



# THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



August 2018

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 78 Issue 8

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 2nd - Board Mtg  
Aug 6th - General Mtg  
Sep 6th - Board Mtg  
Sep 10th - 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:

Looking forward to cooler weather for our trips out for minerals. Del and Bruce went to the Fallon, Nevada area last month scouting for sites for a club outing. They collected blue agate, opal, Dead Camel jasper and a few other minerals. There are RV hookups in town and plenty of good places close to town for dry camping. We will be talking about this later on as the weather cools down. If you are interest in going up there let Del or myself know. There are a lot of super minerals in that area with-in 20 miles of Fallon. Del and Bruce also have samples from the trip. This is the month for the Kids going back to school. Be extras careful and watch for the children crossing or running out into the streets.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Monday night's meeting. We have a lot to talk about, so make sure to be there. We also have a special guess speaker from the Quartzsite Arizona Rock Club.

Sheri, Chopper and Bill Kogan are back from the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention in South Dakota. Sound like it was a great trip. Chopper has some really nice rocks to show off. He was given a bunch for our Kids Club from a South Dakota club member. A really nice gesture.

A lot of good things are going on at the shop. We have another new trim saw. The older trim saw is up for bids so come and see it at the shop. We have people working every day to improve the shop and keep it clean. Also next week there will be some electrical work being done at the shop . We are working every day to make the shop a better place to work.

Remember safety glasses are **Mandatory** while using the shop equipment. We have some glasses at the shop for \$4.00 or you can get them at your store of choice. Be safe, it's better than losing a eye.

**Stay safe.**  
**Bob Belcher,**  
**President SNGMS**  
**August 2018**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Shop Talk	3
General Meeting	5
Field Trips	2
Kids Club	6
Education Activities	6
SNGMS Meeting dates & Directions to	6
Classes	8
Shop Information	9
Birthday, New Members and	10
Upcoming Events	11



## Field Trips

At this time there are no scheduled field trip for August or September

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.

March 6-11, 2019: Burro Creek, AZ Field Trip. Camp grounds being reserved.

**Birthstones for the Month of August are Spinel and Peridot:** **Spinel** ( $MgAl_2O_4$ ) crystallizes in the isometric system; common crystal forms are octahedra, usually twinned. It's hardness is 8. It is transparent to opaque with a vitreous to dull luster. It may be colorless, but is usually various shades of pink, rose, red, blue, green, yellow, brown, black. Some spinels are among the most famous gemstones; among them are the Black Prince's Ruby and the "Timur ruby" in the British Crown Jewels, and the "Côte de Bretagne", formerly from the French Crown jewels. The Samarian Spinel is the largest known spinel in the world, weighing 500 carats (100 g). Spinel symbolizes purposefulness and has a calming effect on all kinds of inflammations. **Peridot** is gem-quality olivine, which is a silicate mineral with the formula of  $(Mg, Fe)_2SiO_4$ . As peridot is the magnesium-rich variety of olivine the formula approaches  $Mg_2SiO_4$ . Peridot is one of the few gemstones that occur in only one color: an olive-green. Peridot (Olivine) symbolizes cheerfulness and promotes friendship.



## SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 8/2/18

On August 2nd, 2018, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 5:47 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the June 28th, 2018, meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported balances and announced a net loss for the month. A sum was moved from the cash account to the checking account to cover purchases of items for the shop. The Personal Property report was filed with Clark County. The issue with the Ore Car claim was explained as the claim papers said Lincoln County. It has been corrected to Clark County and the fee was paid for this year.

Shop Report: Oil will be ordered this month for the shop. A new trim saw, saw blades, and a motor for 'D' saw are on order. The old trim saw will be placed on silent auction in the shop.

Membership reports 399 adult and 46 child members. Lapel pins were picked up and the design for the Board Officer hanger was shown.

### **New Business:**

More tri-folds are needed. Sheri Johnson will order an additional 500. We are receiving a proposal from the Eagles to prepare turkey and ham for the Awards Banquet.

The Awards Banquet date will be moved to December 16<sup>th</sup>, to avoid the craft sale at the Eagles parking lot.

March 6-11, 2019 will be the Burro Creek campout. Bill Moore will make the reservation.

### **Old Business:**

Bob Belcher presented two bids for the desired shop electrical work. John Stackhouse proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw, and approved by the Board, that "the bid from B & M Inspectors, LLC for \$400 estimate be accepted."

Certification is in progress for use of shop equipment.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

## **Shop Talk : Brad's Bench Tips**

### **SAWING SMALL TUBING:**

When making a hinged bracelet, I needed to cut 16 pieces of small diameter silver tubing. These were to be just approximate lengths and trimmed to final size after soldering. Not having a tube cutter, I had trouble holding the tubing on the bench pin while trying to saw through it.

So here's what I did. I drilled a hole in the side of the bench pin just large enough for the tubing to slide into and almost as deep as the length of cut tubing I wanted. Sawing became quick and easy. With my free hand, I inserted the tubing and held it from rotating while sawing off each length.



([www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com))

(Continued On Page 7)

*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!

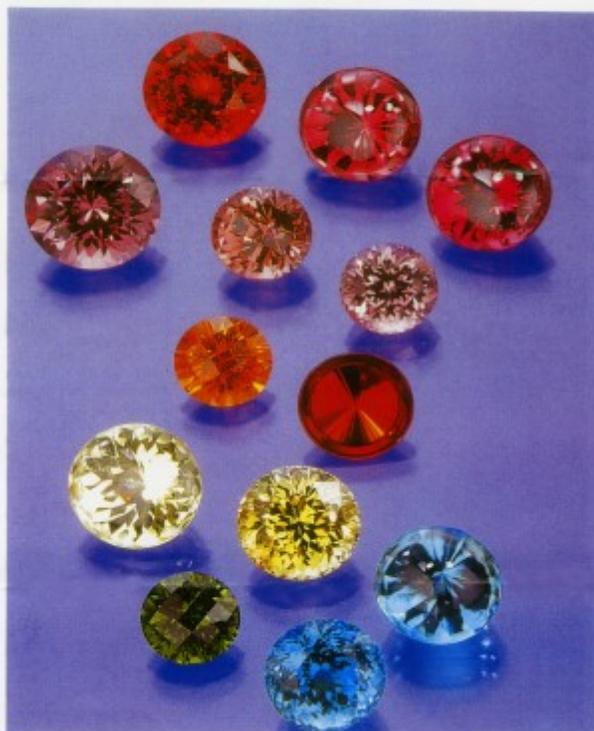


**Just A Hobby**  
 Jewelry Gemstones  
 App Only  
 Henderson  
 727-542-3144

**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 8/6/18**

On August 6th, 2018, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:04 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the July 2nd, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported balances and announced a net loss for the month. A sum was moved from the cash account to the checking account to cover purchases of items for the shop.

**Committee Reports:**

Shop: Safety glasses are now mandatory when using any equipment in the shop, and when in the saw room. There are some available for sale in the shop. The new trim saw has been installed. Electrical work will be done in the shop to add additional capacity. The replaced trim saw will be on silent auction this month. Saturday, August 25th at noon the bidding will be closed.

Del Walkenshaw and Bruce Martin went on a trip to scout the Fallon area for possible future club trips. They found wonderstone, dead camel jasper and additional materials.

Sunshine: Ron Johnson's mother passed away. Bill Kogan had a heart attack but was at the meeting. Bill Wertz is having issues with skin cancer. Remember to use a hat and sunscreen when out collecting.

Show Committee/Federation: Sheri reported that slabs cut by Del Walkenshaw and Bruce Martin were distributed at the Federation meeting and were very happily received. The next gem show details are being worked out. On Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM Jody Brewster, the AZ/NV State Rep for RMFMS will present a special class in constructing gemstone trees.

Classes: see emails for class updates. If you are enrolled in a class please let the instructor know if you will not be able to attend.

**Old Business:**

Lifetime membership nominations need to be submitted to the Board by the September 6th Board Meeting.

The Awards Banquet will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> not the 9<sup>th</sup> as previously announced. Wayne Muth is working on details.

**New Business:**

Cab contest winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Del Walkenshaw, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Bruce Martin

Nomination time is approaching. Cindy Allison will be talking to membership about Board Member nominations.

Bill Moore proposed, seconded by Barbara Belcher "that the meeting be adjourned." Meeting adjourned at 7:45 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	Oct 04 Board
Apr 05 General	08 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**

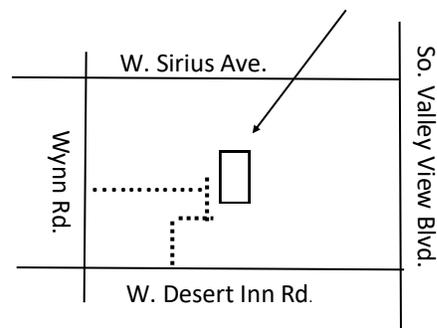
1st Monday of every month (2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

**Non-members welcome!**

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

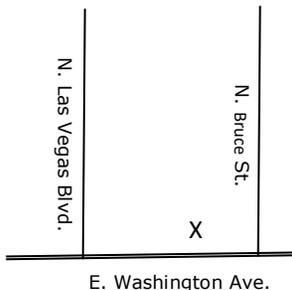
Show & Sell 5-6 PM  
General Meeting 6-8 PM

**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*

**Walnut Rec Center, Las Vegas**

One of the goals of SNGMS is to share our knowledge of geology and lapidary arts with our community. Recently, I had the chance to teach children from the Walnut Rec Center in Las Vegas about gemstones. We went over the four C's of gemstones (cut, clarity, color, and carat), birthstones, legends of the diamond, the Mohs hardness scale and much more. Ernie, owner of Discount Beads provided amethyst clusters for each of the kids. One child wanted to buy a Lamborghini with his amethyst. After the presentation we made paper crowns with artificial gemstones. One little boy proclaimed, "I'm the king of the world." We had a regal ending to the day.'

Mary Beth Paladino  
Education and Kids Club Coordinator



## **Shop Talk : Brad's Bench Tips** (continued from pg 3)

### SECRET INGREDIENT :

Those of us who use paste solders sometimes find an old tube has dried out. There should be some way to recondition it, but what to use? Calling tech support at the suppliers didn't work for me. Either they don't know what the ingredient is or won't tell you the secret.

None of us likes to waste an expensive material, especially at \$16 - 20 a tube, so I've often experimented with ways to rejuvenate it. Mixing in a liquid flux doesn't work. When the liquid starts to boil off, it spatters the solder in all directions.

But after several failed experiments I finally found a way that does work. My secret ingredient is vaseline petroleum jelly. Mix in just enough to restore the consistency to something that's usable. If you use too much, the lump of solder will flow over a wide area as soon as the torch starts heating it.

If your solder is in a syringe, it can be a little difficult to get the plunger out. I find the easiest way is to poke a hole through the solder from the tip to the rubber plunger (a bur shaft was the right size for my tube). The hole allows air to enter between the solder and the plunger, allowing the plunger to be slowly withdrawn. Once the solder is out of tube, you can easily add the Vaseline, mix it up, and spoon it back into the syringe.



Pick Up a Few New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books

<http://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](mailto: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.

**Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM:** Jody Brewster, the AZ/NV State Rep for RMFMS will present a special class in constructing gemstone trees at the shop.

*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](mailto:Punkyjones@hotmail.com)*

*(please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)*

Bob and Barbara Belcher had their 56th Anniversary on July 28, been together since 1962! Congratulations on a wonderful life together!

Bill Kogan is doing better after having a HEART Attack! So glad he was able to attend the meeting this month.

Ron Johnson had lost his mother on July 20th. We are so sorry for his lost.

Rita Bergeron was able to attend the meeting after the fall and broken leg.

Jenna Plein also fell and broke her ankle. This after her breaking her finger! We have to ask her not to break anything else!

Bill Wertz is having some issues with skin cancer that require skin grafts. We send our prayers to him.



# SHOP INFORMATION

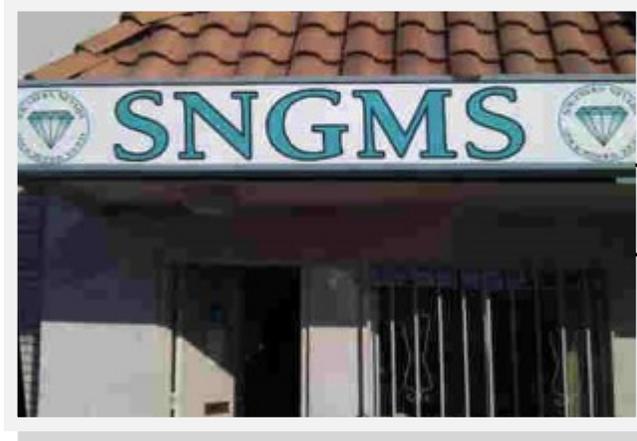
## “New” SNGMS Workshop Schedule

### 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:

September	The Cosmos
October	Halloween
November	Holiday
December	None Awards Dinner

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

**Good Luck. August’s “ Sea Scape” Winners are:**

**1st Place: Del Walkenshaw**



**2nd Place: Bruce Martin**



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!

## August

Masha Azari, Joel Bakies, Linda Ball, Barry Brooks, Maddie Callaway, Robert Catalfamo, Karim Dad, Joseph Edwards, Ivan Erwin, Mundana Ess-Haghabadi, Hopkins Fitzpatrick, Adam Q. Fink, Richard Frie, Virgil Garcia, Jaxson Greene, Kathleen Greene, James Groesbeck, Melanie Guzman, Tracy Howard, Paul Kapsar, Kryztal Kaztie, Yangping Ma, Priscilla Messenger, Robert Miller, Kevin Mills, Michelle Muniz, Nina Persaud, Gary Powell, Mary Savage, Joann Sprott, Jordan Sumner, Bruno Syzdek, Phyllis Syzdek, Paul Troves, Mary Ann Wagner, Jennings Welsh, Joyce Wertz, William Wertz, Steve Wilson.

## September

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

Carmelita Angulo, Jennifer Bassols, Harvey Bergeron, Scott Blair Jr., Theresa Callaway, Linda Davey, Terry Davis, Diana Deck, Annette Dude, Anthony Earle, Billie Fecher, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Walter Ganir, Jeffery M. Goldsberry, Kim Haas, Dominique Johnson, Susan Kuckelmann, Jerry Kuykendall, David Landry, Jessica Lash, Merrily Li, Sue Lofaro, Phillip Luchetta, Maurice Margo, Aiden Martinez, Zayden Martinez, Kim Mills, Rimma Muth, Ron O'Brien, Scott Pelka, Amber Penick, Mark Pruter, Michael Rawlins, Anthony Rivas, Judith Ross, Ann Runion, Mick Sprott, John Stackhouse, Tyra Tripp, Steve Turner, Sharon Webb, Webster Welsh.

# Welcome New Members!

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

Nathaniel Albrecht, Florence Awuah, Meshach Banks, Jenifer Dearing, Ron Dearing, Tiana Elliott, Amanda Ferguson, Aspen Greene, Brenden Green, Jason Greene, Jaxson Greene, John Jurasevich, Robert Madow, Angie Moore, Thomas Moore, Vida Moore, Melvin Nishiuchi, Marina Pitina, Kay Scheel, Dan B. Jr. Toney, Edith Welch, George Welch.

**2018 Board of Directors**

President: Bob Belcher [bbecccher75@gmail.com](mailto:bbeccher75@gmail.com)  
 702 210-9612  
 Vice-President: Beth Jones [punkyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:punkyjones@hotmail.com)  
 Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse 702 239-0437  
 Treasurer: Bill Moore [SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com)  
 Parliamentarian: Scott Edwards 702 561-3086  
 One Year Board Remaining: John Stackhouse  
 Two Year Board Remaining: Jason Fabbi  
[jhfstones@yahoo.com](mailto:jhfstones@yahoo.com)  
 Three Year Board: Del Walkenshaw  
[desertartsupply@aol.com](mailto: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.*

**Some links that you may find helpful:**

**American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-**  
<http://www.amfed.org>

**California Federation -**  
<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

**September 7-15 Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show :**  
[www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com](http://www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com)

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

**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](mailto:desertartsupply@aol.com)  
 By Laws.....Scott Edwards 702 561-3086  
 Communications.....Del Walkenshaw [sngmsnews@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:grandmadeb10@gmail.com)  
 Inventory.....Frank Timbers [ftimbers@centurylink.net](mailto: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](mailto: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>	<b>\$18</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<i>Quarter Page</i>	<b>\$48</b>	<b>\$90</b>
<i>Half Page</i>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$170</b>
<i>Full Page</i>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$275</b>