

# The Polished Slab

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2006

## President's Message

It was good to see so many of you attending the March meeting. I would like to welcome all of our new members to the club and to say thank you to new members Melinda Cohen and Paula Newman for taking on the responsibilities of refreshment chairperson. The group campsite at Burro Creek is reserved and paid for. The dates are April 19th through April 23rd; that's Wednesday through Sunday. If you were at the March meeting, Dave Finch brought some beautiful samples of the agates that can be collected there. Don't forget to bring a favorite dish for the Saturday night potluck. I will have liability release forms at the April meeting that must be signed prior to attending this trip. We will also have them available at the campsite. The potential club workshop space is still in the cleaning and clearing stage and I have not yet seen the inside. It is located in the newly developing "arts district" downtown. It's a 600 square foot, single story building on a lot with several other buildings and off street parking. I will be looking at the inside, sometime before the next meeting. Hopefully this will be adequate for our needs; as the price is right, and the location is convenient. **One item** we didn't have time for at the meeting. I would like to set up a ride sharing program. We have several members who don't drive at night anymore, but would still like to come to meetings. If we had a person (a ride share coordinator) to call, they could contact another member that lived in the same part of town, and arrange a for a ride. It's something we should consider and would help get someone to the meeting that no longer can drive at night. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all and I hope to see everyone at the April meeting.

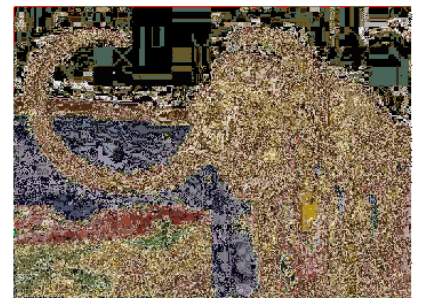
Respectfully, *Jack Toogood*

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POB 94744 Las Vegas, Nevada 89193

### UNLV SCHOLARSHIP

**George & Priscilla Messenger** recently represented our club at the annual UNLV Scholarship luncheon. This was held on Feb 22nd at the UNLV campus to honor both scholarship recipients, and donors. Our club makes an annual contribution to the UNLV scholarship fund. THANK YOU George and Priscilla for representing us.

**What's even bigger than a 13-foot high Columbian Mammoth with 10-foot long tusks?**



**A 48 foot long Ichthyosaur, of course.**



The Nevada State Museum's natural history galleries tell the violent story of Nevada- volcanoes that is, and include minerals, gems, and paleo specimens.

*The history galleries explore the human side of the shaping of Nevada.*

**Visit the Nevada State Museum**  
**700 Twin Lakes Drive**  
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[www.nevadaculture.org](http://www.nevadaculture.org)

## Feb. 6th Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6pm. Present were President Jack Toogood, Secretary Charlotte Robinson, Treasurer Pat Skeary, board members Tom Skeary, Frank Auerswald, Larry Foutz, and Dave Rogers. Absent was Vice President Sharon Rogow.

First item addressed was equipment inventory. Wes Bryant will be bringing the equipment notebook to the general meeting. Discussion that forms should be created to track inventory from one year to the next. Also Dave Rogers has the last saw back from being repaired. It is presently stored at his home. Next issues; the importance of maintaining our annual grant to UNLV. The audit of our books is complete, and the new officers are on file with the bank, government, and CFMS.

....continued above

## AQUAMARINE MARCH BIRTHSTONE

Derived from the Roman word "aqua" meaning water, and "mare", meaning sea this pale blue gem does indeed resemble the color of seawater. The ancient Romans believed that aquamarine was sacred to Neptune, the god of the sea. Early sailors wore aquamarine talismans engraved with the likeness of Neptune, as protection against the dangers at sea.

Aquamarine is a member of the beryl family. Beryl is a mineral that crystallizes within large igneous rocks on the earth's crust. It varies in color from clear to vibrantly colored gemstones such as the Emerald. Beryl was used as far back as 2,000 years ago to correct vision, and it continues to be used today in the manufacture of eyeglasses. It is a very hard mineral, making the Aquamarine a durable gemstone for use in jewelry.

Aquamarine varies in color from blue-green to a light sky blue, but gems containing green are often heat-treated to remove this less desirable color. The majority of Aquamarines, unlike other gemstones, are flawless. It is a relatively abundant gem, the largest deposits being in Brazil, but other sources of Aquamarine are in China, India, Australia, Africa, and the United States.

.....The increase in CFMS dues was discussed and the board voted to bring up the necessity of a dues increase for the club at the general meeting. It will be introduced for discussion and be put to a vote by the membership. Larry Foutz was sworn in as three year board member since he was unable to attend the awards banquet. Meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

## THE BEAD BUFFET

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A gift of Aquamarine symbolizes both safety and security, especially within long standing relationships. Some people even say that the Aquamarine reawakens love in a tired marriage, so if you want to bring back that spark in your partner's eyes, you might consider this gem as an anniversary gift.

.....from ABOUT BIRTH-

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# What's Happening ?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CALIFORNIA

Mar 25-26 Roseville Rock Rollers G & M Club  
Placer County Fairgrounds  
800 All America City Blvd.  
Roseville, CA Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4

Apr 22-23 Antelope Valley G & M Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Avenue H  
Lancaster, CA 9-5 Both Days  
Pamela Birge 661-264-3502

May 6-7 Eastern Sierra Gem & Mineral Show  
Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society  
Tri County Fairgrounds, Bishop, CA  
Francis Pedneau 760-876-4319

Jun 9- 11 CFMS Federation show  
Calaveras County Fairgrounds  
Angels Camp, CA

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

April 19-23 - Burro Creek, AZ  
TBA - Ore Car Mine  
TBA - Kokoweef

### In Memoriam

Two members have recently left us;  
Paul Marshall passed away at the end of July,  
and John Farnsworth around thanksgiving.  
Our condolences to their families.



*Feeding the Hungry,  
Sheltering the Homeless  
Offering Hope in Jesus' Name.*

# City Mission

2214 N. Paces Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89115  
(702) 384-1930

**Our next meeting is Monday, April 3rd.  
If your birthday falls in April, please don't forget  
to bring some goodies for the refreshment table.**



## SUNSHINE REPORT

Give them a phone call and wish them well  
**ED RUPPRECHT** is recovering from surgery  
**DORIS CURRINGTON** is under the weather  
**MARCIA RICHWINE** is recovering from surgery

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to all.

### *Honoring OUR LIFE MEMBERS*

**LUE BARTLETT  
NIDA BEESON  
ROY BEESON  
ED RUPPRECHT  
RAY SIMPSON  
BOB SMITH  
DAISY SMITH  
BRUNO SYZDEK  
PHYLLIS SYZDEK**

\* Thank You \*

### IT'S ABOUT VOLUNTEERING

Life membership is a distinguished and privileged title extended to an adult member with a minimum of ten years membership in the SNGMS, or it's preceding clubs who has held office as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, Show Chairman, or Editor and has held three committee chairs; whose nomination has been presented by an SNGMS member to the Board of Directors in a written statement of qualifications and attributes, and whose application has been approved by the Board of Directors and presented with previous notice to the membership and approved by a majority vote.

.....from our bylaws Article IX

**A TID BIT FROM LALA LAND**

Once again it was a rewarding experience to join in the company of our friends from the SNG&MS at the Quartzsite camp out. The warm camaraderie of the members is beyond value, and assures a return next year.

Frank Rowley displayed his culinary artistry preparing Epicurean delights and Carolyn Chervenak's Mexican Fiesta was savored by all. Wes Bryant's early morning indian fire and good coffee set the pace for the day.

The Quartzsite reunion is a wonderful event because of the good natured fellowship of the SNG&MS members. Thank you, one and all, see ya next year. Bob and Barbara Heim  
Yuba City, California

Old business: Silversmithing classes will start Tuesday night at the Senior Citizens building where we hold our meetings at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$2.00 a class. Frank Auerswald will be teaching the class.

Sunshine: Beth Jones had surgery on both of her knees and we wish her well.

New business: Our annual Burro Creek trip to Arizona for April is in the works and we publish a date as soon as we have one.

Teresa Bower contacted our president and said she would like to help with the web site and the newsletter.

Our president announced that the annual Awards Dinner should alternate each year between pot luck and catered. We will be having a catered affair this year and the chairperson is Nancy Tatom.

Our guest speaker called in ill, so Mary Beth Paladino, our program coordinator did a nice presentation and gave away 13 bags of gems and stones and the grand prize was a 1923 Silver dollar.

The California Federation Mineral Society ( CFMS) has raised our dues to \$7.50 a person. The board feels we need to recoup some of this money by raising our dues. A motion was made by Sandra Smith to raise the single membership dues to \$20.00 and the family membership to \$30.00 to help defray this expense. It was seconded by Diane Hale. After discussion the membership voted and motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.PM.

VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE

**WWW.SNGMS.COM**

Ideas and suggestions are welcomed  
Contact the editor or the Webmaster

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

The February meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President Jack Toogood. Present at the head table was Pat Skeary Treasurer and Charlotte Robinson Secretary, absent was Sharon Rogow Vice-President.

The Treasurers report was read by Pat Skeary. The audit for 2005 is complete and the books are closed and the new officers are on file.

Presentations that were not handed out at the awards banquet were presented by past President Dave Rogers. Larry Foutz- Newsletter Editor, David Finch – Treasurer, Patricia Grillett-Membership Chairperson and Member Of The Year, Patricia Grillett.

We still need some chair people. We need a Field Trip Chairman, a Refreshment Chairman, and a Librarian.

Pebble Pups: Mary Beth Paladino announced the Pebble Pups will be going to Home Depot this weekend for a field trip and to earn a badge on anything rock or mineral related. 150 school children sent thank you notes for the little bags full of stones and gems.

Frank Auerswald reported he has contacted several people concerning workshop space. Jack Toogood has been in contact with a prospective landlord about renting a space and will be meeting with him soon. *continued*

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**Express yourself; submit your story, article, or letter for publication in the newsletter. What ever you would like to write about will be published as space permits. Work must be signed and credits listed for reprints.**

**WELCOME  
TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

Michael Hardison	Ruth Holmstrom
Meredith Stow	Fred Stow
Kathy Spilsbury	Lisa Tyndall
Rita VanDerBunt	Brenda Linder
Ken Linder	Brianna Linder
Loretta Stuchowski	Ashley Summers
Floyd Womble	Irene Womble
Bob Lofaro	Sue Lofaro
Toney Sweeney	Lorna Metz
Lynn Daybell	Ann Pollick
Howard Abrams	Leigh Abrams
Melinda Cohen	Paula Newman
Paul Coroneos	Virginia Johnson
Ken Johnson	Erica Hamilton
Laura Isenmann	

**...AND RETURNING MEMBERS**

Carolyn Chevenak	George Edwards
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**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Larry Foutz	Stephen Parker
Rick Kasky	Richard Antonick
Sharon Francia	Jeff Harper
Jackie May	Russ McNaught
Amy Scott	Harold Sherrod Jr
Kevin Shutt	Robert Skulsky

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM SNGMS !**

**PALEO BILL**

For anyone wondering whatever happened to the latest bill to further limit our use of Public Lands; it has not been defeated. The bill was passed in the U.S. Senate and has been tabled in the House Of Representatives. Officially it is known as the Paleontological Resource Protection Act of 2005. If passed, it would be illegal for private citizens to own, collect or sell fossils collected on Public Lands. Only museums would be able to own any fossils from Public Lands. These could only be collected by professional paleontologists and researchers. That would include that nice shark's tooth you own or that great piece of petrified wood you found. How would you prove they were collected legally? Okay, so you aren't into fossils; this could still pave the way for even more legislation to regulate our hobby to include certain minerals or gems. What can we do? Write, call or e-mail your Congressman and let him know you are opposed to this bill. This is similar to the "Baucus Bill" that was defeated several years ago by rockhounds across the country. We can make a difference again, but only if we speak up on this issue. Do it now!

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\*\*\*\*\*  
**DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE !** There are still a few people that have not yet renewed their memberships. Write that check today and get it in the mail !  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**BEADS & THINGS**



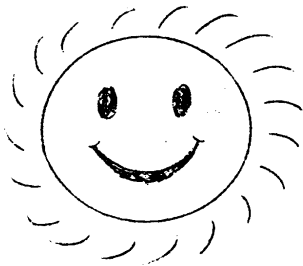
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**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS  
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OF PRODUCING THIS NEWSLETTER**

**SECOND TIME AROUND**, our past .....reprint from the Mar 1984 issue of the Polished Slab  
 Courtesy of Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek ; Our Club Historians



## SUNSHINE REPORT

MIKE STAPLETON, one of our Field Trip Chairmen, has been ill since December 12th. Mike tells it like this -- On that day, Mike was at Sam's Town Casino and Lady Luck was with him to the tune of \$1000! The shock was too much for him -- it upset his equilibrium, causing an old surgery to flare up -- He again underwent surgery on the same 'ol problem and made a fine recovery.

So -- February 23rd, Mike made the trip to Hackberry Wash to the old Miocene Fossil Beds. Could it be to visit his ol' cronies?

HOWARD PILLMAN has been transferred from Valley Hospital to the PETTIS Memorial Hospital (V.A.) in Loma Linda, California. His problem is emphysema -- a long-standing condition. Just before he left, he said that when he returns, he plans to start going on Field Trips again -- let's hope it's soon, and we'll see you out Rockhounding!

GWEN CURTIIS surprised us all -- a HEART condition that bears close watching. Take it a bit easy, Gwen -- all your children up on the mountain and your good friends, need you and wish you well.

SUNSHINE LADY -

*Ann Spector*

ANN SPECTOR

*She's A WINNER!;*

At the COIN SHOW held at the SAHARA HOTEL on March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, LA RAE BRINGHURST won a first prize award for her ancient Roman coins display. A coin collector for 40 years (started when she was a mere baby), LaRae arrived a "tad" late for the Awards Luncheon on Saturday to hear, "I just announced you!" Her "WHAT?" was answered with "You won FIRST PLACE in the Foreign Coins category". LaRae didn't know whether to yell or faint!

LaRae's 3 winning coins were "FAUSTINAS" -- 2 pictured "Faustina, The Elder" - wife of Emperor Antonianus Pius - the other was of "Faustina, The Younger" - wife of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. LaRae's other coins were an AS (big bronze), Denarius and Dupondis. Her prize was a beautiful clock (lucite) decorated with coins around the edge. (Of course, what else would be appropriate for a coin collector?!)

*Congratulations,  
 LaRae!*

*A  
 Baby Girl!  
 9 pounds -  
 11 ounces.  
 20 1/2 inches  
 Born on  
 February 17  
 "Lora Elaine"  
 Congratulations,  
 Linda & Walt Lombardo*



**SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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BIRTHDAYS \_\_\_\_\_ (MONTH & DAY)

INTERESTS  Mineralogy  Lapidary  Field Trips  Geology  Beads  Silversmithing

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES ARE: ADULTS \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \$30 \_\_\_\_\_**

MAIL IN OR TURN IN AT THE MEETING

**2006 Officers - Board of Directors - Committee Chairpersons**

Elected Officer	Name	Phone
<b>President</b>	Jack Toogood	222-1946
<b>Vice president</b>	Sharon Rogow	656-1144
<b>Secretary</b>	Charlotte Robinson	658-1120
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pat Skeary	459-2649
<b>One Year Board</b>	Frank Auerswald	365-8306
<b>Volunteer Chairpersons</b>		
<b>Parliamentarian /Sgt at Arms</b>	Craig Edmonds	838-0012
<b>Editor</b>	Jack Toogood	222-1946
<b>Webmaster</b>	Theresa Bower	837-0522
<b>Website Liason</b>	Carolyn Edmonds	838-0012
<b>Federation Director</b>	Carolyn Chervenak	274-2867
<b>Show Chairman</b>	Sharon Rogow	656-1144
<b>Hospitality</b>	Carolyn Chervenak	274-2867
<b>Historian</b>	Bruno & Phylis Syzdek	876-3861
<b>Librarian</b>	(pending)	
<b>Awards Dinner</b>	Nancy Tatom	

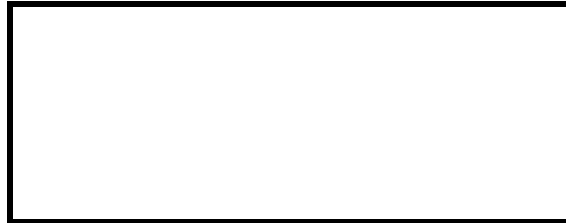
Elected Officer	Name	Phone
<b>One Year Board</b>	David Rogers	260-6344
<b>Two Year Board</b>	Tom Skeary	459-2649
<b>Three Year Board</b>	Larry Foutz	896-7757
<b>Field Trip Chair</b>	OPEN	
<b>Volunteer Chairpersons</b>		
<b>Refreshments</b>	Melinda Cohen & Paula Newman	
<b>Door Prizes</b>	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
<b>Inventory</b>		
<b>Sunshine</b>	Charlotte Robinson	
<b>Publicity</b>	Erica Hamilton	364-1400
<b>Program Director</b>	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
<b>Class Coordinator</b>	Frank Auerswald	
<b>Shop Foreman</b>	Carl Fields	
<b>Shop Foreman</b>	Wes Bryant	
<b>Shop Foreman</b>		

**Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society P.O. Box 94744 Las Vegas, NV 89193  
website [www.sngms.com](http://www.sngms.com) E-mail: [sngmsweb@netscape.net](mailto:sngmsweb@netscape.net)**

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**HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY**

**THE POLISHED SLAB**

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. We are incorporated for the purpose of promoting an interest in Geology, Gemology, the Lapidary arts and related fields. We began in Las Vegas in 1932, and became the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society in 2003 with the merger of the Las Vegas Gem Club and the Clark County Gem Collectors. The first Polished Slab was published in 1940 by Paul Mercer.

**Club Gemstone: Turquoise      Club Colors: Turquoise & Silver**  
**Club Logo: Faceted stone      Club Motto: Rocks-R Us**

**Membership is open to anyone with an interest in; Rocks, Gems, Geology, Lapidary, Beads, Fossils, or Silversmithing**

**Annual Dues - Individual: \$ 20.00    Family: \$ 30.00**  
**Club Name Badges available at \$ 10.00 each**

**Meetings: 7:00 PM the first Monday of the month at the Senior Center at 451 Bonanza just west of Las Vegas Blvd. Downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. 702-229-6454 for location info. No meeting is held in December - Annual awards dinner.**

**Visitors are always welcome - Bring a friend or two.**

Polished Slab Advertising Rates		
Ad Size	Six Months	Yearly
2" x 3.5" Business Card	\$ 18	\$ 30
4.25" x 5.5" Quarter Page	\$ 48	\$ 90
5.5" x 8" Half Page	\$ 90	\$ 170
11" x 8" Full Page	\$ 150	\$ 275

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