley, Adam Q. Miller, Dave Munkres, Melvin Nishiuchi, H. Allen Stratton, James Walkenshaw, Irma Webb, Kerry Wenzl, Ryan Young

March

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

Charles Adams, Tina Bates, Aline Botts, Ken Bucknam, Allison Chayette, Nancy Crenshaw, Tom Gergits, Diane Hale, Tina Kelley, Andrew Kerr, Debra Kerr, Cheryl Milne, Linda Murie, Eliazabeth Nelson, Kayla Niriega, Elana Paladino, Corinne Slivia, Cole Smith, Jeff Smith.

Welcome New Members!

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

Charles Adams, Gordon Bagley, Bonnie Brown, Rick Brown, Roberto Calvera, Kane Churko, Richard churko, Richard Coffman, Joshua Contois, Charles b. Davis, Kevin Donovan, Mary Figueras, Greg Flansaas, Colleen Flansaas, Janet Frei, Tom Gergits, Samantha Giddens, Melanie Guzman, Julie Hall, Helen Hanib-Orendort, Olivia Hernquist, Rob Hernquist, Nancy Huffine, Randy Huffine, Fred Hugues, Mary Hugues, Brian Jacoby, Juliet Jacoby, Katie Jacoby, Tanner Jacoby, Sandra Johnson, Derik Johnson, Alexis Kane, Sean Larscheidt, Michele Logan, Wayne Logan, Jared Loudin, Sarah Marks, Sara Jean McCulley, Richard Miller, Adam Q. Miller, Candy Munkres, Dave Munkres, Amanda Munson, Edward Munson, Skya Munson, Sophia Munson, Linda Murphy, Tsukiko Nakano, Naomi Nozoe, Dave Oscarson, Andrea Packo, Colin Perdue, James Perdue, Jameson Perdue, Lauri Perdue, Mark Pruter, Laurel Rockwood, Paul Toves, Roberta Vance, Paul Watterson, Barbara Wysocki, George Yago.

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 f25fighterman@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.....Peggy Sue Moore & Bill Wertz
 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... Barbara Belcher
 Program..... Cindy Allison
 Publicity.....Scott Edwards memultd@yahoo.com
 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: 702 561-3086

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.

Spring Jamboree, May 2nd & 3rd, Boulder City, Nv:

Big Piney, WY, June 19th –21st, 2020: Gem & Mineral Show, Contact pres@wsmgs.org

Gem & Mineral Show 2020

June 19th, 20th, & 21st

Big Piney, Wyoming

Contact pres@wsmgs.org



Some links that you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-

<http://www.amfed.org>

Rocky Mountain Federation -

<http://www.rmfmms.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