



April 2024

THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



VOLUME 84 ISSUE 4

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 2, 2024 - Board Mtg
May 6, 2024 – Genl Mtg

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Thank you Elizabeth and Richard Nelson for volunteering to oversee refreshment donations at SNGMS monthly meetings!

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Hi Everyone!

April Fool's Day was our last meeting and surprise! - there were no shenanigans! Just a good time had by all.

The rockhounding trips are full within days this time of year. We have quite a few ongoing right now so remember to check your emails daily if you missed a spot on a trip that you were interested in.

We have some new and exciting classes too. And lots of activities with the Kids' Club. And let's not forget the Rock Swap at the Shop on Sunday, April 14. Select some rocks from your stash that you'd like to trade and bring them. Then, watch for Wayne Muth's email about what food to bring and what he'll be serving up! A potluck and rock swap together – FUN!

We are still seeking a chairman for our media and online presence as well as Facebook. If this is your skill, and you'd like to donate a little time, remember this position will lead those already doing most of the work. You can tailor any meetings to fit your schedule or maybe you'll do everything online? It's up to you. Please contact me if you are interested.

Orville Wiemers has positive news about the Boulder City Spring Jamboree event. We are already sold out and in a profit zone and the show is still a month way! Vendor applications for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks show should go out this week. By the way, I am the Volunteer Coordinator for both shows and I'll be contacting you to put you on the schedule at a convenient time. Please consider taking a shift.

If you missed the April 2024 meeting, Dave Ford, Orville Weimers, and I successfully negotiated a raise of only 38% in our rent (the landlord had asked for 50%). We also got free rent for April 2024, and an annual increase of only 4%. We declined to raise costs to our members to cover the new rate, and our two shows will help raise funds to cover increased rent and rising lapidary shop expenses. Thanks for supporting the shows and the shop!

I'll see you in the rocks!

Andrea Packo
SNGMS President
SNGMSPresident@gmail.com

Meeting Sign-In Greeter(s) Needed

One or more people to take turns/shifts from 5-6 pm at our monthly meetings are needed to:

- 1) sign in members, guests, and visitors
- 2) pass out tickets for door prizes and cabochon contest votes

Contact Andrea Packo to volunteer
(SNGMSPresident@gmail.com
Or 702-279-7679)



2024 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Amethyst Pay to Dig, \$25/person	April 5, 6, 12, 13, 26, 27	Purple Blessings Mine, CA ⁴
Earth Day Micro Fest	April 13, 2024, 2:00-4:00 pm	Sandy Valley Senior Center, 690 Quartz Avenue, Sandy Valley, NV
SNGMS Rock Swap and BBQ ²	April 14, 2024, noon – 3 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Turquoise and Variscite Pay to Dig, \$100/person/day	April 14, 2024 Broken Arrow Mine April 15, 2024 Easter Blue or Jack Black Mine	Tonopah, NV ⁵
Stalactite/Stalagmite Calcite	April 20 - 21, 2024	Kokoweef, CA
Fluorite Pay to Dig, \$200 for 150 lb ³	May 25 – 27, 2024	Austin, NV ³
Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies Show	October 2024	Oklahoma City, OK
Marine Fossils Pay to Dig	To Be Scheduled	Ernst Quarry, Kern County, CA

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com)
- 2) Please bring a side dish to share. Burgers provided.
- 3) Email Jonathan Tredwell to reserve your spot and your preferred days (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com)
- 4) Contact William or George 702-881-3865 or email purpleblessingsmine@gmail.com **AND** cc: sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com.
- 5) Contact Del Walkenshaw 702-451-8040 ext 4, desertartsupply@aol.com

Some links with information you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies – www.amfed.org/whatsnew.htm
 Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies – www.rmfm.org
 Rock & Gem Magazine website – www.rockngem.com



Joshua Tree GEM & MINERAL SHOW

IN OUR NEW LOCATION
 JOSHUA TREE LAKE RV & CAMPGROUND
 2601 SUNFAIR ROAD, JOSHUA TREE

APRIL 24 - 28
 WEDS. - SAT. 9 to 5
 SUNDAY 9 to 4

LOTS OF VENDORS
 SELLING ITEMS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.
 COME ONE & ALL FOR A DAY OR WEEKEND
 DISCOVERING THE EARTH'S AMAZING
 WONDERS!

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING FOR ALL

Categories: Rocks, Fossils, Gemstones, Slabs, Equipment, Cabochons, Crystals, Spheres, Jewelry

Find us on facebook



SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW First Weekend in May
 BOULDER CITY, NV

FREE ADMISSION
 Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 9am - 4pm

Rock and Mineral Displays
 Gems, Jewelry & Crafts Sale
 Great Activities For Kids
 Dinosaur Pics & Selfies
 Geode Cutting

First Weekend in May

900 Arizona Street, Boulder City, NV
 Inside the Parks & Recreation Gymnasium
 sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com



SECOND ANNUAL TONOPAH NEVADA ROCK & BOTTLE SHOW

JULY 19TH, 20TH & 21ST 2024

Vendors please contact Chrissy Page, Tourism & Events Coordinator Town of Tonopah at 775-277-8804 or email: chrissy.townoftonopah@gmail.com

To view a full list of vendors please visit TONOPAHNEVADA.COM/TONOPAH-ROCK

THIS EVENT IS HOSTED BY THE TOWN OF TONOPAH

Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed

Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)

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Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 4/1/2024

On April 1st 2024, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Eagle's Lodge at 4:03 PM by the President. All Board members except the Two Year Board and Parliamentarian were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 29th 2024 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Dave Ford reported the checking account balance is \$23,244 with the \$4,033 decrease due to advance expenditures for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show. The investments balance is \$124,115.

Lapidary Shop Report: All equipment is up and running. The Board discussed possible excessive wear on wheels and ways to monitor it.

Unfinished Business: Andrea Packo reports that the shop lease was renewed for a 5 year term. After negotiations the terms are 38% increase from the previous rent, with a 4% yearly increase and one free month.

Shows: Orville Wiemers reported on the Boulder City, NV Spring Jamboree Show and the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show: Jamboree Show – all inside booths are sold and there will be outside booths. Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show – the floor plan is complete and the contract with Santa Fe Station has been finalized.

There will be a Rock Swap at the Shop on April 14th..

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 PM.

SNGMS SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR NEEDED

SNGMS has several volunteers who post on a variety of social media platforms. We need someone to lead and coordinate our social media campaigns.

If you can help, contact Andrea Packo sngmspresident@gmail.com 702-279-7679

Meeting Sign-In Greeter(s) Needed

One or more people to take turns/shifts from 5-6 pm at our monthly meetings are needed to:

- 1) sign in members, guests, and visitors
- 2) pass out tickets for door prizes and cabochon contest votes

Contact Andrea Packo to volunteer (SNGMSPresident@gmail.com or 702-279-7679)



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 4/1/2024

On April 1st, 2024, the regular 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 March 4th, 2024 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: The checking balance as of end of March was \$23,244 with the \$4,033 decrease due to advance expenditures for the Viva Show. The Investments balance was \$124,115. An internal audit was conducted as required by SNGMS Bylaws, with a couple of discrepancies noted.

Membership Report: Claudia Crouse reports that the membership is 499 adults and 76 kids.

Lapidary Shop Report: "Chops" Wenzl reported that equipment is up and running. Thanks to all the Shop volunteers, and more volunteers are needed.

Sunshine Report: Mary Beth Paladino shared news from the membership. The Sunshine report is available in the Polished Slab.

Kids Club Report: Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities, thanking all who have helped (especially the Egg Hunt help) and donated. Special thanks to Cliff Jackson who talked about fluorescent minerals and presented specimens to the kids. There will be a field trip to the Ice Age Fossil State Park this month, no meeting in May due to Mother's Day, and the next meeting at the Shop will be June 9th.

Cabochon Contest: The Cab Contest theme for April 2024 was Storm Clouds. First place tied between Lloyd Chayette and Bruce Martin. Second place was Ron Mazz. The May 2024 cabochon contest theme will be Blue Skies.

Shows: Orville Wiemers reported on the Boulder City, NV Spring Jamboree Show and the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show. Jamboree Show – all inside booths are sold, and there will be outside booths. The volunteer schedule is ready so, contact Andrea Packo to schedule your time. Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show – the floor plan is complete and the contract with Santa Fe Station has been finalized. There will be 64 booths and we have 78 potential vendors. Promotional materials are available for the shows for members to distribute.

New Business: Jonathan Tredwell discussed upcoming Field Trips. See The Polished Slab newsletter and emails for details.

President, Andrea Packo reports that the shop lease was renewed for a 5 year term. After negotiations the terms are a 38% increase from the previous rent, with a 4% yearly increase and one month of free rent.

Volunteers are needed for Publicity & Media Chairmanship, and for Facebook. Thanks to Richard and Elizabeth Nelson for taking the Refreshment Chair position.

A Rock Swap and BarBQue is scheduled for April 14, 2024 at the Lapidary Shop.

Classes were discussed. See The Polished Slab newsletter and emails for details. There will be a special gem identification class on April 20th, 2024 at Desert Art Supplies in Henderson, NV. The class is full but contact Del Walkenshaw for a wait list (desertartsupply@aol.com or 702-279-2298). If there is enough interest a second class may be scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.



Sunshine Report



from Mary Beth Paladino

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 contact Mary Beth Paladino at 702-255-1647.

It's been a tough month! Dave Ford and Peggy Sue Moore were ill. Marilyn McDougal and Kay Scheel had some neurological issues. Lorri Syddall is ill. Wendy Dresser's husband continues to have health problems. Amber Palecek's mother has been ill. There was a death in Diane Hale's family. Harvey and Rita Bergeron are feeling better. Beth Jones' shoulder is recovering. Jim Jones is ill.

Rock Spotlight: Diorite

Excerpted from

<https://geologyscience.com/rocks/igneous-rocks/diorite>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diorite>

Diorite is a coarse-grained igneous rock that forms deep beneath the Earth's surface when magma cools and solidifies. Diorite's name comes from the Greek words "dios" meaning "belonging to the gods" and "rite," which translates to "rock." This name reflects the rock's use in ancient sculpture and architecture. It is a pretty and durable rock.

Diorite is speckled due to the interlocking arrangement of its mineral grains. It typically has a medium to coarse grain size, which indicates the rock cooled slowly beneath the Earth's surface. Slower cooling allows bigger mineral crystals to form. Diorite's color ranges from light to dark gray.



The main minerals found in diorite are plagioclase feldspar and hornblende. Other minerals, such as biotite mica and quartz, may also be present in smaller amounts.

Throughout history, diorite has been used to create monuments, statues, and sculptures. It can be intricately carved,

and it resists weathering, so works of art made from diorite stand the test of time. Diorite's hardness and durability make it suitable for use in building construction. It is often cut into blocks and used as a building stone for walls, facades, and floors. With its attractive patterns and colors, diorite can be polished and used in jewelry.

Diorite from the Santa Fe Mining District in Mineral County, NV

www.flickr.com/photos/shutterstone/5415370185



Diorite Statue from Mesopotamia, about 2135 BCE

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=54528>

DIG WITH US!
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booking@
tredstoneshop.com

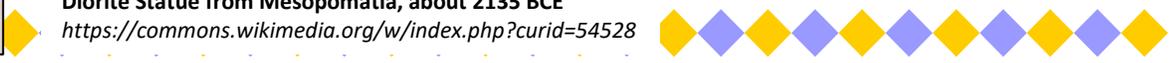
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Gems, Minerals, and Artistry

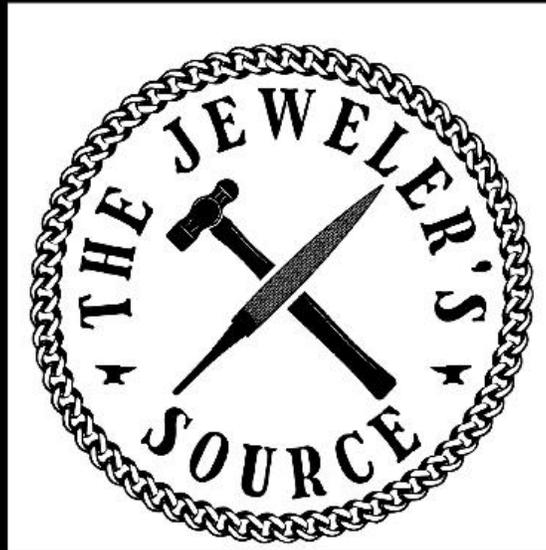






REGISTER HERE





Members Receive 5% Off

- **JEWELRY SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT**
- **JEWELRY FINDINGS & METALS**
- **LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**
- **JEWELRY WORKSHOPS**

7022 West Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89117

702-745-1127

thejewelerssource@gmail.com

IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and Lapidary Shop Hours

SNGMS 2024 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting ¹	General Meeting ²	Kids Club Meeting ⁴
May 6	May 6	See page 11
Jun. 3	Jun. 3	
Jul. 1	Jul. 1	
Aug. 5	Aug. 5	
Sep. 9	Sep. 9	
Oct. 7	Oct. 7	
Nov. 4	Nov. 4	
Dec. 5	Dec. – no general mtg, Awards Banquet	

- 1) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge at 4 pm, before the general meeting
- 2) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge 1st Monday of the month, unless there’s a holiday, open to the public. Show & Sell 5-6 pm, meeting 6-8 pm
- 3) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary Shop, membership required, meeting starts at 6:30 pm
- 4) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary Shop with exception of some field trips, membership required

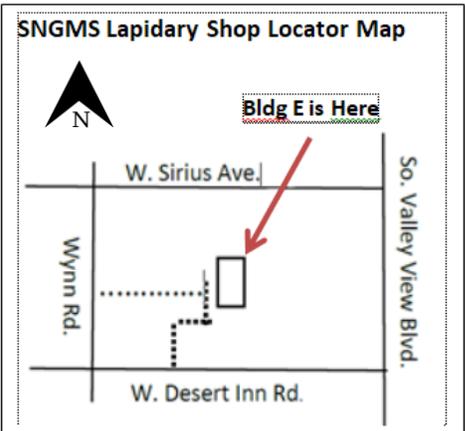
Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop is located at:
 3111 South Valley View Blvd,
 Building E Shop Suite 125
 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the SNGMS Lapidary 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.

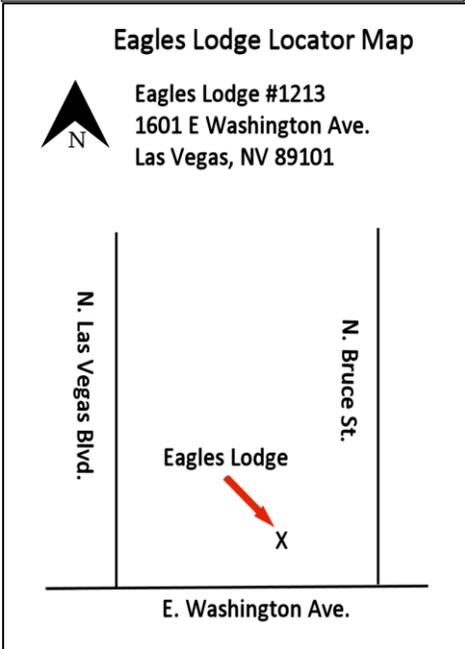
SNGMS LAPIDARY SHOP HOURS*

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 Mtg: Various Thursday 6-7 pm
 *Check Email and “Polished Slab” for possible date changes.



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.



Location of the Eagles’ Lodge

The Eagles’ Lodge is located at:
 1601 E Washington Ave.
 Las Vegas, NV 89101

Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed
 Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)



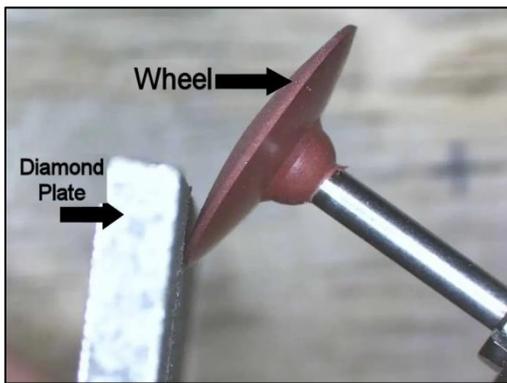
Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks
Dressing A Silicone Rubber Wheel For Jewelry Making

Silicone rubber wheels can be used with a flexshaft or Dremel rotary tool to polish gemstones, glass, bone, porcelain, and metal jewelry.

For the most effective use, wheels need to be dressed regularly so they keep their shape.

Dressing a wheel:

- Removes clogged grit
- Ensures the wheel maintains a sharp edge
- Can be done at any time during the lifespan of a wheel.
- Should be done when the wheel has become worn or dirty.



Restoring the Knife Edge on a Rubber Wheel
<https://lucywalkerjewellery.com/blog/jewellers-tools-modification-tips-and-tricks/>

A knife-edge rubber wheel works best when it really is a knife edge, and a flat wheel works best when it has that perfectly flat edge. So, if you find your silicone rubber wheel edges are rounding and losing crisp definition, use a diamond plate, or a sandpaper stick, to return them to their original shape.

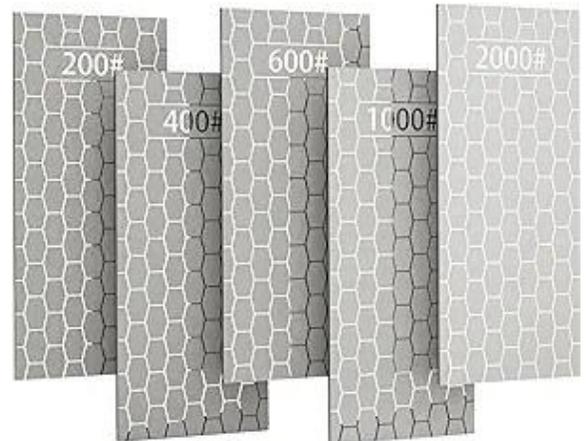
Load the wheel into your flexshaft, Dremel, or other rotary tool. Turn on the flexshaft or the Dremel so the wheel starts rotating. Hold the wheel so it touches a diamond plate or a sanding stick at the correct angle - a 90 degree angle for a flat wheel, or a 45 degree angle for a knife edge. Hold the wheel against the abrasive for a few seconds to get a flat edge or a knife edge. You can buy cheap diamond plates from Temu or Amazon designed for sharpening knives that are fine for dressing wheels.



**DIY Sanding Stick Made from a Paint Stirrer,
Sandpaper, and Tape**

You can make sanding sticks by wrapping sandpaper around a wooden paint stirrer and taping the top and bottom edges of the sand paper to the stirrer. You can tear off strips of the sandpaper as it wears out to

expose clean sandpaper. Write the grit on the bottom of the stick with a felt-tip



**Diamond Plates for Sharpening Knives
Can Be Used to Dress Rubber Wheels**

Silicone rubber wheels should be stored away from sunlight at room temperature to help prolong their lifetimes.

SNMGMS SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR NEEDED

SNMGMS has several volunteers who post on a variety of social media platforms. We need someone to lead and coordinate our social media campaigns.

If you can help, contact Andrea Packo snmgmspresident@gmail.com 702-279-7679



2024 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	CONTEST WINNERS
January	Snow	1 st – George Stewart, 2 nd – Del Walkenshaw
February	Forest Colors	1 st – Mary Savage 2 nd – Joel Coombs
March	Spring Flowers	1 st – Joel Coombs 2 nd – Lloyd Chayette
April	Storm Clouds	1 st – Lloyd Chayette, Bruce Martin, tie 2 nd – Ron Mazz
May	Blue Skies	
June	Sunset	
July	Mountains	
August	Tropical	
September	Ocean Blues	
October	Fall Leaf Colors	
November	Landscapes	
December	No Contest	

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 May 2024 cabochon theme is “Blue Skies.” **Good Luck!**

Mojave Desert Blue Skies



<https://capturetheatlas.com>

www.freepik.com



<https://cleantechnica.com>

<https://nwbirding.com>

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



Left to right: Lloyd Chayette, tie for 1st place entry 7; Bruce Martin, tie for 1st place, entry 5; Ron Mazz, 2nd place, entry 2

Digging Through Time

In 1940, Paul Mercer placed this news ad: “if you like to get out in the hills and hunt rocks, let’s go together. Come to ...Grace Community Church ... Saturday night...” Paul was pleased when the first person through the door was Anna Parks, owner of the Palm Funeral Home. The meeting was packed with other famous people including Dora Tucker of *Desert Magazine* fame, Betsy O’Reilly Gamble who was a hostess for Franklin Roosevelt during the Dam dedication, and Dr. William S. Park who helped excavate Gypsum Cave. The group formed the Mineralogical Society of Southern Nevada. Every Sunday was a field trip until Pearl Harbor. On the day of the bombing, the group was in Gypsum Cave and didn’t know about the attack until they got home. *(The digging continues next month!)*



BIRTHDAYS

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Marisa Bars, Barbara Belcher, Adrienne Cass, Eric Cifani, Joseph Conley, Janelle Cook, Maureen Cronan, Mike Curley, Sergio Diaz, John Dvorak, Jason Fabbi, Bunny Griffith, Yenchi Haduong, Glenn Hale, DiAnn Lawson, Colleen Lee, Jaxon Louie, Treena Luchetta, Tim Martin , Jazmine Mincey, Edward Morken, Osra O’Neal, Heather Perkins, Cora Peterson, Wendy Robinett, Michelle Robinson, David Rosinsky, Vernon Seiler, Alfredo Solis Jr., Lorrilee Stackhouse, Corey Stanton, Agnes (Sissy) Stein, Trev Stinnett, Leslie Sturek, Nancy Tatom, Brian Trull, Nathaniel Valentine, T.J. Vrchota, Alfred Warner, James Wendel, John E. Zabrosky, Frank Zoccole

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

Amina Mahmood

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Welcome new members to the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society! Your passion for gemstones and minerals is a perfect fit for our community of enthusiasts. To acquaint you with our workshop and equipment, we offer orientation and training sessions at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

To reserve your spot, please email Richard Nelson (richard_nelso89@hotmail.com) . There is a \$10 fee for the orientation to help cover the cost of materials which will be provided for you. The session will include demonstrations on the use of rock saws, flat laps, a geode saw, and other equipment. Best practices for working safely and effectively will be reviewed. Orientations are offered as listed below.

New Member Orientation Sessions¹

Orientation and Training Date	Time	Cost	Location
Sunday, April 7, 2024	10 am - noon	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Shop Suite 125 Las Vegas, NV 89102 Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas NV 89102
Sunday, April 21, 2024			
Sunday, May 19, 2024			

1. Contact Richard Nelson richard_nelso89@hotmail.com to reserve your spot

Speakers For 2024 General Meetings

(please contact Romy Umholtz romyvision@gmail.com with speaker suggestions)

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 6, 2024	Sherri Grotheer, Protectors of Tule Springs	Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument
June 3, 2024	Susan Hindmarsh, Stephanie Foote and Joy Ginsberg	Las Vegas Bead Society
July 8, 2024	Jim Boone, birdandhike.com	Hiking, Camping and Birding in Gold Butte
Aug. 5, 2024	Desire Schultz, Protectors of Tule Springs	Horsemanship Program at Tule Springs
Sep. 9, 2004	Lorri Dee Dukes and Connor Murphy, BLM	How Mining is Established and Conducted on Federally Owned Public Lands
Oct. 7, 2024	James Sloan, SNGMS Member	Opal Formation and Its Relationship to Chalcedony
Nov. 2024	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec. 2024	Holiday Party, no meeting	



**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club
2024 Field Trips and Meetings¹**

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Field Trip	April 13, 2024	Ice Age Fossil State Park ³
NO MEETING	April 14, 2024	
Boulder City Spring Jamboree	May 3 – 5, 2024	Boulder City, Nevada
NO MEETING – MOTHER’S DAY	May 12, 2024	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Earth in Space Merit Badge	June 9, 2024, 3- 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Field Trip - Planetarium	July 14, 2024	More info coming
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Special Effects Merit Badge	August 11, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Lapidary Arts Merit Badge	September 8, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	October 13, 2024, 3- 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	November 10, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
NO MEETING – HOLIDAY PARTY DATE TBD	December 8, 2024	



Kids’ Club Easter Egg Hunt, 2024
Photos courtesy of Wendy Dresser

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.
- 2) 3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Shop Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
- 3) RSVPs for this trip were required by March 31, 2024

Hello Rock Stars!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. Our Easter Scavenger Egg Hunt was a lot of fun with great food and prizes. Thank you to the Eagles for having us and for the delicious lunch they provided. Thank you to Vikki Henry and all of the Eagles volunteers who helped make it a big success. Thank you to Mary Beth Paladino, Elana Paladino and Safak Sahin for helping throughout the event and setting up and breaking down.

Saturday, April 6, 2024 we'll be out at the Ice Age Fossils State Park for a tour of the visitor’s center and a 2 mile Interpretive hike to "The Big Dig" given by Park Ranger Dawn Reynoso.

There is NO MEETING on Sunday, April 14, 2024.

It's that time of year for the Spring Jamboree in Boulder City. Saturday and Sunday, May 4 & 5, 2024. This year our Kids’ Club booth will have the Prize Wheel, Rock Rock Who's There, Dino Egg Cracking, Gem Pool, Education Stations, Specimens, Rock Art, Pet Rocks, jewelry by Dave Ford and Song Hageman and more!!! So we need energetic people to volunteer to help us run the booth and make some money for our kids!!! Please call or text Wendy Dresser if you can assist us. I would love it if some of our kids would work for at least one hour in the booth. The money we make is for the kids so we can provide them with tools and classroom supplies, go on field trips, and provide the best experiences we can.

There is NO MEETING on May 12, 2024 due to Mother's Day.

As always if you have any questions, comments or concerns please call or text me anytime. I'm always looking for new ideas for Field Trips so if anyone has any suggestions please let me know.

Thank you,

Wendy Dresser
SNGMS Kid's Club Leader
702-556-2748

SNGMS SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR NEEDED

SNGMS has several volunteers who post on a variety of social media platforms. We need someone to lead and coordinate our social media campaigns.
If you can help, contact Andrea Packo sngmspresident@gmail.com 702-279-7679



SNGMS 2024 VOLUNTEER STAFF

Contact any Director to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chair to offer to help on their committee.

SNGMS 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Andrea Packo	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Vice-President	Orville Wiemers	owarea22@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Dave Ford	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	831-521-0214
Parliamentarian	Jack Toogood	vegasbmw@hotmail.com	702-510-4192
One Year Board	Del Walkenshaw	desertartsupply@aol.com	702-451-8040
Two Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighterman@yahoo.com	702-210-9612
Three Year Board	Jean Chayette	jalmiz201@gmail.com	714-474-6384
One Year Board	Bruce Martin	brucemartinlv@yahoo.com	702-896-5811

SNGMS 2024 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
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Field Trip	Jonathan Tredwell	sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com	725-274-3003
Shop Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Open		
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	Barbara Belcher		
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	romyvision@gmail.com	
Raffle/Lottery	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Refreshments	Elizabeth and Richard Nelson	richard_nelso89@hotmail.com	
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam	grandmadeb10@gmail.com	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-366-5854
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsshowchair@gmail.com	702-366-5854

**Did You Know?**

The Rock Wren is the SNGMS mascot because it uses rocks to make its nest, including a front porch! There is a lot of speculation about the purpose of the porch. It may help keep the nest dry or deter predators from entering the crevices where the nests are usually built.



SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS



 The logo for Desert Art Supplies features the words "DESERT ART SUPPLIES" in a stylized font. To the right of the text is an illustration of a person sitting at a desk with various art supplies like brushes and a palette.

"Southern Nevada's Complete Art Store"
Fine Arts Supplies - Custom Framing

2003 E. Charleston Las Vegas, NV 89104 (702) 382-5404 • Fax 384-3337	2750 N. Green Valley Pkwy Henderson, NV 89014 (702) 451-8040 • Fax 451-8339
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Toll Free 1-888-725-4666 • www.desertartsupplies.com
desertartsupply@aol.com

Did You Know?

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop rents metal detectors to SNGMS members.

Metal Detector Rentals
\$3.00 per day
Provide your own batteries
(8 AA batteries required)
Rentals limited to 7 days

 The logo for World Class Facility Services features a stylized globe with the letters "W", "C", and "S" overlaid.

World Class Facility Services
6230 Greyhound Ave
Suite H
Las Vegas, NV 89122
702-875-4642

HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of capping 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.



Volunteer Shop Supervisors Needed

Lapidary Shop Supervisors are needed, especially for evenings. Training provided, and supervisors get some free shop time. Call Chops Wenzl for details (702-378-2205)



Mineral Musings

Johnson Farm Fossils

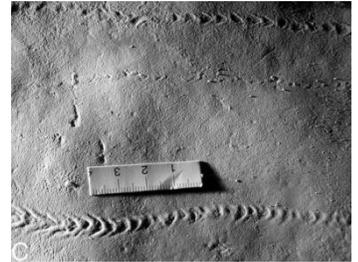
In February 2000, Dr. Sheldon Johnson (an eye doctor) was working on his farm in St. George, Utah. He found 3-D casts of dinosaur footprints on the underside of a sandstone block.

More fossils of fish, plants, and invertebrates, rare dinosaur teeth and bones, and thousands of additional tracks made by different animals were identified. The large number and types of fossils gave paleontologists enough information to reconstruct a 200-million-year-old ecosystem in the St. George area.

To preserve the dinosaur trackways for scientific and educational purposes, Dr. Johnson and his wife, LaVerna, donated the site to the City of St. George. The city, local businesses, federal and state governments, and paleontologists created a museum over the tracks. Scientists from all over the world have visited the site to learn how dinosaurs walked and behaved.

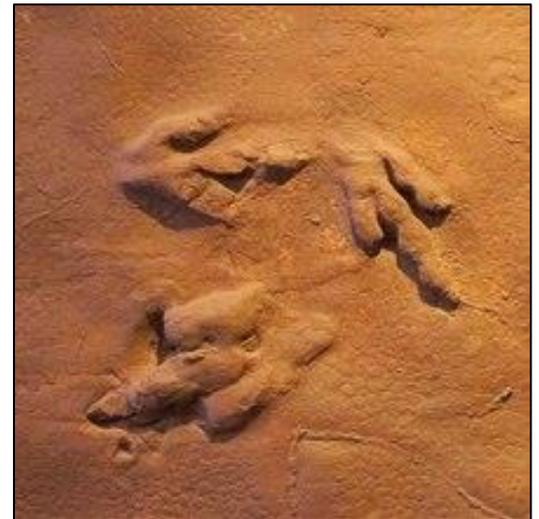
One important discovery at the Farm is a trackway showing extremely rare crouching and tail drag traces. These tracks were made by a dinosaur that first sat on the ground, then lumbered forward, and sat down again. Later, the dinosaur climbed up a sand bar, scraping its tail on the ground as it walked, leaving drag marks along the trackway.

The most common track is a four to eight inch-long, three-toed print. The prints were probably made by slender, meat-eating dinosaurs like the 10-foot-long Megapnosaurus. Larger 13-18 inch-long, three-toed prints are thought to be made by a large meat-eating dinosaur like the crested Dilophosaurus. Dilophosaurus grew up to 6½ feet tall and 19 feet long, and weighed 900 pounds. Many, small non-dinosaur tracks have also been found, including those of crocodiles and horseshoe crabs.



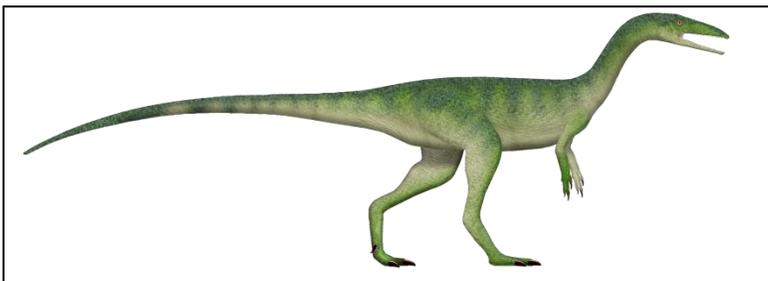
Invertebrate Trace Fossils at Johnson Farm

Photo by Spencer G. Lucas



Megapnosaurus trackway at Johnson Farm

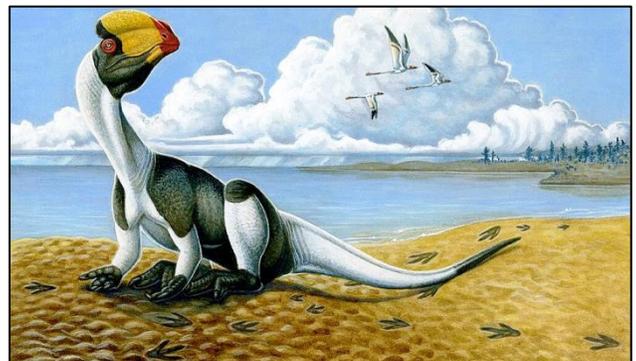
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._George_Dinosaur_Discovery_Site



Megapnosaurus

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=135835096>

The Farm has exhibits and activities for all ages including dinosaur replicas, dinosaur-themed games, and a fossil preparation laboratory. For directions and exhibit information, visit the Johnson's Farm website at www.dinosite.org.



Dilophosaurus

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=99958490>



April 2024 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Gem Identification* ¹	Karen Griffith-Hedberg	Saturday, April 20, 12:30 - 3:30 pm. Also Saturday, June 22, 12:30 - 3:30 pm	\$10	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014	702-451-8040
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday, April 8, 1 - 4 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, April 22, 5 pm	\$11	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Faceting ²	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	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

* Sponsored by Desert Art Supplies

1. Class size limited to 6 students

2. IF YOU MISS 2 FACETING CLASSES, YOUR STONE WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE MACHINE SO OTHERS CAN USE IT.

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.



April 2024 Beading Project
Photo Courtesy of Theresa Brooks



Sterling Silver Ring with Cabochon from Goodsprings, Nevada made by a Silver Smithing Student
Photo courtesy of Bella Romero



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.snvgs.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.

POLISHED SLAB ADVERTISING RATES		
AD SIZE	SIX MONTHS RATE	12 MONTHS RATE
<i>Business Card</i>	\$18	\$30
<i>Quarter Page</i>	\$48	\$90
<i>Half Page</i>	\$90	\$170
<i>Full Page</i>	\$150	\$275

