



THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



March 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUSES SINCE 1940

VOLUME 83 ISSUE 3

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mar. 12, 2023 – Kids' Club
Mar. 30, 2023 - Board Mtg
Apr. 3, 2023 - General Mtg

SNGMS Contacts:

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Hello -

What a busy general membership meeting we had in March! We had to cut it short to meet the 8 pm deadline to clear the building. Rest assured, we will honor your raffle tickets and the raffle prizes from March during the April meeting. I expect to modify our meetings to fit into the time frame better, and ask that you bear with the changes.

Congratulations to Lloyd Chayette for the winning cabochon this month. It's really pretty and you can see a picture of it in this issue of the newsletter (page 8).

The parking lot sale on March 11 was a terrific success. Despite a bit of wind, it was a warm, sunny day. Shoppers were plentiful, and several people joined as new members of the club.

The Shop is getting a make-over so if you are handy with a hammer or perhaps a paintbrush, we'd welcome you to join us Mar 17-20. Text or call 702-530-3453 to confirm your participation.

SNGMS is offering exciting new classes. You can see the latest schedule on page 15 of this newsletter, or at www.snvngms.org.

At the April meeting, we'll finish presenting ideas for a possible 2023 Viva Las Vegas Rocks show. We'll let you know who wins the T-shirt design contest. See page 9 of this newsletter for entry details. And there will be news on the Christmas party.

See you at the next general membership meeting on April 3, 2023!

Andrea Packo
SNGMS President

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2023 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Desert Arts Parking Lot Sale ²	March 11, 2023, 9 am – 4 pm	2750 N Green Valley Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89014
SNGMS Shop Cleanup ³	March 17-20, 2023 (see page 9 of this newsletter)	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S Valley View Blvd, Building E Shop Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Fire Agate Field Trip ¹	March 19, 2023	Quartzsite, AZ
Firelight Barn Spring Festival ⁴	March 25, 2023, 11 am - 4 pm	546 S Boulder Hwy, Henderson, NV 89015
Glass Craft & Bead Expo 2023 – exhibits ⁵	March 31 – April 2, 2023	South Point Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
SNGMS BBQ	April 2, 2023	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S Valley View Blvd, Building E Shop Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Variscite/Turquoise Pay to Dig ¹	April 2023 – exact date TBD	Tonopah, NV
Sandy Valley Earth Day (bring lunch, Mary Beth Paladino speaks 12:15 pm)	April 22, 2023 Noon - 4:00 pm	Sandy Valley Senior Center, 695 W Quartz Ave, Sandy Valley NV 89019
Spring Jamboree ⁸	May 6 -7, 2023, 9 am – 4 pm	Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, NV
Agate and Chalcedony Trip ¹	May 8, 2023	Bitter Springs, NV
JOGS Las Vegas Gem & Jewelry Show	May 29 – June 1, 2023	Mirage Events Center, 3400 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, NV 89109
Agate and Jasper Trip ¹	June 10-11, 2023	South Cadys, CA
Rocky Mountain Federation Of Mineralogical Societies ⁶	July 13 – 16, 2023	Ramkota Hotel, 800 N Poplar, Casper, WY
Agate and Jasper Trip ¹	August 12-13, 2023	Utah – Holt Canyon &/or Milford
Tonopah Rock and Bottle Show ⁷	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 ¹	September 23 - 24, 2023	Burro Creek, AZ
Variscite/Turquoise Pay to Dig ¹	October, 2023 – exact date TBD	Tonopah, NV or Kokoweef, CA

- 1) *Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Joel Coombs joel.coombs@bldr.com*
- 2) *Contact Del Walkenship to purchase a vendor's spot 702-451-8040*
- 3) *Text or call 702-530-3453 to confirm you are coming. No emails please*
- 4) *Contact Toni Jackson to purchase a vendor's spot 702-518-7464*
- 5) *Classes available March 29 – April 2, 2023. Check glasscraftexpo.com*
- 6) *Contact Mac Goss macogre13@gmail.com*
- 7) *Classes and vendor spots available, contact Chrissy Pope, 775-277-0840 chrissy.townoftonopah@gmail.com*
- 8) *Contact sngmsjam@gmail.com for vendor and volunteer information*

Some links with information about shows and exhibits that you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies – www.amfed.org

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies – www.rmfmts.org

Rock & Gem Magazine website – www.rockngem.com



Ute, Nevada Field Trip for Petrified Wood

February 18, 2023

Photos courtesy of Peggy Sue Moore, Dave Ford, and Amber & Stephen Palecek



SNMGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 3/2/2023

On March 2nd, 2023, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was held. Lorrilee Stackhouse, Secretary, took minutes. Because Lorrilee is ill, the minutes were not available at publication time for the Polished Slab. The March 2, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes will be made available at a later date. Best wishes to Lorrilee for a complete and speedy recovery!



SNGMS General Membership Meeting Minutes 3/6/2023

The meeting was called to order at 6pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes of the previous General Meeting were waived from being read as Secretary Lorrilee Stackhouse was in the hospital.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was given by Peggy Sue Moore. Ending balance for February was \$22,089.73. Our investment and sweep accounts remain the same. The February register report was posted on the table in front of the Treasurer for the membership to review. Volunteers for the annual audit by membership of the club's books were requested. Amber Palecek and Ed Moerken volunteered. We are looking for a third volunteer.

Shop Report: Andrea Kincannon, Shop Foreman gave the shop report and introduced the Shop Supervisors present. She also gave calendar announcements.

Rock Stars Kids Club Report: Wendy Dresser, Rock Stars Kids Club Chair, and Mary Beth Paladino gave the Kid's Club report. There will be an Easter party at the Eagles Lodge on April 1st from 2 to 4 pm. Contact Mary Beth or Wendy with donations and to sign up. The Kid's Club will have a booth at the Annual Sandy Valley Earth Day Event, April 22, 2023.

Sunshine Report: See page 5 of this newsletter.

Bylaws Update: Jack Toogood, Parliamentarian, gave the Bylaw change report. A motion to approve was made by Debbie Bucknam and seconded by Lloyd Chayette, , Past President/Director. The motion was passed by the General Membership.

Inventory Report: Ron Mazz, Director, gave an inventory report. He will be at the Uhaul facility on Thursday morning taking inventory of the storage unit.

T-Shirt Design Contest: Lloyd Chayette gave a report of the T-Shirt design contest. Membership will review and vote on their favorite design for 100 T-shirts to be made for sale at the Spring Jamboree. The fund raising price will be \$20.00 each.

Spring Jamboree Report: Amber Palecek and Sara Schiller, Spring Jamboree Chair, gave a report on the Spring Jamboree show. They are looking for volunteers to sign up for the various jobs associated with the Jamboree. The next Spring Jamboree meeting will be on March 23rd, 4pm, at Desert Art Supply in Henderson, NV.

Speaker: Jack Toogood gave a presentation on Landscape Photography.

Unfinished Business: Andrea Packo, SNGMS President, announced the upcoming calendar events. Dale Bright, Facebook Master, gave a talk on Cloud Security.

New Business: Orville Wiemers, SNGMS Vice President, and Dale Bright presented a proposal for a gem and mineral show on November 3rd at the Santa Fe Station. Due to questions from the membership and time constraints, a motion was made by Peggy Sue Moore and Amber Palecek seconded, to table the presentation until the April meeting. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm and the raffle was postponed until the April meeting. All door prizes and raffle tickets will be rolled over to the next SNGMS general meeting on April 3, 2023 at 6 pm.



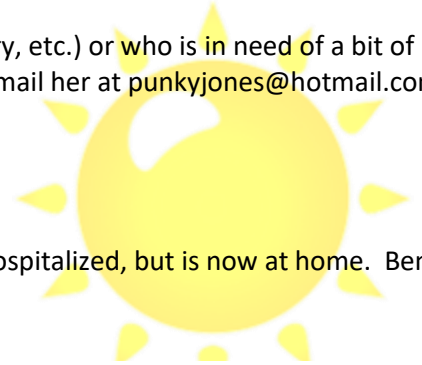
Sunshine Report

from Barbara Belcher

If you hear of any SNGMS member with an event to celebrate (wedding, anniversary, etc.) or who is in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, etc., PLEASE call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at punkyjones@hotmail.com (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject).

Jonah and Sara are getting married this month!

Lorrilee Stackhouse is not feeling well. Beth Jones has a bad cold. Jim Jones was hospitalized, but is now at home. Ben Harris' sister died.



Aquamarine, the March Birthstone

The name "aquamarine" comes from the Latin words for seawater – aqua for water and marina for sea. Ancient mariners claimed the gem would calm waves and keep sailors safe at sea. It was also thought to bring happiness in marriage.

Aquamarine is a variety of a mineral called beryl. It is lightly colored with green and blue from iron in the mineral. The color is usually more intense in larger stones, and dark blue stones are expensive. Aquamarine is a pleochroic gem, meaning that its color looks different depending on which direction you look at the crystal.

Aquamarine grows in large, six-sided crystals that can be up to a foot long. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but it is also found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique. U.S. sources include the Mount Antero area of Colorado (it's the state gem) and California's Riverside and San Diego counties.

With a Mohs hardness of 7.5 to 8, it requires no special care, and is one of the easiest gems to polish. Aquamarine responds well to heat-treatment, which enhances the bright blue color. It is standard practice to heat stones after they have been faceted. Heat treatment is safe for the gem and it is permanent, so the color doesn't fade or change over time.



In 1936 Brazilian President Getúlio gave Eleanor Roosevelt this aquamarine. It weighs about 1,298 carats and is the second largest aquamarine in the world. It's known as the Roosevelt Aquamarine



Dom Pedro aquamarine cut from a 100-pound crystal that was mined in the 1980s. It weighs about 4.6 pounds



Aquamarine ring worn by Princess Diana and Meghan Markel



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and Lapidary Shop Hours

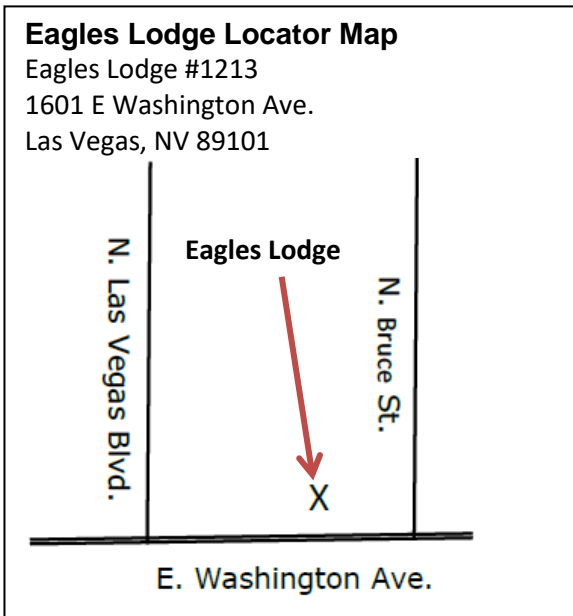
SNGMS 2023 Meeting Schedule	
Board Mtg	General Mtg
30-Mar	3-Apr
27-Apr	1-May
1-Jun	5-Jun
6-Jul	10-Jul
3-Aug	7-Aug
7-Sep	11-Sep
28-Sep	2-Oct
2-Nov	6-Nov
30-Nov	none
Awards Banquet Dec-03	

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 5-6 PM
General Meeting 6-8 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

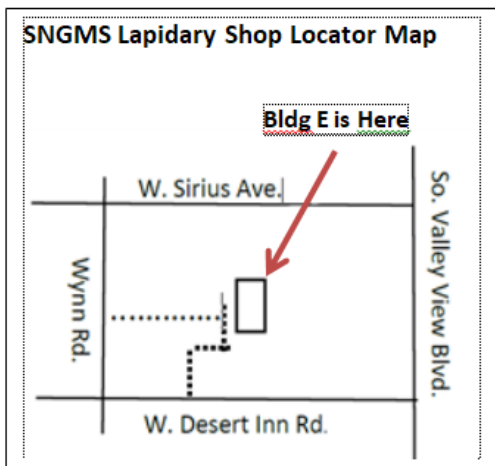
Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

3111 South Valley View Blvd,
Building E Shop Suite 125
Las Vegas, NV 89102

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.

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.



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 and Jewelry Studio
Tips & Tricks

Using Dopping Wax to Cut Cabochons
from Mike Rhea

<https://rockhoundresource.com/dopping-a-stone-with-wax-and-removal-full-guide-video>



Dopping wax is used to secure (dop) a stone onto a rod (dopstick) for grinding and lapping. Some people use superglue as a dop, but we are sticking with wax in this article. Dowel rods or nails with flattened points are usually used for dop sticks. Dopping a stone helps you move it across grinding surfaces so cabochons have a better finish while saving your fingers from wear and tear. Because it takes time to melt the wax, dopping several stones at once can save time in the long run.

Materials

- Preform cabochon with a flat back (trimmed to its rough outline)
- Dop wax (green wax is all-purpose and melts at 150 degrees F)
- Dop stick
- Heat source like a dopping station or alcohol lamp
- Bowl of water
- Small container of sand and cigarette lighter (optional)



Dopped Preform Cabochon



Dopping Station

How to Dop a Stone

Melt about 1/3 a stick of dop wax and heat a preform cabochon to 150 °F using a dopping station. Dopping stations cost about \$40 (there is a dopping station at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop). They include a lip around the wax pot for heating stones. It takes about 20 minutes to melt the wax and heat stones. Alternatively, use an alcohol lamp, but you have less control over the temperature of the wax and it can be difficult to heat stones evenly.

Dip the end of a dop stick into the melted wax. Twist the stick and coat it with wax about 3/4 inch deep. You want enough wax to start a slow drip when removed from the reservoir. Press the waxed end onto the flat BACK of the cabochon. Wet your fingers with water, and shape and press the melted wax onto the stone. Shape the wax into a trumpet shape, funneling up from the dop stick and flaring out on the back of the cab. Now cool the wax to room temperature with the dop stick standing straight up. If it won't stand up, put the handle-end of the stick into a small container of sand. If needed, re-heat the wax with a lighter until it's soft enough to move and adjust the stick position (don't do this with a heat sensitive stone).

After the wax is cool, you're ready to go! Start grinding and polishing.

Types of Dop Wax

There are three types of dop wax: green, red, and black. Each color of wax melts at different temperatures. Green dop wax is the most common, melting at 150 °F and is suitable for most popular rocks used for cabbing. Green dop wax costs about \$12/pound, and can be used over and over again as long as you take care of it. This means covering COOLED wax to keep dust off it.

Dop Sticks

Dop sticks are usually wooden dowels 3-4 inches long. They can vary in thickness depending on the size of your cab.

How to Remove a Stone From Dop Stick

Once you're done grinding a cabochon, you need remove it from the dop stick by cooling the wax. Put the dop stick in a freezer for 10 minutes. Some people submerge the stick in ice water. This risks damaging the stone due to fast temperature changes. When the wax is cold and hard, pop the cabochon off the dop stick. If needed, try twisting it, or pushing it down on a table at an angle to separate it from the stick. If wax is stuck on the back of the cabochon, scrape it off. Scrape off remaining wax from the dop stick over a piece of paper, making it easier to collect. Save the scraped-off wax for reuse. You can reuse dop sticks almost indefinitely.



Cabbing with a Dopped Rock



2023 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	CONTEST WINNER
January	Rainbow Trout	Lloyd Chayette & Bruce Martin tied
February	Lion Fish	Lloyd Chayette 1 st George Stewart 2 nd
March	Clown Fish	Lloyd Chayette 1 st , Bruce Martin 2 nd
April	Jellyfish	
May	Lobster	
June	Starfish	
July	Octopus	
August	Seahorse	
September	Coral	
October	Shark	
November	Whales	

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 April 2023 cabochon theme is “Jellyfish.”

Good Luck!



Jellyfish

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

March 2023 Cabochon Contest Winners

Lloyd Chayette won 1st place (entry #3) and Bruce Martin took 2nd place (entry #5) in this month’s cabochon contest.



Left to right: Lloyd Chayette and Bruce Martin with their prize-winning cabochons



Entries for the March 2023 SNGMS Cabochon Contest



2023 SNGMS T-Shirt Contest

Design a T-Shirt that you'd love to see SNGMS members wear!



Lloyd Chayette is leading the SNGMS T-shirt contest. One hundred shirts will be printed for sale at the Spring Jamboree, May 6 -7, 2023, 9 am – 4 at Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, Nevada. Shirts cost \$20 each. The club logo will be on the front of the shirt. The color of the shirt will be turquoise, the SNGMS color. Please submit your original design for the **BACK** of a club T-shirt as a digital file in jpg, tiff, or png format by midnight on Friday, March 31, 2023. Please email your entry to the address below –

BE SURE TO USE THE SUBJECT LINE “T-shirt” and include your name in the message:

chayette.lloyd@yahoo.com

Alternatively, bring a hardcopy of your design to the April 3, 2023 meeting.

Kids Club Rock Stars are included in the invitation to enter drawings for the SNGMS T-Shirt Design Contest. If you are a Rock Star, please include that information with your design.



SNGMS Lapidary Shop Lockers

If you are using a locker at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop, please notify Andrea Kincannon (andrea.kincannon@gmail.com) by Friday, March 31, 2023. If you do not send a notification, the lock will be cut off and the contents of the locker removed.

SNGMS will start charging for locker space on April 1, 2023. The cost is \$3/month or \$36/year. You can pay in cash at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Cleanup

The cleanup schedule for the shop is listed below. **Text or call (702) 530-3453 to confirm you are coming.** Please bring rags, sponges, gloves, and safety glasses.

Day	Date	Time	Activity
Wed-Fri	14-Mar	open	Wipe down walls in office and bathroom
Friday	17-Mar	6:30-9:30 PM	Painting Team, 4-5 people to assist office and bathroom
Saturday	18-Mar	1:15-4:45PM	Clean-up Checklists will be posted The shop will be open
Sunday	19-Mar	10:00am-1:00pm	Complete Checklist and add anything missing
Monday	20-Mar	TBD	Complete Clean-up Checklist

Spring Jamboree Donation Request

Richard Carlson, the Silent Auction Coordinator for the Spring Jamboree requests donations for the auction. Please contact Richard at sngmsdonations@gmail.com to arrange a pick up, or drop off your donation at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. If you drop off a donation at the shop, please mark the item as a silent auction donation, and include your name and a description of the item.



BIRTHDAYS

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Tina Bates, Brian Berube, James Blankenship, Aline Botts, Harrison Brooks, Brad Brown, Ken Bucknam, Larry Campbell, Nancy Crenshaw, Michaela Devine, Nancy Eash-Heyl, Elijah Fountain, Diane Hale, Michael Heyl, Julie Hilsabeck, Aaron Paul Jarrell, Brynn Johnson, Nicole Larsen, Steven Larsen, Dempsey Lauderdale, Tiana Mamaradlo, Raymond Mamaradlo, Sheyla McCaw, Dee McKinney, Cheryl Milne, Linda Murie, Elizabeth Nelson, Richard Nichols, Roy Nunes, Vicki O'Rourke, Elana Paladino, Linda Pruter, Dorene Saters, Corinne Silvia, Dennis Soukup, Brian Thorp, Sandra Vigliano, Anthony Walker, Keith Waller, Chester Williams, Lisa Wunsche

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

Linda Bourassa, Brad Brown, Josette Cifani, Michael Donahue, John Dvorak, Yenchi Haduong, Rosemary Hollowell, Roy Hollowell, Zach Holmberg, Kell Hymer, Deb Iglesias, Joe Iglesias, Louis Laffin, April Locke, Katherine Matthews, Azhia McCord, Charles McKown, Gina McKown, Alejandro Muniz, Anatalia Muniz, Livyana Muniz, Michelle Muniz, Morgana Muniz, Nelson Muniz, Hunter Perren, Kevin Perren, Jacob Plumeri, Philip Sanders, Jillian Szymanski, Robert Szymanski, Toni Tyson, Michael Walker, Gavin Waller, Heather Waller, Keith Waller, Andrew Waller, Vincent Zebrowski

Welcome
to our
NEW MEMBERS
and
GUESTS



SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club

The next Rock Stars meeting will be on Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 3-5 pm at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

The April 2023 Rock Stars meeting will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Eagles' Lodge on April 1, 2023 from 2-4 pm. **YOU MUST RSVP BY MARCH 25 TO WENDY DRESSER:**

Wendy Dresser
 wndresser@gmail.com
 702-556-2748

The Eagles' Lodge is located at 1601 E Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101. See page 6 for a map.

Topic for Rock Stars Meeting Sunday, March 12, 2023



Gold from Eldorado Canyon, NV

The topic is finding that pot of "GOLD" we all dream about. We will learn about the properties of Gold vs. Pyrite for the Gold Panning and Prospecting Merit Badge.



Pyrite from Goodsprings, NV

Introducing Wendy Dresser, Rock Stars Kids Club Chair

I am still somewhat new to the club (2 years). I am a military wife and I have worked many different types of jobs over the years as I moved from New Hampshire to Nevada. I have years of experience working with children of all ages who suffer from mental, physical and behavioral disabilities. I've been a Boy Scout Leader and held many positions through the Scouting program. I volunteer with other organizations to bring awareness to the community. I've worked with the Protectors of Tule Springs, both State and National Park Services with desert cleanup Projects and Steward Program at Tule Springs Ice Age Fossil Beds. I'm a member of the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada as well as the Gold Prospectors of America. I stopped working after becoming disabled and try my best to move forward and pass on my knowledge to the next generation. Moving around a lot and my husband's military career being the priority, I became a "Jack of Many Trades". I look forward to learning more about rock hounding and passing it on to our Rock Stars.

As we are moving along with our change in leadership I am hopeful to have a calendar of events made up for the year. Changing leadership is difficult for many and making too many changes at once could lose people's interest so we will be taking it slowly and easing people into it. Mary Beth Paladino has done a wonderful job with the kids over many years and we are all sad to see her step down. She will still help when she can but I, the rest of our adult volunteers, and our Junior Assistant Leader Chayton will do our best to teach our Rock Stars and have FUN doing it!

Wendy Dresser

Rock Stars Kids Club Donations

You can drop off donations for the Rock Stars at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. Please include your name and a list of what you are donating. This helps with the inventory process.



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

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Andrea Packo	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Vice-President	Orville Wiemers	sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com	702-366-5854
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	sngmssecretary@gmail.com	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Peggy Sue Moore	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	702-434-6072
Parliamentarian	Jack Toogood	vegasbmw@hotmail.com	702-510-4192
One Year Board	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Two Year Board	Del Walkenshaw	desertartsupply@aol.com	702-451-8040
Three Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighterman@yahoo.com	702-210-9612
Past President	Lloyd Chayette	chayette.lloyd@yahoo.com	714-474-6384

SNGMS 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
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	
Shop Foreman	Andrea Kincannon	andrea.kincannon@gmail.com	
General Meeting Greeter	Dave Ford		
Historian	Dale Bright	dalebright1@hotmail.com	
Hospitality	Open		
Inventory	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Librarian	Mario Luchetta		
Membership	Claudia Crouse	ccrouse295@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Mary Savage	lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com	
New Member Liaison	Joann Sprott		
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	lucky1amr@hotmail.com	
Publicity	Andrea Packo	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Raffle/Lottery	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Refreshments	Fran & Allen Stratton		
Rock Stars Kids Club	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam		
Spring Jamboree Show	Sara Schiller	sngmsjam@gmail.com	
Sunshine	Beth Jones	punkyjones@hotmail.com	702-505-5819
Webmaster	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@cox.net	



Speakers for 2023 General Meetings

(please contact Romy Umholtz lucky1amr@hotmail.com with speaker suggestions)

Date	Speaker	Topic
3-Apr-23	Harrison Brook	Drone footage from Easter Blue mine, Tonopah, Nevada
1-May-23	John Fish	Gemology
5-Jun-23	Open	
10-Jul-23	Dr. Simon Jowitt	Lithium Mining
7-Aug-23	Michelle S. French	Flood Control – Clark County Regional Flood Control District
2-Oct-23	Open	
11-Sep-23	Ary Udry	Martian Meteorites
6-Nov-23	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec-23	No general meeting	

SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS



**DESERT
ART
SUPPLIES**

“Southern Nevada’s Complete Art Store”
Fine Arts Supplies – Custom Framing

2003 E. Charleston 2750 N. Green Valley Pkwy
 Las Vegas, NV 89104 Henderson, NV 89014
 (702) 382-5404 • Fax 384-3337 (702) 451-8040 • Fax 451-8339

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HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of cabling 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.



Mineral Musings

Sandstone

Sometimes it's easy to forget so common a rock as sandstone, but it deserves a closer look. It is the second most common sedimentary rock after shale. Ten to twenty percent of the sedimentary rocks in the Earth's crust are sandstones.

Nevada designated sandstone as the official state rock in 1987. A fifth grade class at Gene Ward Elementary School in Las Vegas promoted this Nevada symbol. At the school, there is a sign and a large pink sandstone honoring the designation.

Sandstone is found throughout Nevada. It provides some of Nevada's most spectacular scenery, including Valley of Fire State Park and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Sandstone is a sedimentary rock made of sand-size



Sandstone Rock at Gene Ward School,
Las Vegas, Nevada



Red Rock National Conservation Area, Clark County, Nevada

How Sandstone Forms

Sandstone forms when sand layers are buried under sediments. Ground water that moves through the sand layers carries dissolved minerals which precipitate and bind individual sand grains into solid rock. The most common binding agents are quartz, calcite, and iron oxides. Fossils can be found in sandstone. Fossilized dinosaur footprints have been found in the sandstone cliffs at Red Rock Canyon.



Dino footprints in sandstone at
Red Rock Canyon

Sandstone Colors

Sandstone may be any color due to impurities within the minerals, but the most common colors are tan, brown, yellow, red, grey, pink, white, and black. The sand grains in sandstone are often covered with iron which gives variable shades of red to the rock.

Uses of Sandstone



Sandstone Coaster

Sandstone has been used since prehistoric times for construction, decorative art works, and tools. It is widely used around the world for temples, churches, homes and other buildings, and for asphalt pavement. Grindstones are made from non-friable sandstone. Northern Nevada sandstone was used to build a number of prominent buildings in Carson City, including the state Capitol. The stone was quarried from the grounds of the old Nevada State Prison by prisoners. Shinarump sandstone from Southern Utah is colored with iron oxide, forming landscape patterns. It is cut and sold as absorbent drink coasters and decorative objects.



Nevada State Capitol, 1875



March 2023 Class Schedule

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm EXCEPT March 11 – no class	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary Shop	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
Flint Knapping		Sunday, March 5 noon – 3 pm		SNGMS Lapidary Shop	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Cabochon Making	Beth Jones	Sunday, March 19 3-6 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop	punkyjones@hotmail.com 702-505-5819
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, March 20 5 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Silver Smithing	Bob Belcher	Saturday, March 18, 3 pm, Sunday, March 26 3 pm Monday March 27, 3 pm	\$15	SNGMS Lapidary Shop	f35fighterman@yahoo.com 702-210-9612

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.



Faceted Stone by Emily and Jack O'Neel
for a United Faceter's Guild Competition
Photo courtesy of Peggy Sue Moore



Clock Class Students
Photo courtesy of Amber Palecek



Flint Knapping Project
Photo courtesy of Peggy Sue Moore



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.

SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren
 SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise
 SNGMS Motto: Rocks-R-Us
 SNGMS Web Site: 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:

Eagles Lodge #1213
 1601 E Washington
 Las Vegas, NV 89101
 (702) 642-1213

No meeting is held in December. Instead we have
 our annual awards dinner.

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