



THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



October 2018

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 78 Issue 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sep 27th - Board Mtg
- Oct 4th - General Mtg
- Nov 1st - Board Mtg
- Nov 5th - General Mtg

See page 8 for details on scheduled classes and instructor contact information

SNGMS Contact :
702 561-3086

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Bob Belcher

To all SNGMS Members:

Monday night at the General Meeting the club voted in 7 new lifetime members. I would like to say on behalf of the club a heartfelt **Thank You** for all the hard work and dedication that each and everyone of the new life time members has done to make this club what it is today. It is truly a great club thanks to all the past and present members. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to make a club like ours.

We need a Shop Manager and Shift Supervisors to fill out the roster at the shop. The shop is doing great thanks to all the ones doing repairs and maintenance. Shop clean up day is Monday, October 22 starting at 9 am till 12 noon. All are welcome to join us to help clean up and make it a better place to work.

It's going to be a busy time for the club from now on through December. We have the Kid's Club activities, classes at the shop, the Rock Swap on Oct 13th and the field trip to Fallon, NV October 25th - 28th, so keep and eye out for the emails detailing the events.

The club elections are coming up next month so please make plans to be there. On Sunday, December 16th we have the Awards Banquet. It's a Pot Luck dinner at the Eagle's Lodge. Thanks to Orville and Lisa Wiemers for taking the reservations, Peggy Sue Moore for handling the Chinese Auction, Wayne Muth for coordinating our event with the Eagle Lodge and all the rest of you who are pitching in.

Starting on page 2 read about the old ghost town of Gold Point.

**Bob Belcher,
President SNGMS
October 2018**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ghost Town	2
General Meeting	5
Field Trips	2
Kids Club Education Activities	6
SNGMS Meeting dates & Directions to	6
Classes	8
Shop Information	9
Birthday, New Members and	10
Upcoming Events	11



Field Trips & Events

Rock Swap: Saturday, October 13 at the shop

Supervisors Meeting: Sunday, October 21 from 10-12. Call Beth (702 505-5819) if you can't attend.

Shop Clean Up: Monday, October 22nd from 9 am to noon. All are welcome to come and help.

October 25th—28th, Fallon, NV area for agates, jaspers and wonderstone. Contact Del Walkenshaw, 702 451-8040 (desertartsupply@aol.com) or Chops Wenzl 702 378-2205 for details.

Ore Car Mine Picnic : November 3rd.

"This Museum Rocks" : Saturday, November 17th from 1-3 pm, www.nsm.lv.org/rocks
Parking instructions emailed when you register online.



Title town: BLM reaches deal to sell off Gold Point:

(Las Vegas Review Journal September 16, 2018)

Ownership records were lost or never filed

After more than 30 years of trespassing, Walt Kremin might finally have a Nevada ghost town to call his own.

The Bureau of Land Management has announced plans to transfer ownership of the town site to Esmeralda County,

ending a decade's long property dispute that has prevented Kremin from getting clear title to the land he's lived on for about 40 years.

Under the proposal, the county would pay the federal government \$82,000 for the 221 acre town site 185 miles north of Las Vegas.

The deal is on track for completion by the end of the year, after which the county plans to sell individual lots back to the handful of people who thought they bought the land in the ghost town years ago. Kremin called it "a good-faith action," but added, "I'll believe it when I see it done." The problem stems from public records that went missing or were never filed more than a century ago, casting a legal cloud over dozens of old parcels that have been bought, sold, lived on or abandoned over generations.

(Continued Page 7)



Birthstone for the Month of October is Opal: Opal is a hydrated amorphous form of silica ($\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$); its water content may range from 3 to 21% by weight, but is usually between 6 and 10%. Because of its amorphous character, it is classed as a mineraloid, unlike crystalline forms of silica, which are classed as minerals. It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of rock. Opal is the national gemstone of Australia. There are two broad classes of opal: precious and common. Precious opal displays play-of-color, common opal does not. In mythology the gods saw it as the embodiment of the beauty of all precious stones. **Opals were said to contain the tears of Zeus after his victory over the Titans.**



SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 9/27/18

On September 27th, 2018, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the September 6th meeting were approved as corrected.

The treasurer reported balances and announced a net loss for the month. Bills presented were paid. Del Walkenshaw will receive a debit card since he is handling copying of club forms.

Shop Report: Harsh replaces the heating/air conditioning filters in the shop every three months. New 600 wheels were ordered for the Cab Kings. The slab saw motor is still in the works. New emitters for the Cab Kings are on order.

Membership reports 426 adult and 50 child members.

Old Business:

The Moores will order porta potties for the Ore Car picnic.

Chinese auction items are needed for the Awards Banquet.

Board position hangers for the badges are being engraved and will be completed by December.

New Business:

The need to spend 50% of investment earnings during the year to protect our non profit status was discussed. Bill Moore will identify amount of earnings for 2018 so we can be assured of meeting the required amount.

Del Walkenshaw requests that he receive a small report following all field trips so he can include information in the Slab.

Bob Belcher brought up the possible acquisition of additional mine claims by the club. Bill Moore proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw, and approved by the Board that "the club look into filing another mining claim."

Wayne Muth proposed, seconded by John Stackhouse, and approved by the Board, that "the meeting be adjourned."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.



Discounts Available with your SNGMS membership

All the establishments featured on page 4 offer discounts to SNGMS members. Be sure to show your membership card when making a purchase, and say that the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society sent you!

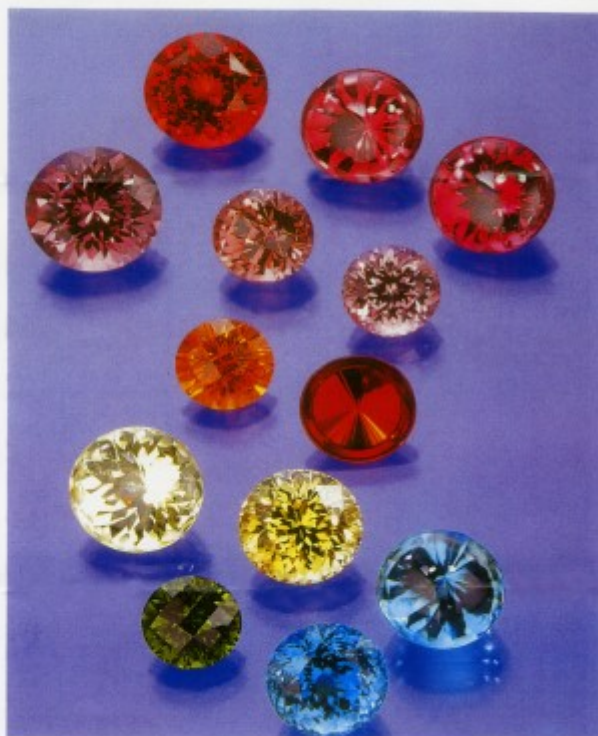


Just A Hobby
 Jewelry Gemstones
 App Only
 Henderson
 727-542-3144

GEMSTONES FOR SALE

RICHARD (727)542-3144

- TANZANITE
- SPESSARTINE
- SPINELL
- AMETHYST
- GARNETS
- AMETRINE
- EMERALDS
- SAPPHIRES
- RUBYS
- CITRINE
- OPALS
- KUNZITE
- LAZURITE
- MOONSTONE
- ONYX
- SUNSTONE
- RHODOLITE
- TOPAZ
- ZIRCON
- AND MANY MORE AVAILABLE.....



17,000 Carats

SNGMS General meeting minutes for 10/01/18

On October 1st, 2018, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 5:59 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the September 10th, 2018 meeting were approved as corrected.

The treasurer reported balances. He reported that the club has already spent enough for the year to cover 50% of income from investments.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine: Mike Kirk was at the meeting and is recovering from extensive back surgery. Bill Kogan was at the meeting and is doing much better. Tony Duran is still awaiting pacemaker repair surgery. Jaen Ruprecht sprained her leg. Jenna Plein broke her ankle and is on the road to recovery. Jack Toogood was at the meeting and is recovering from cardiac surgery.

Classes: There will be a bead class this month. Wire wrapping information will be sent by email. Silver/metal smithing will continue each Tuesday from 5-8 PM.

Membership: John Stackhouse reports 426 adult and 50 child members. Dues are being collected for the 2019 year. Remember they must be paid before January 1, 2019.

Field Trips: There will be a trip on Oct. 7th to Pabco for onyx. A Fallon trip is planned for October 25-28 coordinated by Del Walkenshaw and Chops Wenzl.

Kids Club: Mary Beth Paladino reported that there will be a field trip on October 7th, the annual florescent event at the Shop on October 14th, and the annual Halloween party in conjunction with the Eagles at the Eagles Lodge on October 27th. It will be a trick or treat event. There will be presentations to two schools in October.

Shop: A Shop manager, maintenance supervisor, additional supervisors and supervisor alternates are needed. Training will be provided. Sunday, October 21 from 10-12. Monday, October 22nd is shop clean-up day from 9-12.

Show Committee/Federation: The Boulder City Jamboree show will be May 4-5, 2019, with setup on May 3rd. The next meeting will be October 18th at the Palace Station.

New Business:

Nominations for Lifetime members were announced and voting resulted in the following members receiving Lifetime member status: Scott Edwards, Cliff Jackson, Bill Moore, Peggy Sue Moore, Ernie Parrish, John Stackhouse, and Lorrilee Stackhouse.

Nominations for SNGMS offices were announced. Further nominations can be made and voting will take place at the November meeting, Present nominations are: President – Bob Belcher, Vice-President – Sheri Johnson, Secretary – Lorrilee Stackhouse, Treasurer – Bill Moore, Parliamentarian – Anaka Rau, Three Year Board – Bruce Martin, One Year Board – Peggy Sue Moore.

Cab contest winners: 1st place – Bruce Martin 2nd place – Debbie Bucknam

Bill Moore proposed, seconded by Ann Harris "that the meeting be adjourned." Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

SNGMS 2018 Meetings

Jan 04 Board	Jun 28 Board
08 General	Jul 02 General
Feb 01 Board	Aug 02 Board
05 General	06 General
Mar 01 Board	Sep 06 Board
05 General	10 General
29 Board	27 Board
Apr 05 General	Oct 1 General
26 Board	Nov 01 Board
May 07 General	05 General
31 Board	Dec 16th (Annual Awards Banquet)
Jun 04 General	

Board Meetings at Shop, 3111 Valley View Blvd. Bldg. E. Suite 125, General Meetings at Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave.

SNGMS General Meeting

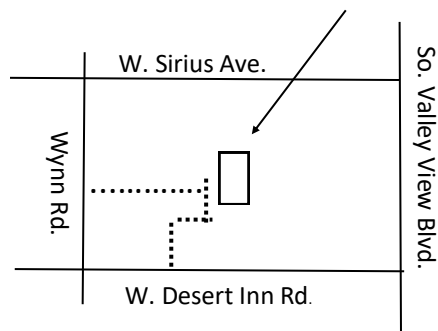
1st Monday of every month
(2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

Non-members welcome!

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

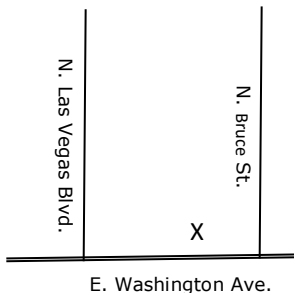
Show & Sell 5-6 PM
General Meeting 6-8 PM

**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

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

On October 7th: Field trip to collect fossils,

October 14th: Monthly meeting at the shop will focus on fluorescents

October 27th: Halloween Party at the Eagles Lodge

BLM reaches deal to sell off Gold Point: (continued from Pg 3)

According to the BLM, Gold Point was never properly recorded with the federal government, so the land was never transferred into private hands. Those who claim ownership to parts of the long-dead mining town have no legal way to prove it.

"The fact that we don't have title to our own land basically puts everything in limbo," Kremin said. It also leaves open the possibility, however remote, that the government might try to kick everyone out off Gold Point some day.

Previous fixes stalled

Several Nevada senators and congressmen have tried to fix the bureaucratic problem since it was first discovered three decades ago, but none of the bills introduced since 2003 came to a vote.

The Esmeralda County Commission finally got things moving a few years ago with the approval of a resolution formally requesting a direct land sale from the BLM to preserve Gold Point's historic character and protect its residents from "the threat of being displaced."

Esmeralda is Nevada's smallest county, with a population of less than 1,000. Fewer than 10 people live full-time in Gold Point.

County Commissioner Ralph Keyes said \$82,000 is quite a bit of money, but the county found a way to work it into its meager budget.

The BLM will accept public comment on the proposed transaction through Oct. 10 before presenting the county with a formal offer and 30 days to close the deal.

Bureau spokeswoman Kristen Cannon said the federal government will retain the mineral rights beneath the town site, but nothing of value was found there besides gravel, sand and fill during a five-year mineral validity exam conducted in preparation of the sale.

It's unclear how much the folks in Gold Point might have to pay to buy their lots back from the county.

"Our assessor will have a big say in that," Keyes said, adding that the land will be sold at fair market value, with priority given to those living on it or with long standing claims.

Once those transactions are complete, Esmeralda County plans to start collecting property taxes from the people in Gold Point for the first time in 35 years.

"If we can get this tidied up, I think it would be good for the county," Keyes said. "As far as I'm concerned, it's a win-win for everyone."

Unique and remote

Gold Point got its start as dusty mining and ranching camp in the late 1800s. It was originally known as Hornsilver, but the name was changed after the silver mines played out.

The population peaked at 1,000 in the early 1900s, then declined in fits and starts before finally bottoming out in 1968, when the post office closed and the town was left in the hands of a few solitary caretakers.

Kremin said he was drawn to Gold Point in the early 1970s because of its "Uniqueness."

Back then, there was no television reception or convenient access to water.

If you wanted to make a phone call, you had to drive 15 miles to the Cottontail Ranch brothel on U.S. Highway 95.

Now Gold Point residents can watch satellite TV, talk on a cell phone or surf the internet, but the place still feels cut off from the outside world.

That's exactly what Kremin likes about it.

"It's nice to be out from under the thumb of society," he said. "I just like the freedom."

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)

Mike Kirk was at September's General Meeting and is recovering from extensive back surgery.

Bill Kogan was also at the meeting and is doing much better.

Tony Duran is still awaiting a pacemaker repair surgery.

Jaen Ruprecht sprained her leg.

Jenna Plein who broke her ankle is on the road to recovery. It was very good to see her Monday night.

Jack Toogood was at the meeting and is recovering from cardiac surgery.

Wishing them all a speedy recovery



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 12 pm to 6 pm

SHOP CLOSED :

- 2nd Sunday of every Month For Kids Club 2 pm to 5 pm
- 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



2018 Monthly Cabochon Contest:

November	Holiday Theme
December	<u>None Awards Dinner</u>

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CABOCHON CONTEST YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF SHOP TIME. THE WINNERS RECEIVE FREE SHOP TIME. A “Holiday” cabochon will be the contest entry to be judged at the November’s general meeting.

Good Luck. “Halloween” Winners are:

1st Place: Bruce Martin



2nd Place: Debbie Bucknam



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!

October

Deborah Allen, Judy Bahorski, David Bassols, Malcom Berman, Nicholas Brown, Lloyd Chayette, Mary Chayette, Victoria Crossman, Caryn Crotty, Tom Davey, Ron Dearing, Susan Dobson, Ruth Dziadon, Tiana Elliot, Lianna Fitzpatrick, Judy Flaster, Ann Harris, Kathy Hassett, Beth Jones, Gene Kandt III, Bill Kogan, Debra Koladziej, Alex Lash, Michaela Lash, Carole Liccardo, Lynn Manthey, Bruce Martin, Dan McClellan, Stephanie Moss, Candy Munkres, Bella Romero, Brett Runion, Kaleb Runion, James Sloane, Nick Smith, Patrick Smith, Lorraine Testa, Frank Timbers, Nicole Tripp-Herring, Ralph Tryon, Elly Walkenshaw, Darren Welsh, Mike Wisniewski.

November

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

Ruth Anauo, Debbie Bucknam, Jim Carrabis, Charles B. Davis, Tammy Davis, Sonya Edwards, Claudia Fernandes, George Graham, Stephanie Groesbeck, Jim Grothuesmann, Amanda Haas, Denise Hall, Vicki Holt, Nancy Huffine, Mike Irving, Sandra Johnson, Aiden Kerr, Liam Kerr, Mark Martin, Marilyn McDougal, Peggy Sue Moore, Jill Ono, Tony Peltz, Ananaka Rau, Ana Rendon, Jaen Rupprecht, Dietmar Seizer, Jimmy Todacheewy, L.D. Tripp, Dennis Walker, Paul Watterson.

Welcome New Members!

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

Richard Ameral, Judy Bahorski, Patricia Bourin, Anat Burda, Douglas Burda, Llan Burda, Jean-Louis De Biasi, Dylan Forgione, Luis Garcia, Marcus Garcia, Dustin Hines, Rochelle Hines, Talus Hines, Torsten Hines, Brett Kishkis, Lisa Morgan, Destry Myers, Jo Ann Myers, Albert Nole, Delwin Potter, Linda Potter, Robert Riemer, Marie Sanchez, Donovan Tsosie.

2018 Board of Directors

President: Bob Belcher [bbecccher75@gmail.com](mailto:bbeccher75@gmail.com)
702 210-9612

Vice-President: Beth Jones punkyjones@hotmail.com

Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse 702 239-0437

Treasurer: Bill Moore SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Scott Edwards 702 561-3086

One Year Board Remaining: John Stackhouse

Two Year Board Remaining: Jason Fabbi
jhfstones@yahoo.com

Three Year Board: Del Walkenshaw
desertartsupply@aol.com

Past President/One Year Board: Wayne Muth

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

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.

Logandale Fall Festival 2018: Logandale, NV, October 18th—20th, Thursday through Saturday
<http://logandalefallfestival.com/vendors/>

Nevada State Museum: Saturday, November 17 from 1-3 pm "This Museum Rocks" on the campus of the Springs Preserve, 333S. Valley View Blvd. www.nsm.lv.org/rocks

January 2019 Quartzsite, AZ Show

Some links that you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-

<http://www.amfed.org>

California Federation -

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

Rocky Mountain Federation -

<http://www.rmfmts.org>

and the Rock & Gem website -

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

[ShowState=ALL](#)

Committee Chairmen

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej
desertartsupply@aol.com

By Laws.....Scott Edwards 702 561-3086

Communications.....Del Walkenshaw sngmsnews@gmail.com

Education.....Mary Beth Paladino

Federation.....Sheri Johnson

Alt. Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore

Field Trip.....Peggy Sue Moore & Bill Wertz

Financial Manager..... Dennis A. Costarakis (Wells Fargo)

Shop Foreman Bob Belcher

Historian.....Jack Toogood

Hospitality.....Deb Bucknam grandmadeb10@gmail.com

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

Raffle.....Barbara Belcher & Kerry Wenzl

50-50 Raffle.....Orville and Lisa Weimers

Refreshments.....Ruth Dziadon

Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647

Show Chairperson.....Sheri Johnson

Sunshine.....Beth Jones punkyjones@hotmail.com
702-505-5819

Webmaster.....Jack Toogood.....702-642-4788

SNGMS Contact: 702 561-3086

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

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